



## THE SOCIAL WORKERS UNION

### RULES As amended September 2025

#### 1. **Name**

The name of the Association is The Social Workers Union hereinafter called “the Union”.

#### 2. **Objects**

The Objects are:

- 2.1 To provide a means of regulating relations between Members and their employers.
- 2.2 To provide Members with trade union services including advice, assistance and representation, legal or otherwise, and other benefits, in relation to matters arising out of or in connection with their employment as social workers and trainee social workers.
- 2.3 To do all such things as may be incidental to the above objects.

#### 3. **Membership**

- 3.1 The following shall be eligible to become Members of the Union:

Category 1: Any person whose name is entered in the Register of Members of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and Honorary Members of BASW but excluding those who are Members of BASW under BASW Article 5 (c) (Overseas Members).

Category 2: Subject to rule 3.2, any other person who is, or who is normally, or who seeks to be, in employment as a qualified social worker in the United Kingdom.

- 3.2 Admission of Members under Category 2 shall be on approval by the Executive Committee.

- 3.3 The Executive Committee shall keep a register of the names and addresses of Members.
- 3.4 An admission fee (if any) shall be payable on admission, and thereafter annual subscription fees (if any) shall be payable by Members at such rates or rate as may be determined from time to time in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
- 3.5 A Member whose admission fee (if any) or annual subscription fee is three months or more in arrears shall cease to be a Member of the Union (provided he/she has been served with prior notice of the arrears).
- 3.6 The Executive Committee may in its discretion, reinstate the Member on payment of the outstanding amount due and subject to such conditions as may be laid down by the Executive Committee from time to time.
4. **Termination of Membership**
- 4.1 A Member shall cease to be a Member of the Union if s/he:
- 4.1.1 Fails to pay fees in accordance with rule 3.5 above;
- 4.1.1.1 Gives written notice of resignation addressed to the General Secretary of the Union; or
- 4.1.1.2 Ceases for any other reason to be eligible under all Categories of membership.
- 4.1.3 The Executive Committee shall have the right to terminate or suspend membership if in the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Member has conducted him/herself in a manner prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the Union, or contrary to its Objects. Membership will automatically be withdrawn if BASW's conduct committee remove BASW membership.
- 4.2 Prior to termination or suspension of membership under rule 4.2 above, the following procedure shall apply:
- 4.3 The Member shall be served with at least 14 days' written notice of the conduct or circumstances alleged to be grounds for his/her suspension or expulsion and of the date, time and place of the meeting at which the matter is to be considered.
- 4.3.1 The Member shall be entitled to attend the meeting, accompanied by a friend, and to make representations in response to the allegation(s). Alternatively, s/he may submit written representations to be taken into account at the meeting. Where the Member is deemed to have acted in a manner prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the Union, or contrary to its Objects his/her representations shall be limited to the question of the appropriate action to be taken.
- 4.3.2 The decision of the Executive Committee, which shall be final, shall be communicated to the Member in writing as soon as practicable after the meeting.
- 4.3.3
5. **Members' Rights**
- 5.1 Members shall be entitled to vote in Union elections as provided for in, and in accordance with, the procedures set out in the Bye-Laws.

5.2 Members shall be entitled to stand as a candidate for an elected position as provided for in, and in accordance with, the procedures set out in the Bye-Laws.

## 6. **Management**

Executive Committee:

6.1 There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of up to Twelve members, comprising at least one representative from each nation (Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) (“the National Representatives”), two National Representative from England (due to the membership density), up to six others (“the UK Representatives” who may include representatives from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and one Social Work Student / Newly Qualified Social Worker representative. In the event that no representatives are nominated for one or more of the national seats, a corresponding number of additional UK Representatives shall be eligible to be nominated and elected instead. Alternatively, the SWU Executive have the power to temporary extend the duration of a term of office if no vacancy has been found.

6.2 The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Bye-Laws.

6.3 No member of the Executive Committee may also be an officer if the BASW Council and any member of the Executive Committee who becomes a member of the BASW Council shall, on such appointment, automatically cease to be a member of the Executive Committee. *No former members of SWU staff should take up an Executive position until a period of two years have lapsed since leaving SWU employment.* Any application to be a BASW Council member must be shared with the SWU Chair or SWU GS and applicant temporary step down from SWU Executive business during the election process.

Powers of the Executive Committee:

6.4 The Union shall be managed by the Executive Committee. For accountability, the SWU General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer and decision maker on the Executive’s behalf and supported by the National Executive. The SWU General Secretary will lead on strategic, development and matters involving the complaints procedure.

6.5 The Executive Committee may appoint such sub-c committees as it sees fit in order to further the interests of the Union.

6.6 A sub-committee appointed under rule 6.5 above shall consist of such member or members of the Executive Committee together with such other person(s) as the Executive Committee shall see fit.

6.7 The Executive Committee may invite any person who is not a member of the Executive Committee (whether as a member of a sub-committee or otherwise), to attend and speak at a meeting of the Executive Committee for the purpose of providing the Executive Committee with factual information, or with technical or professional advice with respect to matters to be taken into account by the Executive Committee in carrying out its functions. A person so invited shall not be entitled to vote on any Executive Committee matter and shall not be a member of the executive.

- 6.8 Removal of members of the Executive Committee:
- 6.8.1 A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office:
- (a) if he/she is adjudged bankrupt or a receiving order is made against him/her, or he/she makes any arrangement or composition with his/her creditors;
  - (b) if he/she ceases to be a Member of the Union;
  - (c) if he/she gives no less than one month's written notice of his/her resignation from such office, on the expiration of such notice;
  - (d) if he/she is absent from the whole of three successive Executive Committee meetings and the Executive Committee resolves to remove him or her from office for that reason. This covers online or face to face meetings.
- 6.8.2 Any member of the Executive Committee who acts in a manner considered by the Executive Committee to be detrimental or contrary to the interests of the Union may be removed by the Executive Committee.
- 6.8.3 Before any decision is taken to remove an Executive Committee member under rule 6.8.2 above, the procedure set out in rules 6.8.5 to 6.8.8 below shall be followed.
- 6.8.4 If the Executive Committee member who is removed is also the Chair or Honorary Treasurer of the Union, he/she shall thereupon cease to hold such position.
- 6.8.5 A resolution proposing the removal of an Executive Committee member shall be valid if:
- (a) It is in writing;
  - (b) It is signed by at least three other Executive Committee members; Or alternatively is proposed by the SWU Hon Officers Group and
  - (c) It contains the grounds on which it is alleged that the Executive Committee member has acted in a manner detrimental or contrary to the interests of the Union.
- 6.8.6 The resolution shall be sent to the General Secretary who shall refer it to the next meeting of the Executive Committee unless such meeting is due to be held within 21 days from receipt of the resolution, in which case it shall be referred to the following meeting.
- 6.8.7 At least 14 days' written notice of the date, time and place of the meeting shall be served on the member of the Executive Committee whose removal is proposed, who shall at the same time be supplied with a copy of the resolution. The member shall be entitled to be accompanied at the meeting by a friend.
- 6.8.8 The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and shall be communicated in writing to the member of the Executive Committee as soon as practicable after the meeting.

## 7. **Meetings of the Executive Committee**

- 7.1 The Executive Committee must hold at least two meetings each calendar year, and must in any event hold a meeting within 28 days (or as soon as possible thereafter) following an AGM after an election under Bye-Law 1.
- 7.2 The Executive Committee shall also hold an additional meeting if required by the Chair, or on the written request of at least four members of the Executive Committee.
- 7.3 The Executive Committee may adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they see fit, and determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of the business. Unless otherwise determined, four members of the Executive Committee shall be a quorum.
- 7.4 A meeting of the Executive Committee may be held either in person or by suitable electronic means agreed by the Executive Committee in which all participants may communicate with all other participants. Online options will be offered to those not able to attend face to face meetings.
- 7.5 The Executive Committee shall appoint one of their number to take the chair for the first meeting of the Executive Committee following an AGM after an election under Bye-Law 1. Thereafter, the Chair shall preside as chair at each meeting of the Executive Committee. If he/she is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or is otherwise unable or unwilling to preside, then the Honorary Treasurer, if so present and willing, shall preside as chair. If the Honorary Treasurer is not present or willing to preside, then some other member of the Executive Committee chosen by the other members present, shall take the chair.
- 7.6 Every issue may be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the Executive Committee but a resolution which is in writing and signed by all the members of the Executive Committee is as valid as a resolution passed at a meeting and for this purpose the resolution may be contained in more than one document and will be treated as passed on the date of the last signature.
- 7.7 Except for the chair of the meeting, who has a second or casting vote (other than on the appointment of the Honorary Officers under Rule 8 below), every member of the Executive Committee has one vote on each issue.
- 7.8 A procedural defect of which the Executive Committee is unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
8. **Honorary Officers**
- 8.1 At the first meeting of the Executive Committee following an AGM after an election under Bye-Law 1, the Executive Committee shall, subject to Rule 8.2, appoint from among themselves the Honorary Officers, who shall be the Chair, The Vice-Chair and the Honorary Treasurer. The Honorary Officers will meet with SWU GS at least every 2 months and have a management role for the union and is a decision-making group on behalf of the wider Executive.
- 8.2 No person may hold the office of Chair or Vice Chair unless he/she has been a member of the Union for at least 1 years continuously prior to his/her appointment.

8.3 A person so appointed under Rule 8.1 above shall, subject to rule 6.8.4 above, hold office as Chair, Vice-Chair or Honorary Treasurer as applicable until the end of his/her term as a member of the Executive Committee. If re-elected to the Executive Committee, he/she shall be eligible for reappointment as an Honorary Officer.

8.4 If a casual vacancy arises, the Executive Committee shall, if it deems it necessary to do so, appoint a replacement from among them. An Executive Committee member so appointed shall hold the relevant office for the balance of the term of the person replaced. On ceasing to hold that Honorary Office and provided he/she is re-elected to the Executive Committee, he/she shall be eligible for reappointment as an Honorary Officer.

8.5 The Executive Committee have the right to appoint an Honorary President. The candidate should be someone who by their dedication, contribution and approach is acknowledged as an individual who could provide inspiration, guidance, and support, for a 12-month appointment. The post should run following an AGM. This role is Honorary. The individual should have no executive function or role unless already appointed as an Executive Member.

## 9. **General Secretary**

9.1 There shall be a General Secretary of the Union who shall act as Chief Executive Officer to the Executive Committee. The SWU General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer and decision maker on the Executive's behalf

9.2 The General Secretary shall be elected in accordance with the Procedures set out in the Bye-Laws.

9.3 The office of General Secretary shall be vacated if:

9.3.1 he/she gives written notice of his/her resignation from such office, or if such notice is given on his/her behalf and with his authorisation; or

9.3.2 he/she is removed from office by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting at a meeting of the Executive Committee, provided that:

(a) nothing in this rule shall deprive him or her of compensation or damages payable to him or her in respect of termination of his/her employment;

(b) he/she shall first have been given the reasons said to justify his/her removal and an opportunity to make written and / or oral representations (at his/her option) to the Executive Committee;

(c) he/she and the Executive Committee shall have been given at least 14 days' written notice of the date, time and place of the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered.

9.4 The Executive Committee shall from time to time specify in detail the duties of the General Secretary and shall keep these under review in the light of the current business of the Union. Subject to this, the duties of the General Secretary shall include the following:

- 9.4.1 The General Secretary shall act as the Chief Executive Officer to the Executive Committee. He/she shall be responsible for drafting the agenda for all meetings in consultation with the Chair of an Executive Committee meeting, and for recording all business of the Union.
- 9.4.2 The General Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Union and shall report to the Executive Committee all that relates to the business of the Union.
- 9.4.3 The General Secretary shall be responsible for the collection of monies due to the Union and for the payment of monies and for the collection of fees payable under rule 3.4.
- 9.4.4 The General Secretary shall cause to be kept proper accounting records with respect to the transactions of the Union and its assets and liabilities.
- 9.4.5 The General Secretary shall establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of the Union's accounting records, its cash holdings and all its receipts and remittances.
- 9.4.6 The General Secretary shall ensure that an annual audit is undertaken by auditors appointed by the AGM in accordance with TULRCA.

## 10. **Assets**

- 10.1 The property and assets of the Union are held on trust by the Union's trustees on behalf of its Members.
- 10.2 The trustees shall be the three Honorary Officers. On a person's appointment as an Honorary Officer the Executive Committee shall pass a resolution appointing him/her as a trustee, and on ceasing to be an Honorary Officer the Executive Committee shall pass a resolution discharging him/her as a trustee.
- 10.3 The trustees shall act in all respects on the instruction of, and with the consent of, the Executive Committee.
- 10.4 The property of the Union, including all its income, shall be paid or solely applied for the aforesaid objects of the Union, and no part thereof shall be distributed to any category of Member of the Union by way of profit, provided that, subject to rule 10.3, nothing in this rule shall prevent the remuneration or other payment of any person or persons for any services rendered or work done to or for the Union whether or not such person or persons is in any category of membership of the Union.
- 10.5 Further, and subject to rule 10.3:
  - 10.5.1 The property or funds of the Union may be applied or invested by the trustees in the purchase of such stocks, shares, securities or other investments or property of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situated and whether involving liabilities or not.
  - 10.5.2 The trustees may borrow monies or hold, purchase or take lease on any land and may sell, exchange, mortgage, lease, surrender or build upon such lands, or do such other things in relation thereto as the Executive Committee may decide.

10.5.3 The trustees may execute any indemnity that may be required by the banks receiving direct debits originated by the Union.

10.6 Every trustee, member of the Executive Committee and every agent or employee of the Union shall, so far as may be allowed by law, be indemnified by the Union against, and there shall be paid out of the funds of the Union, all costs, losses, expenses of whatsoever nature such trustee, member of the Executive Committee, agent or employee shall or may incur or become liable to, by reason of any contract entered into or act or thing properly done by him/her in the course of or in the discharge of his/her duties to or for and on behalf of the Union.

10.7 The trustees shall undertake such further duties as the Executive Committee may from time to time decide.

## 11. **General Meetings**

Frequency:

11.1 An Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) must be held in every calendar year at such time and place as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

Business:

11.2 The business of an AGM shall include:

11.2.1 The accounts of the Union for the previous financial year;

11.2.2 The annual report of the Executive Committee;

11.2.3 The report of the auditors;

11.2.4 The appointment of an auditor in accordance with rule 12 below;

11.2.5 Amendments to the rules and Bye-Laws of the Union put forward in accordance with the procedures laid down in these rules;

11.2.6 Resolutions put forward in due form;

11.2.7 Such other business as the Chair shall determine in consultation with the General Secretary and which is duly notified in writing to the General Secretary.

Type of General Meeting:

11.3 Any general meeting which is not an AGM is an Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”).

Notice:

11.4 An EGM may be called at any time by the Executive Committee, and must be called after a written request to the Executive Committee from at least five per cent of the Members.

- 11.5 General meetings are called on at least 21 Clear Days' written notice (or at least 14 Clear Days in the case of an EGM) to the Members specifying the business to be transacted, and including the terms of any motion submitted under rule 11.8 below. Clear Days means, in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect.
- 11.6 In addition to the written notice of an AGM under rule 11.5 above, the Executive Committee shall give Members not less than 120 days' notice of the date and place of an AGM. The Executive shall have power to make an exceptional provision for an AGM meetings to be held using electronic means and to provide for electronic communication for members including facilitating provision for members to vote and speak by appropriate electronic means.
- 11.7 The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of such notice by, any person entitled to receive notice thereof shall not invalidate any resolution passed, or proceeding transacted, at any meeting.

Motions:

- 11.8 Any motion submitted by the Executive Committee, or signed by 10 Members and submitted to the Executive Committee not less than 56 days before the date of the AGM shall be placed on the Agenda of that meeting and the terms of such motion shall be given in the Notice of the meeting under rule 11.5 above.
- 11.9 Any notice of a proposed amendment to a motion, submitted by the Executive Committee or signed by 10 Members and submitted to the Executive Committee not less than 7 days before the date of the meeting, shall be placed before the meeting, and the Executive Committee shall make available copies of such proposed amendments to those Members attending the meeting.
- 11.10 Before placing on the Agenda of any AGM, or giving notice or making available copies of any proposed motion or amendment of any proposed motion as required under rules 11.8 and 11.9 above, the Executive Committee shall have power:
- 11.10.1 To treat any motion on a particular subject as an amendment to any other motion on the same subject, and to rephrase it accordingly;
- 11.10.2 To treat any amendment to any motion as a separate motion and to rephrase it accordingly;
- 11.10.3 To group together into one composite motion any two or more motions and/or amendments which have a similar object and, in so doing, to use the phraseology which in the opinion of the Executive Committee best expresses the object of such motions and/or amendments;
- 11.10.4 To arrange the order of motions and amendments;
- 11.10.5 To require that two or more motions and/or amendments be debated together, but that votes be taken on them sequentially;

- 11.10.6 When rephrasing or compositing motions or amendments, to consult with the signatories thereof insofar as it seems to the Executive Committee expedient.

Proceedings at General Meeting:

Quorum:

- 11.11 There is a quorum at a General Meeting if the number of Members personally present is at least 30, or one percent of the Members, whichever is the fewer.

- 11.12 If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall if it was convened on the requisition of Members, be dissolved. In any other case, it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, or such other place as the Executive Committee may determine. If at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the Members present shall be a quorum.

Chair:

- 11.13 The Union Chair Person shall preside as chair at every General Meeting. If he/she is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or is otherwise unable or unwilling to preside, then the Vice Chair or Honorary Treasurer, if so present and willing, shall preside as chair. If the Vice Chair or Honorary Treasurer is not present or willing to preside, then some other member of the Executive Committee chosen by the Members present, shall take the chair.

Adjournment:

- 11.14 The Chair may, with the consent of the meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting from time to time, and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business which might have been transacted at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. Whenever a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given in the same way as the original meeting. Otherwise, the Members shall not be entitled to any notice of an adjournment, or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

Voting:

- 11.15 Except where otherwise provided by these rules, every issue at a General Meeting is determined by a simple majority of votes cast by the Members present in person.

- 11.16 Except for the chair of the meeting, who has a second or casting vote, every Member present in person is entitled to one vote on every issue.

## 12. **Appointment and Removal of Auditors**

- 12.1 At each AGM the Union shall appoint an auditor to hold office from the conclusion of that meeting until the conclusion of the next AGM.

- 12.2 At each AGM the retiring auditor for the preceding financial year shall be re-appointed auditor for the current financial year without any resolution being passed unless:
- 12.2.1 a resolution has been passed at a general meeting of the Union appointing somebody instead of him or providing expressly that he shall not be re- appointed, or
- 12.2.2 s/he has given notice to the Union in writing of his unwillingness to be re- appointed, or
- 12.2.3 s/he is ineligible for re-appointment, or
- 12.2.4 s/he has ceased to act as auditor by reason of incapacity,
- provided that where:
- (a) notice has been given of an intended resolution to appoint somebody (“N”) in place of a retiring auditor (“R”), but
- (b) the resolution cannot proceed at the meeting because of N’s death or incapacity, or because N is ineligible for appointment,
- R need not be expressly reappointed.
- 12.3 If a motion is submitted under rule 11.8 above, proposing a resolution at the AGM to appoint as auditor a person other than a retiring auditor or providing expressly that a retiring auditor shall not be re-appointed:
- 12.3.1 The General Secretary shall send a copy of such motion forthwith to the retiring auditor;
- 12.3.2 If the retiring auditor makes written representations to the Union with respect to the intended resolution, and requests their notification to Members, then unless the representations are received too late to be included in the notice sent to Members under rule 11.5 above:
- (a) the notice sent to Members under rule 11.5 shall state the fact that representations have been made; and
- (b) the notice shall include a copy of the representations with the notice.
- 12.3.3 If a copy of the representations is not sent to the Members because they are received too late or because of the default of the Union, the auditor may, without prejudice to his/her rights to be heard orally, require that the representations shall be read out at the meeting.
- 12.4 Membership Audits
- a) The AGM shall appoint a qualified independent person as an Assurer to prepare an annual Membership Audit Certificate for each reporting period in accordance with the statutory requirements from time to time in force.
- b) Subject to Rule 12,4(c), the Assurer shall hold office for a period of 3 years. In the event of the Assurer being unable or unwilling to act for any reason the Executive Committee shall have power to engage a successor to act until the next AGM.

- c) An Assurer may be removed from office by (and only by) resolution of the AGM.

### 13. **Bye-Laws**

The Union may, in General Meeting, make Bye-Laws relating to the election of the Executive Committee members and the General Secretary, and such other matters as the Union in General Meeting thinks fit, provided that:

- 13.1.1 No Bye-Law may be made or shall be valid if it shall contravene or be inconsistent with these rules,
- 13.1.2 No Bye-Law shall be laid before a General Meeting unless it shall first have been considered by the Executive Committee, and
- 13.1.3 No Bye-Law may be added, amended or deleted other than by resolution of a simple majority of those present and voting at the General Meeting.

### 14. **Amendments to rules**

14.1 The Union may, in General Meeting, amend these rules provided that:

- 14.1.1 No proposed amendment shall be laid before a General Meeting unless it shall first have been considered by the Executive Committee,
- 14.1.2 Notice of any proposed amendment(s) shall be given to Members in writing not less than 21 days before the meeting, and
- 14.1.3 No rule may be added, amended or deleted other than by resolution of a two thirds majority of those present and voting at the General Meeting.

### 15. **Dissolution**

- 15.1 The Union shall not be dissolved except at a Special Meeting called for that purpose. The Special Meeting shall be called on at least 28 Clear Days' notice given to all Members, and the resolution shall require a majority of two thirds of the Members present and voting.
- 15.2 Any property of the Union whatsoever which remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be sold as directed by the Executive Committee and the monies raised thereby transferred to such charities connected with social work as the Special Meeting shall decide.

### 16. **Notices**

- 16.1 A notice may be served by the Union upon any Member personally or by sending it through the post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Member at his/her address appearing in the register of Members.
- 16.2 Any notice, if served by post, shall be deemed to have been served on the third day following that on which it was posted, and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to

prove that the envelope containing the notice was properly addressed and posted as a pre-paid envelope.

17. **Interpretation**

Any ambiguity or uncertainty in these Rules may be resolved by a decision of the Executive Committee.

## **Bye-Law 1 - Election of Executive Committee members**

Election procedure:

- 1.1 Elections are to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ("TULRCA"). Provided it is consistent with any amendments or subsequent legislation, the following procedure shall apply:
- 1.2 Save as provided for at Bye-Law 1.3 below:
  - 1.2.1 All Members of the Union shall be entitled to vote for the UK Representatives; and
  - 1.2.2 All Members within the relevant nation (according to their address in the Register of Members) shall be entitled to vote for the Executive Committee member who is to be the representative of that nation ("the National Representatives").
- 1.3 The entitlement to vote as set out at Bye-Law 1.2 above shall not apply to any Member who, at the date of distribution of voting papers has less than 3 months' continuous membership of the Union and/or is in arrears in respect of any admission fee and/or membership subscription fees payable to the Union.
- 1.4 All candidates for election must be a Member of the Union and have been a Member of the Union for a minimum of 1 year continuously immediately prior to nomination (*except for student applications*)
- 1.5 A candidate for election must be nominated by two Members of the Union. In the case of the National Representatives, nomination must be by two members within the relevant nation. Appropriate Executive applications will be ratified / agreed by a SWU nomination committee for consideration / endorsement and if required to the membership to vote on.
- 1.6 Upon receipt of nominations, the Union shall appoint an independent person to act as the Returning Officer and scrutineer for the election.
- 1.7 If only one nomination is received, the person so nominated shall take up the relevant office without any requirement for a ballot to be held.
- 1.8 The declaration of the results of all elections shall be made in accordance with the relevant provisions of the TULRCA.

Term of office:

- 1.10 Each Executive Committee member shall take office from the date of announcement of his/her appointment following completion of the ballot and shall hold such office until the conclusion of the second or third AGM following that announcement depending on their term of office (2 year or 3 years).
- 1.11 Provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria at Bye-Laws 1.4 and 1.5, an Executive Committee member shall be eligible for re-election whether as a UK Representative or a National Representative.
- 1.12 All Executive Committee members may offer themselves for re-election for one period only (*regardless of the initial 2 year or 3 year appointed term*) and will not be eligible for re-election until after the subsequent period of 2 or 3 years has elapsed. In exceptional circumstances the Executive can implement a previous member if Exec applications are not received.

Casual Vacancy:

- 1.13 If a casual vacancy occurs in any Executive Committee, UK Representative or National Representative position, the Executive Committee shall, if it deems it necessary to do so, arrange for an election to be held in accordance with these Bye-Laws to elect a replacement. A person so elected shall take office in place of the person originally elected for a full term of office. Under extraordinary circumstances the SWU Executive can agree to extend a term of office for an existing Executive Members where another candidate cannot be recruited.

## **Bye-Law 2 - Election of General Secretary**

Election procedure:

- 2.1 The election is to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of TULRCA. Provided it is consistent with any amendments or subsequent legislation, the following procedure shall apply:
- 2.2 Save as provided for at Bye-Law 2.3 below, all Members of the Union shall be entitled to vote for the General Secretary.
- 2.3 The entitlement to vote as set out at Bye-Law 2.2 above shall not apply to any Member who, at the date of distribution of voting papers has less than 3 months' continuous membership of the Union and/or is in arrears in respect of any admission fee and/or membership subscription fees payable to the Union.
- 2.4 All candidates for election as General Secretary must be or become on election a Member of the Union. On application, all candidates for SWU General Secretary must have been a current member for two years.
- 2.5 A candidate for election as General Secretary must be nominated by at least 20 Members of the Union at least 4 of which shall be from different nations.
- 2.6 Voting in all cases shall be by marking of a voting paper by postal ballot or online secure voting method by appropriate electronic means. GS candidates must provide an election statement which will either be endorsed or not endorsed by the SWU Executive Committee as per the terms of the SWU Nomination Committee.
- 2.7 The Union shall appoint a qualified independent person to act as the Returning Officer and scrutineer for the election.
- 2.8 If only one nomination is received, the person so nominated shall take up the position of General Secretary without any requirement for a ballot to be held.
- 2.9 The declaration of the results of the election shall be made in accordance with the relevant provisions of the TULRCA.
- 2.10 The person who is elected the General Secretary shall, if they were prior to their appointment a member of the Executive Committee, cease to be a member of the Executive Committee from the end of the Annual General Meeting at which they take up office.

Term of office:

- 2.10 The General Secretary shall hold office for no more than five years, but shall be eligible for re-election.

Casual vacancy:

- 2.11 If a casual vacancy occurs in the position of General Secretary, the Executive Committee may arrange for an election to be held under these Bye-Laws to elect a replacement, or may appoint an Acting General Secretary provided that such appointment is made in accordance with section 46 TULRCA. Without limitation to the foregoing:
- (a) a person so appointed as Acting General Secretary is not a voting member of the Executive Committee or an employee of the Union, and if they were a member of the Executive Committee prior to their appointment as Acting General Secretary they shall, on appointment as Acting General Secretary, cease to be a voting member of the Executive Committee; and
  - (b) s/he may not hold that position for more than 13 months after s/he took it up; and
  - (c) s/he has not held the position of Chair or General Secretary in the period of 12 months ending with the day before s/he took up that position.

### **Bye-Law 3 – Membership admission and subscription fees**

- 3.1 The admission fee payable by Members shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee and different admission fees may be prescribed for different categories of Member.
- 3.2 An annual subscription fee shall be paid by all Members at an amount which shall be fixed annually by the Executive Committee and payable on 1 October, or such other date or dates as the Executive Committee shall see fit, and different subscription fees may be prescribed for different categories of Member.
- 3.3 The Executive Committee shall have power to make rules providing for the payments of subscriptions by instalments or to reduce or remit the whole or any part of the admission fee (if any) and/or subscriptions payable by any Member where there are special reasons for doing so.

### **Bye-Law 4 – Election Advisory Committee**

- 4.1 There shall be an election advisory committee, the composition and terms of references of which shall be determined by the Executive Committee but the functions of which shall include:
- 4.1.1 to determine what skills and experience are required on the Executive Committee; and
  - 4.1.2 to notify members of the skills and experience required and to encourage applications from / nominations of Members possessing such skills and experience.
- 4.2 The election advisory committee may adopt such policies or processes as they consider fit from time to time to assess the skills and experience of candidates for election to the Executive Committee and to encourage nominations of Members possessing the relevant skills and experience, provided that no Member eligible for election may be unreasonably excluded from standing for election.