

THE CONSTITUTION of THE PARTY

4th Edition

1. INTRODUCTION

Name

- 1.1 The Party is known as the “Homeland Party” in English, “Plaid y Famwlad” in Welsh, and “Pàrtaidh Tìr-Dhàimh” in Scots Gaelic (hereinafter referred to as “the Party”).
- 1.2 The Party is registered with the Commission on the Great Britain register under number PP17 368.ⁱ
- 1.3 The Party may also use such other names as may be registered, from time to time, and may also use informally such other names as may be appropriate.

Constitution

- 1.4 The Constitution of the Party determines structure & organisation of the Party,ⁱⁱ the arrangements for its governance, the rules for carrying out its business, and how it will regulate its activities in accordance with statutory requirements and the principles of natural justice.
- 1.5 At a General Meeting, the Party Members must approve this Constitution and any amendments by a special resolution.
 - 1.5.1 Where changes to the Constitution affect the structure and organisation of the Party, notification shall be sent to the Commission within the prescribed time.ⁱⁱⁱ
 - 1.5.2 Notwithstanding Clause 1.5, the National Council may amend this Constitution or add an addendum without Party Member approval in order to:
 - (a) comply with any new enactment, ruling, regulation, or lawful order;
 - (b) maintain the Party’s registration with the Commission;
 - (c) provide clarification of any clause in this Constitution.

Any such amendments or addenda shall be limited to the extent necessary to comply and shall be communicated to Party Members within fourteen days of adoption. Such changes shall be ratified by Party Members at the next General Meeting.
- 1.6 The interpretation of this Constitution is governed by the provisions set out in the Schedule at the end.



Structure & Organisation

- 1.7 The Party is a single organisation with no division of responsibility for the financial affairs and transactions of the Party.^{iv}
- 1.8 No constituent or affiliated organisation may be established without a resolution from the National Council and, where necessary, amendments to this Constitution.
- 1.9 Subject to alignment with the Party's aims & objectives, the Party may absorb the assets, liabilities, and membership of another party or organisation upon the resolution of the National Council.
- 1.10 The Party exists as a non-profit company limited by guarantee^v with the required non-profit distribution clauses for limited name exemption,^{vi} registered with Companies House under number 15 504 210. Members of the National Council shall serve as Directors of the Company as needed.
- 1.11 A motion that the Company distribute its assets by way of a lawful scheme of reconstruction to another organisation with similar objects and then dissolve, can be passed by a special resolution of the National Council. Such a motion would then require a vote of the Party Members at a General Meeting to amend this Constitution and adopt the new body as the principal organisation of the Party. Nothing in this Clause shall affect the Party registration status with the Commission.



2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Aims

- 2.1 We affirm that the traditional family constitutes the cornerstone of society, fostering high-trust and interconnected communities and nations. Our aim is to advocate for and enact policies that ensure the safety and security necessary for families to nurture and raise children.
- 2.2 We assert that indigenous people have an inseparable bond with their homeland and are its natural stewards. Our aim is to advocate for and enact policies that safeguard the people, wildlife, plant life, soil and sea collectively from pollution, invasion and destruction.
- 2.3 We affirm it is right and proper for the people to demand fair living conditions from both local and national government. Our aim is to advocate for and enact policies that prioritise improvement in housing, healthcare, education and employment over profit for the few.
- 2.4 We assert that the indigenous people of these islands are endowed with inalienable rights and liberties. Our aim is to advocate for and enact policies that secure these ancient rights through the application of natural law, jurisprudence and principle of equality before the law.
- 2.5 We assert that Nationalism, as defined by the Party, represents the most natural worldview. Our aim is to advocate for its key principles and to enact policies that prioritise the well-being of our people over internationalist, economic and progressive ideologies.
 - 2.5.1 The key principles of Nationalism are as follows:
 - (a) self-determination;
 - (b) *jus sanguinis*;
 - (c) nation-state;
 - (d) ethnic identity;
 - (e) homeland.

Objectives

- 2.6 The Party's primary objective is to stand candidates primarily at local elections in England, Scotland and Wales.^{vii}
- 2.7 The Party's secondary objective is to engage in other forms of community politics, not necessarily connected to elections.
- 2.8 The Party's tertiary objective is the encouragement and promotion of recreational activities for Party Members and supporters.
- 2.9 The Party's long-term objective is the formation of local and national governments.
- 2.10 The Party shall seek to redefine local authority boundaries to better represent the people and to devolve more power to a local level.
- 2.11 The Party shall assist in establishing of parish and community councils where none currently exist.



3. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Function

- 3.1 The National Council of the Party is the executive, which shall function as the principal management and administrative authority of the Party, in particular for the purposes of company law.
- 3.2 The National Council may make decisions outside of meetings where a clear majority of its members indicate agreement in writing or by poll. In the event of a deadlock, matters may be resolved through the approval of:
- (a) an ordinary resolution, which shall be passed by a simple majority vote of those in attendance at a meeting; or
 - (b) a special resolution, which shall be passed by a majority of not less than 75% of those in attendance at a meeting.
- 3.3 A quorum for meetings of the National Council shall be formed by either three National Council members or half of the total number of National Council members, whichever is greater.
- 3.3.1 The quorum may be increased, from time to time, by a resolution of the National Council and must be recorded in the Standing Orders.
- 3.4 The National Council shall take collective responsibility for all decisions made.

Roles

- 3.5 Membership of the National Council shall be:
- (a) the Chairman;
 - (b) the Treasurer;
 - (c) the Nominating Officer;
 - (d) National Council Officers.
- 3.6 The National Council shall consist of no more than fourteen members, selected for their competence, dedication, trustworthiness, soundness, and dependability.
- 3.7 Selection of new National Council members shall be made by an ordinary resolution of the National Council.
- 3.8 The National Council shall assign roles and responsibilities to National Council Officers other than those described in this Constitution, as required.
- 3.8.1 A member of the National Council shall be appointed, from time to time, to serve as the returning officer for the selection of the Chairman and for General Meetings.
- 3.9 All members of the National Council must be Party Members.

Responsibilities

- 3.10 The day-to-day furtherance of the Party's aims & objectives shall be the responsibility of the National Council.



- 3.11 The National Council shall cause to be drawn up and maintained, as and when required, Standing Orders and Rules to enable the smooth running of the Party.
- 3.12 The National Council shall meet as often as required, but no less than once a month. Meetings may be conducted in person or online.
- 3.13 The Chairman shall set the agenda for such meetings; there shall be a section at the end of each session where any member of the National Council may raise matters of any other business.
- 3.14 The chair for meetings of the National Council shall be elected from among those present.
- 3.15 Members of the National Council have essential obligations to attend meetings, present a short report on their activities on behalf of the Party since the last meeting, take specified actions and ensure these are carried out as agreed.

Dismissal

- 3.16 Members of the National Council shall hold office until they resign, are dismissed, become unable to continue in office, or otherwise cease to hold office under this Clause.
 - 3.16.1 A member of the National Council may be dismissed by an ordinary resolution of the National Council, which must be proposed and duly seconded. The member in question does not count or vote.
 - 3.16.2 No member of the National Council can be dismissed without the reasonable opportunity to attend a meeting of the National Council regarding the proposal to dismiss.
 - 3.16.3 If a National Council member dies in office or, through illness or other circumstances, becomes unable to continue in office, the National Council shall be convened and may dismiss the member, and Clause 3.16.2 shall not apply.
 - 3.16.4 A National Council member shall immediately cease to hold office if, without reasonable excuse or prior notification, they fail to attend three consecutive meetings of the National Council or fail to respond to communications for a continuous period of three weeks. Written notice shall then be sent to their last known postal or email address. Clause 3.16.2 shall not apply.
 - 3.16.5 A National Council member shall immediately cease to hold office if they resign in writing to the Chairman or Treasurer. Written notice may be given by letter or by email.
 - 3.16.6 On cessation of office, the individual immediately loses all authority, powers, and responsibilities. Cessation does not, of itself, affect Party membership unless expulsion is determined under the Party's disciplinary procedures. All cessations shall be recorded in the minutes.

Separation of Powers

- 3.17 The Treasurer and the Chairman cannot be the same person, except in the temporary circumstances under Clause 5.8.



4. THE CHAIRMAN

Responsibilities

- 4.1 The Chairman is responsible for chairing the National Council, setting the agenda, the timetable, and ensuring there is an adequate record of attendance and minutes.
- 4.2 The Chairman has the authority to enforce the Constitution, Rules and decisions of the National Council throughout the Party.
- 4.3 As there is no overall leader of the Party, the Chairman shall be the registered leader for that particular purpose.^{viii}
- 4.4 The Chairman must be eligible to be a Director of the Company, should the need arise to assume the responsibilities of the Treasurer.

Selection

- 4.5 The Chairman shall be elected by all Party Officers.
 - 4.5.1 Any Party Officer with a track record of leadership and service may be nominated as a candidate for Chairman.
 - 4.5.2 A candidate for Chairman must be supported in writing by a number of at least 10% of Party Officers, not including the nominee.
 - 4.5.3 The election shall be conducted by poll of all Party Officers, and a candidate must secure not less than a two-thirds majority of votes cast to be elected Chairman.
 - 4.5.4 If the successful candidate is not already a member of the National Council, the National Council shall, by resolution, admit the individual as a member for the duration of their chairmanship.
- 4.6 The Chairman's term in office shall be one year, after which his/her term may be renewed in accordance with Clauses 4.5.2 and 4.5.3.

Removal

- 4.7 The standing Chairman may be removed from office by the National Council.
 - 4.7.1 The removal of the Chairman must be proposed by a member of the National Council and duly seconded by another member.
 - 4.7.2 To remove a Chairman, there must be a 75% majority vote of the members of the National Council.
 - 4.7.3 If the Chairman is removed from office, dies in office, or is unable to continue in office due to illness or other circumstances, the National Council shall ensure a successor is appointed without undue delay to serve the rest of the term.



5. THE TREASURER

- 5.1 The Treasurer is selected by the National Council from amongst its own members.
- 5.2 The Treasurer is responsible for compliance on the part of the Party with the statutory provisions for:^{ix}
- (a) accounting, control over donations and certain other transactions;^x
 - (b) campaign expenditure, third party expenditure, referendums and financial controls on recall petitions.^{xi}
- 5.3 If any particulars in the Party's register entry related to a relevant matter cease to be accurate, the Treasurer shall notify the Commission within twenty-eight days^{xii}. In the case of a change to the appointment of any registered officer, such notification shall occur within fourteen days of the change.^{xiii}
- 5.3.1 The Treasurer is responsible for annually confirming the Party's registered particulars by sending the required notification to the Commission within the prescribed time.^{xiv}
- 5.4 The Treasurer must be a Director of the Company and an authorised signatory on all Party bank accounts.
- 5.5 The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring the Party complies with the Financial Scheme it has adopted.
- 5.6 The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring all Party monies are used to further the aims & objectives of the Party. The Treasurer has freedom of inquiry throughout the Party and shall raise any discrepancies to the attention of the National Council at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.7 The Treasurer shall be responsible for presenting a summarised annual financial report to the Party Members during the Annual General Meeting. The National Council may also subject the Party's financial records to an external audit as deemed necessary.
- 5.8 If the Treasurer is dismissed, dies in office or, through illness or other circumstances, becomes unable to continue in office, the Chairman shall assume the role until a new Treasurer is selected and appointed.^{xv}
- 5.9 The Treasurer may appoint, on such terms as he may determine, one or more deputy treasurers of the party for controlling campaign expenditure,^{xvi} but not more than twelve persons may hold such appointments at the same time. In such circumstances the proper notification shall be sent to the Commission.



6. THE NOMINATING OFFICER

- 6.1 The Nominating Officer is selected by the National Council from amongst its own members.
- 6.2 The Nominating Officer is responsible for compliance on the part of the Party with the statutory requirements for the arrangement for:^{xvii}
- (a) the submission by representatives of the Party of lists of candidates for the purpose of elections;
 - (b) the issuing of such certificates;^{xviii}
 - (c) the approval of descriptions and emblems used on nomination and ballot papers at elections.
- 6.3 The Nominating Officer is responsible for overseeing the drafting of the candidate selection process, with due regard to the relevant legislation. The process must be approved by resolution of the National Council to become a Rule.
- 6.4 The Nominating Officer shall assist and guide election candidates in understanding all applicable legislation.
- 6.5 The Nominating Officer may authorise, in writing, another Officer to act on their behalf for the purposes of signing certificates of authorisation.^{xix}
- 6.6 If the Nominating Officer is dismissed, dies in office, or is unable to continue in office due to illness or other circumstances, the National Council shall select and appoint a successor without undue delay.



7. OTHER PARTY OFFICERS

- 7.1 The National Council may, from time to time, select Party Members to serve in Officer roles other than those described in this Constitution, as and when required. Such a role may be reallocated, redefined, or abolished by the National Council at any time.
- 7.2 All Officers have essential obligations to attend meetings, take specified actions and ensure that these are carried out as agreed. They are responsible for implementing the decisions of the National Council as directed, to further the aims & objectives of the Party.
- 7.3 All Officers have an obligation to promote compliance with the Code of Conduct and all other Rules.

Regional Organisers

- 7.4 The National Council may define a region and select a Party Member to serve in the Officer role of Regional Organiser.
 - 7.4.1 Regional Organisers are selected for their competence, dedication, trustworthiness, soundness, and dependability.
 - 7.4.2 A Regional Organiser has delegated responsibilities to coordinate political and social activity in a region and to seek out potential candidates for elections or Officers roles, under the direction of the National Council.
 - 7.4.3 A Regional Organiser may further delegate some of their responsibilities to other Officers in their region under the direction of the National Council.
 - 7.4.4 A Regional Organiser shall have seniority over all other Officers in their region, provided they are not National Council members.
 - 7.4.5 The National Council may redefine or abolish a region at any time.

Developing Potential

- 7.5 Party Officers shall, in good faith, act as stewards of the Party's continuity by fostering an environment that promotes advancement, renewal, and succession planning, so that the Party may reach its full potential in skills, capacity, and leadership. All Party Officers have a duty to:
 - (a) identify and encourage new and emerging talent in political, media, and administrative capacities within the Party;
 - (b) seek out and support potential community leaders and election candidates;
 - (c) refer such individuals to the relevant Officer or committee responsible for training and development;
 - (d) actively support the professional and political growth of Party Members, with the aim of cultivating future leaders and office-holders; and
 - (e) avoid any conduct which has the effect of obstructing, discouraging, or unfairly impeding the progression of capable Party Members.



8. MEMBERSHIP

8.1 Membership of the Party shall be open to any natural person who meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) is aged 16 years or over;
- (b) has paid the required fees;
- (c) shares the aims & objectives set out in this Constitution;
- (d) agrees to abide by this Constitution and the Code of Conduct;
- (e) agrees to abide by any Rules which may, from time to time, be made by the Party;
- (f) is not a member of another political party operating in the same country;
- (g) has never been a member of a proscribed or otherwise criminal organisation;
- (h) has not been excluded from membership by virtue of Rules made under Clause 8.3.

8.2 Membership shall be null and void if the person submits a falsehood on the initial application or renewal.

Exclusion

8.3 Notwithstanding anything in Clause 8.1, the National Council may, from time to time, make Rules concerning the refusal of or exclusion from membership of persons or classes of persons whose admittance to membership of the Party would, in its opinion, be damaging to the interests of the Party.

8.4 The Chairman shall, without reservation or qualification, be entitled, subject to the approval of the National Council, to refuse to admit any person to membership. Where it is deemed appropriate brief reasons shall be given for any such refusal.

8.5 For clarity, the Party shall not unlawfully discriminate against its Party Members or applicants for membership.^{xx}

Good Standing

8.6 Party Members are considered to be in good standing if, at any given moment:

- (a) their subscriptions are up to date; and
- (b) they are not subject to any form of suspension, restriction or exclusion by the Party as to their membership, any sort of office, or from standing as a candidate in any election.

8.7 Party Members in good standing shall be entitled to vote in all relevant internal ballots, provided that no new Member shall be entitled to vote in any such ballot until 28 days have elapsed from the commencement of their membership.

Subscriptions & Terms

8.8 The National Council shall have the sole right to determine the annual subscription payable by Party Members. One month's notice shall be given before any change of rate.

8.9 All rights and privileges of membership shall be withheld from any persons who allow their membership to fall into arrears. It is incumbent upon Party Members to ensure they are not in arrears.



- 8.10 Renewal of membership may be treated by the Party as if it was an application for membership for the first time.
- 8.11 By entering into membership, the Party Member agrees to, at all times, abide by the terms of this Constitution and the Rules of the Party.
- 8.12 Any Party Member who is in breach of this Constitution or the Rules made thereunder may be subject to the disciplinary rulings of the National Council or a delegated authority, up to and including revocation of membership.
- 8.13 Party Members are deemed, by their entry into membership, to agree not to do or omit to do any act which either:
- (a) brings the Party into disrepute;
 - (b) is intended to damage the Party's interests;
 - (c) damages the Party's interests;
 - (d) breaches any other Rule which the National Council may, from time to time, deem appropriate to make.

Revocation of membership

- 8.14 If a Party Member engages in any of the following:
- (a) Joins another political party in the same country, whether registered or not;
 - (b) Joins any organisation deemed incompatible with membership by the National Council;
 - (c) Sets up or aids and abets the setting up of another political party in the same country, whether registered or not, without the authority of the National Council;
 - (d) Is later found to be a member or former member of another organisation declared incompatible by the National Council;
 - (e) Stands against a Party candidate in any election;
 - (f) Is found to be a person who has been expelled from the Party;
- the Chairman, or an Officer with delegated authority, shall revoke their membership forthwith.
- 8.15 Any person whose membership has been revoked, and who wishes in good faith to continue their membership, shall have the right of appeal in accordance with Schedule 2, by written notice to the Chairman within fourteen days of notification.



9. EMPLOYMENT

- 9.1 The Party may employ and remunerate individuals to manage, supervise, organise, and carry out the Party's aims & objectives, as well as to administer and fulfil the Party's obligations.
- 9.2 All persons employed by the Party or by its representatives elected into public office must certify that they are not a person who would be excluded from membership under Clauses 8.3 and 8.4.
- 9.3 It shall be an explicit condition of the employment contract that no person excluded from membership can be employed by the Party or its elected representatives.
- 9.4 Before commencing employment, all such employees must acknowledge in writing that they agree to be bound by the terms of this Constitution related to their employment.
- 9.5 For clarity, the restrictions on employment are to prevent persons who could damage the Party's reputation from infiltrating or being associated with the Party in any way.



10. RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS

- 10.1 Any Party Member in good standing may refer the conduct of any other Party Member to the appropriate Regional Organiser, or if not possible, the Chairman, who shall act in accordance with the Rules and the principles of natural justice.
- 10.2 If a resolution to a conflict cannot be reached or the resolution is deemed unsatisfactory, the Party Member may request an appeal by writing a letter to the Chairman within fourteen days, in accordance with Schedule 2.

The Appeals Panel

- 10.3 There shall be an Appeals Panel for the Party, consisting of three Party Members appointed, from time to time, by the National Council.
- 10.4 The members of the Appeals Panel must, as far as reasonably practicable, have had no prior involvement in the conflict under appeal.
- 10.5 The Appeals Panel shall adjudicate on the following:
- (a) any claim that the Constitution or Rules have been incorrectly applied;
 - (b) any claim that the rights of a Party Member or Members have been infringed;
 - (c) any matter expressly provided by this Constitution or Rules made thereunder.
- 10.6 Any decision of the Appeals Panel shall be binding on all parties concerned, provided it is considered and supported by the National Council. Should the Appeals Panel and the National Council fail to reach agreement, the Chairman shall mediate until agreement is reached.

Limitation of legal proceedings

- 10.7 No member, former member, or applicant to membership shall initiate any legal proceedings against the Party or its representatives unless all internal remedies under this Constitution and Rules, including any right of appeal, are fully exhausted, and a final decision has been rendered by the Appeals Panel.
- 10.8 No member, former member, or applicant to membership shall initiate any appeal, whether to a court or a regulator, except on points of law. This limitation does not restrict any statutory rights or rights under common law.



11. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 11.1 General Meetings do not need to be in-person gatherings but can be conducted online.
- 11.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be:
- (a) to receive reports from the National Council;
 - (b) to approve the Treasurer's report;
 - (c) to approve any changes to the Constitution;
 - (d) to address any other business put forward to the AGM.
- 11.3 The AGM shall only be open to Party Members in good standing and to guests as allowed by the Rules.
- 11.4 Party Members shall present a valid membership card to participate and vote at an in-person AGM.
- 11.5 An ordinary resolution at the AGM shall be passed by a simple majority of the votes cast by those entitled to vote.
- 11.6 A special resolution at the AGM shall be passed by not less than 75% of the votes cast by those entitled to vote.
- 11.7 All decisions made at the AGM shall be recorded and held by the National Council and be made available for viewing by any Party Member upon request.
- 11.8 The AGM shall be held annually, usually in the month of September, and advertised to all Party Members at least twenty-eight clear days in advance.
- 11.9 Should the need arise, the National Council may call an Extraordinary General Meeting, which may perform some of the functions of an AGM. It shall have the same criteria for attendance, for votes and shall be advertised at least fourteen clear days in advance.

12. PARTY DISSOLUTION

- 12.1 The Party can be dissolved with the agreement of the National Council and the Chairman; Party Members must then approve this through a special resolution at a General Meeting, after which a notification shall be sent to the Commission within an agreed time.^{xxi}
- 12.2 In the event of dissolution, Party assets shall be assessed by an independent auditor. The assets or the proceeds of a sale of assets shall be donated to a charitable organisation broadly in line with the Party's aims but without any formal connection to any member of the National Council. Alternatively, assets may be disposed of as directed by the Party via an ordinary resolution at the final General Meeting.



SCHEDULE 1

Interpretation

1. Headings in this document are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation or construction of the Clauses.
2. Any phrase introduced by the terms **including, include, in particular** or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.
3. Unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to an enactment is a reference to it as it is in force at the time of writing.
4. In the case of any discrepancy or disagreement among documents, the Clauses of this Constitution shall take precedence in the following order:
 - (a) the Articles of Association;
 - (b) the Financial Scheme;
 - (c) this Constitution;
 - (d) the Standing Orders and Rules;
 - (e) other contracts and agreements.
5. In this document, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) **"AGM"** means an Annual General Meeting, under Section 11 of this Constitution;
 - (b) **"body"**, without more, means a body corporate or any combination of persons or other unincorporated association;^{xxii}
 - (c) **"Clause"** means an individual numbered item of this Constitution;
 - (d) **"clear days"** in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
 - (e) **"Company"** is the body corporate under Clause 1.10;
 - (f) **"the Commission"** means the Electoral Commission established by Section 1 of that Act;
 - (g) **"Constitution"** means this document, the Constitution of the Party;
 - (h) **"Director"** has the meaning given to it in the Companies Acts;
 - (i) **"General Meetings"** are meetings of the Party Members under the terms of this Constitution;
 - (j) **"good standing"** has the meaning given to it under Clause 8.6;
 - (k) **"indigenous people"** means coming from a particular place and having lived there for generations before others came there, with reference but not limited to, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - (l) **"paid"** means paid or credited as paid;
 - (m) where **"Party"** is used as a proper noun, the meaning is the Homeland Party;
 - (n) **"Party Member"** means a political member of the Party with the rights & obligations under the terms of Section 8 of this Constitution;
 - (o) **"organisation"** includes any body corporate and any combination of persons or other unincorporated association;^{xxii}
 - (p) **"structure"** refers to the financial framework of a registered political party, particularly in how its financial affairs and accounting units are arranged;^{xxiii}
 - (q) **"the Act"** means The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000;
 - (r) **"these islands"** refers to the European archipelago comprising Great Britain, Ireland, and smaller adjacent islands, without reference to the territorial boundaries of states;
 - (s) for any use of **"we"** or **"our"**, the meaning is the Party as a collective body.
 - (t) **"Writing"** means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols, or other information in visible form, including by electronic means such as email.



SCHEDULE 2

Right of Appeal

1. A member subject to disciplinary action, including revocation of membership or office, shall have a right of appeal only in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule.
2. No appeal shall be heard unless the appellant has first exhausted all other avenues of conflict resolution, including direct communication with the appropriate Regional Organiser, or, if not possible, the Chairman.
3. No appeal shall be heard, and no Appeals Panel shall be convened, unless the appellant has submitted valid grounds as set out in this Schedule.

Permissible Grounds of Appeal

4. An appeal may only be brought on one or more of the following grounds:
 - (a) That the appellant did not commit the alleged breach of the Party's Constitution, Code of Conduct, or other rules;
 - (b) That the conduct complained of did occur, but did not constitute a breach of the Party's Constitution, Code of Conduct, or other rules;
 - (c) That the Party has incorrectly applied the Constitution, Code of Conduct, or Rules in a way which adversely affected the appellant;
 - (d) That a specific right expressly granted under this Constitution or under law has been infringed, provided the appellant directly identifies the right in question and clearly explains how it was infringed.
5. Mere disagreement with the Party's judgment as to the extent of harm, damage, reputational disrepute, or comparisons with other situations shall not constitute grounds of appeal.
6. Appeals submitted without valid grounds under this Schedule shall be dismissed without further hearing.

Mitigating Factors

7. The Appeals Panel shall not entertain an appeal brought solely on the basis of mitigating factors that were not raised during the original disciplinary process. However, where an appeal is otherwise valid, the Panel may consider mitigating or aggravating factors when reviewing the appropriateness of sanctions.

Outcomes

8. Where valid grounds are established, the Appeals Panel shall review the case and may:
 - (a) Dismiss the appeal;
 - (b) Uphold the appeal and overturn the original decision;
 - (c) Uphold the finding but vary the sanction, taking into account any relevant mitigating circumstances.

Finality

9. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final within the Party's internal processes, subject only to any rights available under law.

