

Scottish Socialist Party constitution
(updated 9 September 2017)

1. Aims

- 1.1. The name of the party is the Scottish Socialist Party (SSP).
- 1.2. The aim of the Scottish Socialist Party is the socialist transformation of society and the achievement of an independent socialist republic in Scotland. This socialist republic would be based on the following principles:
 - a) An economic system based on the social ownership of wealth and production, regulated by forms of democratic planning;
 - b) A social system where people are provided for on the basis of need;
 - c) A political system with democratic control extended to every area of society;
 - d) A cultural system in which the most progressive values would be the norm;
 - e) And a commitment to socialist internationalism with the aim of creating a commonwealth of socialist states.

2. Membership

- 2.1. Membership of the Scottish Socialist Party is open to all who share its aims, abide by its constitution, and pay the required membership subscription.
 - a) Any member who fails to pay their monthly party subscription in three consecutive months will be deemed by their own actions to no longer be a member of the Scottish Socialist Party.

However, when such instances arise, the party, prior to removing any member from membership, should make every effort to resolve the situation. A member's personal financial position should not be a barrier to SSP membership and the party, through the national treasurer (or their substitute), should use their discretion to resolve the issue.

- 2.2. Members are encouraged to fully participate in the party, all aspects of its work, and in the wider socialist and progressive movement.

3. Branches & Regions

- 3.1. The basic organisational units of the party are branches, each of which will be assigned to a region for the purposes of internal organisation. All members are encouraged to be actively involved in their local branch.

- 3.2. Branches should meet regularly, be a forum for political discussion, and engage in public activity to promote the policies and work of the party. Branches are the starting point for shaping policy and strategy.
- 3.3. Branches will be invited each year to nominate and elect a regional organiser to assist the creation, merger and division of branches in their region.
- 3.4. Regional organisers will be responsible for co-ordinating regional campaigns and supporting the growth of branches in their region.

4. Groups

- 4.1. Party members can, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, establish recognised groups who have input into policy and strategy debates.
- 4.2. Groups can be created which either represent particular sections of the membership (such as women, young people, trade unionists, etc.) or focus on policy in particular areas (such as health, environment, etc.). Groups will not function as political platforms and must have a democratic structure.

5. National Conference

- 5.1. The party shall hold an annual National Conference open to all paid-up members of the SSP who are in good standing.
- 5.2. The purpose of the National Conference is to form policy, elect an Executive Committee, agree the party's Financial Report, review the work of the party for the previous year, and plan out work for the coming year.
- 5.3. Branches and Groups are entitled to submit two motions to National Conference and any number of amendments.
- 5.4. Party members are encouraged to fully participate in the democratic discussion and formation of party policy, and should abide by and promote this policy in their public work.

6. Executive Committee

- 6.1. The Executive Committee will meet at least monthly and provide the leadership of the party between National Conferences and National Council meetings. The EC will be composed as follows:
 - a) National joint spokespersons (1 man, 1 woman)
 - b) National secretary (1)

- c) National joint chairpersons (1 man, 1 woman)
- d) National treasurer and membership secretary (1)
- e) International secretary (1)
- f) Social media co-ordinator (1)
- g) Workplace organiser (1)
- h) National press officer (1)
- i) Fourteen ordinary members (7 men, 7 women)

6.2. Branches will be invited to submit nominations for positions on the Executive Committee ahead of each National Conference.

6.3. Where more are nominated for a position than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be held at National Conference by single transferable vote. The conference arrangements committee will invite each candidate for a contested position to a hustings.

6.4. Where a vacancy arises between National Conferences, branches will be invited to submit nominations ahead of the next National Council meeting, where an election will take place as normal.

7. National Council

7.1. The party shall hold at least four quarterly National Council meetings open to all paid-up members of the SSP who are in good standing.

7.2. National Council meetings will make decisions on important policy or strategy matters between National Conferences.

7.3. Branches and Groups are entitled to submit two motions to each National Council meeting and any number of amendments.

7.4. At least one NC meeting per year will take place outwith the Central Belt.

8. Scottish Socialist Voice

8.1. The Scottish Socialist Voice is the principal journal of the Scottish Socialist Party. All SSP members are expected to support and promote the SSV.

9. Social Media

9.1. Social media plays a vital role in reporting and promoting the policies and work of the SSP. It is also a vital vehicle for promoting debate and discussion within the SSP.

9.2. When participating in social media, all party members are expected to

conduct themselves in a manner which is responsible, comradely and does not bring themselves or the party into disrepute.

10. Disputes & Conduct

- 10.1. Party members are always expected to conduct themselves in a comradely and respectful manner. Members are expected to respect the legitimacy of the party's positions and not to publicly bring it into doubt.
- 10.2. If an SSP member acts in a way which is alleged to have brought the party or themselves into disrepute, that member may be referred to the National Secretary for disciplinary proceedings.
- 10.3. The disciplinary process is as follows:
 - a) The complaint is referred by the National Secretary to a disciplinary committee made up of the National Secretary and four members (2 men and 2 women) elected at National Conference.
 - b) The disciplinary committee will investigate the complaint and make a recommendation for action to the Executive Committee.
 - c) The Executive Committee will then decide whether to dismiss the complaint; to uphold the complaint and issue a warning; to uphold the complaint and suspend the member; or to uphold the complaint and expel the member.
 - d) If the member does not agree with the EC's decision, they can appeal to the National Conference for a final decision.
- 10.4. A member of the party who has been suspended through the party's disciplinary process will not be regarded as being in good standing.