# Election Guidelines

These James Cook University Student Association – NUS Delegate Election Guidelines (Guidelines) have been prepared to assist in the efficient and effective conduct of Elections, pursuant to Part 8- Elections of the James Cook University Student Association Regulations (Regulations).

The Guidelines share the Part 2 Interpretation of the Regulations. The Guidelines are subordinate to the Regulations. Where there is any inconsistency or discrepancy the Regulations take precedence in so far as the inconsistency or discrepancy applies.

These Guidelines are divided into parts as follows:

1. Addition and amendment
2. Tickets
3. Social and Electronic Media
4. Electronic Voting Information

## 1    Addition and amendment

1.1    These Guidelines may be added to or amended by the Association Council by resolution.

## 2    Tickets

2.1    If a number of Students wish to stand for election on a common platform, one of those students may apply to register a ticket name with the Electoral Officer.  This person shall be deemed the Ticket Registrant.

2.2    The application must contain the signature of at least ten (10) Students.  Following registration of a ticket, should one of the Students wish to withdraw their support or cease to be a Student, the Ticket Registrant will have 48 hours to provide an alternate Student signature.  During this period the ticket can continue activities as per normal provisions.

2.3    Ticket application must be received by the Returning Officer prior to the close of nominations.

2.4    No student may sign more than one application and no candidate standing on a NUS Delegate ticket  may sign an application for a different NUS Delegate ticket.

2.5    If the proposed name of a ticket includes the name of an affiliated Club or Society, the application must include:

2.5.1    A copy of a resolution passed by the club or society approving the use of the name, and

2.5.2    The signature of the president or secretary of that club or society certifying the passing of the resolution.

2.6     If the proposed name of a ticket includes the name of a ticket used in any Association election in the past three (3) years, the application must include the written consent of the person who most recently registered the ticket.

2.7     The Electoral Officer may refuse to permit a ticket name which is misleading, offensive or sufficiently similar to be confusing, and shall give the applicant the option of choosing another name.

2.8     Each Student standing on a ticket must sign and return to the Electoral Officer acknowledgement that their name is included on a ticket. Where the student signed as part of the ticket registration, this is not required.

2.9     A Student may not stand on more than one NUS Delegate ticket.

2.10    All Electoral Material, including flyers, posters, banners, etc. that include the authorising Ticket Registrant's name, should also include the ticket name.

2.11    Electronic Voting Information will include candidate name and where applicable ticket name.

2.12    Any direction or information given by the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer to the Ticket Registrant shall be deemed to be given to all candidates nominated on that ticket.


## 3     Social and Electronic Media

Appreciating the nature of social and electronic media, these Guidelines are provided in addition to the approval and authorisation requirements set out in the Regulation. The Guidelines are subordinate to the Regulations. Where there is any inconsistency or discrepancy the Regulations take precedence in so far as the inconsistency or discrepancy applies.

It should be noted that when using electronic media and disseminating information that students remain bound by JCU Policies including but not limited to Information Communication Technology Acceptable Use Policy, Social Media Policy and Social Media Guidelines as well as *Spam Act 2003 (Cth)* and associated *Spam (Consequential Amendments) Act 2003 (Cth)*.

3.1     Where practical social and electronic media will be treated in the same manner as other election material.

3.2     For web published information, including but not limited to dedicated websites, web articles, blog posts, etc. the material will require approval prior to publishing. In addition, the URL (Uniform Resource Locator) of the hosting site is to be provided to the Electoral Officer within twenty-four (24) hours of publication and/or edit.

3.3 Brief status updates and posts on Facebook and similar social media sites and microblogging sites by candidates and third parties will not require separate prior authorisation, provided that the following conditions are met:

   3.3.1 The post is limited to an encouragement to vote for a particular candidate and/or ticket, and does not introduce any new material beyond what has already been authorised;

   3.3.2 The post makes no comment of any sort on any opposing candidate or ticket;

   3.3.3 The post does not seek to deceive or mislead in any way. This includes maintaining clarity of any ticket affiliation the candidate may have.

   3.3.4 The post either appears on or contains a link to the main site for the candidate or ticket, and that site has been duly authorised and carries an authorisation line in a position visible at first sight.

   3.3.5 Posts that do not meet the above conditions may still be permitted, but authorisation will have to be separately applied for.

   3.3.6 This ruling does not apply to paid advertisements on Facebook and other social media sites, which must also be separately authorised.

3.4 Any social or electronic media material or comment must be removed as quickly as practicable by the publisher at the earlier of the Returning Officer's request or conclusion of the election.

3.5 The making of election-related posts on the pages of political opponent's is prohibited.

## 4 Electronic voting guidelines

Eligible voters will vote through an online portal using a unique link sent to each student's JCU email.

This will ensure confidentiality and privacy as well as creating a secure system of voting.

Voting should be possible from most devices such as laptops, mobile phones, tablets and computers.

Candidates names will appear in the order they are drawn. If a candidate is running on a ticket, the name of the ticket will be stated in brackets next to the candidate's name.