

Code of Conduct for Elections

Introduction

We support the concept of competitive democratic elections. The election process is intended not only to fulfil our constitutional requirements but also to empower and encourage all members to be part of the process.

Campaigning should allow candidates to put their views to voters with a minimum of restriction, and in a fair, respectful and honest manner.

This Code applies to candidates, their proposers, other 'active' supporters and all of our members (an 'active' supporter being anyone who, either verbally or in writing, attempts to influence the vote of another member).

The objectives of the Code are to:

- Ensure that campaigning by candidates is carried out in an honest, fair and respectful way.
- Protect the standing and reputation of candidates, members, officers and employees.

I. Terms of Code

All of our members are expected to abide by the following conditions:

1. Act in good faith and with integrity and honesty. All communications, written or oral should be courteous, truthful and respectful and avoid:

(a) Attacks on candidates' characters and abilities which are irrelevant to the election and/or could bring the profession into disrepute.

(b) Spreading rumours which could adversely reflect on our professional status and reputation.

2. Respect the right of candidates to campaign for election and not interfere with their campaigning.

3. Avoid criticism of candidates that has no bearing on their candidature or professional activities or that is based on unverified allegations. Comments should be confined to issues, policies, and past record, and should respect the right of others to hold their own opinions.

4. Avoid comment on the private life of candidates that is unrelated to their professional activities.

5. Not comment on or abuse any other candidates for reasons of gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, religious beliefs or age.

6. Not misrepresent, nor mislead voters as to a candidate's qualifications, position, authority or experience.

7. Not offer or imply any inducement – in relation to a candidature, or possible election.

II Complaints

Complaints against this Code will be dealt with by the Board of Trustees.

It is the right and duty of all our members to see that this Code is observed, in spirit as well as letter, and where appropriate to bring to the attention of the returning officer any behaviour which they consider to be contrary to the Code.

This Code of Conduct is not intended to discourage fair and truthful comment and debate.