

Introduction

This Policy provides guidance on permissible campaign activities, appropriate conduct and associated activities, during the election campaign period for Board elections. It has been written to support the Board Election Regulations and should be read in conjunction with all relevant documentation (listed under 'Associated Documents').

Campaigning for the purpose of this Policy includes communications (oral, written, digital or electronic) to solicit support for, or bring attention to a candidacy, during an election period. The Policy aims to uphold integrity, fairness, and transparency in College election processes consistent with the RANZCP Constitution, Code of Ethics, and Code of Conduct.

RANZCP Values:

Respect – Through empowerment, diversity, and equity in all that we do.

Collaboration – For increased effectiveness, influence, and impact.

Excellence – For our community and our profession.

Action – Backed by evidence-informed policy.

A copy of this Policy will be made available on the College website during the Board election period.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that:

- a) All candidates and Fellows understand and undertake appropriate campaign activities, with respect and in accordance with this Policy.
- b) Fellows have sufficient information to make informed choices through equal access to campaign material, including candidate CVs, Supporting Statements, photos, Disclosure Statements, and the names of proposers and seconders.
- c) The College's elections are conducted in a manner consistent with professional standards, maintaining collegiality, procedural fairness and respect.
- d) The Policy provides clarity for administration, oversight, and management of campaign conduct and complaints.

2. PROCESS & OVERSIGHT

- a) Campaigning will commence after candidates are advised and the College has formally published the list of election candidates.
- b) Candidates must conduct themselves in a manner commensurate with the dignity of the office they aspire to hold.
- c) The Company Secretary is responsible for advising candidates of the official commencement and end dates of the campaign period and for providing clarification on acceptable campaign methods.
- d) All campaign material published through College channels must be pre-approved by the College.
- e) Candidates must liaise with the College during the campaigning period should they wish clarification on acceptable campaign methods.

3. CAMPAIGN METHODS

3.1 The following campaign methods are permitted:

- a) Publishing a Supporting Statement as detailed by the Board Election Regulations in College publications and on the College website and the official voting website, all facilitated by the College.
- b) Correspondence or conversations amongst College Members. These may occur face-to-face, via email, text message, phone call, or other applications facilitating communication.
- c) Communications on social media such as X, Facebook, WhatsApp, and LinkedIn. Such communications may appear on public facing websites. Candidates have the responsibility to remove or delete any posts that are inappropriate or in breach of this Policy.
- d) Fellows are free to campaign to Members provided it is in a way that is not contrary to the College's Constitution, the Code of Ethics, or this Policy; College values; or is conduct unbecoming of Fellows or prejudicial to the interests of the College.
- e) For President-Elect candidates: a campaign video, as prescribed by the College, will be produced.

3.2 The following campaign methods are not permitted:

- a) Candidates or supporters must not use the College's resources to support or oppose any nominee, including but not limited to the logo, databases, access to emails or contact details.
- b) Campaigning during formal proceedings of College meetings or events, other third-party meetings, or educational events.
- c) Campaigning outside of the dates notified by the College.
- d) Campaigning or endorsement from non-College organisations.
- e) Campaigning that is inappropriate, dishonest, brings the College into disrepute or discredits another candidate.
- f) Candidates must not engage agents, organisations including workplaces, or communities to facilitate or conduct their campaigning, undertake any form of campaign fundraising, or publicly endorse candidate election platforms.
- g) Endorsements by College committees, Branches, or Faculties are not permitted.
- h) Use of College mailing lists, internal discussion boards, or member databases for campaigning is prohibited.
- i) Use of AI tools to generate campaign material that misrepresents or fabricates information is prohibited.

The College may use its social media platforms to inform Members of the election phases, for example advising that nominations have opened, however these platforms will not be used for campaigning purposes.

This list is not exhaustive. Candidates should direct any questions about acceptable campaigning or interpretation of this Policy to the Company Secretary.

4. ELECTION CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) By participating in a RANZCP election process, candidates agree to conduct themselves in a manner commensurate with the dignity of the office which they aspire to and in accordance with Section 3 of the Board Elections Regulation.

5. BREACH

- a) Election campaigning undertaken by a candidate and/or their supporter(s) that falls outside the permitted campaigning methods, Election Code of Conduct or instances of campaign breaches as outlined in the Board Election Regulations, will not be allowed.
- b) Any alleged breach will be referred to the Company Secretary.
- c) The Company Secretary will assess the matter for factual basis and refer substantiated breaches to a panel convened by the Corporate Governance Committee (**CGC**).
- d) The panel will determine whether a breach occurred and recommend appropriate action, which may include removal of campaign material, formal warning, or disqualification.
- e) Candidates will be informed of alleged breaches and given an opportunity to respond before a final decision.
- f) The Company Secretary will report to the Board, on behalf of the CGC, who will consider and implement any recommendations.
- g) The College reserves the right to disqualify a candidate or impose any other appropriate conditions.
- h) The Company Secretary and/or the panel will determine if the membership should be informed of a confirmed breach.
- i) Formal complaints relating to the elections will be conducted in accordance with the Membership Conduct Committee Procedure to consider Board election complaints.

6. CAMPAIGN VIDEO – PRESIDENT-ELECT ELECTIONS

- a) A campaign video for each President-Elect candidate will be produced by the College.
- b) Travel expenses incurred to produce the video will be assumed by the College in accordance with College Policy.
- c) Each candidate video will be a maximum of three minutes long and will be published on the College website only. A link may be provided from the official voting website to the College website.
- d) President-Elect candidates will be asked to provide a personal statement in support of their candidacy (within the three-minute duration period).
- e) Candidate videos will be filmed at one location and at a time determined by the College.
- f) All videos will be produced in a consistent format, edited only for technical quality, and subject to candidate review prior to publication.
- g) The College reserves the right to consider and implement any other method of college-facilitated campaigning for President-Elect elections, as determined by the CGC.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Board Regulations and Position Descriptions.
- Board Election Regulations.
- Membership Conduct Committee Procedure to consider Board election complaints.
- RANZCP Constitution, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, and College website.

Revision Record

Contact:	Governance Department		
Authorising Body:	Board		
Responsible Committee:	Corporate Governance Committee		
Document Code:	POL Board Election Campaign Activities Policy		
Date	Version	Approver	Description
28 November 2025	3.4	CGC	Minor updates ahead of 2025 Board elections. Moved Election Code of Conduct to Board Election Regulations.
7 November 2024	3.3	Company Secretary	Minor updates ahead of 2025 Board elections.
20 December 2023	3.2	President Meeting [PM57; 1.1.06]	Updated Election Code of Conduct.
15 September 2021	3.1	EGM Education and Operations	Reviewed ahead of 2022 Board Elections. No changes.
9 January 2020	3.0	B2020/OOS 02	Updated campaigning definition, included election code of conduct section.
11 August 2018	2.3	B2018/5 R24	Updated to clarify campaign methods including the use of social media.
25 February 2016	2.2	B2016/1 R36	Updated to clarify when campaigning may commence.
22 August 2015	2.1	Board – August 2015	Updated RANZCP Online Forum requirements.
21 October 2014	2.0	Board – out of session	Changed from a Guideline to a Policy.
17 November 2012	1.0	GC2012/4 R46	New document.
NEXT REVIEW: 2027			