

Extract of the
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY (ESC) BYLAWS

Approved by the ESC Board on 28 August 2025

VII ELECTRONIC VOTING PROCEDURE

Article 7.1

Code of conduct for elections for ESC & ESC Constituent Bodies

The following Code of Conduct for elections (hereinafter the Code) is intended to govern the conduct of ESC elections and the elections of the ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils.

The Code calls for a fair elections process and equal treatment of all election candidates.

ESC Board, Committees and Task Forces members as well as ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils Board, Nucleus, Committees, Task Forces and study groups members and ESC staff must respect the integrity of the election process and refrain from publicly disclosing their preference, campaigning for candidates and/or attempting to influence the results of the elections in any way.

7.1.1 Principles for the elections for the ESC Board and ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils

General Principles

All information provided by candidates to the ESC staff and competent Nominating Committee, on official forms, in correspondence and/or verbally, must be true, accurate and complete.

Candidates are expected to be honest on all aspects of the election process. Any open or clandestine attempt to obtain information about another person's intention to vote or manipulation of list of voting delegates is considered a breach of conduct.

Candidates must not, directly or indirectly, intimidate or bribe any voter(s) or other candidate(s) with an intention to pressurize a person to submit or withdraw his or her candidacy for election, influence the voting of a person; or otherwise interfere with the due course of an election.

In strict compliance with relevant data protection laws, the ESC staff will not, under any circumstances, provide the list of voting delegates' and Constituent Bodies contact details (e.g., email addresses, phone numbers among other information).

Campaign

Campaigning is defined as any activity or election material that identifies a person as a candidate or affiliates a person with the election aiming to promote the candidacy of the person(s) concerned.

Campaigning activities are authorized only during the election period, starting from the day after the announcement of the final slate of candidates by the Nominating Committee and ending with the day prior to the opening of the voting period. During the campaigning period, candidates must comply with the highest

standards of ethics and shall respect the reputation and integrity of other candidates. Campaigning using social media communication is not authorised, even during the campaigning period.

Candidates must not take advantage of their current ESC activities (e.g. travelling to meet Constituent Bodies for reasons unrelated to their current position, using industry events for campaigning among others) to campaign.

Outside authorized campaigning activities, communication with Constituent Bodies and voting delegates related to election matters (including the communication of candidates' curriculum vitae (CV), letters of motivation and, in case of the candidates for president elect, their presentations made at the Spring Summit posted on the ESC website) will be managed exclusively by ESC Staff.

7.1.2 Rules applicable to ESC Board elections

Persons applying to be selected by the Nominating Committee as candidates standing for the available ESC Board positions must be endorsed in writing both by their own National Society and one other Constituent Body. No additional support letters are allowed.

Once selected by the Nominating Committee, candidates for the position of ESC President-Elect will be invited to present their programme at the ESC Spring Summit organized during election years.

Following the ESC Spring Summit, the curriculum vitae (CV), letters of motivation of all candidates and, in case of the candidates for president elect, their presentations will be posted on the election page of the ESC website and the webpage link will be sent by email by the ESC staff in charge to all Constituent Bodies. Candidates are required to provide a copy of their CVs and letters of motivation where all contact details (e.g. personal address, mail address and phone numbers) and sensitive personal information are removed.

If a National Cardiac Society or a Constituent Body wishes to invite one of the candidates for the position of President Elect or any other position, it must extend the invitation to the other candidate(s) as well. Such invitations can only be made during the election period (see definition above).

7.1.3 Breach of the Code of Conduct for elections

Anyone is entitled to report an alleged breach of this Code in writing by using the ESC complaint mechanism through the risk management office, which will refer the case to the Chair of the Nominating Committee (Contact: complaints@escardio.org). Complaints concerning the election process as such shall be sent no later than one month after the publication of the results of such election.

The Nominating Committee will investigate all complaints and reach a decision based on the available evidence within one calendar week of receiving the complaint as to whether a breach of this Code has occurred and whether any measures will be required. Submitting unfounded election complaints will be considered a breach of this Code.

The Nominating Committee may, if it has convincingly established that a person has breached the Code or in any way acted improperly, dishonestly or unfairly at any time during the entire election period, enforce any of the below measures or a combination thereof:

- Request the candidate and/or ESC member in writing to cease his or her behavior
- Order that, where possible, the candidate and/or ESC member rectify the matter which was the subject of the complaint and to apologize verbally or in writing to those involved
- Inform all NCS and internal Constituent bodies about the breach of code by the candidate

- Retract the candidate from the election process.

The decision of the Nominating Committee is final and not subject to appeal.

The Nominating Committee may refer issues of a disciplinary nature regarding the conduct of an ESC member to the ESC Management Group following the process described in the Complaint Mechanism. Breach of this Code by any candidate or ESC member may result in an investigation of misconduct as detailed in ESC Bylaws.

7.1.4 Nominating Committee (NC):

Influencing NC members, either in writing or verbally, regarding the nomination/selection process at any time is considered a breach of Code.

NC members are requested to report internally whenever such an attempt to influence the nomination/selection process has occurred and by which applicant.

If an attempt to influence the nomination/selection process has occurred, this will be taken into account for the rating/evaluation of the applicant(s) involved.