

**210 RWNZ NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS POLICY**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This policy is applicable to elections for the positions of National President, National Finance Chair, and Board Members representing South Island and North Island, in accordance with Rule 6.1b.

1.2 Further guidance on the procedures for conducting Regional Committee elections under Bylaw 4.10.is outlined in the RWNZ policy for Regional Elections.[[1]](#footnote-0)

**2 ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT, NATIONAL FINANCE CHAIR, AND BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTING SOUTH ISLAND NORTH ISLAND**

2.1 At least five months prior to the next Annual General Meeting the Board shall notify all members of the Board positions that will become vacant at that meeting and will call for nominations to those positions. [[2]](#footnote-1)

2.2 If any newly elected Board member is elected to the position of National President or National Finance Chairperson at the National Conference then a by-election must be held to fill the vacant position.

2.3 **Nominations for National President, National Finance Chair, and Board members representing South Island and North Island**

2.3.1 Nominations shall be in writing on the prescribed nomination form. [[3]](#footnote-2)

2.3.2 Only fully paid up financial members are entitled to be nominated for election.

2.3.3 Each nomination shall be signed by two members, the proposer and seconder, and by the nominee (candidate). [[4]](#footnote-3)

2.3.4 The Board will determine and advise the closing date of nominations.[[5]](#footnote-4)

2.3.5 Nominations must be delivered to the National Office before the closing date of nominations.

2.3.6 Nomination forms shall be forwarded to the National Office in a separate and sealed envelope marked "nomination", to be opened by the Returning Officer.

2.3.7 Nominations may be delivered either by post or by emailing a scanned electronic copy to the National Office. [[6]](#footnote-5)

2.3.8 A nomination is withdrawn when the proposer, seconder, and nominee (candidate) provide written notification to the National Office.

2.3.9 Each nominee (candidate) will supply a summary of their experience and a statement on the reason for standing for the position, to be no longer than 250 words, to be sent out with the voting papers. No nominee (candidate) shall circulate material directly to members.

2.4 **Voting of National President, National Finance Chair, and Board members representing South Island and North Island**

2.4.1 If more nominations are received for the positions available a postal ballot will be held. Postal ballots will be conducted by the Returning Officer. [[7]](#footnote-6) The successful candidate will be determined by the number of votes that each nominee receives.

2.4.2 Voting papers shall be compiled by the National Office. [[8]](#footnote-7)

2.4.2 The Board shall advise the closing date for voting.

2.4.3 Only fully paid up financial members are entitled to vote.

2.4.3 One voting paper shall be issued to every entitled member.

2.4.4 All voting papers shall be received by the Returning Officer in envelopes marked "voting paper", by the closing date for voting

2.4.5 A valid voting paper may be either:

(a) mailed in an envelope marked “voting papers” and addressed to The Returning Officer, Rural Women New Zealand, PO Box 12021, Thorndon, Wellington, 6144;

 or

(b) scanned and emailed to a dedicated elections email address.

 In the case of a voting paper that is received electronically, receipt of the voting paper will not be acknowledged. All relevant details must be clear to ensure the vote’s validity.

2.4.6 Votes shall be counted by the Returning Officer.

2.5 **Election results for National President, National Finance Chair, and Board members representing South Island and North Island.**

2.5.1 The National Office [[9]](#footnote-8) shall announce the result of the election at the Annual General Meeting. [[10]](#footnote-9)

2.5.2 The Returning Officer shall disclose the result only to the candidates in a ballot the number of votes cast for each candidate. [[11]](#footnote-10)

2.5.3 Each candidate shall receive that information in confidence until the announcement at the Annual General Meeting. [[12]](#footnote-11)

2.5.4 Recounts are allowed only within 48 hours of the results being announced.[[13]](#footnote-12)

2.5.5 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.

**3 ELECTIONS FOR REGIONAL** **LEADERS AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES**

3.1 For the purposes of consistency and transparency, Regional elections follow a similar process to National position elections. This process is outlined in 216 Regional Elections Policy.

1. 216 Regional Elections policy [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Refer bylaw 7.1a [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Refer bylaw 7.1d [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Refer bylaw 7.1d [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Refer bylaw 7.1b [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. Refer bylaw 7.1d [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. Refer bylaw 7.2a [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. Refer bylaw 7.2b [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. Chief Executive Officer [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. Refer bylaw 7.2i [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
11. Refer bylaw 7.2g [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
12. Refer bylaw 7.2h [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
13. Refer bylaw 7.2i [↑](#footnote-ref-12)