STUC CONSTITUTION

May 2026

PART 1

RULE 1. NAME, PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

The name of the organisation constituted by these Rules is the Scottish Trades Union Congress (hereinafter called the STUC).

The STUC is Scotland's trade union centre. Its purpose is to co-ordinate, develop and articulate the views and policies of the Trade Union Movement in Scotland reflecting the aspirations of trade unionists as workers and citizens.

The STUC shall not trade for profit; shall not make payment of dividends or any return of capital; and will transfer all the assets that would otherwise be available after payment of creditors on its winding up, to a body or bodies with objects similar to those of the STUC.

The Congress is the governing body of the STUC. It shall consist of delegates from member Trade Unions and Trades Union Councils, and from the STUC Black Workers' Conference, the STUC Disabled Workers' Conference, the STUC LGBT+ Workers' Conference, the STUC Youth Conference, and the STUC Women's Conference. Delegates to Congress from each of the Conferences will be nominated by their respective Committee.

The Congress shall determine the policy of the STUC and shall, subject to the provisions of Rule 5, elect and hold to account the General Council of the STUC (hereinafter called the General Council). The General Council shall subject to the provisions of Rule 8, be the executive authority in implementing the decisions of Congress and the policy of the STUC and in ensuring the effective governance of the STUC.

The General Council shall appoint a General Secretary and such other persons as are required to support it in undertaking its duties.

RULE 2. MEMBERSHIP

The STUC shall consist of such Trade Unions and Trades Union Councils as satisfy the requirements of these Rules and are affiliated in the manner prescribed by this Rule.

It shall be a requirement of affiliation that an organisation has a clear commitment to promote equality for all, and to eliminate all forms of harassment, prejudice and unfair discrimination, both within its own structures and through all its activities.

Any such Trade Union or Trades Union Council may make application to become affiliated to the STUC and shall furnish copies of its Rules and Constitution, together with such other particulars and information as shall, at any time, be required by the General Council.

In deciding at the time of such application or at any time thereafter whether or not a Trade Union is or remains eligible for affiliation, the General Council shall have regard inter alia to:

1. the ability of the organisation in its own right and of its own authority to fulfil the obligations of affiliation to the STUC, and to comply with the Rules of the STUC;
2. the conduct past and present of the organisation;
3. the compatibility of the objects and policy of the organisation with those of the STUC;
4. the organisation's membership of, or standing with, the Trades Union Congress or any other such organisation; and
5. the period between any previous application for membership and the application under consideration.

In respect of Trades Union Councils, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the General Council shall consider whether the Trades Union Council has acted in accordance with the provisions of the handbook issued by the STUC, and whether the Constitution of the Trades Union Council has the prior approval in writing of the General Council.

The General Council shall have power to accept or reject any application for affiliation. A decision of the General Council to accept or reject any such application shall be reported to the next Congress, which shall have the power to overrule it.

RULE 3. MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCES

The General Council shall have powers of governance over the STUC Black Workers' Conference, the STUC Disabled Workers' Conference, the STUC LGBT+ Workers' Conference, the STUC Women's Conference and the STUC Youth Conference. These powers shall include, but not be restricted to, the continuation and/or dissolution of these Conferences.

Other membership Conferences may be established by motion to Congress; by application to the General Council; or by the General Council of its own accord.

The General Council shall have powers of governance over any such Conferences. These powers shall include, but not be restricted to, the continuation and/or dissolution of these Conferences.

In the event of dissolution, any rights delegated or otherwise afforded to these Conferences shall be revoked.

RULE 4. OBJECTS

The objects of the STUC shall be:

i. to advance the principles and spread of trade unionism;

ii. to promote the interests of all or any of its affiliated organisations and to do anything beneficial to the interests of past and present individual members of such organisations;

iii. to assist in the complete organisation of all workers eligible for membership of its affiliated organisations and to assist, in accordance with these Rules, in settling disputes between members of such organisations and their employers, or between or among such organisations themselves;

iv. generally to improve economic and social conditions of workers in Scotland and in all parts of the world and to render them assistance (whether or not such workers are employed or have ceased to be employed); and

v. the promotion of equality for all and the elimination of all forms of harassment prejudice and unfair discrimination, both within its own structures and through all its activities.

It shall not be an objective of the STUC to:

i. make profit;

ii. make payment of dividends or;

iii. make any return of capital.

In pursuance of these objects and, in accordance with such particular decisions as Congress may make from time to time, Congress may do or authorise the General Council to carry out all such acts and things as it considers necessary for, or conducive or incidental to the furtherance of those objects.

In the interpretation of these objects, the General Council shall have complete discretion, subject only to the power of Congress to revise their decisions.

In the interpretation of these objects, no one object shall be deemed to be predominant amongst them and no object shall be deemed subsidiary to another.

RULE 5. AFFILIATION FEE

Each affiliated Trade Union shall pay to the STUC an annual affiliation fee in respect of each of its members, free or otherwise. The annual affiliation fee shall be payable by 31 January in any year.

The annual affiliation fee payable in respect of each member notified in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) shall be set each year by the General Council in accordance with sub-paragraph (d) as a fixed per cent (the percentage figure) of the weekly (or equivalent) contribution rate based on the average of all unions contribution rates calculated in accordance with sub-paragraph (c). To this end:

a) Each organisation shall, by 31 January, inform the General Secretary of the STUC of the number of its members as at 1 January of that year.

b) Each affiliated organisation shall, by 30 September in any year, inform the General Secretary of the contribution rate payable by the largest category of members as at 1 January of the year following.

c) The average of all unions' contribution rates is the sum of each union's contribution rate in accordance with sub-paragraph (b) multiplied by each union's affiliated membership and divided by the total affiliated membership in the year, in which the contribution rate is notified to the General Secretary.

d) The General Council shall set percentage figure at the December General Council.

e) The General Council shall, by 31 December in each year, confirm the annual affiliation fee as determined by the percentage figure. The General Council shall be able to recommend an additional affiliation fee to be levied, over and above the annual affiliation fee, to be considered by the Congress. Should the Congress accept the General Council's recommendation, the resulting additional affiliation fee, in respect of each member notified in accordance with sub-paragraph (a), which shall only apply for that year and the following year. The additional affiliation fee shall be payable by affiliated unions before 31 July in each of the two years in which it is agreed.

RULE 6. ELECTION OF GENERAL COUNCIL

A General Council of 38 members shall be elected at Congress on the basis of the 7 Sections. Sections A and B shall be for affiliated trade unions and shall have 14 places each, subject to this rule. Section C 'Trades Union Councils'; Section D 'Young Workers'; Section E 'Black Workers'; Section F 'Disabled Workers' and Section G 'LGBT+ Workers', shall each have 2 places, an open place and a place reserved for women nominees.

Nominations for the place(s) in each Section shall be confined to the affiliated organisation(s) in that Section, with the exception of Section D 'Young Workers'; Section E 'Black Workers'; Section F 'Disabled Workers'; and Section G 'LGBT+ Workers', where nominations for both the open place and the place reserved for women nominees shall be open to all affiliates, subject only to the requirements of this rule.

The allocation of unions to Sections shall be made by the General Council. Unions shall, however, have the right to ask the General Council to review its decision and the decision of the General Council shall be reported to Congress, which may endorse, revise or reverse that decision.

The General Council shall review the position from time to time to take account of changes in the total membership of each Section and may reallocate unions to Sections to take account of such changes.

Each member of the General Council shall continue in office until he or she is re-elected, or his or her successor is appointed.

On the death or resignation of a member, the General Council shall have power to fill the vacancy. Where possible, they shall fill the vacancy with the highest unsuccessful candidate in the election for the particular Section, subject to the provisions of this rule. After three absences from General Council meeting with no apologies submitted, a member will be deemed to have resigned.

Each affiliated organisation shall be entitled to nominate one candidate per 25,000 (or part thereof) affiliated members for election to the place(s) on the General Council in Section A and Section B.

Candidates must be members of the affiliated organisation's Delegation to Congress. Candidates must reside, work, or be available for work in Scotland: should a member of the General Council cease to fulfil any of these requirements, he or she shall resign.

In both Section A and Section B, 6 of the 14 places shall be reserved for women. The 6 reserved places shall be filled by the women nominees receiving the highest vote.

Trades Union Councils shall be entitled to nominate one delegate for each of the places in Section C 'Trades Union Councils', subject to the provision that

candidates for the place reserved for women nominees may not simultaneously stand for the open place.

Affiliated organisations and the Youth Committee shall be entitled to nominate one delegate for each of the places in Section D 'Young Workers', subject to the following provisions:

i. Candidates for the place reserved for women nominees may not simultaneously stand for the open place;

ii. Candidates must not have reached the age of 31 years by the date of their election.

Affiliated organisations and the Black Workers' Committee shall be entitled to nominate one delegate for each of the places in Section E 'Black Workers', subject to the following provisions

i. Candidates for the place reserved for women nominees may not simultaneously stand for the open place;

ii. Candidates for each of the places must be self-described as Black.

Affiliated organisations and the Disabled Workers' Committee, shall be entitled to nominate one delegate for each of the places in section F 'Disabled Workers' subject to the following provisions:

i. Candidates for the place reserved for women nominees may not simultaneously stand for the open place.

ii. Candidates for both places must be self-described as disabled.

Affiliated organisations and the LGBT+ Workers' Committee, shall be entitled to nominate one delegate for each of the places in section G 'LGBT+ Workers' subject to the following provisions:

i. Candidates for the place reserved for women nominees may not simultaneously stand for the open place.

ii. Candidates for both places must be self-described as LGBT+.

All nominations shall be submitted to the General Secretary not later than four weeks before the assembling of Congress and a list of the names of candidates shall be circulated in the Final Agenda to each delegate and affiliated organisation not later than two weeks before Congress assembles. In the event of the death of a candidate, the General Council shall have power to call for further nominations from Unions in the particular Section, and ballot papers containing the names of such candidates shall be supplied to delegation leaders prior to the opening of the ballot.

A ballot paper containing the names of candidates for each Section shall be issued to each Delegation Leader with the Final Agenda. Each delegation shall

be entitled to vote according to membership (for which affiliation fees have been paid in accordance with Rule 5) on the basis of one vote for every 500 members or fractional part thereof represented. Trades Union Council delegations shall be entitled to three votes. The Black Workers' Committee delegation shall be entitled to six votes. The Disabled Workers' Committee delegation shall be entitled to six votes. The LGBT+ Workers' Committee delegation shall be entitled to six votes. The Youth Committee delegation shall be entitled to six votes. The Women's Committee delegation shall be entitled to six votes. Each delegation shall be entitled to cast the same number of votes as there are places in the respective Sections, but no delegation can vote more than once for any candidate. A ballot box, in which completed ballot papers should be lodged, will be made available from the opening of Congress business on the first day until 12 noon on the second day of Congress. The result of the ballot vote shall be announced before the termination of the afternoon session on the third day. The nominees in each Section obtaining the highest vote shall be elected subject to the provision of this rule.

RULE 7. CONDUCT OF ELECTED GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

If at any time there appears to the General Council to be justification for an investigation into the conduct of one of its elected members on the grounds that the activities of that member may be contrary to the objects of the STUC, or to Trade Union principles, or to the declared policy of the STUC, or on the grounds that the member has contravened or failed to obey any requirement of these rules, or on the grounds of the member's standing with his or her affiliated organisation, the President may appoint a Sub-Committee consisting of three other members from the General Council to carry out such an investigation. In the event that the member, whose conduct is the subject of this Rule is the President, the Vice President may appoint the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee shall thereafter investigate the alleged conduct. If, after such investigation, the Sub-Committee considers that there is a case to answer in respect of said conduct, it shall give notification to the President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, and to the member concerned of the conduct complained of and of the ground or grounds of complaint.

Upon receiving such notification from the Sub-Committee, the President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall, within a reasonable period, summon the member concerned to a hearing. At the hearing, the President or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall hear, in the presence of the member concerned, any evidence, information, or explanation presented by the Sub-Committee in respect of the

alleged conduct. Thereafter, the President or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall give the member concerned an opportunity of presenting such evidence, information and explanation, if any, as it wishes to present. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall have power to decide whether the member has been guilty of the alleged conduct. In the event of the member having been found guilty of the said conduct, the President or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall afford to the member an opportunity to present such further evidence, information and explanation as he or she wishes in relation to imposition of penalty, and shall thereafter have power to reprimand, and/or suspend the member or to recommend the removal of the member from the General Council.

The President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall notify the member concerned of his or her decision including the penalty to be imposed.

The member, if dissatisfied with the decision of the President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, or the penalty imposed, shall have the right of appeal to the General Council. The member's intention to appeal shall be communicated in writing to the General Secretary within seven days of the initial decision.

The General Council shall hold a meeting to hear an appeal within one month of the notification to appeal having been received. The President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall submit a report to the General Council setting out the reasons for the decision taken. The report shall also be made available to the member at the same time. The member shall have the right to be heard by the General Council.

The General Council may decide to affirm or revoke or otherwise amend the decision of the President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, or to affirm or revoke the penalty and may, if a recommendation to that effect has been made, remove the member from the General Council. The decision of the General Council shall be final and conclusive.

Members of the Sub-Committee appointed to investigate any case against the member and the President, or Vice President if the member concerned is the President, shall not be entitled to be present at any stage during, or to vote, or take any other part in the deliberation of the General Council as to its findings in respect of the alleged conduct, or in respect of penalty.

RULE 8. OFFICE BEARERS OF THE STUC

The General Council shall elect from amongst them, a President of the STUC; a Vice-President of the STUC; and a Treasurer of the STUC, who shall hold office until a successor is elected.

Elections for these positions should normally take place in April. The duties of the President shall include presiding at all meetings of the General Council. In Congress years, the outgoing President will preside until the newly elected President is announced. Thereafter and for the duration of Congress, the newly elected President will preside.

The elected President will preside at all special Congresses held during their period of office. The President also has such other powers as provided within this Constitution and such other powers as are delegated to them by the General Council.

RULE 9. POWER AND DUTIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council shall take all decisions and measures which are, in their view, necessary in furtherance of the objects and policy of the STUC, and shall carry out the duties imposed on it in terms of these Rules; provided always that the General Council shall be accountable to Congress for such decisions and measures and that Congress shall have power (after compliance with any relevant provisions of these Rules) to overrule such decisions and measures.

The General Council shall prepare a Report of its work for submission to Congress and shall include in it a record of attendances at General Council meetings.

In years when Congress is not held, the General Council shall prepare a Report of its work for circulation to all affiliates and shall include in it a record of attendances at General Council meetings.

Without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the General Council shall have powers:

1. to monitor all industrial activity and, in the event of any trade dispute, to offer its services to the Union or Unions concerned in an effort to find a solution;
2. to promote common action on any matter affecting Trade Unions and, in particular, to liaise between employers, including employers' organisations and Trade Unions, or between Trade Unions and/or workers and the Government, and to assist individuals or organisations involved in such common action;

3. to issue literature, hold and/or assist in arranging meetings and demonstrations, conduct educative campaigns and provide statistical and related information;
4. to assist in resolving disputes and differences between affiliated organisations;
5. to initiate such legislation or legal action in the UK, in Scotland and the EU affecting labour as Congress directs or, in the absence of such direction, such legislation or legal action as the General Council considers to be in accordance with the objects or policy of the STUC, or in furtherance of Trade Union principles, or for the benefit of labour;
6. to monitor all legislation and legal action in the UK, in Scotland and the EU affecting labour and oppose or seek amendment of any such legislation as Congress directs or, in the absence of such direction, such legislation or legal action as the General Council considers to be contrary to the objects of the STUC, or contrary to Trade Union principles, or the policy of the STUC, or to the detriment of labour;
7. to enter into relations with Trade Unions or labour organisations in other countries, with a view to securing united action;
8. to invest and administer the funds of the STUC and to make grants to any organisation or person, whether in Great Britain or abroad, for such purposes as seem desirable but, in so doing, it shall have regard to the directions, if any, from time to time given by Congress. It shall also have authority to raise funds for any special purpose and to invest and administer such funds and to make grants therefrom;
9. to establish such Trust, companies or other bodies as it deems necessary to further the objects and policies of the STUC;
10. to convene at any time a Special Congress or Conference to deal with any contingency that may arise;
11. to appoint such professional advisors as it deems necessary to assist with the effective governance of the STUC;
12. to set up such Sub-Committees as it deems appropriate and to delegate such powers and duties as it considers necessary to any such Sub-Committee. Any such Sub-Committee shall be solely responsible to the General Council;
13. to contract on behalf of STUC and to delegate such power;
14. to hold any conferences and events it deems necessary to further the objects and policies of the STUC; and

15. to set the percentage figure each year which shall determine the annual affiliation fee each affiliated Trade Union shall pay to the STUC in accordance with Rule 5.

RULE 10. GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Council shall appoint a General Secretary and such other persons as are required to conduct duties set out from time to time by the General Council.

RULE 11. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

Two or more Trustees shall be appointed by the General Council. The Trustees shall hold the property of the STUC in trust for the STUC. Such Trustees shall hold office until their respective successors have been duly appointed by the General Council and shall have accepted office. The Trustees shall deal with the property held by them in accordance with the directions of the General Council.

RULE 12. DISPUTES AFFECTING INDUSTRY

There shall be an obligation upon affiliated organisations to inform the General Council in writing, as soon as practicable, of matters arising between them and employers, which may involve a withdrawal of labour, or other industrial action which may endanger the continued employment of members of an affiliated organisation and/or large bodies of workers.

Where there is, in the view of the General Council, a prospect of the difference with the employers being settled by negotiation, the General Council shall not intervene, but where there is, in the view of the General Council, the likelihood of negotiations breaking down, or members of other organisations affiliated to the STUC being involved in a stoppage of work, the General Secretary or the General Council may call the representatives of the affiliated organisations concerned into consultation and use their influence to assist in resolving matters amicably with the employers.

In the event of an affiliated organisation failing to comply with such a call by the General Secretary or General Council, the General Council may consider the conduct of the defaulting affiliated organisation under Rule 14.

RULE 13. DISPUTES BETWEEN AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Should a dispute between affiliated organisations arise, or threaten to arise out of an industrial dispute, or a question of membership, or a demarcation, or

otherwise in any manner or way, it shall be the duty of each of the organisations concerned to notify any such dispute or threatened dispute to the General Council in writing as soon as practicable.

Upon notification by an affiliated organisation, as required by the previous clause of this Rule, or upon failure of such organisation so to notify the General Council, the General Council shall have power to take such action as it deems necessary to promote agreement between the organisations concerned.

In the event of the organisations failing to reach agreement, or the General Council considering that such agreement is unlikely to be reached, the General Council may require the organisations concerned to appear before them at a hearing.

At the hearing, the organisations concerned shall be entitled to place before the General Council such evidence, information, explanation and submission as they respectively may consider relevant to the dispute.

In addition, the organisations concerned may be requested to provide such other information, evidence and explanation as the General Council considers to be relevant to the dispute. The General Council shall at or following the conclusion of the hearing, have power to determine the matter in dispute. In making such a determination, the General Council shall have regard to the principles governing disputes between unions issued from time to time by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress. In the event of any organisation failing to attend the hearing, the General Council shall be entitled to determine the matter in dispute in its absence.

The General Council shall, after any such hearing, issue a report to the organisations concerned. The report shall, where the General Council have determined the matter in dispute, include the General Council's findings and determination.

The General Council shall report any such hearing and determination they have made to the following Congress, or to a Special Congress convened for that purpose. Should the General Council think fit, they may appoint a Disputes' Committee from amongst their own members and delegate to such Disputes' Committee full powers to hold the hearing into such dispute, or threatened dispute, and to determine the same. In the event of a dispute being heard by the Disputes' Committee, all decisions and reports shall be issued by and in the name of the General Council.

Affiliated organisations involved in proceedings under this Rule shall be bound by any determination by the General Council and shall comply forthwith with the same.

In the event of an organisation failing to comply with a determination by the General Council, or with the requirements of this Rule, the General Council may consider the conduct of the organisation under Rule 14.

If a report of the General Council made under this Rule is challenged at the Congress or Special Congress, a member of the General Council shall present the report and a representative from and duly appointed by the delegates of each of the organisations in dispute, shall be entitled to be heard on the decision of the General Council and Congress shall have power to affirm or reject the decision of the General Council or remit the dispute to the General Council for further consideration. A decision of Congress, affirming or rejecting a decision of the General Council, shall be final and conclusive.

RULE 14. CONDUCT OF AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

If, at any time, there appears to the General Council to be justification for an investigation into the conduct of any affiliated organisation on the grounds that the activities of that organisation may be contrary to the objects of the STUC, or to Trade Union principles, or to the declared policy of the STUC, or on the grounds that the organisation has contravened, or failed to obey any requirement of these rules, or, on the grounds of the organisation's standing with the Trades Union Congress or similar organisation, the General Council may appoint a Sub-Committee consisting of three members from the Council to carry out such an investigation.

The Sub-Committee shall thereafter investigate the alleged conduct. If, after such investigation, the Sub-Committee considers that there is a case to answer in respect of said conduct, it shall give notification to the General Council and to the organisation concerned of the conduct complained of and of the ground or grounds of complaint.

Upon receiving such notification from the Sub-Committee, the General Council shall, within a reasonable period, summon the organisation concerned to a hearing before it. At the hearing, the General Council shall hear, in the presence of the organisation concerned, any evidence, information, or explanation presented by the Sub-Committee in respect of the alleged conduct.

Thereafter, the General Council shall give the organisation concerned an opportunity of presenting such evidence, information and explanation, if any, as it wishes to present. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the General Council shall have power to decide whether the organisation has been guilty of the alleged conduct. In the event of the organisation having been found guilty of the said conduct, the General Council shall afford to the organisation an opportunity to present such further evidence, information and explanation as it wishes in relation to imposition of penalty, and shall thereafter have power to reprimand,

fine and/or suspend the organisation, or to recommend the expulsion of the organisation from the STUC.

It shall be competent for the General Council to take into consideration, in considering the said penalty, any previous finding of guilt and penalty against the same organisation by the General Council or Congress, or by the Trades Union Congress, or similar organisation.

Members of the Sub-Committee appointed to investigate and present any case against an organisation shall not be entitled to be present at any stage during, or to vote, or take any other part in the deliberation of the General Council as to its findings in respect of the alleged conduct, or in respect of penalty.

The General Council shall notify the organisation concerned of the decision of the General Council, including the penalty to be imposed. The General Council shall issue a full report thereon to all affiliated organisations including the organisation concerned.

The General Council shall cause the decision to be included in the business of the next Congress, or, if the decision is made more than six months before the next Congress, shall, if it so determines, or if the organisation concerned so requests, convene a Special Congress for the purpose. At the said Congress, or the said Special Congress, as the case may be, a member of the Sub-Committee, or an Officer appointed on its behalf, shall summarise to Congress the case against the said organisation. A representative of the said organisation drawn and appointed from the delegates of the said organisation to Congress or, in the event of a suspension, a representative of the organisation duly appointed by it and who would otherwise have been entitled to be a delegate, shall be entitled to be heard in answer.

Congress may decide to affirm or revoke the decision of the General Council, or to affirm, or revoke the penalty and may, if a recommendation to that effect has been made, expel the organisation from membership of the STUC. The decision of Congress shall be final and conclusive.

RULE 15. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR

The accounts for the year shall be closed on the 31st December each year and an Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet, duly certified by the Auditors, shall be presented to each delegate during the Congress or the General Council in non-Congress years.

RULE 16. AUDITORS

The accounts of the STUC shall be audited annually by a Chartered or Incorporated Accountant, to be appointed by the General Council, who shall have access to all papers and documents relating to the Income and Expenditure of the STUC.

RULE 17. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Proposals to alter the Constitution shall be submitted in the form of a motion no later than twelve weeks before the assembly of Congress. Any such motion shall be published in the Preliminary Agenda of Congress and shall be subject to amendment by the General Council and affiliated organisations in the same manner as provided for in Rule 26.

The General Council may convene a Special Congress, under Rule 9.10, with a view to submitting to it a motion or motions to amend the Constitution.

PART 2

The Congress

RULE 18. ASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS

The Congress shall normally assemble biennially in odd years, on the third Monday of April and shall sit during the following two days.

On occasions, when the normal timing of Congress would coincide with Easter or related school holidays, the General Council shall designate a suitable date for the assembly and sitting of Congress.

The General Council may, in special circumstances, vary the date, time and duration of Congress.

RULE 19. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONGRESS

The General Council shall arrange the venue of Congress and shall assist and co-operate with the appropriate Local Authority of the town, where the Congress is to be held, for the purpose of making the arrangements as complete as possible. The General Council shall have the power to invite representatives of any organisation, or any person felt appropriate, to attend the sittings of Congress.

RULE 20. DELEGATES TO CONGRESS

The Congress shall consist of delegates from affiliated Trade Unions and Trades Union Councils, from the STUC Black Workers' Committee; the STUC Disabled Workers' Committee; the STUC LGBT+ Workers' Committee; the STUC Women's Committee; and the STUC Youth Committee.

The expenses of delegates must be defrayed by the organisation they represent, except in the case of the delegates from the Black Workers', Disabled Workers', LGBT+ Workers, Women's and Youth Conferences, whose expenses must be met by their Trade Union of Trades Union Council.

RULE 21. BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

Trade Unions shall be entitled to send to Congress one delegate for every 500 members or fraction thereof, provided that:

i. they shall have paid an affiliation fee in line with the provisions of Rule 5, on the full Scottish numerical strength of the Union, free or otherwise, towards the expenses of the General Council, and the delegates' fee determined by the General Council; and

ii. they shall have complied with Rule 20 above.

Trades Union Councils shall be entitled to send not more than three delegates to Congress, provided that:

i. they shall have paid the affiliation fee determined by the General Council and the fee determined by the General Council for each delegate attending Congress; and

ii. they shall have complied with Rule 20 above.

Trades Union Council delegates to Congress shall be appointed only from the Trade Union representatives on the Councils and, when forwarding names and addresses in accordance with Rule 19(c) above, Trades Union Councils shall state the Trade Union Branch(es) which their Congress delegate(s) represent on the Councils.

The Black Workers' Committee shall be entitled to send not more than 6 delegates to Congress, elected by and from the Black Workers' Committee in such manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.

The Disabled Workers' Committee shall be entitled to send not more than 6 delegates to Congress, elected by and from the Disabled Workers' Committee in such a manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.

The Youth Committee shall be entitled to send not more than 6 delegates to Congress, elected by and from the Youth Committee in such manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.

The LGBT+ Workers' Committee shall be entitled to send not more than 6 delegates to Congress, elected by and from the LGBT+ Workers' Committee in such a manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.

The Women's Committee shall be entitled to send not more than 6 delegates to Congress, elected by and from the Women's Committee in such a manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.

RULE 22. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

A Standing Orders Committee shall comprise four members, three of whom shall be elected for the ensuing the Congress. The fourth member of the Standing Orders Committee shall be appointed by the General Council. In addition, the President of the STUC and/or the General Secretary shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Committee in a consultative capacity. Neither the General Council nominee, nor the President of the STUC, nor General Secretary shall have voting rights.

The Committee shall elect from amongst them a Chairperson. The member appointed by the General Council shall not be eligible to serve as Chairperson of the Committee but shall act as the Secretary to the Committee.

Nominations for membership of the Committee shall be submitted to the General Secretary not later than four weeks before Congress. A ballot paper containing the names of candidates for the Standing Orders Committee will be circulated to each delegate with the Final Agenda.

A ballot box, in which completed ballot papers should be lodged, will be made available from the opening of Congress business on the opening day until 12 noon on the second day of Congress. Each delegate shall be entitled to vote for up to three candidates. If any member elected is not a delegate to the ensuing Congress, or should a vacancy arise for any other reason, it shall be filled by the co-option of the highest unsuccessful candidate, provided that at no time shall more than one Trades Union Council nominee serve on the Committee. In the event that there is no eligible unsuccessful candidate, the General Council shall have power to fill the vacancy.

The Committee shall meet twelve weeks before Congress and consider all the motions submitted, with a view to their competence and to possible composites. The Committee will also consider requests for facilities at the Congress.

The Committee shall again meet, if required, eight weeks before Congress to consider amendments.

The Committee shall again meet five weeks prior to Congress to agree on draft composites, and two weeks prior to Congress to consider affiliates' responses to these composites. The Committee shall, in addition, meet if and when necessary and shall be responsible for the preparation and submission to the first session of Congress of the Order of Business.

The Committee, which shall remain in session during Congress, shall be responsible for the daily presentation of business, the distribution of literature, the introduction of deputations, and any other special business not provided for in the Constitution.

When a Special Congress is convened by the General Council, the Standing Orders Committee shall arrange the agenda and procedure whereby the business of such a Special Congress shall be conducted.

RULE 23. TELLERS

The General Council shall nominate six or more delegates to act as Tellers at each Congress or Special Congress and shall seek the approval of Congress for such nominations. The Tellers shall report to the President the result of each count that may be taken. In the case of dispute, the President may order a re-count.

RULE 24. VOTING

The method of voting at each Congress shall be by voice or show of hands at the discretion of the President. At the discretion of the President, or by indication from at least twenty delegates to Congress, voting shall be by card. A voting card shall be issued to each Union delegation according to membership (for which affiliation fees have been paid in accordance with Rule 5) on the basis of one vote for every 500 members or fractional part thereof represented. Each Trades Union Council delegation shall be issued with a voting card representing three votes. The Disabled Workers' Committee Delegation shall be issued with a voting card representing six votes. The Youth Committee Delegation shall be issued with a voting card representing six votes. The Black Workers' Committee Delegation shall be issued with a voting card representing six votes. The LGBT+ Workers' Committee Delegation shall be issued with a voting card representing six votes. The Women's Committee Delegation shall be issued with a voting card representing six votes.

Such cards shall be issued to affiliated organisations by the General Secretary before the commencement of Congress.

RULE 25. SCRUTINEERS

Four delegates shall be nominated by the General Council for the approval of Congress to count the Ballot Papers for the Election of the General Council and Standing Orders Committee. They shall elect from amongst their own number a Chief Scrutineer who shall report the results to Congress.

RULE 26. BUSINESS OF CONGRESS

Motions for the Programme of Congress, not exceeding three from each affiliated organisation, the Black Workers' Committee, the Disabled Workers' Committee, the LGBT+ Workers' Committee, the Youth Committee, and the Women's Committee, or from the General Council (alterations to the Constitution excepted), must reach the General Secretary at least twelve weeks before the assembling of Congress. Individual motions, with the exception of motions to amend the Constitution of the STUC, must not exceed 300 words. Such motions shall be circulated on the Preliminary Agenda to Trade Unions and Trades Union Councils not later than ten weeks before the assembling of Congress. Individual amendments to motions, with the exception of amendments to motions to amend the Constitution of the STUC, must not exceed 50 words.

All amendments to motions (not exceeding three from each affiliated organisation, from the Disabled Workers', the LGBT+ Workers', the Youth, the Black Workers', the Women's Committee, or from the General Council) must reach the General Secretary at least eight weeks before the assembling of Congress and shall be circulated together with agreed composite motions in the Final Agenda to each delegate and affiliated organisation not later than two weeks before Congress assembles.

All motions and amendments must be signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary of the organisation forwarding them.

The General Council shall issue to each delegate, not later than seven days prior to assembling of Congress, the report, prepared by the Standing Orders Committee, on the order in which Congress business shall be taken. This report shall be presented to Congress at its first session by the Standing Orders Committee.

A preliminary notice announcing the date for submission of motions for the Preliminary Agenda shall be issued by the General Secretary to all organisations not later than 31st October of each year.

Any emergency motion for the consideration of Congress shall be submitted not later than 3.00 pm on the opening day of Congress to the Standing Orders Committee, which shall recommend to Congress whether the motion shall be

discussed, but no motion shall be considered an emergency motion, if it could have been forwarded in time for inclusion in the Preliminary Agenda, or could have been dealt with in an amendment to a motion. All Emergency Motions must be signed by the Leader of the Delegation submitting them.

RULE 27. STANDING ORDERS

Times of Assembling

On the first day, Congress shall assemble at 10.30 am and adjourn at 12.30 pm; re-assemble at 2.00 pm and conclude at 5.30 pm. On the second day, Congress shall assemble at 9.00 am and adjourn at 12.30 pm; re-assemble at 2.00 pm and conclude at 5.30 pm. On the third day Congress shall assemble at 9.00 am and adjourn at 12.30 pm; re-assemble at 2.00 pm and conclude no later than 4.30 pm.

General Council Report

The Congress, having been duly opened, the General Council shall present its Report for the past two years. The Report shall be discussed seriatim and not as a whole. Each speaker on the Report shall be limited to five minutes.

Questions of Order and Competency

It shall be the duty of the President, during the course of discussion, to decide questions of order and competency. In the event of the President's ruling being challenged, it shall be put to Congress forthwith, and without discussion, but such a challenge shall not be sustained unless it is supported by at least two-thirds of the delegates voting.

The President shall have power to refer to the Standing Orders Committee any motion or amendment appearing on the Agenda of Congress which, in the President's opinion, is not competent business and the Standing Orders Committee shall consider the point of competency raised by the President and report to Congress.

Limitations of Speeches

The mover of the original motion shall be allowed five minutes and each succeeding speaker three minutes. No delegate shall speak more than once on the question, except the mover of the original motion, who shall be allowed three minutes to reply to the debate.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Any motion for suspension of Standing Orders shall be formally presented and put to Congress without discussion. The suspension of Standing Orders shall not be approved, unless the motion for suspension receives at least two-thirds of the votes cast.