



Summary of Changes to ANUSA Electoral Regulations

Overview:

The following document outlines a summary of changes to the ANUSA Electoral Regulations since last years elections. This covers the period including OGM 3 '25, OGM 1 '26, AGM '26, and OGM 2 '26. These are very simple explanations of the changes and all students are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the current regulations that can be found on the ANUSA Website - [Link](#)

In addition to the below changes, there were a number of corrections and formatting changes that do not substantively change the regulations. For the purposes of brevity, these have not been included below.

For questions regarding these changes, or their application during the 2026 ANUSA General Election, please contact the President (sa.president@anu.edu.au) or the Probity Officers (sa.probityofficers@anu.edu.au).

Meeting	Title of Change	Verbatim Change to Regulations	Rationale
OGM 3 2025	New Deputy Returning Officer role	s.2.1.2 (new): "The SRC may choose to advise the Vice-Chancellor to appoint a Deputy Returning Officer, who upon written request from the Returning Officer, shall assume all powers and responsibilities of that position." s.2.1.5 (amended): the independence rules that apply to the Returning Officer now also apply to "the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer".	Gives the election backup capacity, with the same independence rules.
OGM 3 2025	Returning Officer given interpretive authority	s.2.1.3 (new, as amended): "The Returning Officer shall interpret these regulations for the purposes of the annual election."	Gives the Returning Officer authority to interpret the Regulations.
OGM 3 2025	New eligibility rules for College Representative elections	New ss.2.1.9A–2.1.9E, including: "Only an Undergraduate Student is entitled to vote in the election of an Undergraduate Student College Coursework Representative..."; "Only a Postgraduate Coursework Student is entitled to vote in the election of the Postgraduate Student College Coursework Officer." "An existing ANU student who has been admitted to, applied for, or provides a statutory declaration of their intent to stand... are eligible to stand", provided they "make good faith efforts to secure enrolment... by 31 December following the election."	Matches voting rights to student type and lets prospective students stand.



Australian National University Students' Association (ANUSA)

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Meeting	Title of Change	Verbatim Change to Regulations	Rationale
OGM 3 2025	Nomination notices simplified; duties moved from Gen. Sec. to Returning Officer	New s.2.2.1A: "The Returning Officer must issue notice of when the call for nominations will occur at least two weeks before the call for nominations." s.2.2.4(a) (amended): replaces a list of specific physical noticeboards with: "(a) on the Students' Association website; (b) On the front door of the Association's office; and (c) via any other relevant social media account maintained by the Returning Officer." ss.2.2.5–2.2.8: responsibility for the nomination booklet, EOI form and related communications moves from the General Secretary to the Returning Officer.	Modernises notice locations and puts the Returning Officer in charge.
OGM 3 2025	Above-the-line / below-the-line ticket voting introduced	New s.2.5 (as amended on the floor): "For the election of General Representatives, College Representatives, and delegates to the National Union of Students, the ballot shall be arranged to allow for voters to vote either 'above-the-line' or 'below-the-line'..." "Tickets may only direct preferences for that position to candidates running under the ticket name for that same position" and "The Returning Officer shall publish the order of preferences on the Association's website before the opening of the polls."	Introduces ticket-based preferencing to simplify voting.
OGM 3 2025	Restriction on re-registering a previous year's ticket name	s.2.7.5(a)(v) (amended, as passed): a ticket name "Is not the same as that of a ticket name that was registered in, and nominated candidates at, the previous year's election." s.2.7.5(b) (amended, as passed): reuse of the name is only permitted "if at least four nominators from the previous year's election give consent to the re-registration of the proposed ticket name."	Stops misleading reuse of an old ticket name.
OGM 3 2025	Design services and photography no longer excluded from the expenditure cap	s.2.9.4(a) (amended): removes "Design services and still photography" from the costs excluded from a ticket's campaign expenditure cap; replaced with "(a) The time associated with campaigning."	Design and photography costs now count toward the spending cap.
OGM 3 2025	Disclosure statement timing changed; new Probity Officer discretion	s.2.10.2 (amended, as passed): changes from a statement due every day polls are open (plus the following day) to: "At 9am on the first day polls are open, before 12pm on the day following the close of polls, and as otherwise directed by Probity Officers, the ticket convener or independent candidate will lodge with the Probity Officer a signed statement..."	Reduces disclosure filing from daily to two fixed points.



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OGM 3 2025	Electoral offence test broadened and made more objective	s.3.1.10 (amended, as passed): "If a candidate or a member of their campaign team behaves in a way that violates the Constitution, Regulations, or any governance policies of the Association, the Returning Officer may deem that behaviour to constitute an Electoral Offence." (Previously: behaviour violating "the spirit of" the Constitution/Regulations, "in the opinion of the Returning Officer".)	Removes subjective wording and covers breaches of ANUSA policy too.
AGM 2026	Email notification when voting opens	New s.2.6.1A: "The Returning Officer must, on the first day of polling, send an email notification to all members of the Association informing them that voting has opened and providing instructions on how to cast their vote."	Ensures all members are notified when voting opens.
AGM 2026	'Electoral Publication' definition modernised	Amends the Electoral Publication definition to insert 'mailing lists,' into the list of examples, and replace 'Facebook' with 'social media'.	Updates the definition for current social media and mailing lists.
AGM 2026	New 'Campaign Social Media Account' rules	New clause: "a Campaign Social Media Account means any social media page, account, or profile created for the purposes of campaigning... but does not include social media accounts used incidentally to promote a candidate or ticket..." "It is an offence to convert any account including a personal account or other account created for purposes other than campaigning... into a Campaign Social Media Account by renaming, repurposing, or otherwise altering it."	Closes a loophole around repurposing accounts for campaigning.
AGM 2026	New 'Campaign Mailing List' rules (political clubs excluded)	New clause, as amended: "a Campaign Mailing List means any list of contacts collected by a campaign. It is an offence for a campaign to build a Campaign Mailing List using data collected prior to the campaign period, or data collected by an ANUSA-affiliated club or society... For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include political clubs."	Restricts using pre-existing club-collected contact data.
AGM 2026	Campaign accounts/lists can't be reused between election years	New clause: "A Campaign Social Media Account or Campaign Mailing List must not be used for campaigning in any election other than that for which it was created. For the avoidance of doubt, re-registering a ticket... does not entitle that ticket to re-use a Campaign Social Media Account or Campaign Mailing List."	Stops campaign accounts/lists carrying over between elections.



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AGM 2026	ANUSA branding cannot be used to imply official endorsement	New clause: "must not display the ANUSA logo or any other ANUSA branding in a manner that could suggest the Electoral Publication is produced by or on behalf of ANUSA, except in a photograph or image of a person performing official duties or otherwise appearing in ANUSA-branded merchandise."	Stops candidates implying campaign material is official ANUSA material.
AGM 2026	A-frames and corflutes explicitly regulated as posters	New s.3.1.3A(d): "erecting an A-frame or corflute" added as a form of 'actively canvassing votes' within exclusion zones. s.3.1.3B(b) (amended): the exemption for 'putting up posters' now reads 'putting up posters, not including A-frames or corflutes'.	Clarifies that A-frames count as posters in exclusion zones.
AGM 2026	Wearing ANUSA merchandise while canvassing made an offence	New clause: "It is an offence to wear ANUSA-branded merchandise while actively canvassing votes. For the avoidance of doubt, this offence is not committed by a person who appears in a photograph or video that forms part of an Electoral Publication and who was wearing ANUSA-branded merchandise at the time..." (existing offence renumbered.)	Stops campaigning while wearing ANUSA-branded merchandise.
AGM 2026	Vote count results must be retained and accessible	New s.1.3.9: "The results of the vote count must be stored by the Association, and be accessible to members upon request."	Keeps vote count records available to members.
AGM 2026	Automatic campaign ban for late Probity statements	New clause: "Failure to lodge a signed statement with the Probity Officer by the relevant deadline will result in an automatic campaign ban which may be lifted by the Returning Officer."	Makes a missed disclosure deadline an automatic ban.
AGM 2026	Post-election ticket updates not treated as campaigning	New clause: "to campaign' also does not include sharing information about the activities of a ticket after the election."	Lets tickets report on their work after the election.
AGM 2026	Exclusion zone extended to all student housing, not just halls	Schedule B, s.3 (amended): "Inside residential halls and other student housing centres, and a 15-metre radius around associated entrances;"	Extends no-campaigning protection to all student housing.
AGM 2026	New exclusion zone — Canberra Central City Section 31	New Schedule B, s.4: "Canberra Central City Section 31 (bound by and inclusive of Alinga Street, Moore Street, Rudd Street and Marcus Clarke Street);"	Protects an area with medical services from campaigning.



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AGM 2026	Kambri exclusion zone boundary redefined	Schedule B, s.1 (amended): "Kambri Precinct (bound by North Road (non-inclusive), Tangney road (non-inclusive), Joplin lane, and Kingsley Street (non-inclusive))"	Adjusts the Kambri no-campaigning boundary.
AGM 2026	New Probity Disputes Database	New s.3.4: "The General Secretary must maintain a database of previous interpretations of electoral regulations... must include details of all previous election related disputes and how the regulations were applied... must be up to date by the call for nominations."	Keeps regulation interpretations consistent year to year.