

## EC GUIDANCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RULE 9 YOUNG MEMBERS

9.1 In each Region there shall be a young members' forum open to all members up to and including the age of 27 in that Region. Each regional forum shall elect one observer delegate to the Regional Committee.

**9.1.1** *In addition to 9.2 below, the Young Members rule is intended as a vehicle to win for young members and as a means of encouraging activism by young members as an investment in the future of the union. The foundation layer of the structure; the Young Members Forums are also intended to help build on their experience through networking with other young members, as well as the wider membership, and giving them some insight in to the union's democratic structures. The Young Members' Forums do not elect delegates to any union body. For this reason, the Executive Council interprets the Young Members' Forums as not being 'bodies' of the union within the meaning of 'Rule 6 Lay Office', and thus all members meeting the age requirement of the rule will be entitled to attend the young members forums, regardless of whether or not they are also an 'accountable representative of workers'.*

9.1.2 The young members' forum will meet at a time acceptable to the forum. For the avoidance of doubt these meetings may take place on an evening or at a weekend.

**9.1.3** *The forums will be convened by the Regional Secretary who shall be obligated to inform all eligible members of such meetings.*

9.1.4 The first meeting of the forum will elect a chair from amongst the young members. The Chair shall hold office for two years.

9.1.5 The forum shall elect an observer delegate to the Regional Committee and to the regional political committee. That observer will be entitled to speak and put issues on the agenda but not vote at the Regional Committee.

9.2 The purpose of the structure shall be to advocate the interests of young workers, to cement links with youth organisations *both within the labour movement and beyond* and to promote relevant policies provided that they are not inconsistent with the general policy and objectives of the Union.

9.2.1 The Young Members structure is intended to work with other union bodies (in particular the member's own workplace and industrial sector.) Regions and industrial sectors shall assist in facilitating links between their young members and other labour movement bodies. Selection for youth participation in external conferences and activities may be, but need not necessarily be, from the young members' structure.

9.3 There shall be conferences<sup>1</sup> in each Region every two years for young members. The Regional Secretary shall be responsible for convening these conferences. The Executive Council shall determine the number of delegates to the regional conferences and how they shall be appointed or elected.

9.3.1 The Regional Young Members' Conference will be open to all young members<sup>2</sup>.

9.3.2 The Executive Council will place a requirement upon Regional Secretaries to ensure that there is maximum participation of young women and young BAEM activists at all Regional Young Members Conferences.

9.3.3 The Regional Secretary shall be responsible for convening these conferences. *Regional Young Members Officer (or other appropriate regional official delegated by the Regional Secretary) shall act as Secretary to the conference – advising the chair as appropriate and recording decisions taken and the outcome of the elections.* The Regional Secretary shall consult with the Regional Young Members Forum, Regional Young Members' Committee and appropriate officers as to the timing and agenda of the conference.

9.3.4 The conference will be chaired by a lay Chair elected at the start of the conference. The Chair shall not have a casting vote.

9.3.5 The purpose of the conference is to network, debate issues, receive reports from the regional young members' committee and forum, discuss Regional Young Members Strategy (including organising strategy and bargaining strategy), and encourage activism. *It will not be the purpose of the conference to submit motions to higher bodies of the union. Motions on matters for young members to the National Young Members Committee will be allowed.*

*It will not be the purpose of the conference to decide nominations or elect delegations to other bodies. The route for young members to be elected as Unite delegates to the respective TUC Young members' conferences, Young Labour conferences and British Youth Council conferences will be determined by the Executive Council at a later date.* The conferences may include workshop/training sessions for prospective activists.

9.4 There shall be a Young Members Regional Committee elected from Branches, Regional Industrial Sector Committees and Area Activists Committees where established in such proportion, as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Council.

9.4.1 The Regional Young Members committee shall be open to all eligible young members who are up to and including the age of 27 at the time of election.

9.4.2 Where a Branch/Regional Industrial Sector Committee or Area Activist Committee does not have a young member who meets the definition of

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix Unite Conference Standing Orders

<sup>2</sup> Not confined to reps – for the same reasons as stated in 9.1.1 .

'accountable representative of workers' under the EC guidance for Rule 6 (Lay Office), they may invite nominations from their constituent workplaces for a 'young substitute delegate' in line with 9.4.1. In the event that they receive more than one nomination they shall select one from amongst the nominations

9.5 There shall be a national conference<sup>3</sup> every two years for young members which the Executive Council shall be responsible for convening. The Executive Council shall determine the number of delegates to the national conference and how they shall be appointed or elected.

9.5.1 Each of the Regional Conferences shall elect delegates to the National Conference for Young Members<sup>4</sup>.

9.5.2 The EC shall decide the timetable for the National Conference for Young Members, but in any event, it shall be held every 2 years in the same calendar year as the regional young members' conference.

9.5.3 The route for submission of motions to higher bodies of the union ,including National Young Members' Conference will be dealt with by the Executive Council at a later date.

*9.5.4 The conference will be chaired by a lay Chair elected at the start of the conference. The Chair shall not have a casting vote .*

9.5.5 The route for young members to be elected as Unite delegates to the respective TUC Young Members' conferences, Young Labour conferences, and British Youth Council conference will be determined by the Executive Council at a later date. Delegates will be required to submit a report to the national and regional young members committees.

9.6 There shall be a Young Members National Committee elected from each Young Members Regional Committee in such proportion, as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Council.

9.6.1 In each region, the Regional Committee for Young Members will elect one delegate to the National Committee for Young Members.

9.6.2 The National Committee shall meet quarterly.

9.6.3 The National Committee will be chaired by a lay Chair elected at the first meeting of the Committee, and the chair shall hold office for two years. The Chair shall not have a casting vote.

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix Unite Conference Standing Orders

<sup>4</sup> The number of delegates shall be determined by the EC in conjunction with their consideration of delegate numbers for other union bodies.

APPENDIX - UNITE CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS
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**1. Conduct of Business**

*1.1 The Chair shall be responsible for the conduct of the meeting. Delegates may only speak when called by the Chair. The Chair shall have discretion on whether to allow a delegate to speak more than once on a subject.*

*1.2 The Chair shall have the same speaking rights as any other delegate. In addition, the Chair may intervene during or at the conclusion of any discussion, to clarify the issues decided and/or to sum up the discussion.*

*1.3 A delegate who wishes to raise a point of order (which must be confined to the manner in which the meeting is being conducted) should say "point of order" and hold his/her hand aloft until called by the Chair. Subject to that exception, delegates should not interrupt another speaker.*

*1.4 The ruling of the Chair on any question relating to the conduct of the meeting shall be final unless a challenge to the Chair is supported by at least two thirds of the delegates present.*

*1.5 Save as provided herein, the business of the Conference shall be conducted in accordance with the normal rules of debate as laid down by Walter Citrine in the ABC of Chairmanship.*

*1.6 In the event of an equality of votes, the proposition before the conference shall not be carried.*

**2. Smoking/Alcohol**

*2.1 There shall be no smoking or consumption of alcohol allowed at the Conference.*