

Resolution Date: 13/01/2015

Resolution Title: Democratisation of Political Committees

This branch agrees to send the following resolution to the next meetings of the Area Activists Committee, with a view to submission to Rules Conference 2014:

Introduction

This rule change would democratise the Political Committees. Currently, only those who are Labour Party members have any say over the political strategy and allocation of the political fund to which a large proportion of members contribute. This rule amendment removes the requirement to be a Labour Party member in order to participate in Political Committees or related activities, and requires all those elected to Political Committees to be subject to the same democratic processes and qualifying criteria applied to the Regional and National Industrial Sector Committees, and Regional Committee.

In order to democratise the Political Committees, the clauses set out below would need to be changed. Each relevant clause is shown with sections for deletion highlighted in **bold**. The amended clause follows (indented) with additions highlighted in **bold italics**. The relevant rule number is shown in square brackets. After amending, rules and clauses should be renumbered as necessary.

[Rule 10: Members in Retirement]

10.8 Retired members **who are also Unite branch CLP GC delegates** plus up to four nominees (**who must be a members of the Labour Party**) from the Regional Retired Members' Co-ordinating Committee, elected by the members of that Committee, are entitled to attend the Regional Political Conference and are eligible to stand for election to additional retired members seats on Regional Political Committees.

10.8 Retired members plus up to four nominees from the Regional Retired Members' Co-ordinating Committee, elected by the members of that Committee, are entitled to attend the Regional Political Conference and are eligible to stand for election to additional retired members seats on Regional Political Committees.

10.10 There shall be a National Committee for retired members, elected from the Regional Co-ordinating Committees in such proportion as may be determined by the Executive Council. This Committee shall elect an observer delegate to the National Political Committee **who must be a member of the Labour Party**, and, an observer delegate to the Executive Council.

10.10 There shall be a National Committee for retired members, elected from the Regional Co-ordinating Committees in such proportion as may be determined by the Executive Council. This Committee shall elect an observer delegate to the National Political Committee, and, an observer delegate to the Executive Council.

[RULE 22: Political Organisation – The Labour Party]

22.1 There shall be Regional and National Political Committees composed of **individual members of the Labour Party** to co-ordinate the Union's work **in the Labour Party**, acting under the direction of the Executive Council.

22.1 There shall be Regional and National Political Committees composed of ***elected branch political officers and delegates from the Regional and National Industrial Sectors and Regional Committee*** to co-ordinate the Union's ***political*** work, acting under the direction of the Executive Council.

22.5 All Branch **Constituency Labour Party delegates** together with representatives from the Regional Industrial Sector Committees, Area Activist Committees and the Regional Committee, **who are Labour Party members**, shall be entitled to attend triennial Regional Political Conferences. The Regional Political Conferences shall elect Regional Political Committees. Retired members who conform with Rule 10.8 and community members who confirm with rule 3.3 are eligible to stand for election for Regional Political Committees. The size and composition of the Regional Political Committees shall be determined by the Executive Council from time to time.

22.5 All Branch **Political Officers** together with representatives from the Regional Industrial Sector Committees, Area Activist Committees and the Regional Committee, shall be entitled to attend triennial Regional Political Conferences. The Regional Political Conferences shall elect Regional Political Committees. Retired members who conform with Rule 10.8 and community members who confirm with rule 3.3 are eligible to stand for election for Regional Political Committees. The size and composition of the Regional Political Committees shall be determined by the Executive Council from time to time.

[Appendix I: Guidance – Rule 6 - Lay Office EC Guidance, starting with Item (1), para 3, p69]

For example, the Executive Council accepts that membership of Area Activist Committees should not be restricted in the way prescribed by Rule Six and should be open to all activists, including those who cannot be workplace representatives because of their circumstances. Additionally, membership of Regional Political Committees should not be denied to Unite members playing an active part within the **Labour Party** at all levels, whatever their other circumstances.

For example, the Executive Council accepts that membership of Area Activist Committees should not be restricted in the way prescribed by Rule Six and should be open to all activists, including those who cannot be workplace representatives because of their circumstances. Additionally, membership of Regional Political Committees should not be denied to Unite members playing an active part within the **Union** at all levels, whatever their other circumstances.

6.2 In order to be eligible to be a candidate for election to, or hold office on, the Executive Council and/or any committee, council or other body of the Union provided for by these rules, the member in question must be an accountable representative of workers, with the exception of Area Activists Committees **and Regional Political Committees** as specified elsewhere in these Rules.

6.2 In order to be eligible to be a candidate for election to, or hold office on, the Executive Council and/or any committee, council or other body of the Union provided for by these rules, the member in question must be an accountable representative of workers, with the exception of Area Activists Committees as specified elsewhere in these Rules.

6.2.1 Only members who are elected to represent workers will be eligible to participate in any body of the union, including any conferences, but with the exception of branch and workplace meetings (which all members can attend) and Area Activists Committees **and Regional Political Committees** as specified elsewhere in these Rules.

6.2.1 Only members who are elected to represent workers will be eligible to participate in any body of the union, including any conferences, but with the exception of branch and workplace meetings (which all members can attend) and Area Activists Committees as specified elsewhere in these Rules.

[Appendix 2 - Rule 10: Members in Retirement EC Guidance]

10.8.1 The number of such retired members' seats on Regional Political Committees will be determined by the Executive Council. **As an interim measure for the current electoral period, 2 seats will be added to each RPC to be filled by retired members [Labour Party members] elected in the interim period by the Regional Retired members' Co-ordinating Committee, thereafter** elected at the Regional Political Conference.

10.8.1 The number of such retired members' seats on Regional Political Committees will be determined by the Executive Council, **and delegates to be** elected at the Regional Political Conference.

10.10 There shall be a National Committee for retired members, elected from the Regional Co-ordinating Committees in such proportion as may be determined by the Executive Council. This Committee shall elect an observer delegate to the National Political Committee **who must be a member of the Labour Party**, and, an observer delegate to the Executive Council.

10.10 There shall be a National Committee for retired members, elected from the Regional Co-ordinating Committees in such proportion as may be determined by the Executive Council. This Committee shall elect an observer delegate to the National Political Committee, and, an observer delegate to the Executive Council.

[Appendix 4 Rule 22: Political Organisation – The Labour Party EC Guidance

1. Basis for attendance

The conferences will be called on the following delegate basis:]

- all Unite branch **delegates** (inc community members and RM+ members) **to CLP GCs**
- **all members of the Labour Party** on the Unite Regional Committees
- up to four nominees (**who must be a members of the Labour Party**) from each of the Regional Industrial Sector Committees elected by the members of that RISC
- up to four nominees (**who must be a members of the Labour Party**) from each of the Area Activist Committees elected by the members of that AAC
- up to four nominees (**who must be a members of the Labour Party**) from each of the of the 4 Regional Equalities Committees elected by the members of that Regional Equalities Committee
- up to four nominees (RM+ **who must be members of the Labour Party**) from the Regional Retired Members' Co-ordinating Committee elected by the members of that Regional Retired Members' Co-ordinating Committee.
 - all Unite branch **Political Officers** (inc community members and RM+ members)
 - **up to four nominees from** the Unite Regional Committees
 - up to four nominees from each of the Regional Industrial Sector Committees elected by the members of that RISC
 - up to four nominees from each of the Area Activist Committees elected by the members of that AAC
 - up to four nominees from each of the of the 4 Regional Equalities Committees elected by the members of that Regional Equalities Committee
 - up to four nominees (RM+) from the Regional Retired Members' Co-ordinating Committee elected by the members of that Regional Retired Members' Co-ordinating Committee.

It is also recommended that members of the Unite Executive Council resident in a region should be invited to attend that Region's conference if they **are Labour Party members and** are not covered by the above categories.

It is also recommended that members of the Unite Executive Council resident in a region should be

invited to attend that Region's conference if they are not covered by the above categories.

[Delete the following:]

There will be a Labour Party membership card check prior to each conference so all attendees must bring their card with them along with their union card.

[2. Organisation]

Notification to **CLP** delegates, Committee delegates and appropriate members of the Executive Council should be undertaken by the Regional Secretary with advice on eligibility provided by the Unite Political Department as required.

Notification to delegates, Committee delegates and appropriate members of the Executive Council should be undertaken by the Regional Secretary with advice on eligibility provided by the Unite Political Department as required.

13. Rule 6 applies for all regional nominees to serve on the National Political Committee who must be accountable representatives of workers as defined by the Executive Council. **At the level of the Regional Political Committee, as per the EC Statement carried at the 2011 Rules Conference, Rule 6 should be generally applied other than Unite members who are LP activists should not be denied the opportunity to stand for election to the RPC general seats.** Community members are entitled to stand for election to the RPC general seats; RM+ members are entitled to stand for election to additional RPC seats designated for retired members.

13. Rule 6 applies for all regional nominees to serve on the National Political Committee who must be accountable representatives of workers as defined by the Executive Council. Community members are entitled to stand for election to the RPC general seats; RM+ members are entitled to stand for election to additional RPC seats designated for retired members.

14. **Unite full time officers and members of staff who are CLP GC delegates may attend the Regional Political Conference on an ex officio basis.** Unite MPs, MEPs, MSPs and AMs from the Region may **also** attend the Regional Political Conference on an ex officio basis.

14. Unite MPs, MEPs, MSPs and AMs from the Region may attend the Regional Political Conference on an ex officio basis.

Each Regional Committee is entitled to elect 3 of its members to the Regional Political Committee, **who must be members of the Labour Party**. This election is carried out separately to that of the Regional Political Conference.

Each Regional Committee is entitled to elect 3 of its members to the Regional Political Committee. This election is carried out separately to that of the Regional Political Conference.

[Regional Political Committees]

In each Region the Young Members' Committee shall elect an observer delegate (**Labour Party member**) to the Regional Political Committee.

In each Region the Young Members' Committee shall elect an observer delegate to the Regional Political Committee.

[6. Elections to the National Political Committee]

The Executive Council will elect or appoint 3 members including the Chair of the Council (**if a Labour Party member**), of whom at least 1 shall be a woman and all of whom are Labour Party members.

The Executive Council will elect or appoint 3 members including the Chair of the Council, of whom at least 1 shall be a woman and all of whom are Labour Party members.

There will be 1 seat for an observer delegate (**Labour Party member**) on the National Political Committee elected from and by the Retired Members' National Committee.

There will be **one** seat for an observer delegate on the National Political Committee elected from and by the Retired Members' National Committee.