

## Resolution Date: 13/01/2015

## Resolution Title: Cycle of Elections

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This branch agrees to send the following resolution to the next meetings of the Regional Industrial Sector Committee and Regional Committee, with a view to submission to Rules Conference 2014:

### Introduction

This rule change would alter the cycle of elections from every three years to every two years. It is proposed on the basis that a three year cycle results in too many of the Union's essential decision-making committees becoming inoperative due to natural turnover within the sector or region.

In order to shorten election cycles, 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.

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[Rule 6: Lay Office]

6.5 The electoral period to hold lay office shall be **three** years unless otherwise provided for under these rules.

6.5 The electoral period to hold lay office shall be ***two*** years unless otherwise provided for under these rules.

17.7 Each Branch shall have for its management a Chair, a Treasurer, an Equality Officer and a Secretary and such other officers as the Branch may elect. They shall be elected at a Branch meeting by show of hands, or by ballot, if so decided by the meeting. The election shall take place and be completed not later than June 30 in each **third** year, and the elected candidates shall take office the following July for three years. Casual vacancies may be filled at an ordinary Branch meeting, but notice of the impending election must be given to members of the Branch on the notice convening the meeting. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same member if the Branch so chooses.

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18.1 At each workplace, the members employed at that workplace, shall elect from amongst themselves, at least every **3** years, **1** or more of the following representatives [...] The election shall take place and be completed not later than June 30 in each **third** year, and the elected candidates shall take office the following July for three years.

18.1 At each workplace, the members employed at that workplace, shall elect from amongst themselves, at least every ***two*** years, ***one*** or more of the following representatives: [...] The election shall take place and be completed not later than June 30 in each ***second*** year, and the elected

candidates shall take office the following July for three years.

[Appendix I: Guidance – Rule 6 - Lay Office EC Guidance, Item (2), p78]

6.5 The electoral period to hold lay office shall be **three** years unless otherwise provided for under these rules.

6.5 The electoral period to hold lay office shall be **two** years unless otherwise provided for under these rules.

6.5.2 They will be elected to hold office for **three** years, unless one of the following occurs, in which case an election will be held for a replacement as soon as is practicable:

6.5.2 They will be elected to hold office for **two** years, unless one of the following occurs, in which case an election will be held for a replacement as soon as is practicable:

[After the paragraph numbered 6.5.2.2, p75, amend as follows:]

Should industrial circumstances or particular workplace traditions dictate that elections are necessary more frequently than **three** years that is permissible, but under no circumstances less frequently.

Should industrial circumstances or particular workplace traditions dictate that elections are necessary more frequently than **two** years that is permissible, but under no circumstances less frequently.

[Appendix 3 - Rule 18 – Workplace Representation EC Guidance, after the paragraph numbered 18.1.5, amend as follows:]

The election shall take place and be completed not later than June 30 in each third year, and the elected candidates shall take office the following July for **three** years.

The election shall take place and be completed not later than June 30 in each third year, and the elected candidates shall take office the following July for **two** years.

The change to Rule agreed by the Rules Conference allows for workplace reps' elections to take place on a frequency of up to every **three** years; should industrial circumstances, or particular workplace traditions, dictate that elections are necessary more frequently than **three** years that is permissible, but under no circumstances less frequently. Elections, other than casual vacancies, should always take place in June to ensure synchronisation with other aspects of the union's constitutional structure.

The change to Rule agreed by the Rules Conference allows for workplace reps' elections to take place on a frequency of up to every **two** years; should industrial circumstances, or particular workplace traditions, dictate that elections are necessary more frequently than **two** years that is permissible, but under no circumstances less frequently. Elections, other than casual vacancies, should always take place in June to ensure synchronisation with other aspects of the union's constitutional structure.