



EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY SPORTS UNION

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RULES 2026

Candidates are responsible for reading all of the information contained in this document. This is for the benefit of the candidates. The regulations will be strictly adhered to.

Candidates for the position of President must subscribe to the following statement:

"I agree that if I should elect to take a Laigh Year I shall abide by the existing conditions for Laigh Year Office-Bearers as laid down by the Sports Union and the University Court."

Failure to comply with these regulations may lead to disqualification. Any questions concerning these regulations must be referred in the first instance to the Returning Officer (esusu@ed.ac.uk).



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KEY DATES - 2026

Nominations Open: 9am, Tuesday 10th – 12 noon, Tuesday 17th February

Candidate Briefing: 5pm, Tuesday 17th February

Manifesto, Social Media & Web Page Review: 12 noon, Tuesday 24th February

Campaign Period: 10am, Monday 2ND – 12 noon, Thursday 5th March

Voting Period: 10am, Monday 2nd – 12 noon, Thursday 5th March



1. Candidate Eligibility

Candidates for the position of Sports Union President must fulfil the following criteria:

- i. Hold a current UoE student membership of Edinburgh University Sports Union;

AND

- ii. Have served one year on the Sports Union Executive Committee;

OR

- iii. Have served two years as Club President or equivalent;

OR

- iv. Have served one year as Club President or equivalent and one year in one of the following roles:
 - Club Vice President or equivalent
 - Club Secretary
 - Club Treasurer
 - Ordinary Member on SU Finance Committee
 - SU Intern

Similarly, proposers and seconders must be a UoE student member of Edinburgh University Sports Union.

No student member may propose or second more than one candidate for the position of President. Candidates are advised to check with their proposers and seconders that they have not signed another candidate's nomination form.

In the event of duplicates, the first nomination submission received by the Sports Union will be that which is counted.

2. Meeting with Candidates

Please arrange a meeting with the Returning Officer (katherine.corbett@ed.ac.uk) prior to submitting your nomination. During this meeting, the Returning Officer will address any questions that you have regarding the Presidential role, the election campaign, and the Regulations governing the elections.



3. Nominations and Campaign Period

3.1 Nominations

Nominations will open from 0900 on Tuesday 10th February 2026 and close at 1200 (noon) on Tuesday 17th February 2026. Candidates are required to submit nominations via the SU website (www.eusu.ed.ac.uk/elections). By completing the online nomination form you are agreeing to these Sports Union Election Rules.

When submitting a nomination candidates are asked to write an Election Address, see 5.1, and upload a photo themselves for their candidate profile.

Candidates should read the Sports Union President job description and consider this in their nomination. The Returning Officer will review the nominations as received to approve content and each candidate's eligibility prior to successful submission of the nomination.

Candidates will receive confirmation of successful submission from the Returning Officer.

3.2 Campaign Period

The candidate and their team are to adhere to all regulations set out by the Sports Union and the University. There should be no campaigning or canvassing for votes prior to the beginning of the Campaigning Period as detailed below.

The Campaign Period will start from 1000 on Monday 2nd March 2026 until 1200 on Thursday 5th March 2026.

During this time, candidates can publish publicity material and canvass as outlined in these regulations.

Campaigning is defined as any means of public declaration or publicising of your candidacy in the current elections. If a candidate chooses to have a campaign team to assist them prior to the beginning of the campaign period, these individuals must be declared to the returning officer.

3.3 Withdrawals

Withdrawals must be submitted to the Returning Officer by email using only the candidate's University of Edinburgh student email account.



4. Voting Procedure

4.1 Eligibility of Voters

All matriculated students at The University of Edinburgh are eligible to vote in the Sports Union Presidential elections.

4.2 Method of Voting

As prescribed by the Sports Union Executive and General Committees, the method of voting in all elections is that of the single transferable vote. This means that voters are allowed to record their order of preference by number when voting.

4.3 Voting Period

Voting will open from 1000 on Monday 2nd March and close at 1200 on Thursday 5th March 2025.

Votes are to be cast through the Sports Union Elections Online Voting platform which is accessible by all current matriculated students at The University of Edinburgh via the Sports Union website.



5. Election Address and Manifesto

Candidates should read the Sports Union President job description and consider this in their election address and manifesto.

5.1 Election Address

Candidates running for the position of President are asked to submit an Election Address with their nomination. This will appear online on the Sports Union Election webpage.

The election address should introduce the candidate, outline their experience, and provide detail on their skills and motivations. There shall be no canvassing for votes in the election address.

Each candidate is allocated 500 words for their Election Address. There should be no attachments or embedded material within the election address.

The Election Address will be uploaded to the SU website when the campaign period has begun, see 3.2. Once uploaded, an election address cannot be amended without the permission of the Returning Officer.

5.2 Manifesto

Candidates running for the position of President may write a manifesto. The manifesto should outline their key intentions and aims should they be elected. This will appear online on the Sports Union Election webpage.

Manifestos must be shared via email with the Returning Officer for discussion and review by 1200 on the Tuesday 24th February 2026.

Candidates' Manifestos will be uploaded to the SU website when the campaign period has begun, see 3.2. Once uploaded, a Manifesto cannot be amended without the permission of the Returning Officer.

5.3 Election Video

Candidates have the opportunity to submit a campaign video (maximum two minutes). Candidates are required to take into account these Regulations and the relevant role description in the video.

Videos will be published on the Sports Union YouTube when the Campaign Period has begun, see 3.2. This video will also be embedded on the candidate's page on the Sports Union website.

Election Videos must be shared with the Returning Officer for discussion and review by 1200 on the Tuesday 24th February 2026.



6. Election Open Q&A (Hustings)

The Election Open Q&A, also known as Hustings, will take place at 1800 on Monday 2nd of March 2026, in-person with a livestream option available.

Candidates will initially be asked to speak for no more than five minutes to introduce themselves and detail why they are running in this election. Candidates are required to take into account all election rules and the job description when giving their speech.

The Returning Officer will act as time keeper and will warn speakers when there is 30 seconds left on their time. The order of speeches is determined by the order in which nominations were received by the Returning Officer.

The Open Q&A will immediately follow the speeches. Candidates are asked to keep answers concise, to a maximum of one minute per question, and bear the job description in mind at all times.

The Returning Officer will chair the Open Q&A, time-keep, and intervene if any questions or answers are too long or inappropriate.

The Returning Officer will randomly allocate the order in which candidates are to answer the questions. The first round of questions will be general questions which all candidates shall answer. The second round of questions can be directed to a single candidate.

Questions can be submitted online prior to the Hustings, as well as during the meeting. All questions must refer to candidates' election addresses, manifestos, or the Presidential job description and may not be personal criticisms or attacks.

At least two members from each Club must attend this Hustings in person. Presidential candidate speeches and Hustings will be recorded and made available on the Sports Union website and social media following the event.



7. Campaigning

7.1 Campaigning

Campaigning may be done both in-person and online. Candidates may not distribute physical and print materials to publicise their candidacy.

7.1.1 Social Media & Web Pages

Candidates may use social media to publicise their campaign. Candidates' social media and web pages may be designed in advance but not be made 'live' until the campaign period has begun, see 3.2.

Candidates' social media and web pages must be shared with the Returning Officer for review by 1200 on the Tuesday 24th February 2026.

This does not need to include every post, but should include social media handles/web address and sample posts.

Social media pages are solely to be used to inform followers and visitors of the election, candidate's experience, manifesto, and ability to fulfil the job description. Candidates should not refer to their opposing candidate(s) on any platform.

The Sports Union will provide a link to candidates' social media and web pages from the Sports Union Election webpage.

Candidates and their campaign team should not post, or request others to post, on any social media page of opposing candidates. Candidates are only allowed to use their personal social media platforms to promote their campaign.

7.1.2 Endorsements

Once the campaign period begins, candidates may approach club/society committees for endorsements. Club committees must vote to endorse a candidate as a committee, and ensure the vote is recorded. All material related to endorsements should state that the 'club/society committee' endorses the candidate, not the 'club/society', and should direct members to view all the candidates on the main election page (must include a link). Candidates are responsible for ensuring clubs follow the election rules.

Individual students are welcome to endorse and share campaign material of candidates using their own personal social media. All endorsements from individuals must be promoted as a personal view, and not that of the club/society or committee.



7.2 General Regulations

All publicity must clearly state the individual candidate's name and nomination for Sports Union President.

Candidates are asked to highlight the dates of online voting on all forms of publicity, see 4.3.

Candidates are reminded that they should observe the University Code of Student Conduct at all times during this election.

7.3 Use of Email and Teams

Candidates, Club Office Bearers, and Executive Committee members may not use any SU club or Executive Committee official e-mail accounts to endorse candidates.

Candidates may use their student email account to approach clubs and groups to request endorsement.

Unsolicited use of University email accounts to promote candidates will constitute a breach of these Regulations and will result in disciplinary action being taken.



8. Sports Union Publicity

The Sports Union will publicise the elections to its members and wider audience. All material posted by the Sports Union will link to the main election page, and ensure that candidates are all promoted equally. Where candidates are posted in order, this will be based on the order their nominations were submitted.

9. Complaints, Conduct and Appeals

9.2 Election Complaints

9.2.1 Submitting an Election Complaint

Any student who wishes to complain about an issue relating to these elections including the conduct of candidates, must do so via email to the Returning Officer (katherine.corbett@ed.ac.uk).

Complaints may not be made anonymously, but will be handled confidentially where possible; effective investigation may not be possible without revealing the identity of the complainant.

To be considered as an election complaint, a complaint must be submitted within 24 hours of the alleged incident having occurred, or come to light, and no later than one hour before voting closes in the relevant election period, unless in exceptional circumstances.

9.2.2 Handling of Election Complaints

On receipt of an election complaint, the Returning Officer will consider the evidence provided and may seek to gather additional evidence in order to reach a decision on how to proceed.

The Returning Officer will provide a written response to the complainant within one working day of receipt of the complaint (complaints submitted after 1700 on a weekday, or over the weekend, will not be received until 0900 on the next working day).

The response will provide details of the evidence considered when reaching a decision and outline any actions already taken, or to be taken, in the future to address any issues raised in the complaint. The Returning Officer may find that there is no action to be taken.

Where there is evidence of misconduct by a candidate for election, the Returning Officer may take action under section 8.2 of these regulations. The Returning Officer may also refer a conduct issue involving a candidate or student to the University for consideration under the Code of Student Conduct, see 8.2.3.



9.2.3 Complaint Review

Where a complainant is dissatisfied with the response they have received to their complaint, they may request a review of the handling of the complaint by the Returning Officer. In order to request a review, the complainant must send a written statement explaining why they feel their complaint has been improperly handled, or what new information has come to light, to the Returning Officer.

Any such request must be submitted within 24 hours of issue of the original response to the complaint.

The Returning Officer will provide a written response to the complainant within one working day of receipt of the complaint review request (requests submitted after 1700 on a weekday, or over the weekend, will not be received until 0900 on the next working day).

The Returning Officer will either confirm the validity of the original response, or provide details of any further action taken, or to be taken, in the future to address any issues raised in the complaint.

The Returning Officer's response is final.

9.3 Conduct of Candidates

9.3.1 Misconduct

A complaint against an election candidate may provide evidence of misconduct by the candidate. Examples of such misconduct include:

- i. Violation of any part of these Regulations
- ii. Bribery
- iii. Multiple voting
- iv. Interference with the actual voting
- v. Conspiracy by the candidate acting in concert with others to commit any of the offences mentioned in (i) to (iv)
- vi. Any offence listed in section 12 of the University of Edinburgh's Code of Student Conduct, if committed during the Campaign Period (see section 8.2.3. of these Regulations)

Candidates are regarded by this procedure as responsible for the conduct of their campaign teams; candidates may, therefore, be subject to conduct investigation and potential sanctions if a member of their campaign team commits an act of electoral misconduct.



9.3.2 Sanctions

Where there is evidence of misconduct, the Returning Officer will decide whether one of the following actions should be taken and may apply one or more of the sanctions listed below:

- i. Verbal Warning
- ii. Written Warning
- iii. Removal of online publicity
- iv. Make a retraction statement
- v. Exclusion from the Open Q&A
- vi. Disqualification of candidacy
- vii. Referral to the University for a disciplinary investigation (see 8.2.3)

9.3.3 Relationship with the University of Edinburgh Code of Student Conduct

Where a candidate is suspected of having breached the University's Code of Student Conduct, the Returning Officer may refer the matter to the University for consideration under that Code.

If the offence took place during the course of the Campaign Period, the Returning Officer may also apply a sanction under section 8.2.2 of these Regulations.

Where the Sports Union receives a complaint or report of a potential breach of the University's Code of Student Conduct by a student who is not an election candidate during the course of the Campaign Period, the matter may be referred to the University for consideration under that Code



9.4 Appeals against Sanctions

9.4.1 Grounds for Appeal

Where a candidate has been issued with a sanction under section 8.2.2 of these Regulations, they have the right to appeal against this. Appeals will only be accepted if they meet one or both of the following grounds:

- i. Relevant new information is provided, which for good reason was not available to the Returning Officer when their decision was taken;
- ii. Evidence of irregular procedure or improper conduct in the election or in the investigation of the candidate's conduct.

9.4.2 Submitting an Appeal

Where a candidate wishes to appeal, they should send an email stating their intention to appeal to the Returning Officer before the end of the voting period. Emails must be sent from their University student email account.

The candidate must then submit their full appeal in writing to the Returning Officer within 24 hours of stating their intention to appeal.

The full appeal should include the following information:

- i. Details of the decision the candidate is appealing against
- ii. On what grounds the candidate is basing their appeal (see 8.3.1)
- iii. An explanation of how the appeal meets this ground/s
- iv. What outcome the candidate is seeking as a result of the appeal



9.4.3 Consideration of Appeals

When an appeal is received, the Returning Officer will collect the available evidence and submit this for consideration by the Elections Appeals Committee. The Election Appeals Committee consists of a minimum of three members external to the Sports Union staff and Executive Committee.

The Election Appeals Committee will communicate their decision to the candidate within five working days of receipt of the full appeal, and will provide a written explanation as to how they reached their decision. The Committee may call for a hearing where applicable.

The decision will be one of the following:

- i. The appeal is not upheld; any sanctions stand
- ii. The appeal is partially upheld; any sanctions are reduced or varied
- iii. The appeal is upheld; any sanctions are removed

Decisions of the Election Appeals Committee are final.

Candidate Signed: _____

Date: _____

(Please email a signed copy to sports.union@ed.ac.uk)

If a candidate is unsure about any of the information enclosed, or if they might be in breach any of the rules, please e-mail the Returning Officer at esusu@ed.ac.uk.