

## University of St Andrews

### RECTORIAL ELECTION

#### **Pledge of good behaviour and responsible use of social media**

##### **Overview**

Candidates for the position of Rector of the University Court of the University of St Andrews agree that they and their Campaign Team will adhere to the following code of conduct in their electoral campaign.

##### **Election rules and procedures**

All candidates agree that they and their Campaign Team shall be bound by the election rules and procedures approved by the University Court. Any breaches of these rules shall be arbitrated by the Students' Association Rectorial Elections Committee (the Elections Committee) in accordance with these rules.

##### **Guiding principles**

Candidates and their Campaign Team agree to adhere to the following guiding principles, which will underpin the election:

- elections should be free and fair;
- campaigning should be positive and respectful;
- campaigns should be safe;
- campaigns should not be intrusive;
- and rule breaches should be dealt with by corrective rather than punitive measures.

The Chief Legal Officer will act as the Returning Officer for the election.

##### **Conduct of Campaigns**

Campaigning is understood as any public activity by a candidate relating to the elections, which is aimed at persuading someone to vote one way or another. The exact enforcement of this definition lies with the Elections Committee.

Campaign Teams are bound by the same set of rules as candidates. Consequently, candidates will be held accountable under the rules for the actions of their Campaign Team. For the avoidance of doubt the Campaign Manager shall also be responsible for and held accountable for the action of the Campaign Team or any member thereof.

1. There will be no attempt to restrict campaigning in advance of the formal campaign period.
2. There will be no attempt to limit the kinds of media or campaign material that may be used in campaigning, but candidates must be aware that there may be legal constraints on use of flyers and other forms of publicity and that they alone

will be responsible for any legal penalties.

3. There will be no attempt to prevent external endorsement of candidates.
4. Candidates and their Campaign Teams are responsible for attention to health and safety considerations. They must not place themselves or others in jeopardy.
5. Candidates must not break the law or act in such a way that risks bringing the University into disrepute.
6. Candidates and their campaign teams must obtain permission from the warden, School Administrator or manager of any University building before posting or placing campaign materials in a University building. They must also obtain permission to campaign within a University building. No Students' Association or Athletic Union resource may be used to support a campaign.
7. All campaign materials (banners, posters, etc.) must be taken down within 48 hours of close of voting.
8. Up to £350 may be expended on each election campaign. This includes all publicity expenses. The University acting through the Elections Committee will reimburse expenditure up to this limit to the account of one nominated individual per candidate upon submission of valid receipts up to the close of voting. Candidates must keep all receipts and a detailed record of expenses for submission to the Court Office. Candidates who spend more than £350 (excluding a candidate's personal travel and subsistence costs) may be disqualified.
9. No candidate is permitted to supply free or discounted alcoholic drinks or illegal substances for students or staff in the course of the campaign
10. Candidates understand that a breach of this pledge or of the election rules may result in the disqualification of a candidate.

Candidate's signature

Date

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