

Schedule 3 Regulations

Brought to TCDSU Council as a Report by Emma Gallagher, Chair of the Electoral Commission, on behalf of the entire Electoral Commission

Many thanks to all involved in the writing of Schedule 3 for the 2022/23 Elections, including all those who gave feedback to the Electoral Commission or attended the Schedule 3 Town Hall, as well as every member of the Electoral Commission for their hard work involved in the creation of this document.

I also thank and acknowledge the work of previous Electoral Commissions and Education Officers, who lay the groundwork and provided guidance on the structuring of Schedule 3

Best of luck to all involved in the upcoming elections.

Emma Gallagher

Schedule 3: Election regulations 2022/2023

Definitions:

The Electoral Commission: Is the Union Body responsible for running, monitoring and returning the results of all TCDSU elections and referenda. They are also responsible for:

- Managing schedule 3 of the TCDSU Constitution
- Investigating potential breaches of election regulations
- Interpreting the TCDSU Constitution
- Organising meetings of TCDSU Council

Junior Dean: The Junior Dean is responsible for enquiring into alleged breaches of discipline by a student and for taking further action in accordance with College regulations and statutes.

The Oversight Commission: is the Union Body responsible for investigating potential breaches of or persistent inaction upon: TCDSU policy, mandate and constitutional obligations. They are also responsible for:

- Managing schedules 4 and 10 of the TCDSU Constitution
- Interpreting schedule 4 of the TCDSU Constitution, on request from any Union Member.
- Assisting the Electoral Commission in the running and organising of TCDSU Council.

Secretary of the Electoral Commission: is the current TCDSU Education Officer.

Off-campus TCD locations: Off campus locations are any building owned or used by TCD that is not on main campus

Campaigning is allowed in the following off campus locations: St James' Hospital, D'Olier Street, TBSI and Trinity Halls

Teach A Sé (House 6): Located in front square – the TCDSU offices can be located on the ground and first floors.

TBSI: Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, located on Pearse Street.

Central Societies Committee : The C.S.C. acts as the coordinating body to promote the interests of student societies and to act as their representative within Trinity.

JCR: The Trinity Hall Junior Common Room (JCR) acts to create a vibrant atmosphere within the Trinity Hall Campus through event organisation and the provision of student-directed services as well as representing Trinity Hall residents' needs within College, Halls & the Rathmines area.

Trinity Sport Union is the administrative body for sports clubs in Trinity.

DU Publications: Trinity Publications operates as the overall coordinating body for College student publications.*

* This excludes the *University Times*.

Hustings: a meeting at which election candidates address or take questions from potential voters.

TCDSU Constitution: lays out the regulations for the governance of TCDSU. It can be found at the following link: <https://www.tcdsu.org/your-union/constitution>

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

1.1 THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION (EC):

- a. The Electoral Commission shall ensure the fair running of all elections as defined in Chapter 7 of the TCDSU Constitution.
- b. The Electoral Commission shall enforce these regulations.
- c. The Electoral Commission shall investigate any complaint made against any candidate.
- d. The Electoral Commission decision shall be final in all matters regarding these regulations, unless council votes to overturn the decisions.
- e. If any individual disagrees with a decision from the EC, they are welcome to appeal the decision through an Emergency Meeting of Council

1.2 CONSTITUTION:

- a. All elections will be conducted in accordance with the Trinity College Dublin Students' Union (TCDSU) constitution.
- b. Breaching these regulations may result in candidates being struck from the ballot.
- c. In the case of Sabbatical elections this is provided for in section 7.4.2 of the TCDSU constitution.
- d. Per Chapter 10 of the TCDSU Constitution, the elections for the Editor of the University Times shall be coordinated alongside Sabbatical Officer elections

1.3 COLLEGE REGULATIONS:

- a. Candidates are subject to college regulations as set out in the 2022-23 college calendar.
- b. This includes, but is not limited to, regulations governing posters, flyering, content of election material, and personal conduct.
- c. Candidates must comply with the college dignity and respect policy, and any serious breach of this policy will be treated with the utmost seriousness and raised with the College's Junior Dean, where appropriate.
- d. Other serious breaches of college regulations will be reported to the relevant college authorities where appropriate.
- e. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the Electoral Commission will provide additional guidelines to ensure the safe and responsible running of the Campaigns and Elections.

1.4 COVID REGULATIONS:

- a. All candidates will be expected to adhere to all government COVID-19 restrictions which are in place at the time of campaigning.
- b. Candidates are encouraged to campaign in a hybrid format (online & in-person).
- c. Candidates and campaign teams are encouraged to practise social distancing when campaigning indoors.
- d. In the event of positive COVID- 19 cases arising within campaign teams, the EC must be notified of this and reserve the right to move campaigning in some or all races exclusively online if required.
- e. Failure to report such positive COVID-19 cases may result in a candidate receiving a minor strike, at the discretion of the EC.

2. SABBATICAL ELECTIONS & REFERENDA:

2.1 SPONSORSHIP:

- a. Candidates may not receive sponsorship from any internal or external organisation*.
- b. Sponsorship by an individual acting in a position of authority in any internal or external organisation, or by an individual working with any internal or external organisation may be considered sponsorship by that organisation.
- c. Sponsorship includes participation with campaigning by any individual acting in their capacity with any internal or external organisation.
- d. Sponsorship can take the form of, but is not limited to, financial aid or provision of resources and/or advertising.

* These may include, but are not limited to: societies, sports clubs or student groups whose membership is based within or outside of TCD, political parties, schools or departments within TCD, companies and incorporated entities .

2.2 COLLEGE SOCIETIES

- a. Candidates may not solicit or accept endorsement from any college society.
- b. Candidates and campaign managers may not canvass at society events.
- c. If a candidate wishes to attend a society event during campaigning hours, the EC must be made aware of this 48 hours in advance.
- d. If a candidate already fulfils a committee role in a society, the EC must be made aware of this role before the Campaign period begins. Candidates are entitled to continue working in committee roles which they fulfilled prior to the start of the campaign period.

2.3 CANDIDATES & CAMPAIGN TEAMS:

- a. Any person who campaigns on a candidate's behalf or contributes to a candidate's election campaign is considered to be a member of that candidate's campaign team.
- b. Any person campaigning for a candidate in-person must be wearing that candidate's campaign T-shirt or be carrying the candidate's chosen campaign materials, with the exception of campaigning taking place in Trinity Hall.
- c. All candidates and campaign team members must be current Members of the Students Union of Trinity College, Dublin.

- d. Exceptions to 2.2.c may be granted at the discretion of the Electoral Commission and only where no other candidate is disadvantaged by the decision.
- e. Each candidate must nominate a campaign manager, which may be the candidate themselves. This person will be the first point of contact for the Electoral Commission and must be available to communicate with the Electoral Commission where necessary.
- f. The campaign manager will be responsible for returning any confiscated material to the Electoral Commission in a timely manner.
- g. These regulations apply to a candidate's campaign team as well as the candidate themselves - it is the duty of the candidate to inform their campaign team of these regulations.
- h. Where the candidate believes that a strike has been received due to the actions of a bad faith actor or external supporter not a part of the campaign team they may provide evidence to the EC who may then review the strike.
- i. Candidates are responsible for the actions of their campaign team and will be held accountable for them by the Electoral Commission.
- h. Each member of a candidate's campaign team must be present in an online group chat, of which one voting member of the EC must also be added.
- i. In the case of Sabbatical Elections, candidates may not be members of any campaign team other than their own.
- j. Voting members of the Electoral Commission and members of the Oversight Commission may not be part of any election campaign team and must be neutral in dealing with all candidates.
- k. Sabbatical Officers and the incumbent UT Editor may not be part of any sabbatical election campaign team, except in the instance where they themselves are candidates. In the case of a referendum, Sabbatical Officers may only be part of a campaign team if their role is implicated, as in accordance with section 7.5.2 of the TCDSU constitution.
- l. Officers of the executive of any organisation to which the Union has a memorandum of agreement may not be part of any campaign team and must be neutral in dealing with all candidates, unless they themselves are candidates.

2.4 ELECTION BRIEFING:

- a. Nominees and campaign managers must attend a briefing on the election regulations as organised by the Electoral Commission.
- b. At this briefing, nominees will be asked to sign an agreement to abide by the election regulations as laid down in Schedule 3 of the TCDSU Constitution.
- c. Failure to attend or sign this agreement will be considered a withdrawal of nomination.
- d. If a candidate and their campaign manager are unable to attend the election briefing, they must arrange to meet with the Chair and Secretary of the Electoral Commission within one working day of the announcement of nominated candidates.
- e. The Electoral Commission shall publish general, unbiased and simplified election regulations on the TCDSU website ahead of any and all campaign periods.
- f. Every sabbatical officer and the University Times Editor will, insofar as is practicable, make themselves available for at least one meeting with any candidate who requests.
- g. Requests for such meetings must be made by email to the Officers' TCDSU email address.
- h. Any officer of TCDSU, or any organisation to which the Union has a memorandum of agreement who offers advice or consultation to a candidate on any matter relevant to their duties or their work with TCDSU should report to the EC the nature of that advice or consultation, who shall then decide if a briefing of a similar nature must be made to other

candidates in the race. Failure of the nature of this advice or consultation being reported to the Electoral Commission shall be considered a breach of these regulations.

- i. A secondary 'check in' meeting will be held with the Electoral Commission, TCDSU Welfare Officer (or in the case of the Welfare Officer rerunning for a Sabbatical position, a representative shall be nominated on their behalf by the Electoral Commission) and all candidates at some point during the election period. The objective of this meeting is to address any potential issues or concerns candidates may have with the running of the campaign period and their personal wellbeing.

2.5 CAMPAIGNING:

2.5.1 CAMPAIGN PERIOD:

- a. Campaigning will begin at 16:00 on Monday 20th February 2023 , with Dining Hall Hustings.
- b. Campaigning will end at 16:00 on Thursday 2nd March 2023, with the return of results that evening.

2.5.2 GENERAL SABBATICAL CAMPAIGN RULES:

- a. Campaign hours will be 10:00 to 16:00 each day of the election period, except where the following exemptions apply:
- b. Outside of these hours, campaigning may take place at EC approved hustings and EC approved Ents candidate events.
- c. Campaigning may also take place at Trinity Hall from 18:00 to 21:00 during the election period except for an evening where a hustings is taking place..
- d. - Campaigning, both online and in-person, is prohibited on weekends, commencing 16:00 Friday and ending 10:00 Monday.
- e. There shall be no campaigning before the commencement of the campaign period. Any campaigning before this time will be considered a serious offence and may result in a candidate being struck off the ballot.
- f. Campaigning between the times of 13:00 - 14:00 each day of the election period is prohibited, with the exception of campaigning in off-campus TCD locations. If a candidate elects to campaign off-campus during this time period they are obliged to take a one-hour break during the time period of 11:00am-3:00pm that day, and must inform the EC of this *at least* an hour in advance of taking the break.

2.6 ONLINE PRESENCE:

- a. Any online web presence controlled or generated by a candidate, any person acting as part of a candidate's campaign team as defined in section 2.2 a are subject to these regulations:
 - The Electoral Commission must be afforded joint control of any campaign social media accounts.

- Any campaign group must be ‘opt-in’ – which is to say, no individual may be added to a campaign group without their express permission.
 - Campaign groups are to be set to secret and the Electoral Commission will not interfere with their operation, bar the restrictions outlined above. These groups must be made closed, non-viewable on the timelines of non-members and used for the sole purpose of coordinating campaign teams.
 - Any social media pages or accounts or any other use of social media bar private campaign groups must be brought to the attention of the Electoral Commission.
 - Campaign social media pages must not be pre-existing social media pages, and instead, created for the sole purpose of this campaign period.
 - Campaign pages may not initiate direct conversation with any individual or account for campaigning purposes.
 - Posting in groups – such as class group chats or society pages – is forbidden.
 - Spending money on online campaigns is strictly prohibited.
 - Campaign social media accounts are limited to the same social media platforms that are used by TCDSU. Candidates may request that the Electoral Commission grant an exemption to this provision. If such an exemption is granted, it will be granted to all candidates.
- b. No online presence may mimic the look or feel of an online voting system.
 - c. Candidates will have the opportunity to post a video profile (maximum 90 seconds) on TCDSU’s instagram page. In this video profile, the candidate will have the opportunity to outline their manifesto and link to their campaign social media accounts.
 - d. These videos will be posted to the TCDSU instagram account in reverse constitutional order, and alphabetically by surname by the communications and marketing officer following the commencement of the sabbatical election period.
 - e. Candidates must provide a fully accurate transcript of the video for the purpose of captioning upon submission of the video by the deadline of submission of campaign materials. If the candidate fails to provide such a transcript, the video will not be posted.

2.7 DISTRIBUTION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIAL:

- a. Printed campaign material (such as flyers, manifestos, business cards etc) may only be handed directly to students. Campaign materials delivered by any other method will be confiscated by the Electoral Commission, and returned at the end of the campaign period.
- b. Upon breaches of 2.6.a the Electoral Commission reserves the right to impose further sanctions in accordance with section 4 of this schedule.

2.8 STALLS:

- a. Stalls may be set up in the Hamilton, Trinity Business School and Arts Building concourses and approved TCD off-campus locations during the approved campaign hours.
- b. The positions of these stalls will be allocated by lottery.
- c. The location, size and layout of these stalls will be determined by the electoral commission.
- d. There may only be one stall per candidate at any given time.
- e. Stalls may not be used for any other purpose at the same time.
- f. Stalls may not be left unattended by the candidate or their campaign team.
- g. Candidates and their campaign teams are responsible for cleaning their stall and the area around it.

- h. A space will be provided for candidates to hold materials in Teach a Sé during the compulsory break in campaigning, if necessary.

2.9 CAMPAIGN AREA:

2.9.1 THE ONLINE CAMPAIGN AREA:

- a. The online campaign area is defined as being the candidate's official campaign social media pages, which the Electoral Commission will be afforded joint control of, as per section 2.6.a of this document.
- b. This online campaign area does **not** include a candidate's personal social media pages or the social media pages of any member of that candidate's campaign team.
- c. Reposting of campaign materials by any member of the Union using the built-in reposting functions of social media (for example – retweeting, quote retweeting, sharing a post to a story) is permitted.
- d. However, reuploading (for example, posting of screenshots) or direct uploading of campaign materials by any member of the Union is considered to be equivalent to having multiple campaign platforms and is as such, not permitted.

2.9.2 THE “IN-PERSON” CAMPAIGN AREA:

- a. Campaigning may only be conducted in previously approved areas, as defined above.
- b. Campaigning may also be conducted in Trinity Hall residences from 18:00 until 21:00 per the regulations outlined in Section 2.5.2.
- c. Candidates running in the Ents race may request campaigning to be allowed at a venue/event, which they run, subject to the approval of the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 4.6
- d. Campaigning is not permitted at any official TCDSU, CSC, JCR or TSU events.
- e. The Electoral Commission shall decide what areas are approved campaign areas and candidates will be informed before campaigning begins.
- f. Campaign teams may not wear approved campaign clothing outside of the above approved areas and times, except for the candidate and their campaign manager, who are unrestricted in the times and locations that they may wear campaign clothing.
- g. No campaign material should be visible from the windows of any offices or rooms in approved campaign areas.

2.10 STUNTS:

- a. A stunt is defined as any action that is performed as part of a campaign that is not already covered in these regulations.

- b. All stunts must comply with these regulations.
- c. Stunts must be approved by the Electoral Commission in advance and receipts for all materials must be presented in advance. These will be discussed in the strictest confidence. The Electoral Commission must be given a minimum of 24 hours' notice to approve or reject a stunt. All communication to the Electoral Commission in this regard must be through email to the chair

2.11. POLLING AREA:

- a. The polling area is the part of any building or area being used by the Electoral Commission for polling.
- b. The limits of the polling area are defined by the Electoral Commission.
- c. There may be no campaigning in any polling area or in line of sight of any person partaking in voting. This includes but is not limited to the displaying of campaign material.
- d. The Electoral Commission maintains full discretion on what activity is allowed in any polling area.

2.12. GIFTS:

- a. Members of a campaign team may not give any form of gift or anything which may be construed as a gift to students with the intent of swaying their vote, as determined by the Electoral Commission.

2.13. ELECTRONIC MAILING LISTS:

- a. An electronic mailing list is defined as: Any collection of names and/or e-mail addresses and/or telephone numbers used by an individual or organisation to send material to multiple recipients.
- b. The use of any unsolicited electronic communication is forbidden using electronic mailing lists.
- c. The use of Club, Society, DU Publications, TCDSU,, JCR or college-designed electronic mailing lists is forbidden.
- d. Use of any of the above shall be considered a serious offence and may lead to the disqualification of a candidate.

2.14 HUSTINGS:

- a. All organisers of Hustings must liaise with the chair of the Electoral Commission before permission to host a Hustings will be granted. Permission to host a Hustings must be sought by Friday, 3 February 2023.
- b. Permission to host a Hustings will be granted at the discretion of the Electoral Commission.
- c. Venue locations must be organised by those seeking approval to host a Hustings.

3. CAMPAIGN MATERIALS: 3.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- a. Each candidate will be allowed a maximum of 200 manifestos or 450 flyers or 500 business cards.
- b. Only one form of paper item is allowed (not including posters).
- c. Printed material may be in any available colour scheme except EC purple or SU blue. Candidates must order paper items through the Electoral Commission. Candidates must review their campaign materials prior to the materials deadline to ensure accessibility requirements are met. This is to be completed with input from the Communication & Marketing Officer or Administration Officer.
- d. Should candidates require support with the creation of campaign materials, they may consult the Communication & Marketing Officer or Administration Officer. A disclaimer will be posted on said materials should significant assistance be provided.
- e. The deadline for submission of campaign materials shall be 17:00, Friday 10 February 2023.

3.2. MANIFESTOS:

- a. Manifestos must be A4 size.
- b. Only one design is permitted per candidate.
- c. Manifestos must be uploaded to a centralised online platform, provided by the SU (regardless of whether the candidate chooses to print paper manifestos).

3.3. FLYERS AND BUSINESS CARDS:

- a. Flyers must be a maximum size of A6, and business cards must be standard card size.
- b. Candidates may have multiple flyer or business card designs.

3.4 POSTERS:

- a. Posters must be A3 size.
- b. There will be a maximum of 10 posters per candidate.
- c. Posters may be in any available colour scheme except EC purple or SU blue.
- d. There is only one design permitted per candidate.
- e. Posters may only be affixed to SU notice boards.
- f. There may only be one poster per candidate per notice board.
- g. Posters may not be placed over other legitimate posters.
- h. Candidates or their campaign teams may not remove any poster from these notice boards unless it is a campaign poster of that candidate.
- i. Posters which fail to comply with the election regulations or college regulations will be removed and may incur a penalty decided by the Electoral Commission in accordance with Section 4.

3.5. CAMPAIGN T-SHIRTS:

- a. There will be a maximum of 10 campaign t-shirts per candidate.
- b. T-shirts may be in any available colour scheme except EC purple or SU blue.
- c. T-shirts must be stamped or otherwise marked by the Electoral Commission before being used for campaigning.
- d. The stamp or marking must be shown to any member of the Electoral Commission upon request.
- e. T-shirt designs must be submitted to the Electoral Commission by the materials deadline.

- f. A candidate and their campaign manager shall be responsible for returning any campaign t-shirts to the Electoral Commission in a timely manner, should it be requested. Failure to do so may result in further sanctions being imposed by the Electoral Commission.

3.6 ORDERING:

- a. Ordering of posters, manifestos, flyers, business cards and shirts must be done through the Electoral Commission.
- b. The Electoral Commission shall source printers to be used for all candidates.
- c. No candidate will be permitted to use any printed campaign materials, unless they are obtained through the Electoral Commission.
- d. T-shirt designs may be ordered from the date that sabbatical election nominations are opened, but they **must** be ordered through the Electoral Commission.
- e. All material submitted to the Electoral Commission, and will be treated with the strictest Confidence.
- f. For the purpose of conducting an accessibility check on campaign materials, any submitted materials will also be shared, in the strictest confidence, with the TCDSU Communications & Marketing Officer and/or the TCDSU administrative officer.
- g. Candidates will be issued with their approved campaign materials in time for the beginning of the campaign period, provided that it has been submitted by the materials deadline of February 10 2023, and has been approved by the Communications & Marketing Officer as being accessible.

3.7 PHOTOCOPIED & HANDMADE MATERIAL:

- a. The use of any campaign materials not mentioned in sections 3.2 - 3.5 must be discussed with and approved by the Electoral Commission in advance of the campaign period. If any further campaign materials are permitted at the request of any candidate, they will be permitted for all candidates.
- b. Candidates who do not wish to issue printed material may use written or black and white photocopied materials.
- c. Candidates may use hand-made materials such as banners, clothing, etc. instead of ordering campaign t-shirts.
- d. All photocopied or handmade materials must be stamped and approved by the Electoral Commission.
- e. Receipts must be provided in full before the use of these materials is granted.

3.8 UNSANCTIONED CAMPAIGN MATERIAL:

- a. Any unsanctioned campaign material will be confiscated by the Electoral Commission and returned to the candidate after the campaign period.
- b. The use of unsanctioned campaign materials will be considered a serious offence.
- c. Stickers are not permitted.
- d. Candidates may only use campaign materials as approved by the Electoral Commission.

4. BREACH OF REGULATIONS, SPENDING AND CONDUCT:

4.1 DEPOSIT:

- a. Sabbatical candidates must deposit €20 with the Electoral Commission by 17:00 on Friday, February 3 2023, at which time all registered candidates will be announced on the steps of House 6 by the secretary of the Electoral Commission, and are required along with their campaign manager to attend a short briefing meeting.
- b. Candidates may be reimbursed at the end of the election period should the value of their deposit not be spent. Any monies not claimed by candidates will be given to a charity chosen by the Electoral Commission.

4.2 BREACH OF REGULATIONS:

- a. Any alleged breaching of the regulations contained within this document will require the candidate to report to the daily meeting of the Electoral Commission, where sanctions may be issued.
- b. A breach of these election regulations in letter or in spirit will require the candidate and their campaign manager to formally agree to the acknowledgement of the breach, and may result in the confiscation of campaign material.
- c. Failure to report to these meetings or failure to formally acknowledge a breach will result in the candidate being removed from the ballot.
- d. All decisions with regard to the amount of confiscated materials and/or the severity of repercussions remain at the discretion of the Electoral Commission.

4.3 MATERIALS:

- a. If candidates breach these election regulations in letter or in spirit, they may have election material confiscated for a duration decided by the Electoral Commission.
- b. The Electoral Commission may confiscate any material as defined in Section 3 of these regulations, as well as any material used in authorised or unauthorised stunts.
- c. The type and quantity of materials confiscated by the Electoral Commission shall be determined by the Electoral Commission.
- d. The Electoral Commission shall have the discretion to vary the type and the quantity of the material which is confiscated.
- e. The Electoral Commission shall have the discretion to vary the duration of time for which material will remain confiscated.
- f. A candidate may not replace any confiscated material by purchasing new material of the same type, irrespective of whether the spending limit has been reached or not, for the duration of the confiscated period.
- g. All confiscated material will be made available to the candidate within one week following the end of the campaign period, if they have not already been returned by that date.

4.4 STRIKES:

- a. If a candidate breaches these election regulations in letter or in spirit then they are liable to receive a strike.
- b. The evidence provided for the breach of these regulations is at the discretion of the Electoral Commission.
- c. The value of a strike shall be determined by the Electoral Commission.
- d. The Electoral Commission shall have discretion to vary these strikes.

- e. There shall be parameters on repercussions for different kinds of strikes or breaches of election regulations - these parameters shall be decided by the Electoral Commission and made known to candidates and their campaign managers.
- f. Strikes may be given in conjunction with confiscated materials.
- g. If a candidate receives 3 minor strikes they will be struck off the ballot. Similarly, if a candidate receives two major strikes a decision will be made at the discretion of the Electoral Commission as to whether the candidate will remain on the ballot. Should the candidate remain on the ballot, the next strike received - major or minor - will result in their being struck off the ballot.
- h. Breaches that may result in a strike include all those mentioned in schedule three with the exception of 4.5.1.f and 4.7.a - which will result in the candidate immediately being struck off the ballot.
- i. In the case where a candidate is at risk of being struck off the ballot, a meeting will be convened by the Electoral Commission with the candidate and their campaign manager. A member of the Trinity College Law School and the Administrative Officer of TCDSU may be invited to attend.

4.5 SPENDING:

4.5.1 SABBATICAL ELECTIONS:

- a. Campaign expenditure on materials or clothing may not exceed €200. An additional €60 is available to be spent on stunts only. This additional expenditure does not preclude the use of some or all of the standard limit on stunts.
- b. Expenditure is limited to:
 - Approved campaign materials (as in section 3 of these regulations).
 - Approved stunts.
- c. Receipts for any campaign expenditure must be provided to the Electoral Commission.
- d. Receipts must be presented before the use of any campaign material or the performing of any Stunts.
- e. The validity of any receipt can be investigated by the Electoral Commission. Contact details for the provider of any receipt must be provided on request to the Electoral Commission.
- f. Falsifying evidence of any campaign expenditure or failing to provide evidence of expenditure is a serious offence and will result in a candidate being struck off the ballot.

4.5.2 REFERENDA:

- a. Campaign expenditure on materials or clothing may not exceed €100. An additional €40 is available to be spent on stunts only. This additional expenditure does not preclude the use of some or all of the standard limit on stunts.
- b. Expenditure is limited to:
 - Approved campaign materials (as in section 3 of these regulations).
 - Approved stunts.
- c. Receipts for any campaign expenditure must be provided to the Electoral Commission.

- d. Receipts must be presented before the use of any campaign material or the performing of any stunts.
- e. The validity of any receipt can be investigated by the Electoral Commission. Contact details for the provider of any receipt must be provided on request to the Electoral Commission.
- f. Falsifying evidence of any campaign expenditure or failing to provide evidence of expenditure is a serious offence and will result in a candidate being struck off the ballot.
- g. Any money spent by TCDSU for the purchase of campaign materials, or stunts, must be repaid by the candidate after the campaign period, irrespective of their election outcome
- h. In the case where a candidate is unable to afford such repayments, they will be directed to the TCDSU Welfare & Equality Officer and TCDSU Education Officer in an attempt to come to a suitable alternative.

4.6 ENTS & ACCESSIBILITY:

- a. Ents candidates may run either one or two events. In the case where they decide to run a second event, one of the events must be non-alcoholic.
- b. Where appropriate, all Ents events should be fully accessible. It is advised that Ents candidates consult with the TCDSU Officer for Students with Disabilities, a representative nominated on their behalf by the Electoral Commission or the College Disability service in relation to accessible events.
- c. Events must be approved by the Electoral Commission in advance and receipts for all materials must be presented in advance. These will be discussed in the strictest confidence. The Electoral Commission must be given a minimum of 24 hours' notice to approve or reject an Ents candidate event. All communication to the Electoral Commission in this regard must be through email to the chair or secretary.
- d. All Ents candidates must complete an event management plan for the event which should include details of the event, as well as an accessibility checklist.
 - This event management plan must be submitted to the Electoral Commission a minimum of 24 hours before the event.
 - This event management plan, and its associated accessibility checklist will be developed in consultation with the current TCDSU Entertainments Officer, and Officer for Students with Disabilities, or nominated representatives for the roles, and will be made available to Ents candidates following the closure of nominations and announcement of candidates.

4.7 CONDUCT:

- a. Verbal, physical, online or other forms of attack or intimidation used against other candidates, members of the Electoral Commission or any student or staff member will be considered a serious offence by the Electoral Commission and will result in a candidate's name being immediately struck off the ballot.
- b. Candidates are expected to behave in a manner that does not bring Trinity College or TCDSU into disrepute.
- c. The Electoral Commission may require candidates or members of their campaign team to cooperate with investigations into complaints or potential breaches of schedule 3. This may

include asking candidates or campaign team members to attend meetings with the Electoral Commission.

- d. The nomination period will take place from Monday, 23 January 2023 at 10:00 until Friday, 3 February 2023 at 17:00 - after which candidates will be announced on the steps of House 6, and on TCDSU social media.

5. COUNTING:

5.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- a. Elections will be counted as laid out in 7.2.2 of the TCDSU Constitution.
- b. An online ballot will be considered equivalent to a paper ballot.
- c. If there is belief of electoral fraud or misconduct within the voting process, evidence may be brought before the Electoral Commission

5.2 PROCEDURE FOR RECOUNT:

- a. Candidates or campaign managers may call for a manual recount if that candidate has lost by 10% or less of the valid poll to the nearest candidate.