



LSU
ELECTION
DISCIPLINE
2019



LSU ELECTION DISCIPLINE

Overview

The information stipulated in this document, is based upon the rules and regulations in the Union's Elections rules and guidelines, which should be read alongside this document. It is laid out in a similar fashion to the Union's discipline policy, so it is easy to read and will explain the process for any Election discipline or discrepancy over the coming weeks.

It has been written in order to sustain an environment where all candidates, their teams and the student body themselves are complying with the Union's Election rules and criteria. It will lay out the various sanction that can be imposed against a candidate within an election.

This document is applicable to all candidates running for a post in a Union election where, in accordance with Elections Bye-Laws (lsu.co.uk/bye-laws), Paragraph 12 – Complaints and Paragraph 13 – Appeals, all candidates will be held accountable for their own actions and the actions of their campaign team.

The Discipline Procedure

Following an incident that takes place during a Union Election, where the Acting Returning Officer (Vice President: Affairs & Development) has been notified in writing and following an investigation, Disciplinary action may be taken.

- An individual who has been involved in an incident will be contacted via email or telephone to notify them that an investigation which may result in disciplinary will be taking place.
- The details of the allegation/incident will be referred to the Elections Sub-Committee who will investigate the matter fully before making a recommendation to the Acting Returning Officer.
- It is essential that the Elections Sub-committee and Candidates understand the effectiveness and seriousness of the sanctions put in place. Furthermore, should a member of the Elections Sub-Committee declare a conflict of interest with someone who has been involved in an incident, this should be stated prior to the investigation and that Elections Sub-Committee member should withdraw before any vote is taken on a proposed sanction.

Stages of Election Discipline

1) Complaint / Notification Received

When the Acting Returning Officer, or a member of the Elections Sub-Committee have been notified of or have seen any breach of Election rules, the committee will be convened to discuss the allegation/incident in question. If at this time they decided that there is a potential breach of the Election rules the following procedure will be followed:

2) Candidate Contacted

The candidate in question will be invited to attend a meeting with the Elections Sub-Committee and given the opportunity to discuss the matter and provide a statement of events.

3) Elections Sub-Committee Meeting

The committee must take a honest, fair view of the situation and if deemed necessary, issue a recommended sanction to the Acting Returning Officer;

The Acting Returning Officer will consider the recommendation and at their discretion, will issue a penalty in line with the table of sanction.

COMPLAINTS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO AN HOUR BEFORE THE CLOSE OF VOTING.

Appeals

In accordance with Elections Bye-Laws (lsu.co.uk/bye-laws), Paragraph 13 – Appeals, a candidate can appeal on the grounds of:

- a) **Discipline procedure was not followed correctly.**
- b) **Possible biases from the Acting Returning Officer, failing to consider all evidence.**
- c) **The interpretation of the Bye-law or guidelines is unreasonable.**

Appeals can be made no later than midday the day after the sanction was issued in which case a panel will be convened by a member of Union staff not involved in the administration of the elections.

The Returning Officer will rule upon the appeal and their decision is final and cannot be appealed further.

Types of sanctions

There are two types of sanction in this year's Union Election, and what they entail are detailed below:

a) **Social Media Ban**

This is the revocation of any powers for the candidate and their team to post on social media from any campaigning account (Facebook Page, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.)

- You can still post anything as an individual from your personal accounts providing it is not related to any campaign in the Union Elections present or previous.
- Your campaign team are also forbidden from campaigning for you online in any form (e.g. posts, changing of profile pictures etc).
- Your social media may remain live but, you are not permitted to post any additional content during the stipulated ban time which includes, posts that have been scheduled before the ban was given. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that these are not posted.

b) **Active Campaigning Ban**

A full campaigning ban is the revocation of any rights to actively campaign and includes all points stipulated in a) Social Media Ban.

- Any t-shirts promoting your campaign.
- Your boards and posters can still stay up, but you cannot campaign in any form whatsoever for the duration of your ban, this includes all members of a candidate's campaign team.

c) **Disqualifications**

A candidate can be automatically disqualified from a Union election if;

- Found to be guilty of any form of abuse or discrimination based on protected characteristics.
- If over 36 hours of sanction bans are accumulated, which can be a combination of sanction types.

The Table of Sanctions

OFFENCE	NUMBERS AND LENGTHS			
	Typical BAN	TYPE	Transfer to Active campaign?	Time of Active campaign ban.
Using Union resources to create material	3 hours +	Social Media	X	X
Notifying Students of your candidacy before 22nd Feb	3 hours +	Social media	Full campaign if serious	Dependency on impact
Bringing the Elections into disrepute	3 hours +	Social media	Full campaign if serious	Dependency on impact
Negatively campaigning	5 hours +	Social media	Full campaign if serious	Dependency on impact
Failing to declare any items	5 hours +	Social media	Dependence on the necessity of the item to the campaign	2 hours
Money overspent on budget	£1 over = 1 hour	Active campaign	X	X
Intimidation of another candidate or team	2 hours +	Active campaign	X	X
Breaching University election rules	Determined by University	Social media	Dependant on University Preference	Determined by University
Being disciplined under the Union discipline policy	Discretion of elections committee and VP Finance	Active Campaign	X	X