

SYG AGM 2021: Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1: Pass

Defines the avenues to being an SYG member. All members of the SGP aged 12-30 inclusive or who are students, are automatic members of the SYG. Non members of the SGP can sign up to be members of the Scottish Young Greens.

Original:

2.2. Ordinary members of SYG do not need to be members of the SGP

Replacement:

- 2.2 There are two avenues to being a member of the SYG;
 - 2.2.1 By signing up to be a member of SYG. Membership of the Scottish Green Party is not required for this.
 - 2.2.2 By being a member of the SGP and: aged 12-30 inclusive, or a student of any age. SGP members can opt out of SYG membership.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 27

Against 1

Abstain 0

Amendment 2: Pass

Original

- 3.1. The primary purpose of the SYG will be to encourage and promote youth engagement with Green politics at all levels in Scotland. We will provide opportunities to do so, with a focus on issues including social justice, the environment and democracy, through a variety of means including

Replacement

- 3.1. The SYG is an ecosocialist organisation. The primary purpose of the SYG will be to encourage and promote ecosocialism and youth engagement with Green politics at all levels in Scotland.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 24

Against 4

Abstain 1

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Amendment 3: Pass

Explanation

Original

1.1 Scottish Young Greens (SYG) is the self-organising youth organisation of the Scottish Green Party

Replacement option 1:

- 1.1 Scottish Young Greens (SYG) is the radical, independently organised youth representative group of the Scottish Green Party.

Proposed by: SYG Council

Option 1 13

Option 2 12

Abstain 5

For Option 1 24

Against 4

Abstain 2

Amendment 4:

This amendment is to change the restriction on having two co-conveners from the same local area group. Under the current rule, a member from part of Argyll & Bute would not be able to stand alongside a member from Glasgow, as both are members of Glasgow & West Young Greens. Co-conveners by nature must be SGP members, therefore a more appropriate restriction is on members from the same SGP branch.

Amendment 4.1 (option 1)

Amend 4.3.2. Change "area groups" to "SGP branches"

Proposed by: Ellie Gomersall

Supported by: Blair Anderson, Ewan Smith and Marie Stadler

Amendment 4.2: (option 2)

This amendment removes all geographic restrictions. Voters at the AGM may still take geographic balance into account, but are not bound by the constitution.

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Remove “who must belong to different area groups.” with no replacement.

Proposed by: SYG Council

Original

4.3.2. SYG Council shall be convened by two co-convenors, who must belong to different area groups. A maximum of one co-convenor shall be a man.

Amendment 4.3 (option 3) Pass

This amendment seeks to create regional diversity without the absolutist focus on where a person lives at that moment. For example, if somebody has lived all their life in Shetland and moves to Glasgow one month before election, they could be argued to bring more regional diversity (when complemented by another Co-convenor in Glasgow), than somebody who is living in Edinburgh, for example.

Replace “must belong to different area groups.” with “should represent regional diversity.”

Proposed by: Sean Currie

Option 1 90 points, average rank 1.79

Option 2 87 points, average rank 1.89

Option 3 60 points, average rank 2.86

Abstain 43 points, average rank 3.46

For Option 3 20

Against 7

Abstain 2

Amendment 5: Pass

This amendment introduces job-sharing of Council roles.

Add 4.3.9. Should two individuals hold a single role as part of a job-share agreement, they shall be entitled to one vote. In the event that both individuals attend a meeting of SYG Council, only one shall vote. Upon election as part of a job-share agreement, they should publish a Joint Working Statement to SYG Council no later than one calendar month after election, detailing the division and sharing of responsibilities between them.

Renumber as appropriate.

Proposed by Ellie Gomersall

Supported by Blair Anderson, Ewan Smith and Marie Stadtler

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For 26

Abstain 1

Against 0

Amendment 6: Pass

This amendment removes an outdated part of the Constitution regarding a "Working Programme".

Remove Section 6. Renumber as appropriate.

Proposed by Ellie Gomersall

Supported by Blair Anderson, Ewan Smith and Marie Stadtler

For 27

Abstain 1

Against 0

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Amendment 7: Pass

This amendment codifies the right of student groups to send representatives to SYG council. This amendment also removes the requirement for all council members to have their names and roles on a public website.

Original:

4.3.1. Membership of SYG Council will comprise Elected Officers and Area Organisers nominated by Area Groups to represent them on council. Current Elected Officers and their responsibilities will be recorded and publicly available on the SYG website.

Replacement

4.3.1. Membership of SYG Council will comprise Elected Officers, Area Organisers nominated by Area Groups to represent them on council, and student group members nominated by their society.

Current Elected Officers and their responsibilities are encouraged to be recorded and publicly available on the SYG website. In particular, Co-convenors are encouraged to be publicly named on and contactable from the website.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 26

Abstain 1

Against 0

Amendment 8: Pass

Better defines the roles of co-convenor and secretary.

Original

4.3.2. SYG Council shall be convened by two co-convenors, who must belong to different area groups. A maximum of one co-convenor shall be a man.

4.3.3. SYG Secretary shall act as the main point of contact between SYG and external groups.

Replacement

4.3.2. SYG Council shall be convened by two co-convenors and should represent regional diversity. A maximum of one co-convenor shall be a man. The role of the co-convenors is to:

4.3.2.1 to act as chairs of SYG

4.3.2.2 to represent the views of SYG within SGP, to other organisations, and externally.

4.3.3. SYG Secretary shall carry out the administrative duties of SYG. These may include taking minutes, organising the storage of minutes, organising meetings.

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For 25

Against 0

Abstain 0

Proposed by: SYG Council

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Amendment 9: Pass

Deletes the requirement to close nominations 2 weeks before the AGM. Flexibility in elections is what has allowed the SYG to continue functioning over dips in membership activity.

Original

5.3. Any SYG member eligible for membership of SYG Council may submit a nomination for any of the listed posts. Nominations will be open until two weeks in advance of AGM.

Replacement

5.3. Any SYG member eligible for membership of SYG Council may submit a nomination for any of the listed posts.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 27
Abstain 1
Against 0

Amendment 10: Pass

Gives student groups a formal vote on the SYG council.

Original:

8.3. They may affiliate with national SYG. Such nationally affiliated student groups may send a representative to attend SYG Council, but this representative will not have voting rights.

Replacement

8.3. They may affiliate with national SYG. Such nationally affiliated student groups may send a representative to attend SYG Council, and this representative will have voting rights.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 22
Against 3
Abstain 3

Amendment 11: Pass

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The SYG is entitled to better in-party representation than most other Green Parties in Europe. Making use of the entitlement should be codified into the constitution.

Adding

10.4 SYG shall strive to send representatives to all SGP committees, and who these representatives are will be decided by SYG Council.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 27

Abstain 1

Against 0

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Amendment 12:

Adds a mechanism to remove council members. Currently the only method of removing a council member is by removal of their SYG membership.

Option 1

- 4.6. A Council member can be removed from their post if there is a vote of no confidence in that person that is passed by a two-thirds majority of all voting council members.

Option 2. Pass

- 4.6. A Council member can be removed from their post if there is a vote of no confidence in that person that is passed by a two-thirds majority of all voting council members **at a quorate meeting**.

Proposed by: SYG Council

Option 2 23

Option 1 4

Abstain 0

For Option 2 26

Abstain 1

Against 0

Amendment 13: Pass

More explicitly sets out our policy on gender balancing.

Original:

4.3.8. We will strive to ensure gender balance on Council. Mechanisms shall be put in place for elections to ensure that, so long as there are enough candidates to achieve this goal, at least 40% of Elected Officers shall be women or not of the gender binary. Non-voting members will count towards this figure.

Replacement:

4.4. Gender Balancing

4.4.1. Gender Balancing rules should apply to all SYG groups, including Council, Local Area Groups, Student Groups and Working Groups. Local Area Groups should include Gender Balancing rules in their constitution.

4.4.2.1. "Man" means any person (trans, cis, non-binary, binary, intersex, endosex, or otherwise) who is a man or boy (regardless of age, pronouns, or gender expression).

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4.4.2.2. “Non-binary” refers to any person (trans, cis, non-binary, intersex, endosex, or otherwise) who is nonbinary (regardless of age, pronouns, or gender expression).

4.4.2.3. “Woman” means any person (trans, cis, non-binary, binary, intersex, endosex, or otherwise) who is a woman or girl (regardless of age, pronouns, or gender expression).

4.4.3. Co-convenor posts should be led by two people, no more than one of whom should be a man.

4.4.4. At least 40% of members of any Council, Committee, Board, or Working Group must be women to be considered gender balanced.

4.4.5.1. No non-binary person should be denied the opportunity to hold an SYG position due to their gender.

4.4.5.2. In the event where a non-binary person having a role would cause less than 40% of any group’s membership to be women, additional posts should be added that are exclusively available to women to balance this.

4.4.6. Gender balancing rules apply only at the time of election. A Council, Committee, Board, or Working Group that is made gender-unbalanced only because of a person transitioning should not be considered unbalanced.

Original:

5.5.4. We will strive to ensure gender balance on Council. Mechanisms shall be put in place for elections to ensure that, so long as there are enough candidates to achieve this goal, at least 40% of Elected Officers shall be women or not of the gender binary. Non-voting members will count towards this figure.

Replacement:

5.5.4. We will strive to ensure gender balance on Council. Mechanisms shall be put in place for elections to ensure Council is gender balanced.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 19

Against 7

Abstain 2

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Amendment 14: Pass

Adds a Conduct & Complaints Procedure for complaints which are in violation of our Code of Conduct.

Original:

- 2.3. An individual's membership of SYG can be terminated by a two-thirds majority vote of SYG council if;
- 2.3.1. Their membership is considered to be in violation of the SYG Code of Conduct.
 - and
 - 2.3.2. Appropriate action has already been taken by the SYG Welfare Officer but has failed to resolve the issue.

Replacement:

- 2.3. An individual's membership of SYG can be terminated or suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of SYG council if;
- 2.3.1. Their membership is considered to be in violation of the SYG Code of Conduct.
 - And
 - 2.3.2. Appropriate action has already been taken in line with the SYG Conduct and Complaints Procedure.

Proposed by: SYG Council

For 25
Abstain 3
Against 0

Amendment 15 Not passed

Adds a new section that defines and encourages working groups, since these have become an important element in the growth of SYG membership engagement and output.

Renumber the section as needed. Written to fall after "Student Groups".

9. Working Groups

9.1 SYG Council is encouraged to form working groups in order to increase member engagement and decentralise the onus of work from SYG Council, thereby creating a sustainable organisational structure and increasing the capacity of the organisation.

9.2 Working groups are loosely defined, and could include any group of people formed to work on a specific area, topic, or project.

9.3 Working groups may be formed to last any length of time that is deemed appropriate.

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9.4 Ordinarily, working groups should be open to all SYG members to apply to join. However, in certain cases, such as for welfare issues or Council specific matters, applications may be restricted.

For 15

Against 12

Abstain 3

Appendix 1: Conduct & Complaints Procedure

1. Foreword

Our ideals guide our actions, both in the policies we make and in the way we conduct ourselves. Our principles are enshrined within our Constitution, and are inspired by the principles of the Scottish Green Party. This Conduct and Complaints Procedure is based on the premise that all members abide by these principles, which are elaborated on in our Code of Conduct. Where possible, disputes will be handled informally, but there may be occasions where such resolution is inappropriate or otherwise unsuitable. In these instances, this formal procedure will be followed.

2. Procedure

In the first instance, all complaints should be directed to the SYG Welfare and Conduct Officer (WCO), who will determine if the complaint is about a member of the Scottish Green Party, and if the complaint may be covered by the SGP Conduct and Complaints Committee. Where this is the case, the WCO should forward the complaint to the SGP Conduct & Complaints Committee (CCC). No further action shall be taken by SYG unless recommended by CCC.

Where the complaint is about a member of SYG who is not a member of SGP, or where the complaint may be covered by the SYG Code of Conduct, but not the SGP Code of Conduct, the WCO should aim to resolve the matter informally. Where this is not possible, the WCO may form a temporary working group, consisting of the WCO and two SYG Council members who have no previous connection to the complaint, to investigate.

Where the WCO encounters a conflict of interest due to their involvement in this procedure, one of the SYG Co-Conveners should take on the role of WCO for the purposes of the complaint the conflict of interest relates to.

Where the working group has reached a conclusion, they can determine to:

- Dismiss the complaint;
- Formally caution a member;

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- Recommend that SYG Council suspends an individual's membership for a specified period of time;
- Recommend that SYG Council terminates an individual's membership of SYG.

Where SYG Council votes to suspend or terminate an individual's membership of SYG, this will require a two-thirds majority vote of SYG Council members.

3. Appeals

Where a member believes they have been treated unfairly and wishes to appeal a ruling by a working group, they shall have the right to appeal. They should contact the SYG Co-Conveners, who will form another temporary working group, consisting of an SYG Co-Convener and two SYG Council members who have no previous connection to the complaint or the previous working group.

Once the working group has reached a conclusion, they can determine to:

- Uphold the appeal;
- Reject the appeal.

This working group's decision is final and no further appeals may be made.