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Chapter 2 Membership Rules

Clause I. Conditions of Membership

1. There shall be individual members of the Labour Party who shall pay a subscription in accordance with these rules, subject to a minimum as laid down in Clause III below.
2. The term 'individual members of the Party' shall encompass all grades of membership laid down in Clause III below; all such members shall have equivalent rights within all units of the Party except as prescribed in these rules.
3. Individual members shall be subjects/residents of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or citizens of Eire or other persons resident in The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for more than one year who:
 - a. are not less than 14 years of age, and
 - b. subscribe to the conditions of membership in this clause, and
 - c. are not members of political parties or organisations ancillary or subsidiary thereto declared by Party conference or by the NEC in pursuance of Party conference decisions to be ineligible for affiliation to the Party.
4. Exclusions
 - a. A member of the Party who stands for election, subscribes to a nomination paper of or acts as the election agent to a person standing for election, in opposition to a Labour candidate, shall automatically be ineligible to be or remain a Party member, subject to the provisions of Chapter 6.I.2 below of the disciplinary rules.
 - b. A member of the Party who joins and/ or supports a political organisation other than an official Labour group or other unit of the Party, or supports any candidate who stands against an official Labour candidate, or publicly declares their intent to stand against a Labour candidate, shall automatically be ineligible to be or remain a Party member, subject to the provisions of Chapter 6.I.2 below of the disciplinary rules.
 - c. A member of the Party that is a duly endorsed Labour candidate and stands by their own volition as a candidate under a description other than as a Labour candidate and having given less than 14 days written notice of such to the local Party prior to the close of nominations, shall automatically be ineligible to be or remain a Party member, subject to the provisions of Chapter 6.I.2 below of the disciplinary rules.
 - d. Where a member has been convicted of a serious criminal offence the NEC shall have the right to impose the appropriate disciplinary action from the following options:
 - i. Suspension from membership or from holding office and representation of the Party for the duration of any prison sentence imposed, including a suspended sentence.
 - ii. Referral of disciplinary case to the NCC
 - iii. Where the NEC determines it is appropriate and based on a conviction for a serious offence, resolve that a member is ineligible to be or remain a Party member, subject to the provisions of Chapter 6.I.2 below of the disciplinary rules.
5. Resident Abroad
 - a. Subjects of Great Britain or Northern Ireland or citizens of Eire, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man resident abroad may become individual overseas

- members of the Party, by enrolment with Head Office and paying the full standard rate subscription, provided they accept the conditions of membership in this clause. Overseas members may establish overseas supporters groups registered with Head Office.
- b. Subjects of Great Britain or Northern Ireland temporarily resident abroad may retain their existing membership of the Party, subject to notifying Head Office of their address, paying the full standard rate subscription and accepting the conditions of membership in this clause.
 - c. The individual members and supporters groups referred to in this clause shall be known as Labour International which shall operate according to regulations approved by the NEC but shall include provision for the representation of Labour International members at Party conference, with a voting entitlement as for CLPs in Chapter 3.III.3.A.ii below.
6. To be and remain eligible for membership, each individual member must:
- a. accept and conform to the constitution, programme, principles and policy of the Party
 - b. if applicable, be a member of a trade union affiliated to the Trade Union Congress or considered by the NEC as a bona fide trade union and contribute to the political fund of that union (a person who does not contribute to the political fund of her/his trade union may not be an individual member of the Party)
 - c. be a member of the CLP (where one exists) for the address where she or he resides and is registered as an elector unless having moved since the registration qualifying date, temporarily resident abroad or otherwise prevented from being registered, in which case she or he must be resident within that constituency.
 - d. on becoming elected as a public representative (i.e. member of Westminster, Scottish or European Parliament, Greater London Assembly, Welsh Assembly, Police Commissioner or local government body), pay their membership subscriptions by Direct Debit and at least at the standard rate
7. The NEC may rescind endorsement as a full Party member when evidence is provided that the individual concerned neither resides at the address given on the membership system and/or is not on the electoral register and is therefore (subject to 5 above) ineligible for membership; or where evidence is provided that the individual concerned has been claiming reduced rate or registered membership when s/he is not entitled to it under Clause III.1 below.
8. No member of the Party shall engage in conduct which in the opinion of the NEC is prejudicial, or in any act which in the opinion of the NEC is grossly detrimental to the Party. Any dispute as to whether a member is in breach of the provisions of this sub-clause shall be determined by the NCC in accordance with Chapter 1 Clause IX above and the disciplinary rules and guidelines in Chapter 6 below. Where appropriate the NCC shall have regard to involvement in financial support for the organisation and/ or the activities of any organisation declared ineligible for affiliation to the Party under Chapter 1.II.5 or 3.C above; or to the candidature of the members in opposition to an officially endorsed Labour Party candidate or the support for such candidature. The NCC shall not have regard to the mere holding or expression of beliefs and opinions.

Clause II. Membership Procedures

1. Individual members of the Party shall be recruited into membership in accordance with these rules and any applicable NEC guidelines which shall be issued to Party units and affiliated organisations from time to time. Members of affiliated organisations not already members who have paid the political levy or political

subscriptions to the affiliated organisation for a period of at least 12 months may be recruited into membership of the Party via that affiliated organisation as registered members.

2. Without prejudice to any other provision of these rules, and without prejudice to its powers under Chapter 1.VIII, the NEC shall be empowered to determine any dispute or question which may arise in respect of membership of the Party, either by considering the matter itself or by referring the matter to the NEC Disputes Panel for a decision. In such cases the NEC's decision, or the decision of the Disputes Panel as approved by the NEC, shall be final and binding.
3. For the avoidance of doubt and without prejudice to any other provision in this rule book, any breach of any of these procedures, NEC guidelines or the NEC code of conduct shall be liable to be dealt with by the NCC as a disciplinary offence
4. The NEC shall issue procedural guidelines on issues relating to membership from time to time, including a code of conduct on membership recruitment. In particular, the NEC wishes to highlight the following areas of potential abuse of membership rules:
 - a. It is an abuse of Party rules for one individual or faction to 'buy' Party membership for other individuals or groups of individuals who would otherwise be unwilling to pay their own subscriptions.
 - b. It is an abuse of Party rules for an individual or faction to offer reduced-rate membership to people they know to be ineligible for that category of membership.
 - c. It is an abuse of Party rules for individuals or factions to recruit members who do not live at the claimed addresses in an attempt to manipulate local Party meetings or the outcome of Party ballots.
 - d. It is a requirement of Party rules for members, where eligible, to register to vote at the address for which they claim membership. It is an abuse of this rule to allow those who are not willing to register to vote for the Party to become members of it.
 - e. It shall be regarded as an act grossly detrimental to the Party to withhold membership payments collected locally.
 - f. Party officers and members should be aware that involvement in such abuses shall be considered as behaviour likely to bring the Party into disrepute and prima facie evidence of such behaviour may lead to disciplinary action leading to expulsion under the constitutional rules of the Party.

Clause III. Membership subscriptions

1. Each individual member of the Party shall pay a minimum annual membership subscription. The level of subscription shall be set in accordance with the formula shown below.
 - a. Reduced Rate
 - i. A reduced minimum rate set at half the Standard Rate will be offered to persons who are unwaged, pensioners who have retired from work, persons working less than 16 hours a week and persons on government training schemes,
 - b. Elected Representative Rate
 - i. An elected representative's rate shall be set at twice the Standard Rate for all elected representatives with the exception of local authority councillors.
 - c. Registered Trade Union Rate
 - i. Members of an affiliated trade union paying the political levy and members of an affiliated socialist society paying a political subscription, who are not already full members of the Party, shall be

allowed individual 'registered' membership of the Party at a reduced minimum annual subscription

- d. Youth Rate
 - i. New members under the age of 19 or Labour Students can join for an annual subscription of £1 and can continue on that reduced rate whilst they are in full time education as follows:
 - a. Under the age of 19 at £1.00 per year
 - b. Under the age of 27 at £12.00 per year, and
 - c. Under the age of 28 at the Reduced Rate
 - e. Standard Rate
 - i. There shall be a standard rate for all other members.
 - f. Exceptions
 - i. The NEC may from time to time define membership offers to encourage recruitment and retention
 - ii. To further aid retention, members recruited by an NEC exceptional rate shall be offered the opportunity to renew at the end of their first year at the Reduced Rate before moving to their appropriate rate at the end of their second year.
 - g. In order to provide all members with a quality membership service and to achieve the objectives of the Labour Party, members are encouraged to pay a membership fee according to their annual income.
 - h. The NEC will determine membership rates as and when necessary for Annual Conference to approve.
2. That on the 1st January each year the membership fee will increase by the rate of inflation (using the rate of inflation for the previous October). The reduced and registered rate membership fees will be set at 50% of the full rate each year rounded to the nearest 50p. The Elected Representatives' rate will be set at twice the standard rate each year. The NEC will retain the power to bring to Party conference recommendations to set the membership fee increase at a level greater than inflation, if it deems that necessary.
 3. In order to develop membership, CLPs may adjust membership subscriptions for specific purposes as agreed in principle by Party conference.
 4. Eligibility and arrears
 - a. A member may only participate and vote in Party meetings if they are endorsed and have paid the appropriate subscription to Head Office. Any dispute as to eligibility shall be resolved by the Regional Director (or General Secretary in Scotland and Wales) – RD(GS), or their designated representative, with reference to the records of the national membership system. It is the responsibility of the individual member to produce a valid membership card when required.
 - b. To participate in the selection of candidates at any level, a member must be fully paid up by the notified relevant date. A member shall be deemed to be 'fully paid up' if they are not in arrears, either in whole or in part, with their membership payments.
 - c. A member shall be deemed to be in arrears from the expiry date of their membership until they renew their subscription.
 - d. A member shall be deemed to have lapsed from membership if s/he has been in arrears for six months and has not responded to a request to pay the arrears.
 5. NEC guidelines shall be published to deal with the payment of membership arrears and the granting in exceptional circumstances of continuous membership to lapsed members who have paid any outstanding subscriptions owed.

6. An NEC approved statement shall be produced setting out the basis on which membership fees shall be allocated, including a minimum cash allocation of £1.50 per paid up member and a guaranteed minimum package of support for all CLPs. The minimum cash allocation will increase on January 1st each year by the rate of inflation (using the rate of inflation for the previous October).