

D2 Young Greens Standing Orders 2019/2020

Organization: Young Greens

Resolution date: 01/01/2020

Agenda item: D Amendments to Constitution/Standing Orders (Closed 18th July)

1 Young Greens Standing Orders 2019/2020

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 reports, motions, resolutions and changes to
17 the Constitution or Standing Orders, collectively referred to as 'papers'.

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

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

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

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

24 B2.2 SPC must appoint a chair and deputy chair for the Annual General Meeting.
25 The chair and deputy chair must not be proposers of any motions/papers or
26 amendments to the Annual General Meeting

27 B2.3 SPC must ensure that all members respect the Constitution and Standing
28 Orders.

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

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

34 B2.6 SPC must inform EC to take note of any newly adopted papers.

35 B2.7 A prioritisation ballot will occur, conducted by SPC, on the first day of
36 Convention for attendees at the Annual General Meeting in order to decide the
37 order of papers taken.

38 Part 3: Motions and Reports

39 B3.1 It shall be the role of SPC to compile submitted papers, which consist of

40 B3.1.1 Changes to the Constitution or Standing Orders

41 B3.1.2 Resolutions, which note the priorities of the Executive Committee for the
42 upcoming term

43 B3.1.3 Motions, which insert entries into the Record of Policy Statements or
44 Record of Organisational Statements

45 B3.1.4 Reports, as outlined in B3.2

46 B3.1.5 Emergency Motions, as outlined in B3.10

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

49 B3.2.1 Executive Committee Co-Chairs.

50 B3.2.2 Treasurer.

51 B3.2.3 Non-Portfolio EC Officers.

52 B3.2.4 Structures and Procedures Committee.

53 B3.2.5 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 papers 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 Paper copies of the Constitution, Standing Orders, Record of Policy
62 Statements and Record of Organisational Statements must be made available for
63 members attending the General Meeting.

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

66 B3.7.1 At least 8 weeks before the Annual General Meeting, EC must send out a
67 call including guidelines for submission of papers, all relevant dates and where
68 to find papers once they are posted on the members' website.

- 69 B3.7.2 Submission for papers shall close exactly 4 weeks before the AGM.
- 70 B3.7.3 Following this, SPC must post all submissions at the earliest possible
71 moment.
- 72 B3.7.4 Exactly 1 week before the AGM, submission of amendments to papers will
73 close.
- 74 B3.7.5 Amendments may not substantially change the intention of the paper and
75 nor may they require changes to another section of the Constitution or Standing
76 Orders.
- 77 B3.8 Exactly 5 days before the Annual General Meeting, SPC must ensure that all
78 members are emailed (regardless of Annual General Meeting registration status)
79 copies of all papers and amendments to both as well as the reports detailed in
80 B3.2.
- 81 B3.9 The only amendments which shall be accepted from the floor during the AGM
82 are minor textual amendments (e.g. grammatical corrections) and friendly verbal
83 amendments (i.e. where both the proposer of the original paper and the proposer
84 of the verbal amendment agree to an amendment).
- 85 B3.10 Emergency motions, defined as being brought due to an event occurring past
86 the original motion deadline, will be accepted up until 17.00 on the day before
87 the AGM.
- 88 B3.11 The text of Emergency Motions should be submitted electronically or by
89 paper copy and the list of proposers by email and/or paper copy, both to the
90 Chair of SPC.
- 91 B3.12 Emergency Motions shall be prioritised at the AGM by SPC on the basis of
92 the number of co-proposers to each Emergency Motion.

93 Part 4: Motion Voting Procedures

- 94 B4.1 When debating a paper or amendment at the Annual General Meeting, the
95 proposer will be asked by the chair to propose the motion or amendment by
96 explaining what the paper or amendment is for and then giving a brief speech in
97 favour of the paper.
- 98 B4.2 Following this the chair will open debate on the paper or amendment by
99 asking for a limited number of brief alternating speeches in favour and against
100 the paper, firstly against and then in favour of the paper or amendment until
101 either no one wishes to make a speech or there has been sufficient debate on the
102 paper or amendment.
- 103 B4.3 If it is unclear if there has been sufficient debate a straw poll will be
104 taken by raising hands with the options either for more debate or move to a
105 vote.
- 106 B4.4 At any point before the vote is taken, any member can ask for
107 clarification, raise points of information or propose procedural motions (e.g.
108 minor textual amendments, taking by parts).
- 109 B4.5 If a paper or amendment has received lengthy debate the proposer may
110 request a brief right of reply before the vote is taken.

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

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

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

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

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

119 B4.8 Amendments to the Constitution including accompanying Byelaws or Standing
120 Orders will be accepted with a two-thirds majority.

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

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

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

125 **Section C: Emergency General Meetings**

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

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

132 **Section D: Autumn General Meeting**

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

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

136 D.2.1 Young Greens Co-chairs

137 D.2.2 Treasurer

138 D.2.3 Non-portfolio EC members

139 D.2.4 Green Students Committee

140 D.3 The Autumn General Meeting must take note of mandatory six-month progress
141 reports from those representatives.

142 D.4 The accountability session will take the form of a face-to-face Q&A with the
143 membership

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

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

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

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

151 **Section E: Internal Elections**

152 **Part 1: Candidacy**

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

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

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

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

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

168 E1.5.1 Any EC role

169 E1.5.3 Structures and Procedures Committee

170 E1.5.4 Green Students Committee Co-Convenor

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

173 E1.6.1 Treasurer

174 E1.6.2 Non-Portfolio Officer

175 E1.6.3 Member of Structures and Procedures Committee

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

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

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

181 E1.7.3 resign from their role

182 Part 2: Term of Office

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

206 Part 3: Election Timescale

207 E3.1 The following election timescale applies only to YG roles elected in the
208 "Annual Ballot" at convention, namely Executive Committee, Structures and
209 Procedures Committee members, and Co-Convenors of the Green Students Committee.

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

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

216 E3.4 At least 8 weeks before the AGM the Executive Committee must send out a
217 call for applications to all Executive Committee roles and Structure and
218 Procedures Committee positions which must set out the rest of the timescale and
219 how to apply.

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

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

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

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

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

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

237 E3.11 The election of successful candidates shall be announced during
238 Convention.

239 Part 4: Electoral System and Gender Balance

240 E4.1 Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting and
241 associated elections where they have 1 vote.

242 E4.2 All positions shall all be elected using the Single Transferable Vote (STV)
243 system with a provision for negative voting (re-open nominations, acronym RON).

244 E4.2.1 Single Transferable Vote quota for election is calculated as follows:
245 total valid vote divided by one more than the number of seats up for election
246 plus one (or rounded up) to avoid ties: $(TVV/(seats+1)) + 1$.

247 E4.3 Voting will take place via secret, secure online ballot arranged by an
248 Electoral Returning Officer (ERO), appointed by the Structures and Procedures
249 Committee (SPC).

250 E4.4 SPC, or the ERO if authorised to do so by SPC, is responsible for counting
251 the votes.

252 E4.5 The counting of votes and electing of successful candidates for the
253 position of Co-Chair and Treasurer will take place before the counting for EC
254 Non-Portfolio position so that the gender balance criteria described below can
255 be applied.

256 E4.6 The following rules will apply to the elections of, separately, Co-chairs
257 in compliance with paragraph 1.2 of Constitution Byelaw 1.

258 E4.6.1 The candidate with the highest number of first preference votes will be
259 elected in the first round in which a candidate passes the quota required by the
260 STV method.

261 E4.6.2 If the successful candidate is not a self-defining man, the second
262 candidate elected by the STV method will be elected to the second Co-Chair
263 position, regardless of gender identity.

264 E4.6.3 If the first successful candidate is a self-defining man, all other self-
265 defining men will be excluded from the vote and their further preferences
266 allocated to the remaining candidates from whom the second Co-Chair will be
267 elected.

268 E4.7 Following the election of the aforementioned roles a number of Non-
269 Portfolio positions will be reserved for candidates who are not self-defining
270 men to ensure that EC shall comprise of no more than 50% of members who self-
271 define as men. The number of roles reserved will be calculated based on the
272 number of self-defining men elected to the Co-Chair and treasurer positions.

273 E4.8 The election of Green Students Committee Co-Convenors will take place
274 following the same rules as laid out for EC Co-Chairs in D4.6.

275 E4.9 The selection of the International Delegate will ensure that no more than
276 one delegate self-defines as a man.

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

280 Part 5: Campaigning Rules

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

284 E5.2 The amount spent on a campaign by a candidate in the annual Young Greens
285 ballot (EC, Structures and Procedures Committee, Green Students Committee Co-
286 Convenors) must not exceed £30. This includes leaflets, online campaigning and
287 similar expenditure the candidate has incurred as a result of being a candidate
288 for a position within the Young Greens. It also includes expenditure incurred by
289 the supporters of the candidate. At least 50% of all spending will be reimbursed
290 by the Young Greens providing receipts are provided to the Young Greens
291 Treasurer within 30 days of the close of elections. The same amount of money
292 will be reimbursed for every candidate running for any one role.

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

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

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

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

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

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

310 E5.9 Any member, regardless of candidate status, can report a suspected breach
311 of these rules to the Electoral Returning Officer in the case of electoral
312 breaches, Structures and Procedures in the case of motions, or, where they feel
313 that is inappropriate, to Young Greens Staff.

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

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

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

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

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

329 E5.11 Any suspected non-electoral breaches, during an election and by a
330 candidate, of the Young Greens Constitution, Young Greens Standing Orders, Green
331 Party Constitution, Green Party Standing Orders, Green Party Code of Conduct or
332 any other organisational policies of the Green Party of England and Wales and
333 Young Greens, including anti-harassment and Safe Space policies, will be
334 investigated by the Structures and Procedures Committee who will have the
335 following options open to them:

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

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

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

346 E5.13 Any suspected breach of these rules in relation to the proposal of papers
347 will be investigated by the Structures and Procedures Committee who will have
348 the following options open to them.

349 E5.13.1 Any proposer suspected of breaking these rules may be suspended from
350 proposing the paper pending investigation by the Electoral Returning Officer and
351 the Structures and Procedures Committee and an alternative proposer must be
352 found by the remaining co-proposers.

353 E5.13.2 For serious breaches of these rules, Structures and Procedures Committee
354 may rule the paper or amendment out of order and remove it from the General
355 Meeting agenda.

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

359 Part 6: Co-options

360 E6.1 Any vacant EC role may be co-opted by a majority vote of EC plus the
361 agreement of the Chair of the Structures and Procedures Committee, after a call
362 out and a hustings has taken place.

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

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

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

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

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

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