



**ELECTORAL RULES AND
REGULATIONS
of the Union of Journalist of South
Sudan (UJOSS)
2026.**

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the is established under its Constitution as an independent professional union committed to the promotion of democracy, professionalism, transparency, accountability, freedom of expression, and the protection of journalists and media practitioners in the Republic of South Sudan;

RECOGNIZING that credible, transparent, peaceful, and democratic elections are fundamental to strengthening the legitimacy, unity, institutional integrity, and effective leadership of the Union;

ACKNOWLEDGING the provisions of Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) which mandate the establishment of an Electoral Committee and the formulation of Rules and Regulations to govern the conduct of elections within the Union;

MINDFUL of the need to guarantee equal participation of all eligible members in the electoral process without discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, disability, geographical origin, or any other status;

COMMITTED to ensuring that all elections of UJOSS are conducted in accordance with the principles of fairness, impartiality, secrecy of the ballot, accountability, inclusiveness, respect for human rights, and the rule of law;

DESIRING to provide a clear legal and administrative framework regulating voter registration, nomination of candidates, campaigns, polling procedures, counting and tallying of votes, declaration of results, settlement of electoral disputes, and the conduct of candidates, voters, observers, and electoral officials;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the importance of maintaining peace, unity, professionalism, mutual respect, and ethical conduct among members during electoral processes and leadership transitions;

NOW THEREFORE, these Electoral Rules and Regulations are hereby made and adopted to govern the conduct of all elections of the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS) in a free, fair, transparent, peaceful, democratic, and credible manner, and shall be binding upon all members, candidates, organs, and electoral bodies of the Union.

CHAPTER ONE

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Section 1: Title and Commencement

1. These Rules and Regulations shall be cited as the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS) Electoral Rules and Regulations, 2026.
2. These Rules and Regulations are made pursuant to the Constitution of UJOSS and shall serve as the legal framework governing all electoral processes and activities of the Union.
3. Upon commencement of these Regulations, all previous electoral procedures, directives, or practices inconsistent with these Regulations shall cease to have effect to the extent of their inconsistency.
4. These Regulations shall be binding upon all members, candidates, officials, branches, committees, and organs of UJOSS participating in or connected to electoral processes of the Union.
5. The Electoral Committee and all election stakeholders shall ensure full compliance with these Regulations throughout the electoral process.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of these Regulations is to:

- a) Provide a clear, comprehensive, and transparent legal and administrative framework for the conduct and management of elections within UJOSS;
- b) Promote democratic governance, constitutionalism, professionalism, accountability, inclusiveness, and integrity within the leadership and structures of the Union;
- c) Ensure that elections of UJOSS are conducted in a free, fair, peaceful, credible, transparent, and impartial manner consistent with democratic principles and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024).
- d) Regulate all electoral processes including voter registration, nomination of candidates, campaigns, polling, counting, tallying, declaration of results, swearing-in, and post-election procedures;
- e) Establish procedures and standards for the conduct and responsibilities of candidates, voters, observers, agents, and members of the Electoral Committee;

- f) Prevent electoral malpractices, corruption, intimidation, discrimination, violence, abuse of office, hate speech, and any conduct likely to undermine the integrity of elections;
- g) Promote equal participation and non-discrimination in electoral processes irrespective of ethnicity, gender, religion, political opinion, disability, geographical location, or social status;
- h) Provide effective procedures and mechanisms for settlement of electoral disputes, complaints, petitions, and appeals arising from elections;
- i) Enhance confidence and trust among members of UJOSS in the electoral process and leadership transition mechanisms of the Union;
- j) Ensure continuity, legitimacy, and stability in the governance and administration of UJOSS through regular democratic elections.

Section 3: Scope of Application

1. These Regulations shall apply to all elections and electoral activities conducted under the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024).
2. Without prejudice to the generality of sub-Section (1) above, these Regulations shall specifically apply to:
 - a) Elections of the National Executive Committee of UJOSS;
 - b) Elections of State and Administrative Area branches and affiliated structures of UJOSS;
 - c) By-elections conducted to fill vacant elective positions within the Union;
 - d) Re-run elections resulting from tied votes, annulled elections, or successful electoral appeals;
 - e) Electoral campaigns, candidate nominations, voting, tallying, declaration of results, and electoral dispute resolution mechanisms;
 - f) Conduct of members, candidates, observers, electoral officials, and agents participating in UJOSS elections.
3. These Regulations shall apply equally to all eligible members and organs of UJOSS without discrimination or preferential treatment.
4. Any matter relating to elections that is not expressly provided for under these Regulations shall be determined by the Electoral Committee in accordance with the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) principles of natural justice, and democratic practices.
5. In the event of inconsistency between these Regulations and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024), the provisions of the Constitution shall prevail.

Section 4: Guiding Principles

1. All electoral processes and activities conducted under these Regulations shall be guided by the following principles:

a) Democracy

All elections shall reflect the free will of eligible members through democratic participation, equal suffrage, and periodic elections conducted in accordance with the Constitution and these Regulations.

b) Transparency and Accountability

The electoral process shall be conducted openly, honestly, and in a manner that promotes public confidence, accountability, and integrity in the management of elections.

c) Equality and Fairness

All candidates and eligible voters shall be treated equally and fairly without discrimination, intimidation, favoritism, or undue influence.

d) Neutrality and Independence of the Electoral Committee

The Electoral Committee shall operate independently, impartially, and free from interference, influence, or control by any candidate, organ, or external entity.

e) Secrecy of the Ballot

Voting shall be conducted through secret ballot to protect the freedom, privacy, and independent choice of every voter.

f) Rule of Law and Constitutionalism

All electoral activities shall be conducted strictly in accordance with the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) these Regulations, and other lawful decisions of the Union.

g) Inclusiveness and Participation

The electoral process shall encourage broad participation of members, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and members from all States and Administrative Areas.

h) Peaceful Conduct and Tolerance

All candidates, supporters, and members shall maintain peace, respect opposing views, and refrain from violence, hate speech, tribalism, harassment, or incitement during the electoral process.

i) Integrity and Professionalism

Electoral officials, candidates, and voters shall uphold honesty, ethical conduct, professionalism, and respect for the reputation and values of UJOSS.

j) Credibility of Elections

All electoral processes shall be conducted in a manner that ensures public trust, legitimacy of outcomes, and acceptance of election results by members.

2. Every member, candidate, electoral official, observer, and stakeholder participating in UJOSS elections shall observe and uphold these guiding principles throughout the electoral process

CHAPTER TWO

THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

Section 5: Establishment of the Electoral Committee

1. There shall be an independent Electoral Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “EC,” established in accordance with Section 31 of the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 as amended 2024
2. The Electoral Committee shall serve as the principal body responsible for organizing, managing, supervising, and overseeing all electoral processes of UJOSS in accordance with the Constitution and these Regulations.
3. The Electoral Committee shall consist of seven (7) members headed by a Chairperson.
4. The Chairperson and members of the Electoral Committee shall be appointed by the President of UJOSS in consultation with the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly
5. The Electoral Committee shall be constituted at least three (3) months before the date scheduled for the General Elections of UJOSS.
6. Upon appointment, members of the Electoral Committee shall take an oath of impartiality, confidentiality, integrity, and faithful discharge of their duties before assuming office.
7. The Electoral Committee shall remain operational from the date of its establishment until:
 - a) Completion of the electoral process;
 - b) Resolution of all electoral complaints and appeals; and
 - c) Swearing-in of the elected leadership.
8. The Electoral Committee shall operate independently and shall not take instructions from any candidate, member, office bearer, or organ of UJOSS except as provided under the Constitution and these Regulations.
9. The Electoral Committee may establish technical or administrative subcommittees where necessary to facilitate the smooth conduct of elections.
10. The Electoral Committee shall maintain neutrality, professionalism, accountability, and transparency in all its activities and decisions.

Section 6: Composition of the Electoral Committee

1. The Electoral Committee shall consist of the following members:
 - a) Chairperson;
 - b) Deputy Chairperson;
 - c) Secretary;
 - d) Four (4) additional members.
2. The composition of the Electoral Committee shall, as far as practicable:
 - a) Reflect regional inclusiveness and diversity of UJOSS membership;
 - b) Promote gender balance and equal participation;
 - c) Include persons of integrity, competence, and experience in leadership, administration, legal affairs, elections, journalism, or public service.
3. The Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall:
 - a) Provide overall leadership and direction to the EC;
 - b) Preside over meetings and electoral activities of the EC;
 - c) Ensure compliance with the Constitution and these Regulations;
 - d) Officially announce election results;
 - e) Administer the oath of office to elected leaders.
4. The Deputy Chairperson shall:
 - a) Assist the Chairperson in the performance of duties;
 - b) Act in the absence of the Chairperson;
 - c) Perform any duties assigned by the EC.
5. The Secretary of the Electoral Committee shall:
 - a) Keep records and minutes of meetings;
 - b) Manage official correspondence and documentation;
 - c) Maintain nomination records, voter registers, and electoral reports;
 - d) Coordinate communication between the EC and stakeholders.
6. The additional members of the EC shall:
 - a) Participate in electoral planning and implementation;
 - b) Monitor compliance with electoral procedures;
 - c) Assist in polling, counting, tallying, and verification processes;
 - d) Perform other responsibilities assigned by the EC.
7. Decisions of the Electoral Committee shall be made by majority vote of members present and voting.
8. A quorum for meetings of the Electoral Committee shall be constituted by at least five (5) members.

Section 7: Qualifications of Electoral Committee Members

1. A person shall qualify for appointment as a member of the Electoral Committee if he or she:
 - a) Is a registered and fully paid-up member of UJOSS;
 - b) Is of sound mind, good moral standing, and proven integrity;
 - c) Has not been convicted of fraud, corruption, dishonesty, or moral turpitude;
 - d) Is not contesting for any elective office in the election concerned;
 - e) Has no record of electoral malpractice, professional misconduct, or disciplinary sanctions related to dishonesty;
 - f) Possesses basic administrative, organizational, legal, or electoral knowledge and experience.
2. A member of the Electoral Committee shall remain neutral and shall not:
 - a) Campaign for or against any candidate;
 - b) Publicly endorse any candidate;
 - c) Use their office to influence voters or election outcomes;
 - d) Participate in any partisan activities related to the elections.
3. Any member of the Electoral Committee found violating the principles of neutrality, fairness, or integrity may be removed by the National Executive Committee upon recommendation supported by evidence.
4. Where a vacancy arises within the Electoral Committee before completion of elections, the NEC may appoint a replacement in consultation with the remaining members of the EC.
5. Members of the Electoral Committee shall perform their duties honestly, diligently, impartially, and in the best interest of UJOSS.

Section 8: Functions of the Electoral Committee

1. The Electoral Committee shall be responsible for the overall management and supervision of elections conducted under the Constitution and these Regulations.
2. Without prejudice to the generality of sub-Section (1), the Electoral Committee shall perform the following functions:

a) Organization and Supervision of Elections

To organize, coordinate, supervise, and administer all electoral processes of UJOSS in a free, fair, transparent, peaceful, and credible manner.

b) Preparation of Electoral Timetable

To prepare and publish the electoral roadmap, timetable, and schedule of activities including nomination dates, campaign periods, polling day, tallying, and declaration of results.

c) Verification of Voter Eligibility

To verify the eligibility of members entitled to vote in accordance with the Constitution and these Regulations.

d) Preparation and Publication of Voters Register

To compile, update, certify, and publish the final voters' register within the timelines prescribed by these Regulations.

e) Reception and Verification of Nominations

To receive, scrutinize, verify, approve, or reject nomination forms submitted by candidates based on constitutional and regulatory requirements.

f) Regulation of Campaigns

To regulate campaign activities and ensure compliance with the electoral code of conduct and campaign guidelines.

g) Preparation of Electoral Materials

To design, print, secure, and distribute ballot papers, ballot boxes, result forms, and other electoral materials.

h) Conduct of Polling

To establish polling procedures, supervise voting, and ensure secrecy and integrity of the ballot.

i) Counting and Tallying of Votes

To supervise counting, tallying, verification, recording, and certification of election results.

j) Declaration of Results

To officially announce and publish election results within the prescribed timelines.

k) Accreditation of Observers and Agents

To accredit observers, candidate agents, and authorized monitors to observe electoral processes.

l) Electoral Complaints and Appeals

To receive, hear, investigate, and determine electoral complaints, petitions, and appeals in the first instance.

m) Enforcement of Electoral Discipline

To address electoral offences, misconduct, or violations of these Regulations and impose appropriate sanctions.

n) Civic and Voter Education

To provide guidance and voter education to members regarding electoral procedures and voting processes.

o) Reporting

To prepare and submit a final election report to the National Executive Committee and General Assembly after completion of elections.

3. The Electoral Committee may issue administrative guidelines, directives, and procedures consistent with these Regulations for the effective conduct of elections.

Section 9: Independence of the Electoral Committee

1. The Electoral Committee shall perform its functions independently, impartially, transparently, and free from external influence or interference.
2. No member, candidate, office bearer, branch, organ, or authority of UJOSS shall interfere with, obstruct, intimidate, influence, or improperly direct the lawful functions and decisions of the Electoral Committee.
3. The Electoral Committee shall exercise its authority solely in accordance with:
 - a) The Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024)
 - b) These Electoral Rules and Regulations;
 - c) Principles of natural justice, fairness, and democracy.
4. Members of the Electoral Committee shall not:
 - a) Act in a biased or discriminatory manner;
 - b) Favor or disadvantage any candidate;
 - c) Disclose confidential electoral information without lawful authorization.
5. Any attempt to unlawfully interfere with the operations, decisions, personnel, or materials of the Electoral Committee shall constitute an electoral offence and may attract disciplinary action under the Constitution and these Regulations.
6. The Electoral Committee shall have administrative authority over all electoral materials, polling procedures, and election personnel during the conduct of elections.
7. Decisions of the Electoral Committee made within its lawful mandate shall be respected and implemented unless overturned through lawful appeal mechanisms established under these Regulations.

8. The independence of the Electoral Committee shall be protected at all stages of the electoral process to preserve the credibility, legitimacy, and integrity of UJOSS elections.

CHAPTER THREE

ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Section 10: Eligibility of Candidates

1. A person seeking to contest for any elective position shall satisfy the qualifications and requirements prescribed under the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) and these Electoral Rules and Regulations.
2. A candidate contesting for elective office shall:

a) Membership Status

Be a fully registered and recognized member of UJOSS in accordance with the Constitution and membership regulations of the Union.

b) Payment of Membership Dues

Be fully paid up in all membership subscriptions, annual dues, and other lawful financial obligations owed to UJOSS before the nomination date.

c) Academic and Professional Qualifications

Meet the academic, professional, and experience requirements prescribed under Section 24 of the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) including:

- i. Candidates contesting for the position of President and Secretary-General shall possess at least a Bachelor's Degree from a recognized institution in Journalism, Mass Communication, Media Studies, Social Sciences, or related disciplines;
- ii. Candidates contesting for the position of Treasurer/Secretary for Finance shall possess at least a Bachelor's Degree from a recognized Institution in Finance, Business Administration, Economics, Accounting, or related fields, with media experience being an added advantage;
- iii. Candidates shall possess relevant professional experience in journalism, media practice, union leadership, administration, or related fields.

d) Integrity and Conduct

Not have been convicted by a competent court of law for offences involving:

- i. Fraud;
- ii. Corruption;
- iii. Dishonesty;
- iv. Embezzlement;

- v. Moral turpitude; or
- vi. Serious professional misconduct.

Vi. Gender and Sexual Harassment

e) Compliance with Constitutional Principles

Demonstrate commitment to the values, objectives, principles, and Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024).

f) Nomination Requirements

Submit complete and accurate nomination documents within the timelines prescribed by the Electoral Committee.

g) Mental and Ethical Fitness

Be of sound mind, good moral standing, and capable of performing the responsibilities of the office contested for.

h) Conflict of Interest

Not be a serving member of the Electoral Committee or involved in the direct administration of the elections.

3. Any candidate found to have provided false information, forged documents, or misleading declarations shall be disqualified from the election process and may face disciplinary action under the Constitution.
4. The Electoral Committee shall have authority to verify the qualifications and eligibility of all candidates before approving nominations.
5. Any dispute relating to candidate eligibility shall be determined by the Electoral Committee subject to appeal procedures provided under these Regulations.

Section 11: Elective Positions

1. In accordance with Section 24 of the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024), the following National Executive Committee positions shall be filled through elections conducted by the General Assembly:

a) President

The President shall serve as the head of UJOSS and provide overall leadership, policy direction, representation, and supervision of the affairs of the Union.

b) Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of UJOSS and shall coordinate the administrative, operational, and institutional affairs of the Union.

c) Treasurer/Secretary for Finance.

The Treasurer or Secretary for Finance shall be responsible for financial management, accountability, banking operations, budgeting, and financial reporting of UJOSS.

2. All other positions within the National Executive Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Secretary-General and Treasurer in accordance with the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024).
3. Elections for State and Administrative Area branches shall be conducted in conformity with the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) and these Regulations.
4. A person shall not contest for more than one elective position during the same election.
5. No elected member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms as prescribed under the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024).

Section 12: Nomination Procedures

1. Every candidate intending to contest for an elective position shall obtain official nomination forms issued by the Electoral Committee.
2. The Electoral Committee shall announce:
 - a) The nomination period;
 - b) Venue for collection and submission of forms;
 - c) Requirements for nomination;
 - d) Nomination fees;
 - e) Timelines for verification and publication of candidates.
3. Nomination forms shall contain the following particulars:

a) Personal Information.

- i. Full names of the candidate;
- ii. Date of birth;
- iii. Gender;
- iv. Contact details and address.

b) Position Contested.

Clear indication of the elective position being contested for.

c) Passport Photograph.

Recent passport-size photograph of the candidate.

d) Membership Information.

Membership number and proof of active membership status.

e) Academic and Professional Qualifications.

Copies of academic certificates, professional credentials, curriculum vitae, Nationality Card and relevant supporting documents.

f) Proposers and Seconders.

Names, signatures, and membership details of registered members proposing and seconding the candidate.

g) Declaration of Compliance.

A signed declaration affirming that:

- i. The candidate shall abide by the Constitution and Electoral Regulations;
 - ii. Information provided is true and accurate;
 - iii. The candidate shall respect election results and lawful decisions of the Electoral Committee.
4. Nomination forms shall be submitted personally by the candidate or an authorized representative to the Electoral Committee within the prescribed nomination period.
 5. The Electoral Committee shall issue an acknowledgment receipt confirming submission of nomination documents.
 6. Nomination forms submitted after the official deadline shall not be accepted unless exceptional circumstances are determined by the Electoral Committee.
 7. Incomplete nomination forms or forms lacking mandatory requirements may be rejected by the Electoral Committee.
 8. The Electoral Committee may request additional information or clarification from candidates where necessary during verification.
 9. Upon completion of the nomination process, the Electoral Committee shall publish the provisional list of nominated candidates.

Section 13: Nomination Fees

1. The Electoral Committee may prescribe reasonable nomination fees charge to candidates to facilitate the electoral process (3,500,000 ssp, 2,500,000 and 1,600,000)
2. The nomination fees shall be determined in a fair and non-discriminatory manner taking into consideration:
 - a) Administrative costs of elections;

- b) Financial sustainability of the electoral process;
 - c) Equal opportunity for candidates.
3. The Electoral Committee shall publicly announce the approved nomination fees before commencement of nominations.
 4. Payment of nomination fees shall not by itself guarantee qualification or approval of candidature.
 5. Nomination fees shall be non-refundable except in the following circumstances:

a) Cancellation of Elections

Where elections are cancelled, postponed indefinitely, or suspended before commencement of polling.

Section 14: Verification and Publication of Candidates

1. The Electoral Committee shall scrutinize and verify all nomination forms and supporting documents submitted by candidates.
2. The verification process shall include:
 - a) Confirmation of membership status;
 - b) Verification of payment of dues;
 - c) Verification of academic and professional qualifications;
 - d) Review of integrity and eligibility requirements;
 - e) Confirmation of compliance with nomination procedures.
3. The Electoral Committee may:
 - a) Approve a nomination;
 - b) Request clarification or additional documentation;
 - c) Reject a nomination for failure to comply with constitutional or regulatory requirements.
4. Where a nomination is rejected, the Electoral Committee shall communicate the reasons for rejection to the affected candidate in writing.
5. A candidate whose nomination is rejected may appeal to the Electoral Committee within the timelines prescribed under these Regulations.
6. The Electoral Committee shall publish:
 - a) The provisional list of candidates after verification;
 - b) The final list of approved candidates at least fourteen (05) days before polling day.

7. Publication of candidates may be made through:
 - a) Official notices;
 - b) UJOSS offices and branches;
 - c) Electronic communication platforms;
 - d) Official social media platforms of UJOSS.
8. Only candidates appearing on the final published list shall be eligible to contest in the elections.
9. Any candidate whose nomination has been rejected has the right to submit a written and signed appeal within 24 hours of the official publication of the final list.
10. The Electoral Commission shall respond to such appeals within 24 hours of the submission.

Section 15: Withdrawal of Candidates

1. A candidate may voluntarily withdraw from an election by submitting a written notice addressed to the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee.
2. The notice of withdrawal shall:
 - a) Be signed by the candidate;
 - b) Clearly state the intention to withdraw;
 - c) Specify the position contested for.
3. Withdrawal of candidature must occur at least seven (7) days before polling day.
4. Upon receiving a notice of withdrawal, the Electoral Committee shall:
 - a) Acknowledge receipt in writing;
 - b) Remove the candidate's name from the final ballot where practicable;
 - c) Inform members and other candidates accordingly.
5. A candidate who withdraws from the election shall cease all campaign activities immediately upon submission of the withdrawal notice.
6. Nomination fees paid by a withdrawing candidate shall not be refunded except under circumstances determined by the Electoral Committee.
7. Where a candidate withdraws after printing of ballot papers, the Electoral Committee may:
 - a) Proceed with the election while disregarding votes cast for the withdrawn candidate; or
 - b) Reprint ballot papers where necessary and practicable.
8. In the event that only one duly nominated candidate remains for a position after withdrawals, the Electoral Committee may declare that candidate elected unopposed in accordance with these Regulations and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024)

CHAPTER FOUR

CAMPAIGNS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Section 16: Campaign Period

1. Election campaigns shall officially commence immediately after the publication of the final list of approved candidates by the Electoral Committee of the
2. The Electoral Committee shall announce the official campaign timetable, including dates, venues, modalities, and duration of campaign activities.
3. Campaigns shall end twenty-four (24) hours before polling day, and this period shall be observed as the official “campaign silence period.”
4. During the campaign silence period:
 - a) No campaign meetings, rallies, or manifesto presentations shall be conducted;
 - b) No distribution of campaign materials shall take place;
 - c) No candidate or supporter shall engage in activities intended to influence voters.
5. Campaign activities may include:
 - a) Meetings and consultations with members;
 - b) Presentation of manifestos and policy programs;
 - c) Public debates and forums approved by the Electoral Committee;
 - d) Distribution of lawful campaign materials.
6. Campaigns shall be conducted in a peaceful, professional, respectful, and democratic manner consistent with the values, objectives, and Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
7. The Electoral Committee may regulate campaign schedules and venues to ensure equal opportunity, fairness, order, and effective participation by all candidates.
8. No candidate shall campaign outside the official campaign period prescribed by the Electoral Committee.
9. Candidates shall ensure that their campaign messages uphold the dignity, integrity, and unity of UJOSS and the journalism profession.

Section 17: Campaign Conduct

1. All candidates, supporters, agents, and members participating in election campaigns shall observe ethical conduct, professionalism, tolerance, and respect for democratic principles.

2. Candidates and supporters shall:

a) Conduct Peaceful Campaigns

Conduct campaigns peacefully and avoid actions likely to disrupt harmony, unity, or stability within UJOSS.

b) Respect Opposing Candidates

Respect the rights, dignity, opinions, and freedoms of opposing candidates and their supporters.

c) Prohibit Hate Speech and Tribalism

Avoid hate speech, tribalism, sectarianism, discrimination, incitement, intimidation, harassment, or violence based on ethnicity, gender, religion, region, political opinion, or social status.

d) Respect the Authority of the Electoral Committee

Comply with lawful directives, decisions, procedures, and instructions issued by the Electoral Committee.

e) Uphold Professionalism

Maintain professional conduct consistent with journalism ethics, integrity, and the objectives of UJOSS.

f) Protect the Reputation of UJOSS

Avoid statements or actions likely to tarnish the image, credibility, or unity of the Union.

g) Respect Freedom of Expression

Promote issue-based campaigns that encourage constructive debate, ideas, and democratic participation.

3. Candidates shall be responsible for the conduct of their supporters, campaign agents, and representatives during the electoral process.
4. No candidate or supporter shall use abusive language, defamatory statements, misinformation, or propaganda intended to discredit opponents unfairly.
5. The Electoral Committee may issue a Campaign Code of Conduct binding upon all candidates and supporters.
6. Every candidate shall sign a declaration agreeing to abide by the Campaign Code of Conduct before commencement of campaigns.

Section 18: Prohibited Campaign Practices

1. The following acts and practices are prohibited during the campaign and electoral process:

a) Bribery and Vote Buying

Offering money, gifts, services, favors, employment, or any form of inducement in exchange for votes or political support.

b) Violence or Threats

Using threats, force, coercion, harassment, or violence against voters, candidates, supporters, observers, or Electoral Committee officials.

c) Defamation and False Accusations

Making or circulating false statements, malicious allegations, misinformation, or defamatory accusations against candidates or UJOSS organs.

d) Destruction of Campaign Materials

Destroying, defacing, removing, or interfering with lawful campaign posters, notices, banners, or materials belonging to another candidate.

e) Campaigning at Polling Stations

Campaigning, canvassing, chanting slogans, distributing campaign materials, or influencing voters at polling stations on election day.

f) Abuse of Office and Resources

Using UJOSS offices, resources, funds, communication platforms, or official authority to unfairly advantage or disadvantage any candidate.

g) Tribal, Sectarian, or Divisive Campaigns

Promoting tribalism, regionalism, sectarianism, hatred, or discriminatory messages contrary to the unity and values of UJOSS.

h) Forgery and False Documentation

Using forged documents, fake membership records, or false information during nominations or campaigns.

i) Obstruction of Electoral Activities

Interfering with electoral officials, campaign activities of opponents, or lawful electoral processes.

2. Any candidate, supporter, or member found engaging in prohibited practices shall be subject to disciplinary measures under these Regulations and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
3. The Electoral Committee shall investigate all complaints relating to prohibited campaign practices and may impose sanctions where violations are established.
4. Serious violations affecting the credibility or fairness of elections may result in suspension or disqualification of candidates.

Section 19: Equal Access

1. All candidates shall be accorded equal opportunity and fair treatment throughout the electoral process.
2. The Electoral Committee shall ensure that:
 - a) All candidates have equal access to members for campaign purposes;
 - b) Campaign venues and opportunities are allocated fairly and impartially;
 - c) No candidate is unfairly favored or disadvantaged.
3. Candidates shall have equal opportunity to:
 - a) Present manifestos and policy positions;
 - b) Participate in debates and campaign forums;
 - c) Communicate with members through approved channels.
4. UJOSS communication platforms used for election purposes shall be administered fairly and without bias.
5. No candidate shall monopolize Union facilities, meetings, or official programs for campaign advantage.
6. Equal access shall be exercised in accordance with the principles of democracy, inclusiveness, transparency, fairness, and non-discrimination enshrined in the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
7. The Electoral Committee may organize joint debates, forums, or public engagements to provide equal exposure to all candidates.

Section 20: Disciplinary Measures

1. The Electoral Committee shall have authority to enforce compliance with these Electoral Rules and Regulations and the Campaign Code of Conduct.
2. Where a candidate, supporter, or member violates these Regulations, the Electoral Committee may impose one or more of the following disciplinary measures:

a) Warning

Issue verbal or written warnings for minor violations or first offences.

b) Suspension of Campaign Activities

Suspend campaign activities of a candidate or campaign team for a specified period.

c) Removal of Campaign Materials

Order removal of unlawful, offensive, or prohibited campaign materials.

d) Disqualification

Disqualify a candidate found guilty of serious, repeated, or deliberate violations of the Constitution, Electoral Regulations, or Campaign Code of Conduct.

e) Referral for Disciplinary Action

Refer the matter to the National Executive Committee or relevant disciplinary organ of UJOSS for further action under the Constitution.

f) Nullification of Election Results

Recommend nullification of election results where electoral malpractice substantially affects the credibility or fairness of elections.

3. Before imposing disciplinary measures, the Electoral Committee shall:
 - a) Notify the accused person of the allegations;
 - b) Provide an opportunity to respond and present a defense;
 - c) Conduct proceedings fairly and impartially in accordance with principles of natural justice.
4. Decisions of the Electoral Committee relating to disciplinary measures shall be communicated in writing to the affected parties.
5. Any person aggrieved by disciplinary measures imposed by the Electoral Committee may appeal in accordance with the complaints and appeals procedures established under these Regulations.
6. The Electoral Committee shall ensure that disciplinary measures are proportionate, fair, and consistent with the Constitution and objectives of UJOSS.

CHAPTER FIVE

VOTERS REGISTER AND VOTING

Section 21: Voters Register

1. The Electoral Committee (EC) shall compile, verify, maintain, and publish an official voters register for all elections conducted under these Regulations.
2. Only registered and fully paid-up members of UJOSS whose names appear in the final voters' register shall be eligible to vote.
3. The voters register shall contain:
 - a) Full names of members;
 - b) Membership identification number;
 - c) State, Administrative Area, or branch affiliation;
 - d) Contact details where necessary;
 - e) Any additional information determined by the Electoral Committee.
4. The Electoral Committee shall verify the eligibility of voters in accordance with:
 - a) The Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024);
 - b) Membership records of the Union;
 - c) Payment of membership dues and subscriptions.
5. A member shall qualify to be included in the voters register if he or she:
 - a) Is a duly registered member of UJOSS;
 - b) Has fulfilled all membership obligations;
 - c) Is not suspended or barred from participation under the Constitution or disciplinary procedures of UJOSS.
6. The Electoral Committee shall publish a provisional voters register within a reasonable period before polling day to allow verification and correction of errors.
7. Members may file objections, corrections, or complaints relating to the provisional voters register within the timeline prescribed by the Electoral Committee.

8. After review and correction, the Electoral Committee shall publish the final voters register which shall be used during polling.
9. No alterations shall be made to the final voters register after publication except with authorization of the Electoral Committee under exceptional circumstances.
10. The Electoral Committee shall ensure the security, confidentiality, and integrity of the voters register throughout the electoral process.

Section 22: Voting Rights

1. Every eligible member whose name appears in the final voters register shall have the right to vote in elections conducted under these Regulations.
2. Each eligible voter shall cast one (1) vote for each elective position being contested.
3. Voting rights shall be exercised freely, voluntarily, secretly, and without intimidation, coercion, discrimination, or undue influence.
4. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted under any circumstances.
5. No person shall:
 - a) Vote more than once for the same position;
 - b) Vote on behalf of another person;
 - c) Interfere with the voting rights of another member.
6. Every voter shall enjoy equal voting rights regardless of:
 - a) Gender;
 - b) Ethnicity;
 - c) Religion;
 - d) Region or State of origin;
 - e) Political opinion;
 - f) Social or professional status.
7. The secrecy and confidentiality of the ballot shall be protected at all times.
8. Any attempt to unlawfully influence or interfere with voting rights shall constitute an electoral offence under these Regulations.

Section 23: Polling Procedures

1. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot in accordance with democratic principles, the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024), and these Regulations.
2. The Electoral Committee shall determine and officially announce:
 - a) Polling date and time;
 - b) Polling venues and stations;
 - c) Polling procedures and operational guidelines.
3. Voting shall take place only at polling stations designated and approved by the Electoral Committee.
4. Ballot boxes used during polling shall:
 - a) Be transparent and secure;
 - b) Be inspected before commencement of voting;
 - c) Be sealed in the presence of candidates or their representatives.
5. Before commencement of voting, the Electoral Committee shall:
 - a) Display empty ballot boxes to observers and agents;
 - b) Explain polling procedures to voters;
 - c) Ensure all polling materials are available and secure.
6. Polling stations shall remain open during the official hours announced by the Electoral Committee.
7. Only the following persons shall be permitted at polling stations:
 - a) Registered voters;
 - b) Electoral Committee officials;
 - c) Accredited observers and candidate agents;
 - d) Authorized personnel approved by the Electoral Committee.
8. No unauthorized campaigning, canvassing, chanting of slogans, or distribution of campaign materials shall be permitted at polling stations on election day.
9. The Electoral Committee may remove any person who:
 - a) Causes disorder or disruption;

- b) Violates polling procedures;
- c) Attempts to intimidate or influence voters.

10. Assistance may be provided to voters with disabilities or special needs in a manner that preserves the secrecy and integrity of the vote.

11. Polling may be extended by the Electoral Committee where interruptions, emergencies, or unforeseen circumstances substantially affect voting.

Section 24: Identification of Voters

1. Every voter shall identify himself or herself before being issued with a ballot paper.
2. Identification of voters shall be made through:
 - a) A valid UJOSS Membership Card; or
 - b) An official receipt or proof confirming payment of membership dues.
3. The Electoral Committee may require additional identification or verification where necessary to confirm voter eligibility.
4. Electoral officials shall verify the identity of every voter against the final voters register before allowing the voter to cast a ballot.
5. A voter whose identity cannot be satisfactorily verified shall not be permitted to vote until verification is completed.
6. Electoral officials shall mark or record voters who have voted to prevent multiple voting.
7. Any person found impersonating another voter or using false identification shall commit an electoral offence under these Regulations.

Section 25: Ballot Papers

1. The Electoral Committee shall design, print, secure, and distribute official ballot papers for elections.
2. Ballot papers shall contain:
 - a) Names of candidates arranged clearly;
 - b) Position contested for;
 - c) Official stamp, seal, or signature of the Electoral Committee;
 - d) Clear instructions for voting where necessary.
3. Ballot papers shall be prepared in a manner that ensures:

- a) Secrecy of voting;
 - b) Clarity and simplicity for voters;
 - c) Protection against forgery or manipulation.
4. Any ballot paper lacking the official Electoral Committee stamp, seal, or signature shall be invalid.
5. A ballot paper shall also be considered invalid where:
- a) It contains unauthorized markings or writings;
 - b) The voter marks more candidates than permitted;
 - c) The voter's intention cannot reasonably be determined;
 - d) It is defaced, altered, or tampered with.
6. The Electoral Committee shall account for:
- a) Ballot papers printed;
 - b) Ballot papers issued;
 - c) Spoiled ballot papers;
 - d) Unused ballot papers.
7. Spoiled ballot papers shall be cancelled and preserved separately by the Electoral Committee.
8. The Electoral Committee shall ensure secure custody and handling of ballot papers before, during, and after polling.

Section 26: Counting and Tallying

1. Counting of votes shall commence immediately after closure of polling at the designated polling station.
2. Counting and tallying shall be conducted openly, transparently, fairly, and in the presence of:
- a) Candidates or their representatives;
 - b) Accredited observers;
 - c) Electoral Committee officials.
3. Each candidate may appoint one (1) observer or agent to witness counting and tallying of votes.
4. Before counting begins, Electoral Committee officials shall:

- a) Verify seals of ballot boxes;
- b) Open ballot boxes in the presence of observers and agents;
- c) Separate valid, invalid, and spoiled ballots.

5. The Electoral Committee shall:

- a) Count all votes cast;
- b) Record valid and invalid ballots;
- c) Prepare official tally sheets and results forms;
- d) Verify totals before declaration of results.

6. Results shall be accurately recorded and signed by Electoral Committee officials responsible for counting and tallying.

7. Candidate agents or observers present may also sign result forms as confirmation of observation of the process.

8. Refusal or failure by an observer or agent to sign results forms shall not invalidate the election results.

9. The Electoral Committee shall publicly announce results after completion of tallying and verification.

10. All election materials including ballot papers, tally sheets, and result forms shall be securely preserved by the Electoral Committee for official records and possible review in the event of complaints or appeals.

11. Any interference, tampering, or manipulation of counting and tallying processes shall constitute a serious electoral offence under these Regulations.

CHAPTER SIX

DECLARATION OF RESULTS AND RE-RUNS

Section 27: Declaration of Results

1. The Electoral Committee (EC) shall compile, verify, and officially announce provisional election results immediately after completion of counting and tallying and announce final results within 24 hours after the declaration of provisional results.
2. The declaration of results shall be conducted in a transparent, impartial, and credible manner consistent with the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024) and these Regulations.
3. Election results shall indicate:
 - a) Total number of registered voters;
 - b) Total votes cast;
 - c) Number of valid votes;
 - d) Number of invalid or spoiled ballots;
 - e) Votes obtained by each candidate;
 - f) Final outcome for each elective position.
4. Results may be announced:
 - a) At the polling or tallying center;
 - b) Through official notices of the Electoral Committee;
 - c) Through official communication platforms of UJOSS.
5. The Electoral Committee shall prepare and sign official result forms and records for every elective position contested.
6. Candidate agents or observers present during declaration of results may append their signatures to the official results forms as confirmation of observation of the process.
7. Refusal or failure by a candidate agent or observer to sign the results forms shall not invalidate the results.
8. Provisional results shall become final where:
 - a) No complaint or appeal is lodged within the prescribed period; or
 - b) All complaints and appeals have been determined by the Electoral Committee.
9. The Electoral Committee shall preserve all election records, tally sheets, result forms, and related documents for accountability and future reference.

10. Any attempt to falsify, alter, conceal, or unlawfully interfere with election results shall constitute a serious electoral offence under these Regulations and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
11. Upon confirmation of final results, the Electoral Committee shall officially certify and declare the duly elected leaders of UJOSS.

Section 28: Determination of Winners

1. A candidate who obtains the highest number of valid votes cast for an elective position shall be declared duly elected by the Electoral Committee.
2. Elections under these Regulations shall be determined by simple majority of valid votes cast unless otherwise provided under the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
3. In determining winners, only valid votes shall be counted and considered.
4. A candidate may be declared elected unopposed where:
 - a) Only one candidate is duly nominated for a position; or
 - b) All other candidates lawfully withdraw from the contest before polling day.
5. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates obtaining an equal highest number of valid votes:
 - a) The Electoral Committee shall conduct a re-run election between the tied candidates;
 - b) The re-run shall be conducted within a reasonable period determined by the Electoral Committee.
6. Only candidates who participated in the tie shall be eligible to participate in the re-run election.
7. Where a tie persists after the first re-run, the Electoral Committee may:
 - a) Conduct another re-run election; or
 - b) Determine any further lawful procedure consistent with democratic principles and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
8. A re-run election shall be conducted in accordance with the same procedures applicable to the original election.
9. The Electoral Committee shall officially communicate the date, venue, and procedures for any re-run election.
10. Results of a re-run election shall be declared and certified in accordance with these Regulations.

Section 29: Swearing-In

1. All successful candidates declared duly elected shall take and subscribe to the official oath of office before assuming office and performing the functions of their respective positions.
2. Swearing-in shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee or any other authorized person designated in accordance with the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024)
3. The oath-taking ceremony shall be conducted before:
 - a) Members of the General Assembly; or
 - b) An officially recognized gathering of UJOSS convened for that purpose.
4. The oath of office shall require elected leaders to:
 - a) Uphold and protect the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024)
 - b) Serve members faithfully, honestly, and impartially;
 - c) Promote unity, professionalism, democracy, and integrity within the Union;
 - d) Perform duties diligently and in the best interest of UJOSS.
5. No elected official shall assume office or exercise powers of office before taking the oath of office.
6. Upon swearing-in:
 - a) Newly elected leaders shall officially assume office;
 - b) The mandate of the outgoing office bearers shall cease except where transitional arrangements are required under the Constitution.
7. The outgoing leadership shall hand over:
 - a) Official records and documents;
 - b) Financial records and assets;
 - c) Union property and equipment;
 - d) Ongoing programs and responsibilities.
8. The handover process shall be conducted peacefully, transparently, and in accordance with the Constitution and administrative procedures of UJOSS.
9. The Electoral Committee shall prepare and maintain official records of the swearing-in ceremony and assumption of office.
10. Upon completion of the swearing-in process and settlement of all electoral matters, the Electoral Committee shall prepare and submit its final election report to the National Executive Committee and General Assembly

CHAPTER SEVEN

COMPLAINTS, APPEALS, AND DISPUTES

Section 30: Right to Appeal

1. Any candidate, voter, observer, or member of the who is dissatisfied with the conduct, process, procedures, or results of an election shall have the right to file a complaint or appeal in accordance with these Regulations and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
2. Appeals may arise from:
 - a) Nomination and eligibility disputes;
 - b) Campaign-related violations;
 - c) Voter registration disputes;
 - d) Polling irregularities;
 - e) Counting and tallying disputes;
 - f) Declaration of results;
 - g) Electoral offences and misconduct;
 - h) Any other matter affecting the fairness, transparency, or credibility of elections.
3. Every complaint or appeal shall be handled fairly, impartially, transparently, and in accordance with principles of natural justice and due process.
4. No person shall be victimized, intimidated, threatened, or discriminated against for filing a lawful complaint or appeal.
5. The Electoral Committee shall establish procedures for receiving, recording, investigating, and determining electoral complaints and disputes.
6. The right to appeal under these Regulations shall not prejudice any disciplinary or constitutional process available under the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).

Section 31: Filing of Appeals

1. All appeals and complaints relating to elections shall be submitted to the Electoral Committee within the timelines prescribed under these Regulations.
2. Appeals shall:
 - a) Be made in writing;
 - b) Clearly state the grounds of complaint or appeal;
 - c) Be signed by the complainant or authorized representative;

- d) Be submitted within twenty-four (24) hours after declaration of results or occurrence of the disputed event.
- 3. An appeal shall contain:
 - a) Full names and contact details of the complainant;
 - b) The position or matter disputed;
 - c) Facts and circumstances giving rise to the complaint;
 - d) Supporting evidence or documentation;
 - e) Names of witnesses where applicable;
 - f) The specific remedy or relief sought.
- 4. Appeals may be submitted physically, electronically, or through any official mechanism approved by the Electoral Committee.
- 5. The Electoral Committee shall acknowledge receipt of every appeal and record it in the official electoral dispute register.
- 6. Any appeal submitted outside the prescribed timelines may be rejected unless the complainant demonstrates reasonable grounds for delay.
- 7. Frivolous, malicious, or bad-faith complaints intended to disrupt the electoral process may attract disciplinary action.
- 8. Filing of an appeal shall not automatically suspend declaration or implementation of election results unless the Electoral Committee determines otherwise.

Section 32: Hearing of Appeals

- 1. The Electoral Committee shall hear, investigate, and determine appeals within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of receipt of the complaint.
- 2. In handling appeals, the Electoral Committee shall:
 - a) Observe fairness, impartiality, and transparency;
 - b) Ensure equal treatment of all parties;
 - c) Uphold principles of natural justice and due process.
- 3. Parties to an appeal shall be given adequate opportunity to:
 - a) Present oral or written submissions;
 - b) Produce documentary evidence;
 - c) Call witnesses where necessary;
 - d) Respond to allegations made against them.
- 4. The Electoral Committee may:
 - a) Summon persons relevant to the dispute;
 - b) Examine electoral materials and records;

- c) Conduct recounting or verification exercises;
 - d) Investigate alleged electoral irregularities or offences.
5. After hearing an appeal, the Electoral Committee may:
- a) Dismiss the complaint;
 - b) Uphold the complaint in whole or in part;
 - c) Order recounting or re-tallying of votes;
 - d) Suspend declaration of results for affected positions;
 - e) Nullify election results where substantial irregularities are established;
 - f) Order a re-run election where necessary;
 - g) Impose disciplinary measures in accordance with these Regulations.
6. Decisions of the Electoral Committee shall:
- a) Be communicated in writing to the parties concerned;
 - b) State reasons for the decision;
 - c) Be recorded as part of the official election records.
7. Decisions of the Electoral Committee shall be binding unless overturned through lawful constitutional procedures of UJOSS.
8. The Electoral Committee shall endeavor to resolve all disputes promptly to preserve stability, unity, and continuity within UJOSS.

Section 33: Electoral Offences

1. The following acts shall constitute electoral offences under these Regulations and the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024):

a) Multiple Voting

Voting more than once or attempting to vote multiple times in the same election.

b) Forgery of Documents

Forging nomination forms, membership documents, identity documents, ballot papers, receipts, tally sheets, or other electoral materials.

c) Bribery and Vote Buying

Offering money, gifts, favors, employment, services, or inducements in exchange for votes or political support.

d) Violence or Intimidation

Threatening, harassing, assaulting, intimidating, or coercing voters, candidates, supporters, observers, or Electoral Committee officials.

e) Tampering with Ballot Papers or Boxes

Interfering with, stealing, destroying, altering, stuffing, or unlawfully handling ballot papers, ballot boxes, or election materials.

f) Impersonation

Voting or acting in the name of another person or using false identity during electoral activities.

g) Campaigning at Polling Stations

Campaigning, canvassing, distributing campaign materials, or influencing voters at polling stations on election day.

h) Abuse of Office or Resources

Using UJOSS offices, funds, communication platforms, property, or official authority to unfairly influence election outcomes.

i) Dissemination of False Information

Publishing or circulating false, misleading, defamatory, or malicious information intended to undermine the credibility of candidates or the electoral process.

j) Obstruction of Electoral Officials

Preventing Electoral Committee officials from performing lawful duties or interfering with electoral processes.

k) Destruction of Campaign Materials

Destroying, defacing, or unlawfully removing campaign materials belonging to another candidate.

l) Tribalism and Hate Speech

Promoting tribal, sectarian, discriminatory, or divisive messages contrary to the unity and values of UJOSS.

2. Attempting, aiding, abetting, or conspiring to commit any electoral offence shall also constitute an offence under these Regulations.
3. Electoral offences shall be investigated by the Electoral Committee and may be referred to appropriate disciplinary organs of UJOSS where necessary.
4. Serious electoral offences that undermine the credibility or legitimacy of elections may result in cancellation or nullification of election results.

Section 34: Penalties

1. Any person found guilty of committing an electoral offence under these Regulations may be subjected to one or more of the following penalties:

a) Disqualification

Disqualification from contesting, participating in, or benefiting from the election process.

b) Nullification of Results

Cancellation or nullification of election results obtained through unlawful conduct, fraud, or electoral malpractice.

c) Suspension

Suspension from UJOSS activities, membership rights, leadership roles, or participation in future elections for a specified period.

d) Disciplinary Action

Referral to the National Executive Committee or appropriate disciplinary organ for action under the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).

e) Warning or Reprimand

Issuance of official warnings, reprimands, or cautionary measures for minor violations.

f) Removal from Polling or Campaign Activities

Removal of disruptive persons from polling stations, counting centers, or campaign activities.

g) Re-Run Elections

Recommendation for fresh elections or re-run elections where violations substantially affect election credibility or result in disqualification of all candidates vying for a particular post.

2. In determining the appropriate penalty, the Electoral Committee shall consider:
 - a) The gravity and nature of the offence;
 - b) The impact of the offence on the credibility and fairness of elections;
 - c) Whether the offence was intentional, repeated, or organized;
 - d) The conduct of the offender before and after the offence.
3. All disciplinary measures and penalties imposed under these Regulations shall comply with:
 - a) Principles of fairness and natural justice;
 - b) The Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024);
 - c) Democratic and professional standards of the Union.
4. Penalties imposed under these Regulations shall not prevent UJOSS from taking additional lawful or disciplinary action under its Constitution and internal procedures.
5. The Electoral Committee shall maintain records of all electoral offences, disciplinary actions, and decisions for accountability and future reference.

CHAPTER EIGHT

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 35: Records and Documentation

1. The Electoral Committee (EC) of the shall maintain accurate, secure, and official records of all electoral activities conducted under these Regulations.
2. The Electoral Committee shall maintain and preserve the following records and documentation:

a) Nomination Records

Records relating to:

- i. Nomination forms;
- ii. Candidate qualifications and supporting documents;
- iii. Verification reports;
- iv. Withdrawal notices;
- v. Final list of candidates.

b) Voters Registers

Records relating to:

- i. Provisional and final voters registers;
- ii. Verification and correction processes;
- iii. Voter identification records where applicable.

c) Election Results

Records relating to:

- i. Ballot papers;
- ii. Tally sheets and result forms;
- iii. Provisional and final election results;
- iv. Re-run election records where applicable.

d) Complaints and Appeals Records

Records relating to:

- i. Complaints and petitions filed;
- ii. Evidence and witness statements;
- iii. Proceedings and determinations of disputes;
- iv. Decisions and disciplinary actions taken.

e) Financial and Administrative Records

Records relating to:

- i. Election expenditures and budgets;
- ii. Procurement and use of election materials;
- iii. Administrative correspondence and reports.

- 3. All electoral records shall be maintained in a secure, organized, and confidential manner to preserve the integrity and credibility of the electoral process.
- 4. The Electoral Committee shall ensure that electoral records are protected against:
 - a) Loss or destruction;
 - b) Unauthorized access;
 - c) Alteration or tampering;
 - d) Fraudulent use.
- 5. Election records and documents shall remain official property of UJOSS and shall be handed over to the appropriate office or organ of the Union after completion of elections.
- 6. The Electoral Committee may permit access to electoral records for lawful purposes consistent with the Constitution and these Regulations.
- 7. The Electoral Committee shall prepare and submit a comprehensive final election report to the National Executive Committee and General Assembly after completion of the electoral process.

Section 36: Interpretation

- 1. These Electoral Rules and Regulations shall be interpreted in a manner that promotes:
 - a) Democracy;
 - b) Transparency and accountability;
 - c) Fairness and equality;
 - d) Unity and professionalism within UJOSS;
 - e) Respect for the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
- 2. The Electoral Committee shall have authority to interpret and apply these Regulations during the electoral process subject to the Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024).
- 3. In interpreting these Regulations:
 - a) The Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024) shall prevail in the event of inconsistency;
 - b) Democratic principles and natural justice shall be observed;
 - c) Any ambiguity shall be resolved in favor of fairness, transparency, and participation.

4. Any dispute concerning interpretation of these Regulations may be referred to the appropriate constitutional organ of UJOSS for guidance or determination.
5. Decisions made under this Section shall be recorded and communicated to affected parties where necessary.

Section 37: Amendment of the Regulations

1. These Electoral Rules and Regulations may be amended, revised, or repealed by the General Assembly of UJOSS upon recommendation of the National Executive Committee (NEC).
2. Any proposal for amendment shall:
 - a) Be submitted in writing;
 - b) Clearly specify the proposed amendment and reasons thereof;
 - c) Be circulated to members before consideration by the General Assembly.
3. Amendments to these Regulations shall be consistent with:
 - a) The Constitution of UJOSS 2021 (Amended 2024) 2021 (Amended 2024);
 - b) Principles of democracy and good governance;
 - c) The objectives and values of the Union.
4. No amendment shall invalidate an electoral process already commenced unless otherwise determined by the General Assembly.
5. Amendments adopted by the General Assembly shall take effect immediately unless otherwise specified in the resolution approving the amendment.

Section 38: Dissolution of the Electoral Committee

1. The Electoral Committee established under these Regulations shall dissolve upon fulfillment of its constitutional mandate.
2. The Electoral Committee shall stand dissolved upon:
 - a) Completion of elections;
 - b) Declaration and certification of final election results;
 - c) Swearing-in of elected leaders;
 - d) Determination of all complaints, appeals, and disputes arising from the elections;
 - e) Submission of the final election report to the National Executive Committee and General Assembly.
3. Before dissolution, the Electoral Committee shall:
 - a) Hand over all election records and materials to the appropriate office of UJOSS;

- b) Submit financial and administrative reports relating to the electoral process;
 - c) Account for all election materials, funds, and assets entrusted to it.
4. Dissolution of the Electoral Committee shall not affect:
- a) Enforcement of decisions lawfully made during its tenure;
 - b) Preservation of election records;
 - c) Ongoing disciplinary or constitutional processes arising from the elections.
5. The National Executive Committee may establish a new Electoral Committee for subsequent elections in accordance with the Constitution and these Regulations.

SCHEDULES

Schedule One: Oath of Electoral Committee Members

“I, _____, do hereby swear by Almighty God / solemnly affirm that I shall faithfully, impartially, honestly, and diligently discharge my duties as a member of the Electoral Committee of the in accordance with the Constitution, Electoral Rules and Regulations, and principles of democracy, fairness, transparency, and integrity. I shall perform my responsibilities without fear, favor, bias, discrimination, or personal interest. So help me God.”

Schedule Two: Oath of Candidates

“I, _____, do hereby pledge and swear by Almighty God / solemnly affirm that I shall respect and abide by the Constitution, Electoral Rules and Regulations, and lawful decisions of the Electoral Committee of UJOSS. I commit myself to conducting peaceful, fair, and issue-based campaigns and to respecting the outcome of free, fair, transparent, and credible elections conducted by UJOSS. So, help me God.”

