

Code of Conduct and Eligibility Criteria for election 2018

The committee proposes followings for the students' union election in Universities and affiliated Colleges which were opened in or before the academic session 2016-17:

I. Disassociation of Student Elections and Student Representation from Political Parties.

During the period of the elections no person, who is not a student on the rolls of the college/university, shall be permitted to take part in the election process in any capacity. Any person, candidate, or member of the student organization, or a member of a registered Political party, violating this rule shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings, in addition to the candidature, as the case may be, being revoked.

II. Eligibility Criteria for Candidates

1. Under graduate students between the ages of 17 and 22 may contest elections. This age range may be appropriately relaxed by one year in the case of professional courses, where courses often range between 4 to 5 years.
2. For Post Graduate Students the maximum age limit to legitimately contest an election would be 25 years. ✓
3. The candidate should have scored atleast passing marks in all papers of previous year for last result declared.
4. The candidate should in no event have any academic arrears in the year of contesting the election.
5. Candidates with gap year(s) be not allowed to participate. ✓
6. The candidate should have attained the minimum percentage of attendance as prescribed by the university or 75% attendance, whichever is higher in its previous year or in the same year of the election for the students of first year in the campus.
7. The candidate shall have one opportunity to contest for the post of office bearer, and two opportunities to contest for the post of an executive member.
8. The candidate shall not have a previous criminal record, that is to say he should not have been tried and/or convicted of any criminal offence or misdemeanour. The candidate shall also not have been subject to any disciplinary action by the University authorities.
9. The candidate must be a regular, full time student of the university and should not be a distance/proximate education student. That is to say that all eligible candidates must be enrolled in a full time course, the course duration being at least one year.

Note: For this purpose, 'student' would mean a whole-time student in any teaching department including M.Phil., LL.M., M.Pharm., M.Tech. and the like but shall not include research students of Ph. D. doing short term courses and diploma and certificate courses.

doing M.Phil./Ph.D or a student who as per the record of the department is an employee of Government or Semi Government Organization, Public or Private Sectors undertaking.

III. Election Related Expenditure and Financial Accountability:

1. The maximum permitted expenditure per candidate shall be Rs. 5000/-
2. Each candidate shall, within two weeks of the declaration of the result, submit complete and certified accounts (to be certified by the candidate) to the university authorities. The university shall publish such certified accounts within 2 days of submission of such accounts, through a suitable medium so that any member of the student body may freely examine the same.
3. The election of the candidate will be nullified in the event of any noncompliance or in the event of any excessive expenditure.
4. With the view to prevent the inflow of funds from political parties into the student election process, the candidates are specially barred from utilizing funds from any sources other than voluntary contributions but within maximum limit of Rs. 5000/.

IV. Code of Conduct for Candidates and Elections Administrators:

- ✓ 1. No candidate shall indulge in, nor shall abet, any activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religions or linguistic, or between any group(s) of students.
- ✓ 2. Criticism of other candidates, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programs, past record and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the other candidates or supporters of such other candidates. Criticism of other candidates, or their supporters based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
- ✓ 3. There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Places of worship, within or outside the campus shall not be used for election propaganda. No political face can be used for canvassing purpose or other purpose during the election.
- ✓ 4. All candidates shall be prohibited from indulging or abetting in activities which are considered to be "corrupt practices" and offences, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing or the use of propaganda beyond prescribed limit, and holding public meetings.
- ✓ 5. No candidate will be allowed transport and conveyance with or without their banner on it for the purpose of canvassing and for bringing of voters to and from.
6. No candidate shall be permitted to make use of printed posters, printed pamphlets or any other printed material for the purpose of canvassing.

Candidates may only utilize hand-made posters for the purpose of canvassing, provided that such hand-made posters are procured within the expenditure limit set out herein above.

7. Candidates may only utilize hand-made posters at certain places in the campus, which shall be notified in advance by the election commission/ university authority.
8. No candidate will utilize name of any district, state or national level students' organizations/Union/Parishad on the poster or on banner or on the anything which could identify him or her as a candidate of that organization.
9. No candidate shall be permitted to carry out processions, or public meetings, or in any way canvass or distribute propaganda outside the university campus/college campus.
10. No candidate shall, nor shall his/her supporters, deface or cause any destruction of any property of the university/college campus, for any purpose whatsoever, without the prior written permission of the college/university authorities. All candidates shall be held jointly and severally liable for any destruction/defacing of any university/college property.
11. During the election period the candidates may hold one procession and/or public meeting, provided that such procession and/or public meeting do not, in any manner, disturb the classes and other academic and co-curricular activities of the college/university. Further, such procession/public meeting may not be held without the prior written permission of the authority.
12. The use of loudspeakers, vehicles and animals for the purpose of canvassing shall be prohibited.
13. On the day of polling, student organizations and candidates shall:
 - a. co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction;
 - b. not serve or distribute any eatables, or other solid and liquid consumables, except water on polling day;
 - c. not hand out any propaganda on the polling day.
14. Excepting the voters, no one without a valid pass/letters of the authority from the election commission or from the college/university authorities shall enter the polling booths.
15. The election commission/college/university authorities shall appoint impartial observers. In the case of deemed universities and self-financed institutions, government servants may be appointed as observers. If the candidates have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of the elections they may bring the same to the notice of the observer. Observers shall also be appointed to oversee the process of nomination of students in institutions that are following the nomination model of student representation.
16. All candidates shall be jointly responsible for ensuring the cleaning up of the

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17. Any contravention of any of the above recommendations may make the candidate liable to be stripped of his candidature or his elected post, as the case may be. The election commission/ college/ university authorities may also take appropriate disciplinary action against such a violator.
 18. In addition to the above-mentioned code of conduct, it is also recommended that certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Section 153-A and Chapter IX-A "Offences Relating to Elections"), may also be made applicable to student elections.

V. Maintaining Law and Order on the Campus during the Election Process:

Any instance of acute lawlessness or the commission of a criminal offence shall be reported to the police by the university/college authorities as soon as possible, but not later than 6 hours after the alleged commission of the offence. Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police will be responsible for maintenance of law and order in the campus.