

# Gymkhana Elections Rulebook 2023

## Code of Conduct:

1. Campaigning by or for a contestant including by means of posters, pamphlets, chits, door-to-door or classroom canvassing, public events (other than those organized by the EC) or any other such sort of venture is not allowed.
2. No candidate shall be permitted to carry out processions, or public meetings, or in any way canvass or distribute propaganda inside or outside the university/college campus.
3. Only the Facebook group created by the Election Commission (EC) will be considered for social media campaigning.
4. Sharing of posters, photos, and posts on WhatsApp and Instagram is strictly forbidden.
5. It is strictly advised that contestant names should not be mentioned in any of the mails/messages except for those sent by the CEO during the period of election.
6. Residential life of campus residents should not be disturbed, and they shouldn't feel any sort of inconvenience.
7. There shall be no appeal to hostel, religion, creed, caste, race, gender or communal feelings for securing votes. Places of worship, within or without the campus shall not be used for election propaganda.
8. No candidate shall indulge in, nor shall abet, any activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic, or between any group(s) of students.
9. Anti-campaigning in any form is strictly prohibited.
10. Criticism of other candidates, when made during EC organized events, shall be confined to their policies and programs, past record and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the other candidates or supporters of such other candidates. Criticism of other candidates, or their supporters based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
11. All candidates shall be prohibited from indulging or abetting, all activities which are considered to be "corrupt practices" and offences, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing or the use of propaganda within 100 meters of polling stations, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.
12. Any sort of unofficial financial/unethical dealings are strictly prohibited.
13. During the period of the elections no person, who is not a student on the rolls of the college/university, shall be permitted to take part in the election process in any capacity. Any person, candidate, or member of the student organization, violating this rule shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings, in addition to the candidature being revoked.
14. On the day of polling and during public events organized by the EC, student organizations and candidates shall:

- a. co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction
  - b. not serve or distribute any eatables, or other solid and liquid consumables
15. Except the voters, no one without a valid pass / letter of authority from the election commission or from the college / university authorities shall enter the polling booths.
16. Any individual, who is holding a post in current Gymkhana will not be allowed to use his/her post for any sort of campaigning. If found guilty, he/she will be barred from further involvement in the activities of Club/Board for which he holds the authority from the period of notification to the day of election. In case of any important work, one must consult the CEO, VP- SGC, ADoSA or DoSA. If the said individual is contesting for the election as well, in addition to suspension from club/board activities, his/her candidature is liable to be canceled.
17. No member of the EC shall oppose or support any contestant.
18. The election team reserves the right to cancel any candidature if the code of conduct or the rules of election are not followed. In such cases, the Dean of Students' Affairs and the Assoc Deans of Students' Affairs will be the appellate authority. In case of cancellation of nomination by the EC, "3 working days" OR "one day prior to election will be provided to the contestant to appeal to DoSA/ADoSA, whichever deadline is met first. If the cancellation takes place one day prior to election, and the contestant has less than 24 hours to appeal, the issue must be resolved before declaring the results.
19. In case of cancellation of candidature, EC must send a detailed email to [stud@iitg.ac.in](mailto:stud@iitg.ac.in), [rs@iitg.ac.in](mailto:rs@iitg.ac.in). The mail should specify the name of contestant, the position contested for and the reason for cancellation of candidature.
20. Dean of Students' Affairs and the Assoc. Deans of Students' Affairs will be associated with the Gymkhana General Election process. All the Chairperson of various boards will be the observers during the complete election process, to whom students can immediately report for any unfair activity.
21. The Election commission, along with Dean of Students' Affairs and the Assoc. Deans of Students' Affairs will function as a verification body for each candidate's agenda and manifesto. Recommendations given by this body shall be final, and failure to adhere to them may result in cancellation of candidature.
22. Candidates are advised to keep in mind the scope of work of the position they are contesting for before presenting their agendas.
23. Any instance of acute lawlessness or the commission of a criminal offence shall be reported to the police by the university / college authorities as soon as possible, but not later than 12 hours after the alleged commission of the offence.

**Any contravention of any of the above recommendations may make the candidate liable to be stripped of his candidature, or his elected post, as the case may be. The election commission has the authority to decide the penalty based on the grievousness of the offence. The election commission / college / university authorities may also take appropriate disciplinary action against such a violator.**

## Public Debates:

The Public Debates will consist of two rounds:

1. Hostel Debates:

- a. This round will involve presenting and defending one's agenda to the public audience within a designated time frame.
- b. This round will be applicable to all (both senators and the executive) positions in the Gymkhana.
- c. Candidates are expected to listen and take note of the agendas presented by opposing candidates but are prohibited from interjecting or engaging in arguments during this time.
- d. Candidates will be required to address any doubts or questions raised by the audience as and when necessary.
- e. The allotted time for each position will be strictly adhered to.

2. Main Debates:

- a. This round will be held exclusively for the General Secretary and Vice President positions.
- b. This round will feature all candidates contesting for the respective positions and a panel of adjudicators to oversee the debate.
- c. Candidates will be required to respond to questions posed by the adjudicators in front of the public audience.
- d. Candidates will be allowed to question and argue with opposing candidates regarding their answers and agendas.

**It is to be noted that a comprehensive run-through of the debate proceedings and guidelines will be shared prior to the actual debate.**

## Right to vote:

1. The privilege of casting a vote in the Gymkhana Election is extended to all bona fide and registered students of the institute.
2. Eligible voters who are present on campus on the voting day can exercise their right to vote at the designated polling station during the specified hours. Any instructions to voters, if applicable, will be displayed at the polling station and communicated via the official Mail, Facebook, and Instagram pages.
3. The electronic electoral poll form will include a "None of the Above" option in accordance with the provisions specified in the voting system.

### Voting system:

Election of the President, General Secretaries of various boards, and Senators shall be conducted among the General Body.

1. For President and General Secretaries:

Voters shall have the option to vote for a candidate or indicate "None of the Above" (NOTA). The winner shall be determined based on the number of votes cast for each candidate. In the event that more than 50% of voters do not vote for any candidate, a selection process for those positions will be conducted after the election.

2. For Senators:

- a. Undergraduate (UG) students shall select up to seven members from the list of candidates contesting for the UG Senator position, and the top seven will be declared winners.
- b. Postgraduate (PG) students shall select up to seven members from the list of candidates contesting for the PG Senator position, and the top seven will be declared winners.
- c. Female students (either UG or PG) shall select up to three members from the list of candidates contesting for the Girl Senator position, in addition to the UG/PG Senators, and the top three will be declared winners.
- d. However, voters may choose not to vote for any candidate. If more than 50% of voters do not vote for any candidate contesting for the Senator position, the election for those positions will be conducted again.

**In the event of any vacant positions, the existing and incoming Senates, in consultation with the Dean of Student Affairs, shall make a joint decision to fill the vacancy.**

### Declaration of results:

The results of the election shall be submitted by the CEO/Election Committee to the Dean of Student Affairs (DoSA). The DoSA shall then forward the results to the Director for review and approval. Upon receiving the approval from the Director, the election results will be officially declared to the student body.

Procedure for amendment:

1. Proposed amendments to the election rules regarding changes in the gymkhana structure, composition, eligibility criteria, nomination, right to vote, and voting system must first be presented to the Student Senate. Approval must then be obtained from the Student Affairs Council (SAC) for implementation
2. Amendments to these election rules, made after the Handing Over Ceremony, will not take effect in the next immediate Gymkhana General Election.

Chief Election Officer (CEO), along with the Election Officers, will review the general election rules after completion of election procedure and propose improvements to be made from his experience to the Dean of Students' Affairs, if any, which will be placed in the immediate SAC Meeting for perusal and approval, before new Gymkhana assuming charge.