



Code of Conduct

for Candidates, Members and Registered Supporters

Please read and understand the Code of Conduct. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the election board who will be happy to explain the contents in more detail.

The candidate for President must abide and follow the constitution issues on 15th April 1984. This can be found here: <https://www.gurunanakdarbar.org/our-constitution>

In this document, we use 'you' to refer to the candidate. We use 'must' when we refer to a specific requirement. We use 'should' for items we consider to be minimum good practice but are not legal or regulatory requirements.

You can start a campaigning at any time. You do not have to wait until you are formally nominated to declare that you will run for election, ask people to support or publish campaign material.

During the campaign you **MUST**:

- Show respect to all electors, this includes other candidates, and any officials working with the election board.
- Focus your campaign on your policies and what improvements you will make for the benefit of the 'Sangat.'
- Put your agents name on every leaflet, poster & materials to make it clear that the message is from you and / or your campaign team.
- Make sure your supporters follow the code of conduct on handling applications-this will help to avoid situations where honesty or integrity may be questioned.
- Make sure your supporters or courteous when dealing with other candidates and their supporters.

You must **NOT**:

- Make false or derogatory statements about the other candidates.
- Offer any incentives to individuals to gain their support.
- Encourage any wrongdoing on the part of any elector during the campaign and only election day.
- Bring or attempt to bring on undue influence on electors by using all encouraging threatening or intimidating tactics/behaviour during the campaign.
- Knowingly make false statements about the personal character of another candidate.
- Harass or threaten any member of the election board.
- Pay canvases. Canvassing means trying to persuade an elector to vote for or against a particular candidate or party.



When does a person officially become a candidate?

- You can become a candidate on the date that you submit your registration form and nomination papers along with the deposit £250.

During the campaign, you may

- Encourage people who are not on the electoral register to apply for registration.

Campaign publicity do's and don'ts

- You must:
 - Comply with planning rules relating to advertising hoardings on large banners-you should ask the relevant local authority for advice.
 - Make sure that outdoor posters are removed promptly after the election; you must do this within one week of the close of the poll.

You must not:

Produce material that looks like poll cards that may have been sent to voters by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Websites and other electronic material

You should also put an imprint on electronic material such as websites and emails. The imprint should include the name and telephone of the promoter and/or the organisation on whose behalf it has been produced.

Online Conduct

The standards in this code also apply to electronic communications, online social media and written media, where members and candidates should strive to ensure their comments cannot easily be misconstrued or their actions misinterpreted. Where honest mistakes do happen, prompt apology and clarification are important.

Online interactions are often carried out in public, and all members should be aware of the extra risk of bringing the community into disrepute during public online exchanges. Those who have large or influential social media profiles should be especially wary of using these to encourage or enable others to harass, bully or intimidate individuals.

Polling day dos and don'ts

You and your agent's should:

Comply with requests by polling station staff and/or the Election Board about campaigning near polling station.

You or your agents must not:



Campaign near polling stations in a way that could be seen by voters as aggressive or intimidating (for example, large groups of supporters carrying banners, or vehicles with loudspeakers or heavy branding with campaign material).

Breach the requirement on secrecy of the ballot. this is an essential part of any modern democracy and breaches are taken seriously.

List of offences

You should be aware of a number of electoral and non-electoral offences and should seek your own legal advice where necessary. The Election Board should be your first point of contact for any complaints.

Bribery

The offence of bribery includes where someone directly or indirectly gives any money or procures any of us to or for any voter, to induce any voter to vote or not vote.

Treating

A person is guilty of treating if either before, during or after an election they directly or indirectly give or provide any food, drink, entertainment, or provision to corruptly influence any voter to vote or refrain from voting. Treating requires a corrupt intent- it does not apply to ordinary hospitality.

Undue Influence

A person is guilty of undue influence if they directly or indirectly make use of/or threaten to make use of force, violence, or restraint, or inflict or threaten to inflict injury, damage, harm, or loss upon or against any person in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting. a person may also be guilty of undue influence if they impede or prevent any voter from freely exercising their right to vote- even where the attempt is unsuccessful.

Undue influence does not exclusively relate to physical access to the polling station. For example, a leaflet that threatens to make use of force to induce a voter to vote in a particular way could also be undue influence.

Personation

Personation is defined as an individual voting as someone else in person at a polling station as an elector.. This offence applies in the person that is being personated is living, dead or fictitious, aiding, abetting, counselling, or procuring the offence of personation is also offence.

False statements must not be made.

About a candidate's personal conduct.

- It is an offence to make or publish a false statement of fact about the personal character all conduct of a candidate to affect the return of a candidate at an election.
- False statements that are not about a candidate's personal character or conduct are not illegal under electoral law but could be considered as libel or slander.
- It is also an illegal practice to make a false statement of a candidate's withdrawal to promote or procure the election of another candidate.



In nomination papers

It is an offence to provide false statement on a nomination paper, which you know to be false. For example, if you know you are disqualified from the election you must not sign the consent to nomination.

False registration information

It is an offence to supply false information on a registration or application form. False information includes a false signature.

False application to vote

A person is guilty of offence if they apply to vote or to gain a vote to which they are entitled or to deprive someone else of their vote.

Multiple voting offences

There are various offences regarding multiple voting, including voting in person elector knowingly you are subject to a legal incapacity to vote and including or procuring another to commit offence.

Breaches of secrecy of the ballot

Everyone involved in the election process or attending certain proceedings must maintain the secrecy of the ballot.

Campaign publicity material

Certain offences relate specifically to election campaign publicity material. Printed election campaign publicity material must contain an imprint, and not contain any false or any statement about other candidates.

Reporting allegations of electoral fraud

- If you are concerned that electoral fraud may have been committed, you should first speak to the members of the election board.
- They may be able to explain whether electoral fraud has been committed and can refer your concerns to the police if necessary. They can also provide you with the details of the police contact for the relevant police authority, you can report the allegation yourself.
- You should be prepared to give them a statement and evidence to substantiate your allegation.

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ (ਗੇਵਜੈਂਡ ਕੈਂਟ)

SIRI GURU NANAK DARBAR GURDWARA



Candidate Signature:

Print name:.....

Date:.....

By signing this document, you are agreeing to abide by the rules contained within this document.

Witnessed by election board:.....

Signature of Election Board Chairperson:.....

Date:.....