

D2 Young Greens Standing Orders 2018/2019

Organization: Young Greens
Resolution date: 07/24/2019
Agenda item: D Amendments to the Constitution/Standing Orders

1 **Young Greens Standing Orders 2018/19**

2 **Section A: Young Greens Convention**

3 A1.1 The Young Greens Convention shall be held once per year in Spring.

4 A1.2 The Young Greens Convention will take place for two days during a weekend.

5 A1.3 Liberation groups will be allocated a session at convention where they will
6 provide a report to its membership on activities undertaken since last
7 convention and for any other purpose the group sees fit.

8 **Section B: Annual General Meetings**

9 **Part 1: Competency of the Annual General Meeting**

10 B1.1 The Young Greens Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Young Greens
11 Annual Convention.

12 B1.2 The Annual General Meeting is the highest decision-making body within the
13 Young Greens.

14 B1.3 There must be at least 25 members of the Young Greens at any General
15 Meeting for decisions to be binding.

16 B1.4 The AGM accepts/rejects/amends motions, resolutions and changes to the
17 Constitution or Standing Orders.

18 B1.5 The AGM ratifies decisions about joining or leaving partnerships and
19 membership within other organisations/networks.

20 B1.6 The actions and priorities of the Executive Committee may be set by
21 resolutions passed at the Young Greens AGM.

22 B1.7 A General Meeting will be held at a bi-national autumn event

23 **Part 2: Organisation of the Annual General Meeting**

24 B2.1 The Annual General Meeting agenda must be structured, organised and agreed
25 by the Executive Committee (EC) and Structures and Procedures Committee (SPC).

26 B2.2 SPC must appoint a chair and deputy chair for the Annual General Meeting.
27 The chair and deputy chair must not be proposers of any motions to the Annual
28 General Meeting.

29 B2.3 SPC must ensure that all members respect the Constitution and Standing
30 Orders.

31 B2.4 SPC must take Annual General Meeting minutes of all official business
32 including recording any votes, important discussions, and decisions.

33 B2.5 SPC must keep a record of newly adopted/amended documents and email the
34 Young Greens' Co-Chairs a copy of newly adopted/amended documents as well as the
35 minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

36 B2.6 SPC must inform EC to take note of any newly adopted entries into the
37 Record of Policy Statements, entries into the Record of Organisational
38 Statements, amendments to the constitution and amendments to the standing orders
39 (hereafter referred to as motions).

40 B2.7 A prioritisation ballot will occur, conducted by SPC, on the first day of
41 Convention for attendees at the Annual General Meeting in order to decide the
42 order of motions taken.

43 **Part 3: Motions and Reports**

44 B3.1 It shall be the role of SPC to compile submitted reports, motions and
45 amendments.

46 B3.2 The Annual General Meeting must take note of mandatory annual reports by
47 the:

48 B3.2.1 Executive Committee Co-Chairs.

49 B3.2.2 Treasurer.

50 B3.2.3 Non-Portfolio EC Officers.

51 B3.2.4 Senate Co-Chairs.

52 B3.2.5 Structures and Procedures Committee.

53 B3.2.6 Green Students Committee Co-Convenors.

54 B3.3 Annual reports detailed in B3.2 must be submitted to SPC at least 1 week
55 before the AGM.

56 B3.4 Individual members, EC and Affiliated Young Greens Groups have the right to
57 submit motions and amendments.

58 B3.5 For all submissions, there must be a named proposer and at least 3 other
59 co-proposers or at least one other co-proposer if submitting on behalf of an
60 Affiliated YG Group or recognised committee.

61 B3.6 In the case of motions being submitted which seek to amend the Constitution
62 or Standing Orders being accepted for discussion, paper copies of the
63 Constitution and Standing Orders must be made available for members attending
64 the General Meeting.

65 B3.7 The timescale for the submission of motions and amendments shall be as
66 follows:

67 B3.7.1 At least 8 weeks before the Annual General Meeting, EC must send out a
68 call including guidelines for submission of motions, resolutions and changes to
69 the Constitution or Standing Orders, all relevant dates and where to find
70 motions once they are posted on the members' website.

71 B3.7.2 Submission for motions shall close exactly 4 weeks before the AGM.

72 B3.7.3 Following this, SPC must post all submissions at the earliest possible
73 moment.

74 B3.7.4 Exactly 1 week before the AGM, submission of amendments to motions will
75 close.

76 B3.7.5 Amendments may not substantially change the intention of the motion and
77 nor may they require changes to another section of the Constitution or Standing
78 Orders.

79 B3.8 Exactly 5 days before the Annual General Meeting, SPC must ensure that all
80 members are emailed (regardless of Annual General Meeting registration status)
81 copies of all motions and amendments to both as well as the reports detailed in
82 B3.2.

83 B3.9 The only amendments which shall be accepted from the floor during the AGM
84 are minor textual amendments (e.g. grammatical corrections) and friendly verbal
85 amendments (i.e. where both the proposer of the original paper and the proposer
86 of the verbal amendment agree to an amendment).

87 B3.10 Emergency motions, defined as being brought due to an event occurring past
88 the original motion deadline, will be accepted up until 17.00 on the day before
89 the AGM.

90 B3.11 The text of Emergency Motions should be submitted by email and the list of
91 proposers by email and/or paper copy, both to the Chair of SPC.

92 B3.12 Emergency Motions shall be prioritised at the AGM by SPC on the basis of
93 the number of co-proposers to each Emergency Motion.

94 **Part 4: Motion Voting Procedures**

95 B4.1 When debating a motion or amendment at the Annual General Meeting, the
96 proposer will be asked by the chair to propose the motion or amendment by
97 explaining what the motion or amendment is for and then giving a brief speech in
98 favour of the motion.

99 B4.2 Following this the chair will open debate on the motion or amendment by
100 asking for a limited number of brief alternating speeches in favour and against
101 the motion, firstly against and then in favour of the motion or amendment until
102 either no one wishes to make a speech or there has been sufficient debate on the
103 motion or amendment.

104 B4.3 If it is unclear if there has been sufficient debate a straw poll will be
105 taken by raising hands with the options either for more debate or move to a
106 vote.

107 B4.4 At any point before the vote is taken, any member can ask for
108 clarification, raise points of information or propose procedural motions (e.g.
109 minor textural amendments, taking by parts).

110 B4.5 If a motion or amendment has received lengthy debate the proposer may
111 request a brief right of reply before the vote is taken.

112 B4.6 When voting on motion proposals the possibilities are 'yes', 'no' or
113 'abstention'.

114 B4.7 Depending on the nature of the proposal, the following types of majority
115 may be required for a motion to be passed.

116 B4.7.1 Simple majority: majority of the votes cast in person.

117 B4.7.2 Two-thirds majority: two-thirds of the votes cast in person.

118 B4.7.3 Absolute two-thirds majority: two-thirds majority of the votes cast by
119 the entire membership of the body.

120 B4.8 Amendments to the Constitution including accompanying Byelaws or Standing

121 Orders will be accepted with a two-thirds majority.

122 B4.9 Unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or Standing Orders, everything
123 else will be accepted with a simple majority.

124 B4.10 SPC shall be responsible for counting the votes.

125 B4.11 Results of votes must be announced during the meeting.

126 **Section C: Emergency General Meetings**

127 C1.1 An Emergency General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by an absolute
128 two-thirds majority of the Senate, or by an absolute two-thirds majority of EC,
129 or by a minimum of 5% of the Young Greens membership petitioning the EC for an
130 EGM.

131 C1.2 The same procedure as for AGM motion submission, organisation and voting
132 shall apply to an EGM following Section B Parts 2,3,4.

133 **Section D: Autumn General Meeting**

134 1. There will be a Young Greens General Meeting held at the autumn

135 2. The Autumn General Meeting consists solely of accountability sessions for the
136 following representatives elected in the annual ballot:

137 Young Greens Co-chairs

138 Treasurer

139 Non-portfolio EC members

140 Region Senate Co-Chairs

141 Green Students Committee

142 3. The Autumn General Meeting must take note of mandatory six-month progress
143 reports from those representatives.

144 4. The accountability session will take the form of a face-to-face Q&A with the
145 membership

146 5. There must be at least 25 members of the Young Greens excluding employees at
147 any General Meeting for decisions to be binding

148 6. Motions of no confidence may be put forward during the accountability session
149 and will pass with a two-thirds majority

150 7. Motions of no confidence may be put forward during the accountability session
151 Censure and Commendations and will pass with a simple majority

152 8. Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Autumn General Meeting

153 9. Young Greens employees have no voting rights

154 **Section E: Internal Elections**

155 **Part 1: Candidacy**

156 E1.1 All members of the Young Greens are eligible to be candidates for roles
157 within the Executive Committee, Structures and Procedures Committee members, the
158 Senate Co-Chairs, and the Green Students Committee Co-Convenors providing they
159 abide by the rules such as gender quotas.

160 E1.2 Only those Young Greens who self-define as belonging to a specific
161 Liberation group may be candidates for election within that respective
162 Liberation group.

163 E1.3 Members who hold a position on the Structure and Procedures Committee may
164 not be candidates for any other position other than SPC until they no longer
165 hold position on the SPC.

166 E1.4 Candidates must have two nominees, who are members of the Young Greens in
167 accordance with Article 1 of the constitution, and may provide a candidate
168 statement, campaign video, and social media links if they wish.

169 E1.5 Members of the Young Greens may not be nominated for nor hold more than one
170 of the following posts in the Young Greens:

171 E1.5.1 Any EC role

172 E1.5.2 Senate representatives of the Regions of England, and Wales

173 E1.5.3 Structures and Procedures Committee

174 E1.5.4 Green Students Committee Co-Convenor

175 E1.6 Members of the Young Greens may put themselves forward as a job share for
176 any of the following posts within the Young Greens annual ballot:

177 E1.6.1 Treasurer

178 E1.6.2 Non-Portfolio Officer

179 E1.6.3 Member of Structures and Procedures Committee

180 E1.7 Should one part of the job share resign or be removed from their position
181 for whatever reason, their counterpart(s) will be able to either:

182 E1.7.1 advertise to co-opt a replacement for the exiting part of the job share

183 E1.7.2 continue to carry out their role without the exiting part of the job
184 share, without replacing them

185 E1.7.3 resign from their role

186 **Part 2: Term of Office**

187 E2.1 All roles shall be elected for a term of office of 1 year, which should be
188 completed should the officer no longer fit the requirements described in
189 Constitution Article 1.5 during their term, accepting variations as described
190 below.

191 E2.2 For EC roles and other officers elected at the AGM the term of office shall
192 run until the following year's AGM except in the cases of resignation or removal
193 by a vote of no confidence.

194 E2.3 A vote of no confidence shall occur for an individual role if the
195 Structures and Procedures Committee are petitioned by 25% of the committee or
196 other body which the role is part of.

197 E2.4 A vote of no confidence may also be called for any individual role if the
198 Structures and Procedures Committee are petitioned by 5% of the Young Greens
199 membership.

200 E2.5 If the role a vote of no confidence is being petitioned for falls within
201 the Structures and Procedures Committee then it shall instead be EC that is
202 petitioned by the members of the relevant committee, body, or general
203 membership.

204 E2.6 Complete anonymity shall be maintained throughout by the committee which is
205 petitioned, both relating to the petitioners and the vote.

206 E2.7 No member may sit on the same body for more than 5 terms consecutively,
207 irrespective of election or co-option.

208 E2.8 No member may hold the same post for more than 3 terms, irrespective of
209 election or co-option.

210 **Part 3: Election Timescale**

211 E3.1 The following election timescale applies only to YG roles elected in the
212 "Annual Ballot" at convention, namely Executive Committee, Structures and
213 Procedures Committee members, the Senate Co-Chairs, and Co-Convenors of the
214 Green Students Committee.

215 E3.2 Liberation Group Co-Chairs, Groups for the Regions of England and Wales,
216 Green Students Committee and any other affiliated Young Greens Groups shall be
217 elected with a separate timescale to be decided by those respective groups.

218 E3.3 The Elected International Delegate shall be elected in line with the
219 procedure below, with the process beginning three months prior to the event they
220 will be attending.

221 E3.4 At least 8 weeks before the AGM the Executive Committee must send out a
222 call for applications to all Executive Committee roles, Senate Co-Chair
223 positions, and Structure and Procedures Committee positions which must set out
224 the rest of the timescale and how to apply.

225 E3.5 Exactly 4 weeks before the AGM applications will close for all roles
226 elected at Convention except for roles that received no applications during the
227 initial period.

228 E3.6 As close as possible to 2 weeks before the AGM a live online video hustings
229 will take place for all roles elected at Convention, which all candidates for
230 these roles are invited to take part in.

231 E3.7 Exactly 2 weeks before the AGM voting will open in accordance with Standing
232 Orders D4.3.

233 E3.8 At 17.00 the day before the AGM applications will close for roles which
234 gained no applications as set out in D3.4.

235 E3.9 A further in-person hustings shall be held at Convention; each candidate
236 has the right to participate in these as well as to submit a statement in
237 advance.

238 E3.10 Voting shall close during Convention between the in-person hustings
239 detailed in D3.8 and the announcement of results (the exact time to be at the
240 discretion of SPC). The time of this should be clearly identified on the
241 Convention Timetable and voting platform.

242 E3.11 The election of successful candidates shall be announced during
243 Convention.

244 **Part 4: Electoral System and Gender Balance**

- 245 E4.1 Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting and
246 associated elections where they have 1 vote.
- 247 E4.2 All positions shall all be elected using the Single Transferable Vote (STV)
248 system with a provision for negative voting (re-open nominations, acronym RON).
- 249 E4.2.1 Single Transferable Vote quota for election is calculated as follows:
250 total valid vote divided by one more than the number of seats up for election
251 plus one (or rounded up) to avoid ties: $(TVV/(seats+1)) + 1$.
- 252 E4.3 Voting will take place via secret, secure online ballot arranged by an
253 Electoral Returning Officer (ERO), appointed by the Structures and Procedures
254 Committee (SPC).
- 255 E4.4 SPC, or the ERO if authorised to do so by SPC, is responsible for counting
256 the votes.
- 257 E4.5 The counting of votes and electing of successful candidates for the
258 positions of Co-Chair, Senate Co-Chair and Treasurer will take place before the
259 counting for EC Non-Portfolio position so that the gender balance criteria
260 described below can be applied.
- 261 E4.6 The following rules will apply to the elections of, separately, Co-Chairs
262 and Senate Co-Chairs in compliance with paragraph 1.2 of Constitution Byelaw 1.
- 263 E4.6.1 The candidate with the highest number of first preference votes will be
264 elected in the first round in which a candidate passes the quota required by the
265 STV method.
- 266 E4.6.2 If the successful candidate is not a self-defining man, the second
267 candidate elected by the STV method will be elected to the second Co-Chair
268 position, regardless of gender identity.
- 269 E4.6.3 If the first successful candidate is a self-defining man, all other self-
270 defining men will be excluded from the vote and their further preferences
271 allocated to the remaining candidates from whom the second Co-Chair will be
272 elected.
- 273 E4.7 Following the election of the aforementioned roles a number of Non-
274 Portfolio positions will be reserved for candidates who are not self-defining
275 men to ensure that EC shall comprise of no more than 50% of members who self-
276 define as men. The number of roles reserved will be calculated based on the
277 number of self-defining men elected to the Co-Chair, Senate Co-Chair and
278 treasurer positions.
- 279 E4.8 The election of Green Students Committee Co-Convenors will take place
280 following the same rules as laid out for EC Co-Chairs and Senate Co-Chairs in
281 D4.6.

282 E4.9 The election of the International Delegate will take place such that if the
283 delegate appointed by EC self-identifies as a man then the elected delegate
284 cannot be someone who also self-identifies as a man. Thus, the delegate
285 appointed by EC will be declared before the nomination period opens.

286 E4.10 The election of members to Structures and Procedures will be carried out
287 such that no more than 50% of the places are taken by self-defining men with
288 places reserved, as necessary, to ensure this.

289 **Part 5: Campaigning Rules**

290 E5.1 Candidates for any role in Young Greens elections, and proposers of
291 motions, are entitled to campaign and must all follow the same rules except for
292 D5.2 which will only apply to roles explicitly mentioned.

293 E5.2 The amount spent on a campaign by a candidate in the annual Young Greens
294 ballot (EC, Structures and Procedures Committee, Senate Co-Chairs, Green
295 Students Committee Co-Convenors) must not exceed £30. This includes leaflets,
296 online campaigning and similar expenditure the candidate has incurred as a
297 result of being a candidate for a position within the Young Greens. It also
298 includes expenditure incurred by the supporters of the candidate. At least 50%
299 of all spending will be reimbursed by the Young Greens providing receipts are
300 provided to the Young Greens Treasurer within 30 days of the close of elections.
301 The same amount of money will be reimbursed for every candidate running for any
302 one role.

303 E5.3 Candidates and proposers may use the contact details of people they know
304 personally to directly canvass for support, via their own networks, in the run
305 up to the election but must not use details of members they only know via
306 official Young Greens channels – for example those they have gleaned through
307 previously holding an elected position within the Young Greens or those they
308 have gained from mailing lists.

309 E5.4 Candidates and proposers may campaign online and use social media to
310 canvass for support but only strictly in a personal capacity.

311 E5.5 Candidates and proposers may not use official Young Greens or Green Party
312 communication channels such as administrative email and Facebook privileges.

313 E5.6 Each candidate is entitled to their submitted nomination statement being
314 circulated amongst the membership via email and posting on the Young Greens
315 website.

316 E5.7 Campaigns must focus on the benefits of the candidate they are supporting,
317 not the flaws of the candidates opposing them. Negative campaigning is not
318 permitted.

319 E5.8 Bribery, coercion and mistreating of members is strictly forbidden.

320 E5.9 Any member, regardless of candidate status, can report a suspected breach

321 of these rules to the Electoral Returning Officer in the case of electoral
322 breaches, Structures and Procedures in the case of motions, or, where they feel
323 that is inappropriate, to Young Greens Staff.

324 E5.10 Any suspected electoral breach of these rules will be investigated by the
325 Electoral Returning Officer and the Structures and Procedures Committee who will
326 have the following options open to them:

327 E5.10.1 Any candidate suspected of breaking these rules may be suspended from
328 the election pending investigation by the Electoral Returning Officer and the
329 Structures and Procedures Committee. If the investigation cannot be completed by
330 the AGM, the election will be re-run.

331 E5.10.2 Any candidate found to have broken these rules, the Electoral Returning
332 Officer and the Structures and Procedures Committee may expel the candidate from
333 the current election with the election otherwise continuing as normal.

334 E5.10.3 Anyone shown to have broken the rules and to be acting on behalf of a
335 candidate will also lead to the expulsion of that candidate from this election.

336 E5.10.3 Candidates removed from the current election due to the actions of
337 themselves or others will still be eligible to be a candidate for future
338 elections to any position within the Young Greens.

339 E5.11 Any suspected non-electoral breaches, during an election and by a
340 candidate, of the Young Greens Constitution, Young Greens Standing Orders, Green
341 Party Constitution, Green Party Standing Orders, Green Party Code of Conduct or
342 any other organisational policies of the Green Party of England and Wales and
343 Young Greens, including anti-harassment and Safe Space policies, will be
344 investigated by the Structures and Procedures Committee who will have the
345 following options open to them:

346 E5.11.1 Any candidate suspected of breaking these rules may be suspended from
347 the election pending investigation by the Structures and Procedures Committee.
348 If the investigation cannot be completed by the AGM, the election will be re-
349 run.

350 E5.11.2 Any candidate found to have broken these rules may be expelled from the
351 current election with the election otherwise continuing as normal.

352 E5.12 Following any action as described in D5.11.1 or D5.11.2, the Structures
353 and Procedures Committee shall refer the case to the Complaints and Disciplinary
354 Committee for full investigation as described in Article 5 of the Constitution,
355 from 5.6 onwards.

356 E5.13 Any suspected breach of these rules in relation to the proposal of motions
357 will be investigated by the Structures and Procedures Committee who will have
358 the following options open to them.

359 E5.13.1 Any proposer suspected of breaking these rules may be suspended from

360 proposing the motion pending investigation by the Electoral Returning Officer
361 and the Structures and Procedures Committee and an alternative proposer must be
362 found by the remaining co-proposers.

363 E5.13.2 For serious breaches of these rules, Structures and Procedures Committee
364 may rule the motion or amendment out of order and remove it from the General
365 Meeting agenda.

366 E5.14 A person is accountable to these rules from the opening of the nominations
367 period, however, may only announce their candidacy and begin publicly
368 campaigning after the close of nominations.

369 **Part 6: Co-options**

370 E6.1 Any vacant EC role, including Senate Co-Chairs, may be co-opted by a
371 majority vote of EC plus the agreement of the Chair of the Structures and
372 Procedures Committee, after a call out and a hustings has taken place.

373 E6.2 When advertising vacant EC Non-Portfolio positions, the Executive Committee
374 are able to advertise specific available portfolio(s), as decided by a majority
375 vote of EC plus the agreement of the Chair of the Structures and Procedures
376 Committee.

377 E6.3 Any vacant SPC role may be co-opted by a majority vote of SPC, after a call
378 out has taken place.

379 E6.4 If it is not possible to co-opt for SPC roles in accordance with D6.3,
380 these roles may be co-opted by a majority vote of EC, after a call out has taken
381 place.

382 E6.5 Senate Representatives for the regions of England and Wales may be co-
383 opted, in the absence of an elected representative from the group they would
384 represent, by a majority vote of Senate plus the agreement of the Chair of the
385 Structures and Procedures Committee, after a call out to eligible members and a
386 hustings has taken place.

387 E6.6 Vacant Green Students Committee Co-Convenor roles may be co-opted by a
388 majority vote of the Green Students Committee after a call out by the Green
389 Students Committee has taken place.

390 E6.7 If it is not possible to co-opt for Green Students Committee Co-Convenor
391 roles in accordance with D6.3, these roles may be co-opted by a majority vote of
392 EC plus the agreement of the Chair of the Structures and Procedures Committee,
393 after a call out and a hustings has taken place.