

Regulations for Communities Elections (Sports clubs and societies)

1. Applying

- 1.1. Candidates must be a Student of the University of Essex, and a full member of the University of Essex Students' Union for the academic year 2026-2027.
- 1.2. At the time of applying, candidates cannot be in their final year of study at Essex.
- 1.3. Candidates must be a current member of the sports club/society.
- 1.4. Candidates can only apply for one core position within each sports club and society but may apply for multiple positions across multiple sports club and societies.
- 1.5. All applications must be submitted by 23:59 on 22nd February 2026

2. Campaigning

- 2.1. Campaigning for this election can only take place between 10:00 on 2nd March 2026 to 16:00 on 12th March 2026.
- 2.2. Candidates should only campaign to the student members of their sports club or society as they are the only eligible voters.
- 2.3. Candidates for the SU Communities Elections can use their own sports clubs or societies events to campaign. All candidates must be given equal opportunity to attend and campaign.
- 2.4. Candidates must campaign independently for their own votes and are not allowed to campaign in cooperation with other candidates (also known as running as a 'slate').
- 2.5. Bribes must not be offered by candidate
- 2.6. Candidates must not intimidate or coerce voters at any point during the election.
- 2.7. Candidates must be respectful of other candidates. Any form of abuse towards candidates, students, SU Staff will not be tolerated
- 2.8. Candidates are not allowed to endorse other candidates in any way.
- 2.9. The above regulations shall not interfere with the freedom of all candidates to express lawful views and opinions that may offend, shock or disturb.

3. Voting

- 3.1. Only student members of sports clubs and societies will be eligible to vote.

- 3.2. All memberships will be taken off sale for the duration of the voting period. Only those who are members prior to voting opening will be able to vote.
- 3.3. Candidates must not look over the shoulder or offer any assistance to a student while they are voting.
- 3.4. Candidates must remain at a minimum distance of 2 meters from anyone voting.
- 3.5. Candidates must not take any individual's mobile (or other device) from them to show them how to vote or vote on their behalf.
- 3.6. Candidates must not campaign to students that are in the physical designated voting areas.
- 3.7. Candidates and their campaign teams must not communicate with voters in any way at the point that they are casting their vote.
- 3.8.** Candidates are not allowed in any physical designated voting areas, unless they are voting themselves.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Abuse:** Any act of aggression (be it physical or verbal), harassment or bullying as defined by the SU Student Membership General Policy.
- **Bribe:** Offering any form of reward or action in exchange for voting for any candidate
- **Campaigning:** The act of encouraging other students to vote for a particular person.
- **Endorsement:** It is defined as encouraging students to vote for a particular candidate or promoting any other candidate or their views in one announcement.
- **Intimidation/Coercion:** The act of trying to influence a voter either verbally (i.e. through use of threats or harassment) or non-verbally (i.e. by not respecting their privacy during voting).
- **Limitations of freedom of speech:** Freedom of speech will be limited when it becomes unlawful speech (harassment of others, inciting violence or terrorism)
- **Slate:** A slate is a group of candidates that decide to campaign together