

The Rule Book – Section B

Scope of Rules and their Interpretation

1. These Rules will be known as the National Rules, and are made by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and endorsed by Annual Conference.
2. For the purpose of these National Rules and Procedures, 'members' refers to individual local Party members.
3. The National Rules will apply to all units of the Party including (inter alia):-
 - Society Party Councils
 - Voluntary Parties
 - Branches subordinate to the Society or Voluntary Party
 - Regional Parties
 - Advisory Committees
 - Central Register of Membership (which, for the purpose of these Rules shall be regarded as a local Party)
4. The National Rules shall be incorporated into the Rules for each unit of the Party.
5. The NEC shall have the authority to sanction, where the NEC considers local circumstances render it necessary, modifications to the Constitution of the particular Party organisation laid down for the various classes of the Party organisations. Such modifications shall comply with the spirit and intention of the Model Rules and may not alter the Party objects or the basis of membership, vary the procedure for nomination of Parliamentary candidates or effect a change in the relationship between the relevant Society Party and National Party.
6. Party organisations may amend their constitutions, so long as such amendments do not contravene the provisions contained in these Rules, and they must be submitted to the NEC for endorsement.
7. Any dispute as to the meaning, interpretation or general application of the relevant Model Constitution, Standing Orders and National Rules of the Party, so far as they affect any unit of the Party, shall be referred to the NEC for determination and the decision of the NEC thereupon shall be final and conclusive for all purposes.
8. The purpose of the Party is to promote co-operative and mutual forms of economic, social, and voluntary organisation, which are based on the principles of mutual ownership and democratic control, and to support political action in pursuance of the values and principles of the co-operative movement in the UK and internationally as defined from time to time by the International Co-operative Alliance.
9. Party Conference shall decide from time to time what values, legislative proposals or administrative reform shall be proposed.
10. 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.