

Proposed Rule Book

1. Constitution

- a. The name of the Party shall be the Workers Party of Britain
- b. The Party shall be organised in England, Scotland, and Wales, and will be registered in Great Britain.
- c. The political, democratic and organisational structures of the party shall be established by the National Members Council as required taking into account the number, location and density of the membership of the party.

2. The policies and aims of the Party

- a. The Workers Party of Britain is a socialist party and strives for a socialist society where the workers by hand and by brain share the full fruits of their industry.
- b. We believe in a strong British economy which recognises the guiding hand of the state in ensuring that our economic development is to the benefit of all our people.
- c. The Workers Party of Britain believes in the public ownership of the commanding heights of the economy but will ensure the rights of small and medium-sized businesses and producers in the private sector. In the immediate term, we fight for higher wages, for workers' rights and for the common ownership of utilities and essential public services.
- d. The Workers Party of Britain will fight for a new Britain, free and democratic, with no place for exploitation and discrimination or the despoliation of the environment.
- e. The Workers Party of Britain will organise workers in advancing our demands for a radical economic programme for Britain.
- f. The policies of the Party are set out in the publications and documents of the party and in the political resolutions which have been ratified by the National Members Council.

3. Objectives

- a. In order to achieve its aims the Party will:
 - i. Raise funds from members and supporters that will cover the cost of engaging in the activities of the Party.
 - ii. Organise educational courses and events.
 - iii. Stand candidates in elections, including local, general and mayoral elections in Great Britain.
 - iv. In addition to public rallies and conferences there shall be private members meetings, these will meet at a frequency to suit the members.

4. Membership eligibility

- a. Application for membership of the Party shall be open to any person over 16 who will: -
 - i help the Party to achieve its aims and objectives.
 - ii abide by the rules of the Party.
 - iii pay any subscription agreed by the National Members Council.
- b. Application for membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion or belief.
- c. Applications for membership must be made to the General Secretary in the first instance and can be made either in person or online.
- d. Admission of supporters, affiliates and other temporary membership schemes is made at the discretion of the National Members Council.
- e. The conferring of full membership status may be sanctioned at any time by the National Members Council following a report from the General Secretary.

4.1. New members

- a. New members will be allowed to attend and speak at events or meetings organised by the party.
- b. New members become full members after achieving 6 months continuous membership or if full membership has been conferred by the National Members Council.

4.2. Full members

- a. Only full members have the right to vote at meetings.
- b. Only full members have the right to nominate others for party positions.
- c. Only full members have the right to stand for Party positions.
- d. Only full members have the right to be considered as a candidate for public office.

5. Officers

- a. The elected officer positions are:
 - i Leader
 - ii Five Deputy leaders
 - iii General Secretary
- b. In addition the following officers may be appointed as required: -
 - i National Organiser
 - ii Regional Organisers
 - iii Nominating Officer
 - iv Treasurer

- v Any other position as deemed necessary to carry out the proper legal, political and organisational functioning of the party.

5.1. The duties of the Leader and Deputy Leaders

- a. Uphold the decisions of Congress.
- b. Represent the Party at events and meetings that have been organised.
- c. Act as spokespersons for the Party.
- d. Report to the National Members Council as appropriate.

5.2. The duties of the General Secretary

- a. Uphold the decisions of Congress.
- b. Represent the Party at events and meetings.
- c. Maintain the membership list.
- d. Manage members' discipline.
- e. Deal with correspondence.
- f. Record minutes of meetings.
- g. Make arrangements for Congress at the direction of the National Members Council.
- h. Report to the National Members Council as appropriate.

5.3 The duties of Party Organisers

- a. Organising Branches in their area as directed by the National Members Council.
- b. Organising events and meetings in their area.
- c. Coordinating election activities as required.
- d. Attending meetings of the National Members Council.
- e. Attend Congress.
- f. Organisation of educational events for members and Branch Officers.
- g. Examination of branch books and reports to the National Members Council.
- h. Assist in the recruitment of new members.

5.4. The duties of the Nominating Officer

- a. Planning and coordination of the work of the Party that relates to the role of the Nominating Officer.
- b. Fulfilling the requirements of relevant UK law in relation to the role of Nominating Officer in line with compliance with Electoral Commission policies and procedures.
- c. Report to the National Members Council as appropriate.

5.5. The duties of the Treasurer

- a. Planning and coordination of the work of the Party that relates to the role of the Treasurer.

- b. Fulfilling the requirements of relevant UK law in relation to the role of Treasurer in line with compliance with Electoral Commission policies and procedures.
- c. Fulfilling those functions and duties outlined in the Financial Scheme
- d. Report to the National Members Council as appropriate.

6. Election of officers

- a. Candidates for the elected officer positions must be nominated by 10 other full members of the party.
- b. The following officers shall be elected by the Party's Congress on the basis of one member one vote: -
 - i. Leader
 - ii. Five Deputy leaders
 - iii. General Secretary
- c. The following officers shall be appointed by the National Members Council: -
 - i. National Organiser
 - ii. Regional Organisers
 - iii. Nominating Officer
 - iv. Treasurer
 - v. Any other position as deemed necessary to carry out the proper legal and organisational functioning of the party.
- d. Should any position become vacant due to death, injury, serious ill-health or any other eventuality then the National Members Council may appoint an interim replacement until the next Congress where an election will take place where applicable.
- e. The normal term of office for any officer is between Congresses.

7. Political Committee

7.1. Constitution of the Political Committee

- a. The Political Committee will consist of: -
 - i. Leader
 - ii. Five Deputy leaders
 - iii. General Secretary
 - iv. Chair of the National Members Council
 - v. National Elections Co-ordinator
 - vi. Trade Union Group Chair
 - vii. Nominating Officer
 - viii. Treasurer

7.2. Duties and power of the Political Committee

- a. The Political Committee is a rapid deployment decision making body.
- b. The Political Committee will make decisions in line with the policies of the Party.
- c. To plan and coordinate the work of the Party and manage the finances when the National Members Council is not in session.
- d. To manage the day to day running of the Party when the National Members Council is not in session.

7.3. Standing orders of the Political Committee

- a. The Political Committee meets weekly or by order of the Party Leader, General Secretary or any four members.
- b. The quorum for meetings of the Political Committee shall be 5.

8. National Members Council

8.1. Constitution of the National Members Council

- a. The National Members Council shall be elected at Congress. This will consist of: -
 - i 100 members elected at congress,
 - ii the Leader
 - iii the five Deputy leaders
 - iv the General Secretary

8.2. Duties and powers of the National Members Council

- b. The duties of the National Members Council are:
 - i Fulfil the decisions of the Congress.
 - ii Represent the policies of the Party.
 - iii To plan and coordinate the work of the Party and manage the finances.
 - iv To manage the day to day running of the Party
 - v To appoint a Nominating Officer and Treasurer and any other position that ensures the legal functioning of the Party.
 - vi To appoint Party Organisers or any other position in order to improve legal, political and organisational functioning of the Party.
 - vii Represent the Party at events and meetings that have been organised.
 - viii Ratify new membership applications and the conferring of full membership where necessary.
 - ix Ratify candidates for public election.
 - x To oversee the application of the disciplinary process and deal with individual cases following a report from the General Secretary.
 - xi To establish working groups and committees as necessary.

xii Ratify the establishment of branches and regions.

xiii Make arrangements for the Party Congress to take place in line with the rules contained herein.

8.3. Standing Orders of the National Members Council

- a. The National Members Council will meet Quarterly as required with the first meeting after Congress being the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- b. A member of the National Members Council shall be elected Chair and another member as Vice Chair at each Annual General Meeting.
- c. Decisions of the National Members Council shall be recorded and passed by a simple majority vote.
- d. The quorum of the National Members Council shall be 25% of all elected members as of the previous congress.

8.4. Election of the National Members Council

- a. The General Secretary will notify members prior to congress of the number of positions available for the National Members Council taking into account the rules of the Party.
- b. Full Members who wish to be considered for election to the National Members Council should submit their nomination to the General Secretary. The deadline for the receipt of nominations shall be 30 days before the date of commencement of congress. Nominations received after this deadline may not be included on the ballot paper.
- c. If there are more candidates for the National Members Council than positions available, then ballot papers bearing the names of all of the nominees will be issued to delegates on arrival at Congress. Candidates receiving a simple majority of votes by congress delegates will be elected.

9. Party Congress

9.1. General

- a. The frequency at which Party's Congress is held will be at the discretion of the National Members Council but will not be longer than once every four years.
- b. The National Members Council shall: -
 - i. Give notice of the arrangements for Congress at least four weeks before the date concerned.
 - ii. Agree and issue the agenda for congress to all delegates.
 - iii. Give notice of the deadline for submitting policy and rules items for Congress.
- c. Decisions of the Congress shall be recorded and passed by a simple majority vote.

9.2. Delegates to Congress

- a. The process for electing delegates to congress and the number of delegates entitled to attend will be decided by the National Members Council taking into

account the status of the party including its regions, branches and membership at the time ensuring broad and fair representation.

- b. Elected MP's and Councillors shall be automatic delegates to Congress.
- c. All elected and appointed party officers shall be automatic delegates to Congress.

9.3. The powers of Congress

- a. To elect the following officers of the Party: -
 - i. Leader
 - ii. Five Deputy leaders
 - iii. General Secretary
- b. To elect the delegates to the National Members Council.
- c. To make resolutions on the political and organisational direction of the Party.
- d. Change or amend the rules of the Party.
- e. It shall govern the National Members Council and exercise all or any powers and authorities vested in the National Members Council under these rules, or to direct the National Members Council to put such powers and authorities, or any of them, into operation.
- f. To remove the appointed officers from office and appoint new officers.

9.4. Agenda for Congress

- a. The agenda for congress will be made up of items submitted by Party members and / or structures as directed by the National Members Council.
- b. Items must be submitted to the General Secretary before the deadline. Any items received after the deadline will not be submitted for the agenda of congress.
- c. Emergency items for congress may be submitted after this deadline but may only be heard by congress at the discretion of the Chair.
- d. The rule covering the **Policies and Aims of the party** cannot be changed unless there is a two-thirds majority of congress delegates voting to do so.

9.5. Standing orders of Congress

9.5.1 The Chair of Congress

- a. The Chair of the National Members Council will act as Chair of Congress and will take their position prior to the Leader's opening address to congress.
- b. The Vice Chair of the National Members Council will act as Vice Chair of Congress.
- c. In the absence of either the Chair or Vice Chair of the National Members Council delegates will elect a replacement.
- d. If any question arises which is not covered by these standing orders, then the Chair shall make a ruling.
- e. It will be the responsibility of the Chair of congress to keep a timetable of debates, ensure adherence to strict debating procedures and non-repetitive contributions by delegates or officers and to ensure all contributions are made in an appropriate and comradely manner.
- f. The chair shall see that the collective opinion of the delegates is clearly ascertained and expressed. To this end the chair may:
 - i. limit the duration of speeches.
 - ii. divide a motion into parts.
 - iii. adjourn the meeting.
 - iv. overrule a proposal for a motion to proceed to next business.
- g. The ruling of the Chair shall be final, unless challenged by at least four delegates; in the event of such a challenge the Chair will vacate, and the Vice-Chair will immediately put the motion 'That the Chair's ruling be upheld' to a vote without speeches or contributions. Unless two thirds of the delegates present vote against such a ruling the Chair's decision stands.

9.5.2 Order of business

- a. Congress shall be conducted accordance with the agenda, these standing orders and any appendices (timetables and any corrections to the agenda).
- b. As congress progresses, the General Secretary may propose changes in the order of business and these will be adopted without a vote unless the chair (or in his/her absence the vice-chair) decides otherwise, or if one third of delegates so request.
- c. The Chair may restrict the length of debates, as required, to ensure they are conducive to the completion of conference business. In all such matters the Chair's decision shall be final.
- d. A motion to suspend standing orders shall take precedence and shall specify for what purpose standing orders are to be suspended. Once proposed, such a motion should be seconded, and a reply shall be given by the General Secretary. A vote shall be taken in accordance with these standing orders. If the motion is carried, standing orders shall be suspended to the extent specified in the motion.

9.5.3 Motions

- a. Motions in each section shall be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda.
- b. Each motion shall be moved by the individual or section proposing the motion and be seconded by a delegate who is a full member.
- c. Once a motion has been proposed and seconded, it may only be withdrawn with the consent of congress.

9.5.4 Amendments

- a. Once they have been proposed and seconded, motions (with the exception of rule change motions) may be amended during debate.
- b. Amendments to motions can be proposed and seconded by delegates (not the individual or the section moving the original motion).
- c. Amendments shall only be accepted by the Chair provided that they do not substantially alter the original meaning of the motion.
- d. Once the amendment is put, discussion of the original motion shall be suspended.
- e. When an amendment is being discussed a delegate may speak on the amendment even though they have spoken on the original motion.
- f. The mover of the original motion shall have the right of reply to following amendments and the vote on the amendment is then taken. This right of reply does not operate where an amendment subsequently becomes the proposition being amended.
- g. If the vote on the amendment is lost, debate continues on the original motion; if the vote on the amendment is carried, debate continues on the amended motion.

9.5.5 Emergency motions

- a. Copies of emergency motions shall be submitted to the General Secretary by noon on the first day of congress.
- b. Emergency motions shall deal only with urgent business which requires a congress decision, and which has arisen since the final date for submission of motions to congress.
- c. Emergency motions will only be heard by congress at the discretion of the Chair.

9.5.6 Remitted motions

- a. Remission (i.e., referring the motion to a decision by the NMC) can be moved at any time by any delegate who has not previously spoken in the debate, and must be proposed and seconded. Remission shall then be debated, and the proposer of the original motion shall have the right of reply to the debate on remission. If the motion is not carried debate shall continue on the original motion. If the motion to remit is carried debate on the motion ceases.
- b. Remitted motions will be dealt with by the incoming NMC and issues that are addressed shall be dealt with in the report of the NMC to the next congress.

9.5.7 Conduct of debate

- a. The General Secretary has a right to speak on each motion and their contribution shall be made after the proposer and seconder have spoken. Thereafter there shall be open debate.
- b. The mover of a motion shall be allowed five minutes, seconder five minutes, and each succeeding speaker three minutes (except the Party Leader and the General Secretary who shall be allowed 10 minutes).
- c. No delegate shall speak more than once upon any motion or amendment, except the mover of the motion who has the right of reply immediately after which the question shall be put.
- d. A motion 'that the vote be taken now' may be proposed at any stage of debate and shall require to be seconded. Such a motion shall be put to the vote without discussion. It shall not be moved or seconded by anyone who has previously spoken in debate. If such a motion is carried, the proposer of the original motion shall have the right of reply and congress shall then proceed to take a vote.
- e. A motion 'that congress proceed to next business' may be proposed at any stage of a debate and shall require to be seconded. Such a motion shall only be put to congress if the chairman is of the opinion that the cessation of discussion would not disadvantage a minority group in progressing with the business of the congress. Such a motion shall be put to the vote without discussion. If moved during debate, it shall not be moved or seconded by anyone who has previously spoken in that debate. If such a motion is carried, congress shall proceed immediately to the next item on the agenda.

9.5.8 Voting

- a. At the close of debate a vote shall be taken. A motion shall not become party policy unless it is supported by a majority of votes cast.
- b. Rule change motions and motions to suspend standing orders are required to be supported by not less than half of votes cast. In the event of a tied vote the chair shall have a casting vote.
- c. Voting shall be by a show of hands and each full member present as a delegate shall have one vote.

9.5.8 Visitors to Congress

- a. No visitors shall be allowed in the Congress Hall unless they produce a special permit signed by the General Secretary or produce satisfactory evidence that they are members of the Party. Strict silence is to be observed by all visitors.

10. Branches

10.1. General

- a. Branches will be opened and closed on the authority of the National Members Council depending on the status and requirements of the party at the time.
- b. All branches shall be under the instruction of the National Members Council.
- c. All branches and Officers shall act in accordance with the rules and objectives of the party.

10.2. Branch Officers

- a. Branch officers and branch committee members shall be elected at the branch Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- b. All branches shall have at least an elected branch Secretary but may also have the following elected officers: -
 - i. Deputy Secretary
 - ii. Chairperson
 - iii. Vice Chairperson
- c. The Branch shall also elect a branch committee to carry out the day to day running of the branch when in between meetings. The number of committee members will be decided at the AGM.
- d. Depending on membership numbers and local objectives, the branch may also appoint or elect members into positions for organisational purposes e.g. Youth Organisers or Trade Union group.

10.3. Branch standing orders

- a. Branches shall adopt Standing Orders to suit local arrangements based on the following principles: -

10.3.1 Meetings

- a. The branch shall meet monthly or as required on a set date agreed by the Branch Annual General Meeting.
- b. Special meetings may be called by agreement of the branch committee.
- c. Meetings shall commence at the time arranged by the Secretary so long as at least seven days' notice is given of any such meeting.
- d. The first ordinary meeting in the month of December shall be the Annual General Meeting at which all branch officials for the ensuing year shall be elected.
- e. The quorum for meetings shall be determined by the Branch Annual General Meeting.
- f. An agenda will be prepared by the Secretary for each meeting, and this shall be sent to branch members at least seven days prior to the meeting.
- g. Notices of motion shall be submitted to the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting. The Chair (or Secretary in the absence of a Chair), in consultation with the members present, may relax this Standing Order. Any motions received within the above time scale must be sent to Branch members.

10.3.2 Conduct of the meeting

- a. The Secretary shall read the agenda and any minutes from previous meetings and place any correspondence before the meeting at the opening of the meeting and any query should be dealt with at this time.
- b. No member shall speak more than once on each motion, except for the mover of the motion who shall have the right of reply. When an amendment is being

discussed a member may speak on the amendment even though they have spoken on the original motion.

- c. The mover of the original motion shall have the right of reply to following amendments and the vote on the amendment is then taken. This right of reply does not operate where an amendment subsequently becomes the proposition being amended.
- d. Normally voting will be by a majority vote on a show of hands and the Chair (or Vice Chair in the absence of a Chair) will declare the result in the appropriate terms i.e. unanimous; carried; or falls.
- e. Where the voting is equal the result to be determined by the casting vote of the Chair (or Vice Chair in the absence of a Chair).
- f. Standing Orders can only be suspended when the motion to do so is supported by two thirds of the members present at the meeting.

10.3.3 Elections for branch Officials

- a. Candidates must have six months membership with the party.
- b. Be a member of the branch.
- c. When casual vacancies arise the term of office will be for the remainder of the predecessor's term of office.

11. Public Elections

11.1. General

- a. Full members will be eligible to stand as electoral candidates following an agreed selection process.
- b. A right of Full Party membership includes the opportunity to nominate candidates for public office in an area where the National Members Council approve.
- c. Core principles shall apply to these selections that will enable members to nominate Party candidate's as representative of our society who can uphold the highest standards of probity and integrity in public life.

11.2. Candidate Selection Process

- a. All eligible members of the Party are entitled to participate in selections.
- b. Members wishing to stand as a candidate in an election must be approved by the Political Committee, which shall instruct the Nominating Officer accordingly.
- c. The Party does not tolerate electoral fraud and no member who has been found guilty of an illegal or corrupt election practice as defined by the Representation of the People Act 1983 and subsequent legalisation may be considered for selection for public office at any level.
- d. Nominees will be given a code of conduct which will indicate the rights a potential candidate has in a selection, based on the principle that all eligible members shall have a fair and equal opportunity to seek selection.

- e. All nominees shall undertake in writing, in a form stipulated by the Party Officers, if selected, to abide by Party rules and standing orders.
- f. The Party will take action in all selections to encourage a greater level of representation and participation of groups of people in our society who are currently under-represented in our democratic institutions. In particular, the Party will seek to select more candidates who reflect the full diversity of our society and increase working class representation.
- g. Selection processes must aim to enable the inclusion and involvement of all full members on an equal basis and take into account the barriers to participation which underrepresented groups may face.
- h. One member one vote (OMOV) shall be adopted in all selections where this is reasonably practicable.
- i. Support shall be provided to those administering the selections process.
- j. The National Members Council and Officers have the authority to modify this rule and any procedural rules and guidelines (as required) to meet particular circumstances or to further the stated Party objectives and principles.

12. Complaints and disputes

- a. Should any claim or complaint be made, or dispute arise concerning the actions or activities of members, branches or officers of the Party which is related to the provisions or application of Rule 13, but to which the provisions of the disciplinary rules do not apply, the matter shall be determined by the National Members Council following a report from the General Secretary.

13. Discipline

- a. The grounds for demotion, suspension or expulsion are:
 - i Failure to pay subscriptions.
 - ii Making public statements concerning private Party business without authority.
 - iii Actions that are hostile to the Party.
 - iv Actions constituting a breach of the policies and aims of the Party.
- b. All disciplinary cases shall be investigated by the General Secretary, or their nominated deputy and a report with recommendations be placed before the next meeting of the National Members Council.
- c. In exceptional circumstances and where serious breaches of conduct have occurred, or where requirements for membership in accordance with these rules place the person outside the ranks of the party, a recommendation for termination of membership from the General Secretary may be made.
- d. If the offence is of a serious nature the General Secretary, in agreement with the Leader of the Party, may suspend from membership the individual or individuals concerned until the case is dealt with by the National Members Council.

- e. The National Members Council may endorse, reject or set aside the recommendations of the General Secretary.
- f. There shall be no appeal against decisions of the Members Council.

14. Finance

- a. Any money obtained by the Party shall be used only in pursuance of aims and policies of the Party.
- b. Any bank account opened for the Party shall be in the name of the Party.
- c. The financial scheme, as required by the Electoral Commission shall be adopted in line with PPERA from the moment of registration.

15. Dissolution

- a. The Party may be dissolved at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those full members present at any Congress.
- b. In the event of dissolution, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another with similar aims.