

216 - ELECTIONS FOR REGIONAL LEADERS AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

1 INTRODUCTION

For the purposes of consistency, and transparency, Regional elections follow a similar process to National position elections. Regional Leaders align with National President process. Regional Committees align with National Board process.

2. ELECTION PROCESS

Regional Leaders and Regional Committees are to be nominated and elected by the members of the Region. All candidates must be financial members of Rural Women New Zealand.

Elections can be held either:

- a) By postal ballot as per the rules governing the National Election process. National Office could assist if this is the preferred option.
 - CE or her delegate is to act as scrutineer, rather than National Returning Officer

Or:

- b) By secret ballot at the Regional AGM, with a respected RWNZ member or other agreed respected person, appointed as scrutineer.

Further guidance for Elections can be found in Bylaw 4.10

3. ROLE GUIDELINES

- Regional Leader and Regional Committee Chair are two distinctly separate roles, with separate Terms of Reference and methods of appointment.
- Regional Committees will consist of six RWNZ members from that Region/Sub Region
- Regional Leader will be elected by the Region's members. Election to be held alongside, but separate to the Regional Committee election process.
- The Regional Committee Chair will be elected by the Regional Committee members

Cross reference:

210 RWNZ Nominations and Elections policy

Bylaws 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12 - Regional Leaders and Regional Committee Members

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- Two additional Regional Committee Members may be appointed to ensure any expertise or geographical gaps are met. This decision will be made by the elected Regional Committee members.
- A Regional Committee member's tenure is recommended to be a maximum of 6 years. This is to encourage succession, grow leadership capability within the membership and create diversity of thought over time.
- The RWNZ Financial year runs from 1 July-30 June.

4. NOMINATIONS FOR REGIONAL COMMITTEES

- Nominations for vacancies on a Regional Committee shall be in writing on the prescribed nomination form.
- Only fully paid up financial members are entitled to stand for election.
- Only fully paid up financial members can nominate a candidate
- Each nomination shall be signed the proposer, seconder and candidate.
- The Regional Committee will determine and advise the closing date of nominations.
- Nominations forms must be delivered to the Returning Officer/Scrutineer before the closing date and be marked "Nomination".
- Candidates to supply a black and white 'Head shot' photograph along with a summary of their experience and a statement of up to 250 words on their reason for standing for the position. This will be included with the voting papers sent to all members.
- No candidate shall circulate material directly to members.

5. VOTING FOR REGIONAL LEADERS AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Postal

Postal voting allows for full transparency with all members in the region given the opportunity to vote for these key regional positions.

- Only fully paid up financial members in the region are entitled to vote.
- One voting paper shall be issued to every entitled member.
- Voting papers shall be compiled by the Returning Officer/Scrutineer.
- The Regional Committee shall advise the closing date for voting.
- All voting papers shall be received by the Returning Officer/Scrutineer by the closing date for voting.
- A valid voting paper may be either:

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210 RWNZ Nominations and Elections policy

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a) sent electronically marked 'Voting paper' to a dedicated elections email address. All relevant details must be clear to ensure the vote's validity.

or:

c) mailed in an envelope marked "voting paper" to the Returning Officer/Scrutineer.

- Votes shall be counted by the Returning Officer/Scrutineer.

Secret Ballot at the Regional AGM

Secret ballots do not allow for full transparency as only those in attendance on the day of the AGM are able to vote.

- Candidate and voting information to be sent out as per postal voting.
- Scrutineer to check eligibility of those voting on the day through an up to date Database from National Office.
- Secret Ballot to be conducted and votes counted by Scrutineer.
- Scrutineer to confidentially disclose results, including the number of votes cast, to candidates before announcing successful candidates to the AGM. No vote count is to be disclosed to members.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

- Successful candidates to be announced at the Regional AGM, no vote count is to be disclosed other than to candidates.
- Following a Secret ballot at a Regional AGM, candidates are still to be advised confidentially of results as per preceding points, ahead of announcing successful candidates to the AGM.
- Recounts are allowed only within 48 hours of the results being announced at the Regional AGM.
- In the event of a tied vote, a suitable solution will be found consistent with the principles and intentions of the Rural Women New Zealand Rules and Bylaws.

7. RECOMMENDED ELECTION TIMELINE

9 weeks prior to AGM	Nomination papers sent to all members
5 weeks	Nominations close
4 weeks	Voting papers sent out
1 week	Voting closes
3 days	Candidates advised confidentially of results

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Successful candidates announced at Regional AGM.

8. DISQUALIFICATION

In the event of a disqualification, the reasons for the disqualification will be given to the candidate by the Returning Officer. Following the candidate being advised, the members will be advised of the reason for the disqualification. No further discussions will be entered into with either the candidate or the members.

If a candidate is disqualified they are unable to be nominated or stand for Office for the next two elections.

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