

National Council Network Representatives Election Policy

Introduction

This document is drafted in accordance with the Articles of Association (Articles) of the Football Supporters' Association (The FSA) that allow for representatives from the Association's Networks to be elected to the National Council.

The purpose of the Election Policy is to ensure that the Association's FSA National Council (National Council) elections by the Association's Network Groups are conducted in a democratic manner.

Elected representatives will serve for a term of two years. In the event of resignations and club relegations or promotions, mid-term elections will be called unless this occurs within six months of the normal election date.

Network representative seat allocation on the National Council is as follows:

Premier League Network	-	3 seats
Championship Network	-	3 seats
EFL Leagues 1 & 2 Network	-	3 seats
National Game Network	-	3 seats
Community Owned Clubs Network	-	3 seats
Fans for Diversity Network	-	3 seats

Definitions

This document uses several terms which are defined in the Association Articles

Election Management

1. The Returning Officer will be the Association CEO, supported by the Secretary and designated members of staff, appointed by the CEO as necessary.

Timetable

2. The election will take place at the last Network Meeting held before the Association's AGM.
 - 2.1 The number of vacancies for each Network will be confirmed by the Secretary.
 - 2.2 The Secretary will arrange for the nomination forms to be circulated to the Network members.

Nominations and Eligibility

3. Any person wishing to be a candidate for election to the National Council must be a full member of an Affiliate Member organisation in the relevant network but cannot be from an Affiliate organisation which is already representing that Network on the National Council in a seat which is not up for election.
4. The exception to the above being the Fans for Diversity Network and Women's Game Network, which are open to both Affiliate and Associate members of the Association.
5. The Returning Officer and Secretary will verify that nominations are valid.
 - 5.1 Nominations can be made at any time from the issue of the nomination form up until the notified close of nominations.
 - 5.2 Nomination forms must be submitted in the name of a senior official of the Affiliate organisation.
 - 5.3 Only candidates who are full members of an Affiliate organisation which itself is already a member of the Association at the point of opening of nominations may stand. New Association members will not be entitled to vote if joining the Association after the issue of the nomination forms up until the notified close of elections.
 - 5.4 It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that their nomination is valid and submitted before the stated deadline. The Secretary will acknowledge receipt of all nominations.

- 5.5 Candidates must submit a statement in support of their nomination of no more than 300 words and may also submit a photograph for publication with their statement. Nominations submitted without a statement will be deemed incomplete.
- 5.6 Any statements which are deemed by the Returning Officer to not conform to the Values of the Association as set out in the Articles will have their nomination invalidated.
- 5.7 By submitting a nomination, candidates will be deemed to have read and accepted this Election Policy and rules adopted by the Association and to have agreed to be bound by them. Specifically, candidates are self-certifying that they have read the Code of Conduct for FSA National Council Members and agree to be bound by it.
- 5.8 Any decision by the Returning Officer to not accept a nomination due to it being incomplete should be notified to the candidate as soon as possible in order that the situation may be rectified.
- 5.9 The Secretary will only confirm the number and names of nominations once the close of the nominating period has passed.

Statements and Campaigning

6. Campaigning will be restricted to the statements submitted by the candidates and hustings will not be held.
7. During the election neither the Returning Officer, Secretary nor the Network Managers may provide advice to voting members as to the suitability of any candidate nor issue any voting advice to network members collectively.

Voting & Result

8. Voting will normally be conducted at the last meeting of the Network held before the Association's AGM, unless otherwise agreed and approved by the Returning Officer.
9. If there are more candidates than places available on the National Council, the Secretary will issue ballot papers and copies of

candidates' statements to Affiliate Members of the Networks alongside details of the meeting where the result will be announced.

- 9.1 Each Affiliate Member organisation of the Network will be issued with one ballot paper. Multiple votes from the same organisation will not be accepted. If multiple ballots are received from the same Affiliate, then neither will be accepted.
 - 9.2 Votes may be submitted by electronic means up to the date and time stated on the ballot paper for those unable to attend and vote in the meeting. The count will be made at the Network meeting, and the result announced at the Network meeting.
 - 9.3 Affiliates will be asked to vote for up to one candidate per available seat.
 - 9.4 The highest placed candidates in terms of total votes as equal to number of places available for election will be deemed elected.
 - 9.5 Those candidates who receive the highest number of votes will serve the longest terms in situations where there are seats available with differing term lengths.
 - 9.6 If, after all votes have been counted, two or more candidates are tied for any vacancy, lots will be drawn to determine who is elected.
10. If there are as many or fewer candidates than there are places, an affirmative ballot will be held at the Network meeting. Each successfully nominated candidate will be put before the Network meeting for the affirmative ballot. Any candidate not receiving the support of more than half of those present in person and by proxy will be deemed to have not been elected.
11. The result will be communicated to members on the Association's website, the Network email loops, and at the AGM.