Electoral Regulations of Model New Zealand

Enacted 22 December 2020

Changes from initial proposal of 28 November 2020:
Added text is in green
~~Removed text is red and struck~~

1 Scope, purpose, and amendment

(1) These regulations are subordinate to the Meta Constitution of Model New Zealand. Should any contradictions exist, the Meta Constitution prevails.

(2) The purpose of these regulations is to codify precedent and the operations of the Electoral Commission, and these regulations may be ignored where the Governor-General, Chief Electoral Officer, or Electoral Commission determines there are extraordinary circumstances that deem it proper to do so.

(3) These regulations may be amended either:

- (a) By the Chief Electoral Officer or the Governor-General, on the advice of the Electoral Commission; or
- (b) Through the passage of a meta vote, consisting of a written amendment proposal and not less than three seconders, unless the Chief Electoral Officer or Governor-General seconds the amendment.

(4) Amendments to these regulations must be announced on the meta subreddit or other appropriate location.

2 Political Parties

(1) Anyone may form a political party in Model New Zealand.

(2) A registered party is any political party that the Chief Electoral Officer has entered into the Register of Political Parties.

(3) A political party may be dissolved if:

- (a) It has no members active in the simulation;
- (b) The party's leader requests it be dissolved;
- (c) It espouses values that are incompatible with the health of the simulation or the safeguarding of its members; or
- (d) For other reasons deemed appropriate by the Chief Electoral Officer.

3 Registration of Political Parties

(1) A political party may be registered by the decision of the Chief Electoral Officer.

(2) For a political party to be registered, it must:

- (a) Be serious and non-satirical in nature;
- (b) Have at least three active members;
- (c) Have a Constitution that prescribes procedures for:
  - (i) The election and recall of party officers;
  - (ii) The approval of mergers and inter-party agreements;

(iii) Party input on policy decisions;
(iv) The expulsion of party members; and
(v) The amendment of the Constitution;

(d) Have a manifesto, policy document, or statement of ideology briefly describing its values and beliefs; and

(e) Not be excessively similar to an existing political party.

(3) For the purposes of regulation 3(2)(b), an "active member" is a member who:

(a) Has consented to joining the party; and has either

(b) Made at least one contribution to the canon in the last 90 days; or

(c) Been otherwise designated as "active" by the Governor-General or the Chief Electoral Officer.

(4) Political parties are not to be registered in the period between the close of nominations for a General Election and the announcement of results for that election.

4 Deregistration of Political Parties

(1) A political party not in compliance with regulation 3(2) may be de-registered by the decision of the Chief Electoral Officer.

(2) A political party may also be de-registered by the Chief Electoral Officer if it is engaged in activity that breaks another rule, or where the Chief Electoral Officer or the Governor-General deem it appropriate to de-register that party.

(3) A party that is dissolved is assumed to have been de-registered.

~~(4) A party is not to be de-registered for failing to comply with regulation 3(2)(b) (concerning the number of members) if one of its members is a Member of Parliament.~~

5 Simulation of elections

(1) The Electoral Commission is responsible for simulating general elections, by-elections, and opinion polling for those elections.

(2) The simulated polling is to be based on factors concerning the activity of the players, but the exact combination and weighting of those factors is to be a secret.

(3) The Chief Electoral Officer and the Electoral Commission will be consulted about the timing of elections, but have a responsibility to hold elections when called by the Governor-General.

(4) Should the canon Parliament pass appropriate legislation to do so, the Electoral Commission may choose to simulate a referendum, but are under no obligation to do so.

6 Seats in Parliament

The Electoral Commission is to review the number of MPs and electorates before each General Election and modify them as appropriate.

7 Electoral secrecy

(1) All aspects of the simulation of elections, other than publicly-released opinion polls or election results, are to be kept a secret. This includes, but is not limited to, the weighting of any of the factors in simulating elections, the exact scores of anything marked by the Electoral Commission, or the exact modifier that any member or party has.

(2) The release of ordinarily secret information in exceptional circumstances requires the express approval of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Governor-General.

(3) A breach of this section is grounds for immediate dismissal from the Electoral Commission and a ban on serving in any meta offices, including the Electoral Commission, as determined by the Governor-General.

8 Election campaigns

(1) All election campaigning occurs through posts to the /r/ModelNZCampaigning subreddit or other specified location during times announced in advance by the Chief Electoral Officer.

(2) All campaigning not in accordance with the above subsection will not be considered in the calculation of election results.

(3) In a General Election, unless otherwise prescribed by the Chief Electoral Officer, the following post limits apply—

- (a) All candidates may make one post per day.
- (b) Candidates standing in both an electorate and on the party list may make one additional post per day.
- (c) Party leaders may make two additional list posts at any point in the campaign.
- (d) Party leaders may make one post releasing their party's manifesto, and one post endorsing candidates in constituencies where their party is not standing.
- (e) Candidates only standing in an electorate may only make electorate posts, and candidates only standing on the party list may only make list posts.

(4) In a by-election, unless otherwise prescribed by the Chief Electoral Officer, the following post limits apply—

- (a) Candidates may make one post every day.
- (b) Candidates may make two additional posts at any point during the campaign.
- (c) Party leaders may make one post endorsing a candidate in each constituency.

(5) Candidates may post up to one hour after each day's end and have the post count for the previous day with the express permission of the Chief Electoral Officer, provided such permission was obtained before the day's end.