

# NEU South Gloucestershire District Rules

## 1. Membership

- 1.1 Membership of the South Gloucestershire District shall consist of all those members of the Union working or living within its jurisdiction, irrespective of their employer or bargaining unit, including Associate, Retired and Student members. Unless the Executive decides otherwise:
- i. Standard members will be allocated to the Local District in which they work;
  - ii. Associate and Retired members will normally be allocated to the Local District in which they live but may opt to remain a member of the last Local District of which they were a member prior to becoming an Associate or Retired member;
  - iii. Work-based Student members will normally be allocated to the Local District where their host education establishment is based, or otherwise to the Local District where their training institution is based.
- 1.2 Membership of the South Gloucestershire District shall be in accordance with the Main Rules of the Union in respect of local district areas, set out in Appendix F.
- 1.3 Any members suspended or removed from membership of the Union shall automatically be suspended or removed from membership of the South Gloucestershire District.
- 1.4 Any member of the Executive or Branch Secretary who is suspended or removed from such office shall cease to hold any post within the South Gloucestershire District or on its Committee which is ex-officio as a result of holding such office.

## 2. Objects

- 2.1 South Gloucestershire District, within its jurisdiction, shall:
- a. Promote the objects of the union and represent members' interests both internally and externally;
  - b. Recruit new members and encourage all members to get involved in the life of the union;
  - c. Foster members' professional development;
  - d. Identify and support teams of workplace reps in every education workplace;

- e. Establish and maintain local networks for equality strands, trainees and newly qualified teachers, young members, leadership, union learning, health and safety and national sections.

### **3. Powers and Duties**

- 3.1 The powers of the South Gloucestershire District shall be as laid down in this document and in the Main Rules and Standing Orders of the union, and any other protocols and regulations approved by the Executive.
- 3.2 The South Gloucestershire District, its Officers, its Committee and persons representing the South Gloucestershire District shall take all due care to avoid any action or omission that may expose the South Gloucestershire District or the union or their respective Officers, Committees or members to liability for any legal, financial or reputational detriment.
- 3.3 The South Gloucestershire District, at a properly constituted and quorate general meeting, shall:
  - 3.3.1 nominate representatives to the Union's Executive;
  - 3.3.2 nominate candidates for elected roles as national officers and/or general secretary and/or deputy general secretary within the Union;
  - 3.3.3 elect South Gloucestershire District members of and submit motions, amendments and prioritisation thereof to annual conference;
    - 3.3.3.1 if the relevant general meeting is not quorate the election of the local district members of annual conference shall be undertaken by a membership ballot.
- 3.4 The South Gloucestershire District, at a properly constituted and quorate Annual General Meeting that shall take place no later in the academic year than 31 May, shall:
  - 3.4.3 elect Officers and a Committee, elect either two Lay Auditors or appoint a Professional Auditor
  - 3.4.4 subject to provisions set out by Executive in relevant model rules (see Appendix G), nominate and elect officers of any branch with members within its jurisdiction, so long as those officers are elected by and from such branch members only.

- 3.5 The South Gloucestershire District shall keep records, documents and books of accounts relating to the financial transactions of the South Gloucestershire District as the Executive shall from time to time decide and annually at August 31 or at such other dates as shall be required by the Executive, shall prepare and submit to the General Secretary, a Statement of Account in the form and manner required by the Executive, and in compliance with the requirements of the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations. The Auditor(s) of the South Gloucestershire District shall carry out their duties in accordance with the requirements of the Auditors appointed by the Executive of the Union.
- 3.6 If they see fit, the South Gloucestershire District may establish sub-District networks to more effectively engage and involve members and may seek Executive approval to establish such constituent bodies as stand-alone Local Districts.
- 3.7 As per National Rule 8.1.6 no Local District may employ new staff nor purchase real property without the express approval of the Executive.
- 3.8 Subject to the provisions of National Rule 8.2.2 vii(c) the South Gloucestershire District may set a local subscription fee from all members, between 5% and 20% of the national subscription as set under the National Rules of the Union.
- 3.9 The South Gloucestershire District may perform other such duties on behalf of the members within the parameters of the objects and policies of the union.

#### **4. Officers and Committee**

- 4.1 The management of South Gloucestershire District shall be vested in the Officers and Committee.
- 4.2 The elected Officers of the South Gloucestershire District shall be Secretary, President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer and other roles as agreed by the South Gloucestershire District. There must be at least one equality officer and one for each independent, post-16 and support staff section. Any of these roles may be undertaken as a role share.
- 4.3 The South Gloucestershire District Committee shall consist of the Officers of the South Gloucestershire District, plus 6 Committee members elected by and from the members of the South Gloucestershire District in accordance with Rule 5. There may be a variety of lead officer roles, e.g. for, and from, the workplace or equality sections, new professionals, organising, leadership, campaigns plus committee members not elected to a specific responsibility.

- 4.4 Branch Secretaries shall be ex-officio voting members of the Committee unless they are not members of the South Gloucestershire District in which case they shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the Committee, so long as their branch has members within the South Gloucestershire District.
- 4.5 All casual vacancies in the Officers or Committee occurring during the year shall be filled by the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 4.6 At least 75% of the South Gloucestershire District Officers and Committee shall be standard members. Upon request, the Executive may waive this requirement.

## **5. Elections**

- 5.1 Nominations for the Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer, and Committee members set out in Rule 4 shall be made in writing or email, signed or otherwise confirmed via email by the proposer and seconder and endorsed by the nominee, and shall reach the South Gloucestershire District Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.2 Voting forms shall be issued to all members not less than 14 days before the date of the AGM.
- 5.3 Voting forms shall be submitted to the President or other nominated Returning Officer (not standing for election) so as to reach her/him no less than 3 days before the AGM.
- 5.4 The counting of votes shall be overseen by Scrutineers elected at the previous AGM (who may not be candidates in the elections). The results of the elections shall be declared at the AGM. An election conducted as above shall not be rendered invalid by the failure of any member to receive or to return a voting form.
- 5.5 Officers and Committee as listed in Rule 4 shall be subject to annual election, except that the person elected as Vice President each year shall serve a three-year term, becoming President and then Past-President in the two subsequent years.

## **6. Meetings**

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the South Gloucestershire District shall be held no later in the academic year than 31 May. Notice confirming the date of the AGM and including associated notice of nominations for elected Officers and at-large Committee shall be sent to all members at least two months before the date of the AGM.

- 6.2 At least three ordinary general meetings of the South Gloucestershire District shall be held during the year and such additional general meetings as the Committee may deem necessary. Wherever possible, dates of all such ordinary meetings and the AGM shall be published and circulated to members at the start of the academic year.
- 6.3 The schedule of Committee meetings shall be determined by the Officers, except that it shall meet at least as frequently as ordinary general meetings are held.
- 6.4 The agenda of business for all general and committee meetings shall be determined by the Committee, subject to the Standing Orders set out in Rule 7. The Branch Secretary/Delegate shall submit items of Branch-specific business on such agenda.
- 6.5 The order of business at the AGM must include:
- i. Minutes of the last AGM
  - ii. Reports and Statement of Account
  - iii. Declaration of the results of the election of the Officers and Committee.
- 6.6 At least 7 days before the date of any general meeting final notice stating the time and place of the meeting shall be sent to all members of the South Gloucestershire District, together with the Agenda of the business as agreed by the Committee, including any proposed alterations to these Rules or the local subscription fee.
- 6.7 Notice of all general meetings must be sent to all members and all workplaces by the most effective means.
- 6.8 The quorum for all general meetings shall be 10 members from no fewer than 3 education establishments. The quorum for Committee meetings shall be 40% of Committee members [and no less than 5].
- 6.9 A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Secretary on the instructions of the Committee or within twenty-one days of the receipt of a written requisition stating the purpose for which the meeting is called and signed by not less than 10 members. No business other than that stated by the Committee, or in the requisition, shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting.

## **7. Standing Orders**

- 7.1 Meetings shall normally be chaired by the President, and in their absence by the Vice President or Past President. In the absence of all three the meeting shall elect a member to chair the meeting.

- 7.2 Questions arising at meetings shall be decided by a simple majority.
- 7.3 Votes shall be decided by a show of hands, unless at least 25% present request a secret ballot.
- 7.4 The decision of the Chairperson on any point shall be final. If any decision be challenged it must be done at the next meeting, due notice having been given at the time the decision was called into question.
- 7.5 If a meeting is inquorate then no decision can be made.
- 7.6 All motions for consideration at a meeting must be received by the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting, with the names of a mover and seconder attached, so that they can be included in the final notice of the meeting. The order of business shall be as determined by the Committee, except that business deferred from a previous meeting shall take precedence over all other.
- 7.7 Procedures governing the conduct of a debate, unless otherwise stated in these Rules, shall be the same as those currently specified in the Standing Orders governing debates at the annual conference of the Union.
- 7.8 Standing orders may be suspended subject to agreement of at least two thirds of those present.

## **8. Finance**

- 8.1 The financial affairs of the South Gloucestershire District shall be conducted in accordance with the Finance Regulations within the Treasurer's handbook.
- 8.2 Changes to the Finance Regulations are to be approved by the Executive.
- 8.3 South Gloucestershire District's financial year shall end on 31 August and at that date or such other dates as shall be required by the Executive of the Union, the South Gloucestershire District shall prepare and submit to the General Secretary a Statement of Account of the South Gloucestershire District in the form and manner required by the Executive and in compliance with the requirements of the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations.
- 8.4 The accounts of the South Gloucestershire District shall be audited on behalf of the members of the South Gloucestershire District either by two lay Auditors who shall be appointed annually at General Meeting and who shall not be Officers or members of the Committee, or by a Professional Auditor appointed by the South Gloucestershire District. The Auditor(s) shall be required to carry out their duties in accordance with the requirement of the Auditors appointed by the Executive of the Union under National Rule 21.

- 8.5 The statement of Account prepared and audited under Rules 8.3 and 8.4 shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the South Gloucestershire District.
- 8.6 All banks, building societies and/ or other accounts should be in the name of the South Gloucestershire District and withdrawals from the account shall require the signatures of or authorisation of an electronic payment by at least two Officers of the South Gloucestershire District. The district should have three signatories. A signatory should not sign their own cheque or authorise their own electronic payment unless a second who is not connected (as a spouse or civil partner; a relative, or relative of a spouse or civil partner) to the first signatory also signs or authorises the payment.

## **9. Workplace Representatives**

- 9.1 The South Gloucestershire District working with relevant Branch Secretaries/Delegates shall take such steps as may be necessary to establish that for each education establishment or unattached unit in its jurisdiction, there is at least one accredited Union representative elected annually by members in their establishment and ideally a team of accredited Union representatives including union learning reps and health and safety reps.

## **10. Rule Amendments**

- 10.1 Amendments to these Rules shall only be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.
- 10.2 Details of proposed amendments must be submitted to the Secretary at least 28 days ahead of the AGM and must subsequently be included in the final notice provided to members as per Rule 6.6.
- 10.3 Proposed amendments must be agreed by a simple majority of members present and voting at the AGM and must subsequently be approved by the Executive before taking effect.

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Based on the NEU Model Rules for Local Districts (Appendix C: 3 October 2020 version)

**Agreed at a General Meeting of the NEU South Gloucestershire District  
14 January 2019**

**Amended at District AGM – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021**