



41 CLUB POLICY

CANVASSING AND SELF – PROMOTION IN ELECTIONS FOR CONTESTED POSTS

At the Annual General Meeting each year, several positions on National Board fall vacant and are open to those eligible to stand for election. Rule 6.7 of our rules states that “Canvassing for support of nominations for office is prohibited save that a candidate may submit to the National Secretary for circulation by him an election address in such format as shall be approved by the National Council. The National Council shall decide if any prohibited canvassing has taken place in which event that candidate shall be disqualified from that election. The National Secretary shall circulate to all constituent clubs prior to the Annual General Meeting such relevant details of the candidates as shall be required by the National Council from time to time.”

Candidates are invited to submit their nominations to the National Secretary within the period between asking for nominations and the submission deadline date. Prospective candidates may approach their club for endorsement of their candidacy. If there is more than one nomination by the deadline date, a contested election takes place. Difficulties have been encountered in recent years in determining what is acceptable practice within the letter and spirit of the rules on canvassing and self-promotion in the run up to the election, particularly with the widespread use of social media. These guidelines, approved by National Council, are intended to inform candidates what and what is not accepted practice prior to the election.

1. "Canvassing for support of nominations" (aka "prohibited canvassing") constitutes: -

- 1.1 a candidate asking for a Club to vote for him.
- 1.2 any third party doing the same on behalf of a candidate and with the prior knowledge or consent of a candidate.
- 1.3 a candidate shall not make disparaging remarks against another candidate.

2. "Canvassing for support of nominations" shall not constitute: -

- 2.1 a candidate advising he is standing for office.
- 2.2 a candidate responding to questions asked by members/clubs.
- 2.3 normal social media posts or articles by a candidate (unless such posts or articles conflict with 1.1 or 1.2 above)

The candidate who submits a nomination for a notified vacancy is invited to submit a manifesto of no more than 300 words, setting out why they consider themselves the best man for the post. This manifesto will be circulated to all constituent clubs in the agenda and order paper in advance of the meeting. The manifesto and photograph will also be printed in the Spring edition of the 41 Club magazine and newsletter. The magazine should be published and distributed 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

If there is to be a contested election, the National Secretary (or another Board member if the National Secretary is himself a candidate) will arrange an online session for the candidates whereby each candidate will be required to answer a predetermined series of questions in turn. The questions will be collated and posed by a suitably independent panel (such as a Past President and/or retired National Council member). Each candidate will be given the opportunity to answer 3-4 set questions, put to them one hour before, and will not hear the answers of the other candidate. Each Q&A session will be pre-recorded. This will give members an opportunity to see how well each candidate performs in response to specific questions relating to the position they are applying for.

If there is no contest for the post, the candidate will still be given an opportunity to take part in a Q&A session, so that membership will have an opportunity to meet the candidate.

Many candidates will have a presence on social media, and may continue to post, comment or react to any post which pertains to any aspect of 41 Club outside the election. For example, a candidate would be free to comment on a post relating to a Christmas Float, NSSW, 41 Club Connects or any other such activity. Candidates must not announce their candidacy on social media, nor take part in any post which refers to specific candidates, the election process, or the AGM.

Candidates may speak at National Council meetings which are open to all members, at the discretion of the National President. If they are currently a member of National Council, they may speak on matters pertaining to their current role.

Newsletter articles submitted by candidates will not be published in the monthly newsletter immediately prior to the election, unless such articles would normally be submitted as part of their current role. Any such articles submitted for publication will be held over until the next publication after the election, unless this would be detrimental to the effectiveness of the Association.

The National Secretary, in consultation with the National Honorary Solicitor, will be responsible for the interpretation and implementation of these guidelines.

This policy was agreed by National Council on 1st April 2022.

To be reviewed in April 2024.