

## The Rule Book – Section R The Scottish Co-operative Party

### Name

1. The Organisation shall be called The Scottish Co-operative Party.

### Functions of the Scottish Co-operative Party

2. The functions of the Scottish Co-operative Party shall be:
  - To work in partnership with affiliated Co-operative Societies
  - To develop local Co-operative Party branches
  - To secure direct Co-operative representation in Parliament
  - To set up a Panel of Candidates to secure direct Co-operative representation in the Scottish Parliament
  - To secure direct Co-operative representation in local government and other appropriate bodies
  - To co-ordinate the activities of the Co-operative Party in Scotland
3. In furtherance of these objects, to undertake educational and campaigning activity and use appropriate media to communicate with the Co-operative Movement and the general public on the policies, aims and objectives of the Co-operative Party.
4. To work in partnership with the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party and to support the decisions of the Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party.

### The Scottish Council

5. There shall be a Co-operative Party Scottish Council.
6. The Council shall consist of:
  - The Scottish representative on the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party
  - Four representatives from Scotmid Society and four representatives from the Co-operative Group
  - The Scottish representative on the Co-operative Party Youth Committee
  - One representative from the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild
  - One representative from Scottish affiliates
  - Two representatives from each Party Branch with less than 100 members and three representatives from each Party Branch with 100 or more members. At least one representative from each branch must be a woman.
  - The Secretary of the Scottish Co-operative Party who shall be a non-voting member of the Council.
7. The Scottish Council shall establish committees or working groups as required.

## Conditions of Membership

8. Membership of the Council shall be confined to persons who are members of the Co-operative Party.

## The Executive Committee

9. The Council shall be constituted annually and appointments and elections arranged so that representatives can attend the first meeting of the Scottish Council held in the calendar year.
10. This meeting shall elect an Executive Committee.
11. The Executive Committee shall consist of:
  - The Chairperson of the Scottish Council who shall be elected by the Scottish Council and who shall chair the Executive Committee
  - Four members of the Scottish Council one of whom shall serve as Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the Scottish Council.
  - Two representatives from the four Scotmid Society representatives on the Scottish Council and two representatives from the four Co-operative Group representatives on the Scottish Council
  - The Scottish representative on the National Executive Committee
  - The Secretary of the Scottish Co-operative Party who shall be Secretary of the Executive Committee and a non-voting member of the Executive Committee
12. No person shall serve more than four years as Chairperson without there being an intervening period of at least two years.
13. The date, hour and place of meetings of the Scottish Council and the Executive Committee for the year shall be arranged at the first meeting each year of the Scottish Council, special meetings to be arranged by the Officers as and when circumstances warrant such action.

## Finance

14. The finances of the Scottish Co-operative Party shall be agreed between the Scottish Co-operative Party and the affiliated societies on an annual basis.
15. The Scottish Co-operative Party shall have the power to create a fund for the purpose of assisting local organisations seeking agreements to promote Co-operative Party candidates in Parliamentary Elections and, in general, advancing the policy of securing representation in Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and in local government.

## Audit

16. At least once every year, the Scottish Executive Committee shall submit its accounts for audit to auditors appointed by the Scottish Council and shall be made available to the Scottish Council once audited. Copies of the audited accounts shall be made available to the National Executive Committee.

## Policy

17. The Scottish Co-operative Party shall be responsible for formulating policy on purely Scottish political matters.
18. All policy is subject to approval by the Scottish Council.

## Scottish Campaign Convention

19. The Scottish Co-operative Party shall convene an Annual Campaign Convention which shall be held, at such date, place and hour as the Executive Committee may determine.
20. The Campaign Convention shall be a major Scottish Co-operative Party event held each year; shall be open to all members and shall be used to promote the policy and campaigning priorities of the Scottish Co-operative Party.

## Amendments to the Rules

21. Amendments or alterations to the Rules can only be made by the Scottish Council and only when such amendment or alteration has been received by the Secretary 28 days before the date of Scottish Council meeting.
22. No alteration or amendment to the Rules shall take effect unless it is supported by two-thirds of the Scottish Council and is approved by the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party.

## National Organisation

23. The Scottish Co-operative Party 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 shall operate such regulations as may be approved or issued by the National Executive Committee of the Party, provided that any regulations issued as a general instruction shall be subject to confirmation by the Annual Conference of the Party.

## National Rules

24. It is hereby declared that the National Rules of the Co-operative Party are deemed to be incorporated into the Rules. 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 the Rules 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 future alteration or amendment to the same shall be deemed to be automatic and will not require any meeting or vote by members of this Scottish Co-operative Party as at the time of such amendment or alteration.

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.