

Party Support Handbook

The Rule Book - Section T
Co-operative Party Youth

Introduction

1. These Rules do not replace the registered Rules of Co-operative Party Ltd and shall at all times be consistent with the registered Rules. In the event of any inconsistency, the registered Rules of the Co-operative Party Ltd shall apply.

Name

2. Co-operative Party Youth

Objects

3. To support the NEC of the Co-operative Party in the fulfilment of its objectives, notably to secure direct Co-operative representation in Parliament, the European Parliament, Scottish Parliament or National Assembly for Wales, as appropriate in accordance with the decisions of the NEC to promote the political policy of the Co-operative Party, with a view to the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth.
4. To recruit young members into the Co-operative Party, support, educate and develop them and also to encourage their participation in other Co-operative Party structures and the wider co-operative movement.

Eligibility

5. Co-operative Party Youth shall consist of all Co-operative party members aged 30 or under.

Constitution of Co-operative Party Youth

6. Co-operative Party Youth shall be governed by a Council, known as the 'National Youth Committee' (NYC) consisting of:
 - One representative from each of the English Regions plus 1 each for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
 - The Youth Member of the NEC.

The regional representatives will be elected for a term of two years in a ballot incorporating all woman shortlists in four randomly selected regions/nations.

7. All such representatives shall be individual members of the Co-operative Party.
8. If a representative ceases to be a member of the Co-operative Party a new member shall be elected/co-opted.

If the NEC member ceases to be a member of that body, the NEC shall be asked to nominate another member to sit on the NYC until a new NEC Youth Representative is elected.



Affiliations

9. Society Party Councils, Student Labour Clubs and Local Young Labour Groups may affiliate to Co-operative Party Youth and shall pay an affiliation fee to do so.
10. Members of Co-operative Party Youth are primarily members of a Society/Voluntary Party and must adhere to the membership rules of the Co-operative Party.

Officers, Representatives and Candidates

11. The Officers of Co-operative Party Youth and the NYC shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer/Secretary and the NEC member. With the exception of the NEC member, they shall remain in office for one year and be eligible for re-election.

Auditor

12. An auditor shall be appointed by to audit the accounts which shall be submitted to the NEC of the Co-operative Party and to the annual general meeting of Co-operative Party Youth.

Meetings

13. The Co-operative Party Youth Committee shall hold at least four meetings a year including an annual general meeting, at such times as may be decided by the respective members.
14. Party meetings and events shall be conducted in a friendly and orderly manner and organised in such a way as to maximise participation for members and so that no member shall be precluded from attendance because they cannot gain access to the meeting place for any reason. Harassment or intimidation of any member is unacceptable, as is any form of discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, colour, nationality, ethnic, national or social origins, religion or disability.

Funds

15. The funds of Co-operative Party Youth are to be provided by:
 - A grant on behalf of Co-operative Group Society Party Councils
 - Affiliation fees from Independent Society Party Councils
 - Money raising efforts approved by the Committee
 - Individual membership subscriptions in the first year of Party membership.
 - Other sources as deemed appropriate by a majority of the NYC

Funding arrangements shall be reviewed by the NYC on at least an annual basis.

National Organisation

16. Co-operative Party Youth shall register with the national Co-operative Party and accept the policy as agreed upon and as amended from time to time by the Annual Co-operative Party Conference and by the NEC and shall operate such regulations as may be approved or issued by the NEC of the Party, provided that any regulation



issued as a general instruction to Parties shall be subject to confirmation by the Annual Conference of the Party. No Party organisation shall be considered registered until it has its constitution endorsed by the NEC.

17. To uphold and enforce the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders of the Party, the NEC may take any action it deems necessary for such purpose, including disbanding, suspension or otherwise disciplining any Party organisation; in furtherance of such duties it shall have the powers to suspend, expel or take other administrative disciplinary action against individual members of the Party subject to the provisions of the Disciplinary Rules set out in the National Rules.
18. The NEC shall have the power to adjudicate in disputes that may arise at any level of the Party including between affiliated and other Party organisations (inc Co-operative Party youth); between Party organisations and individuals in those organisations; and in disputes that occur between individual members within the Party's organisations. Where the Rules do not meet the particular circumstances, the NEC may have regard to national or local custom and practice as the case may require. The NEC's decisions shall be final and binding on all organisations and individuals concerned.

Alteration to Rules

19. No Rule shall be altered, or new Rule adopted, unless written notice is given to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the meeting of the NYC at which it is to be discussed and circulated at least seven days prior to this date. The proposal must be supported by two-thirds of the members voting. No such Rule shall become operative until it is approved and registered by the NEC of the Party.

Incorporation of the National Rules into this Constitution

20. It is hereby declared that the National Rules of the Co-operative Party are deemed to be incorporated into this Constitution. It is also made clear that if the National Rules are altered or amended in the future, then such altered or amended National Rules shall be deemed to be incorporated into this Constitution as at the date of the alteration or amendment to the National Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, it is made clear that such incorporation of the present National Rules and any further alteration or amendment to the same shall be deemed to be automatic and will not require any meeting or vote by members of Co-operative Party Youth as at the time of such amendment or alteration.