



Electoral Regulation

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1. Definitions

- (1) Eligible Voters means Full Members of the MCR, unless otherwise provided for in the instrument establishing a poll.
- (2) In addition to terms defined in this section, additional defined terms used herein shall have the meaning assigned thereto in the relevant provisions of this Regulation.
- (3) All terms not otherwise defined shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Constitution.

2. Schedule for Regular Elections

- (1) The conduct of Regular Election shall adhere to the schedule provided under section 46 ‘Schedule for Nominations in Regular Elections’ of the Constitution, and is summarized here:

Day relative to Counting Day	Event
Wednesday, 14 days prior	First notice given by RO of upcoming Elections at 09:00
Sunday, 10 days prior	Second notice given by RO of upcoming Elections and notice given of the opening of the nominations period at 09:00
Monday, 9 days prior	Nomination Period opens at 09:00
Friday, 5 days prior	Nomination Period closes at 17:00
Sunday (OGM/AGM), 3 days prior	Hustings
Monday, 1 day prior	Voting period opens at 09:00
Wednesday, Counting Day	Voting period closes at 17:00
Wednesday, Counting Day	Results announced as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter

3. Schedule for Continuing By-Elections

- (1) The conduct of Continuing By-Elections shall adhere to the schedule provided under section 47 ‘Schedule for Continuing By-Elections’ of the Constitution, and is summarised here:

Day relative to Counting Day	Event
Wednesday, 7 days prior	Notice given by RO of upcoming Elections at 09:00
Friday, 5 days prior	Nomination Period opens at 09:00
Sunday (OGM/AGM), 3 days prior	Hustings, when nomination period closes
Monday, 1 day prior	Voting period opens at 09:00
Wednesday, Counting Day	Voting period closes at 17:00
Wednesday, Counting Day	Results announced as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter

- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, Candidates can nominate immediately prior to the Hustings for a position during a Continuing By-election. As such, it is possible to nominate for a Continuing By-Election vacancy during a General Meeting. A proposer and seconder will need to be present at the meeting to propose and second a candidacy.

4. Nominations

- (1) In order to open nominations, the Returning Officer (RO) shall make a nominations list available in a convenient location that is accessible to Members.
- (2) In order to nominate for a position a Full Member, their proposer and seconder, must sign the nominations list described in subsection 3(1).
- (3) If a Full Member is physically unable to nominate, propose or second in the manner described in subsection 3(2), then they may communicate their intention directly to the Returning Officer who shall add their name to the list as appropriate.

5. Manifestos

- (1) Candidates shall be permitted to submit manifestos to the Returning Officer for posting and distribution to Full Members.
- (2) Manifestos must:
 - (a) not exceed one A4 page in length;
 - (b) be provided to the Returning Officer prior to the deadline they have specified;
 - (c) adhere to the Rules of Elections.

6. Voting

- (1) Ordinarily, votes will take place via an online platform
 - (a) The Returning Officer will provide notice of what Voting System is being used at the opening of the voting period.
 - (b) Votes shall be counted according to the Single Transferable Vote system, as defined by the Electoral Reform Society.
 - (c) The Returning Officer will provide clear instructions on the procedures required to complete a valid vote.
- (2) If the vote cannot take place via an online platform, then:
 - (a) The Returning Officer shall organize the administration of the Polling Place, ensuring that:
 - (i) a suitable location for a physical polling place is reserved for use on the appropriate days;
 - (ii) arrangements are made for polling clerks who are not Candidates in the election in question, or affiliated with the campaign of a Candidate in the election in question to administer the polling place;
 - (iii) notice of the location of the polling place and voting times is given to Full Members in a timely fashion;
 - (iv) notice of and information regarding alternative methods of voting is given to Full Members in a timely fashion;
 - (v) a list of voting instructions is prominently displayed for consultation by Full Members;
 - (vi) the polling clerks are provided with:
 1. sufficient instruction concerning their duties;
 2. a full list of Eligible Voters;
 3. a ballot box; and

4. sufficient ballots.

- (b) The Returning Officer shall provide:
 - (i) notice of what Voting System is being used at the opening of the voting period;
 - (ii) notice that votes shall be counted according to the Single Transferable Vote system, as defined by the Electoral Reform Society;
 - (iii) clear instructions on the procedures required to complete a valid vote.
- (c) The voter must, in order to vote validly, ensure that they:
 - (i) sign and be seen to have signed their signature next to their name on the list of Eligible Voters;
 - (ii) mark their ballot such that it clearly expresses an Eligible Voter's preference in terms of the voting system specified in 5(2).b.ii;
 - (iii) mark their vote on only one ballot for each election.
 - (iv) if a voter makes an error and requires a new ballot, the polling clerk shall only provide them with a new ballot once the original ballot has been returned to the polling clerk, disqualified by having the word 'error' prominently written on it, and preserved in a safe place for eventual return to the RO.
- (d) If the Returning Officer should they deem that the possibility of voting by an alternative method is in the best interests of Full Members, then they shall ensure that:
 - (i) appropriate Advance Votes may be cast after the close of nominations by direct communication with the Returning Officer, who shall keep a record of such votes until counting is complete and any complaints are resolved.
 - (ii) any alternative methods of voting provided by the Returning Officer other than Advanced Votes shall operate in accordance with the requirements for Elections established in:
 - 1. the Constitution; and
 - 2. this Regulation, except in the respects essential to the functioning of this method.
- (e) The RO, at the close of the polling place on each day of voting, shall:
 - (i) collect the ballot box containing the cast votes and all unmarked ballots and ballots marked with 'error' and preserve them in a safe place;
- (f) The RO, at the close of voting on Counting Day, must:
 - (i) separate and remove any votes which are not valid and preserve them in a safe place;
 - (ii) after having separated and removed any votes which were not valid, the Returning Officer shall count all votes cast and determine a winner for each election in accordance with the voting system specified in 8(4);
- (g) Candidates, for the counting of ballots, may:

- (i) designate agents, who shall not themselves be Candidates, to scrutinize the counting of the ballots.
- (h) The RO, following the announcement of the election results, shall
 - (i) destroy all ballots used, or prepared for use, in the Elections in accordance with 2.g(ii);
 - (ii) the ballots used, and prepared for use, in the Elections shall be destroyed after, and only after:
 1. the results of the Elections have been announced;
 2. a period of forty-eight hours following this announcement has passed;
 3. the period in which all complaints concerning the Elections as specified in subsection 2(2) has passed;
 4. findings regarding all complaints received by the Returning Officer in accordance with subsection 2(2) have been made, communicated to the individuals specified in subsection 43(3) of the Constitution and made Available;
 5. a period of twenty-four hours following the completion of all actions specified in 10(2)(d) has passed; and
 6. any appeals submitted to the Returning Officer in accordance with subsection 2(3) and section 47 of the Constitution have been decided and resolved to the satisfaction of the RO.
 7. notwithstanding the subsection 10(2), if a complaint or appeal is submitted to the Returning Officer in accordance with subsections 2(2) or 2(3) the ballots must be destroyed after, and only after, the complaint or appeal has been resolved and all possible opportunities for appeal of the decision within the MCR are exhausted.

7. Individuals nominating for multiple positions

- (1) If an individual is a Candidate for more than one position in the same election, before the closing of the voting period they shall provide the Returning Officer with a list in which they shall rank the positions for which they have nominated in order of preference.
- (2) If a Candidate is elected to more than one position in the same Elections, they shall retain the position they prefer according to the list submitted to the Returning Officer and shall decline any other positions to which they have been elected.
- (3) If an individual has nominated both as an individual for a position and in combination with another individual(s) for any other position, in accordance with 7(1), and they expresses their preference for the individual position, in accordance with 6(1), if they are elected to the position for which they had nominated individually, the candidacy of the Slate of which they had been a member shall be considered withdrawn.
- (4) If a Candidate is elected to a position and declines that position as a result of action taken in accordance with subsections 6(2) or 6(3), the Returning Officer shall conduct a recount of the ballots case in the election for that position in which preferences for the Candidate who has declined the position shall be disregarded.

8. Positions that may be held jointly

- (1) Individuals may nominate for positions that may be held jointly:
 - (a) as individuals, or

- (b) in combination with other individuals as a Slate.
- (2) When multiple individuals nominate jointly as a Slate for a Committee position that may be held jointly, they shall be considered to be a single Candidate for the purposes of Elections.
- (3) An individual may nominate as a member of more than one Slate for the same position.
- (4) An individual who nominates as a member of more than one Slate for the same position shall be considered to have nominated for only one position, to be determined by the RO.

9. Multiple Identical Positions

- (1) An individual who nominates for a position of which they are multiple identical instances shall be considered to have nominated for each of these identical positions but to have nominated for only one position, in accordance with section 6.
- (2) Positions of which there are multiple identical instances shall be multi-member constituencies for the purposes counting the ballots.

10. Serving Committee Members wishing to nominate

- (1) A serving Committee Member may nominate for a position according to the normal procedures, however, if the term of the position for which they nominate coincides with the term of their current position, then they must
 - (a) notify the President before nominating;
 - (b) notify the Returning Officer upon nominating;
 - (c) resign their current position upon nominating.
- (2) If a serving Committee Member resigns in order to nominate for a new position, they may also nominate for the position from which they have resigned.

11. A vote to re-open nominations

- (1) If no Candidate more votes than the option to re-open nominations, the position will be deemed Vacant.

12. Results, complaints, and appeals

- (1) After the results of the Elections have been determined, these results shall be announced and made Available by the Returning Officer as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (2) There shall be a forty-eight-hour period immediately following the announcement of results in accordance with subsection 11(1) during which Members may submit any complaints to the RO, after which the results will be considered final.
- (3) Findings of the Returning Officer regarding complaints may be appealed under the provisions of the Complaints Procedure described in section 52 of the Constitution.