

MATTERS TO BE VOTED ON	RATIONALE
GROUP 1 MEMBERSHIP	
<p>Rule 3 Membership – Amends clause j. with regards to the conditions under which the NEC may reject an application for membership.</p> <p>The amends give the NEC authority to decline an application if the applicant had previously been a member of the union and resigned from membership when facing disciplinary action. The amends also clarify that applications will be rejected if an individual has participated in action in support of an organisation which is opposed to any object of the union.</p>	<p>The amends give explicit authority for the NEC to decline an application for membership from any prior member who may have resigned from membership to avoid being expelled or otherwise disciplined, and subsequently seeks to rejoin.</p> <p>The amends also tighten up the rules to provide greater scope for the NEC to reject applications for membership from individuals supporting organisations that are at odds with the union’s values.</p>
<p>Amends clause l. to remove reference to a one month resignation period.</p> <p>Also amends to clarify that membership will cease in the event of failure to pay contributions for more than 8 weeks (previously 12 weeks), and in the event of a direct debit arrangement being cancelled following an instruction by the member.</p>	<p>The amendments are designed to align the rules with the union’s working practices and procedures.</p> <p>Clarifying that membership will cease in the event of a direct debit arrangement being cancelled following a member instruction, allows the Member Service Centre opportunity to contact members to ascertain if the ending of their direct debit is due to error prior to ending membership.</p>
<p>Amends clause k. and n. by replacing “Head Office” with “the Member Service Centre” as the point of contact for membership communications.</p>	<p>This amendment is to align the rules with the union’s working practice, as membership processing is handled at the Member Service Centre rather than at Head Office.</p>
<p>Amends clause p. to reference that the union may use the last known SMS or email address to contact members, as an alternative to their last known address. Further amends clause p. to clarify that communications from members to the union should be sent to the Member Service Centre unless otherwise directed by the rules or in guidance issued by the NEC, which would be published on the union’s website.</p>	<p>Amended to clarify that e-mail or SMS addresses may be used by the union to communicate with members, and on the basis that the union will use the last known addresses provided. Amends also provide flexibility for the NEC to issue new guidance on how members should contact the union on specific subjects.</p>
<p>Removes clause q. which references terms of IDU transfer and membership.</p>	<p>Amended as IDU transfer is now complete and the clause was timebound and is now redundant.</p>

<p>Removes clause r. which references terms of Voice transfer and membership.</p>	<p>Amended as Voice transfer is now complete and the clause was timebound and is now redundant.</p>
<p>Rule 4 Membership Rights –</p> <p>Amends clause a. to make clear that working members may stand for election to any position in the union, deleting reference to “or appointment” to clarify that all union positions are elected.</p> <p>Amends clause b. to clarify that positions which Community members can stand for are elected – not appointed.</p>	<p>Amended as all Community positions are elected unless otherwise provided, and to avoid potential tension with clauses governing staff roles which are appointed.</p>
<p>Rule 19 Resolution of Disputes within the Union –</p> <p>Amends clause g. inserting “individual” to clarify that the complaints procedure referenced is for complaints about individual services or benefits provided to them on behalf of the union.</p>	<p>This is to clarify that the complaints procedure applies only to complaints made by a member about an individual service or benefit, and does not extend to complaints relating to matters of a collective nature, the process for which are laid out elsewhere in Rule 19.</p>
<p>GROUP 2 ELECTIONS & BALLOTS</p>	
<p>Rule 6 National Executive Council – Composition, Election, and Responsibilities –</p> <p>Amends clause e. to clarify that only working members who have been a duly elected branch officer for at least two years may stand for a position on the NEC (except for the seat representing young workers). Also clarifies that for transferring unions service as a duly appointed officer will count towards the qualification for all NEC seats.</p> <p>Reduces the qualification periods to stand for the Young Workers seat to two years of membership and one year of service as a branch officer.</p> <p>Amends clause e. removing references to the IDU and Voice transfers.</p>	<p>Amendment is to provide that to stand for election to the NEC a working member must have been a duly elected branch officer for at least two years (except for the young workers seat), with service in other union roles not counting towards the qualification, whilst recognising that unions transferring to Community may have different processes for appointing their officers.</p> <p>Also amends the eligibility requirements to stand for the Young Workers seat to recognise that younger members of the Union are likely to have shorter membership and less time in post as an official.</p> <p>Amended as IDU and Voice transfers are now complete and the references were timebound and are now redundant.</p>
<p>Amends clause f. to clarify that, with regards to the NEC sector seats, only branches that are allocated to a sector can submit a nomination for the relevant sector seat/s, e.g.</p>	<p>Amends the rules to address any uncertainty that sectoral seats nominations can only be made by branches from the relevant sector.</p>

<p>nominations for the Education sector seats can only come from Education sector branches.</p> <p>Amends clause f. to remove the requirement that NEC election ballots must be postal.</p>	<p>Removing the requirement for NEC election ballots to be postal is to reflect that the union may use electronic balloting for future elections.</p>
<p>Removes clause k. which relates to the IDU and Voice transfers in connection with NEC elections.</p>	<p>Amended as IDU and Voice transfers are now complete and the references are redundant.</p>
<p>Rule 7 Election of and responsibilities of General Secretary –</p> <p>Amends clause d. ii. to increase the number of nominations a candidate needs to be validly nominated from thirty to fifty branches, and stipulate that nominations must come from at least four regions rather than three.</p> <p>Amends clause d. ii. to remove the requirement that General Secretary election ballots must be postal.</p>	<p>These amendments are to recognise the fact that the number of branches has increased substantially since the 2021 Rules Revision and therefore the requirements to be validly nominated should reflect this.</p> <p>Removing the requirement for General Secretary election ballots to be postal is to reflect that the union may use electronic balloting for future elections.</p>
<p>Rule 14 Member Ballots –</p> <p>Amends Rule 14 by adding:</p> <p><i>“The NEC may determine that any ballot conducted under these rules and/or under any statutory provision may be conducted:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>by post</i> 2. <i>electronically</i> 3. <i>through workplace balloting; or</i> 4. <i>a combination of the above</i> <p><i>subject to compliance with any applicable statutory requirements. The NEC may issue standing orders governing how any ballot be conducted“</i></p>	<p>Amended to provide the NEC with the flexibility to authorise electronic and other lawful means of balloting, and to allow for the NEC to issue standing orders as may be required to implement electronic balloting once permissible under statutory regulation.</p> <p>The amendment is designed to bring the rules up-to-date with the modern ways in which a trade union may conduct balloting in the future.</p>
<p>GROUP 3 RULE CHANGES FOR STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS</p>	
<p>Rule 22 Interpretation of, and Matters not provided for within, These Rules –</p> <p>Amended to remove <i>“The NEC may alter the rules of the union to deal with statutory requirements”</i>.</p>	<p>The reason for the deletion is that Rule 23. already provides the NEC with the powers to alter the union’s rules to deal with statutory requirements. Therefore this reference in Rule 22 is a duplication should therefore be deleted to avoid any confusion.</p>

<p>Rule 23 Amendment and Revision of Rules –</p> <p>Amendment is to clarify the NEC’s authority to amend the union’s rules to ensure the union remains compliant with its statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>Amends also provide the NEC with power to amend the rules with respect to a change of address.</p>	<p>These amendments tighten the language to clarify that the NEC can amend the rules to enable the union to comply with any relevant legislation or decision of the Certification Officer.</p> <p>By providing the NEC with the power to amend the rules to change an address, this amendment avoids the need to wait for official rules revisions to make what amounts to a simple functional change.</p>
<p>Amends throughout the rules to replace all references to “<i>subscriptions</i>” with “<i>contributions</i>” when referencing how members or prospective members pay for their membership.</p>	<p>Amended to ensure that all references to monies provided to the union in exchange for membership are consistent throughout the rules.</p>
<p>Rule 10 Regional and Organisational Structure of the Union –</p> <p>Amends clause a. to make it clear that the NEC may agree changes to branch standing orders for a specific branch only at that branches request.</p>	<p>Amended to clarify the current practice and be clear that any change to branch standing orders that the NEC agrees to, further to the request of a branch, will apply only to the branch in question.</p>
<p>Rule 13 Biennial Delegate Conference and Emergency Conferences –</p> <p>Amends clause b. ii. to remove exception to rule stating decisions of the BDC shall not bind the NEC. And inserting reference to commit that the NEC will take all decisions of BDC into account in determining the policy of the union.</p>	<p>Amendment is for consistency and avoidance of confusion, clarifying the way that BDC interacts with the NEC with regards to the formulation of policy. Amends also confirm that every resolution of BDC will be fully considered by the NEC.</p>