

Contents

1.	DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION_____	1
2.	BOUNDARIES OF THE REGIONS AND COUNTIES _____	2
3.	NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS _____	2
4.	PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL_____	2
5.	PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS _____	5
6.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND COUNTY CHAIRS _____	7
7.	REGIONAL AND COUNTY ORGANISATION _____	12
8.	NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CANDIDATES TO THE OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL OFFICEHOLDERS AND SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL OF NATIONAL OFFICEHOLDERS	

These Rules are supplemental to, and made under paragraph 9.18 of, the Constitution and were approved by Council on 24 June 2024.

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

"Relevant Bodies" means the NFU Bodies other than the Council;

"Transitional Arrangements" means the transitional provisions set out in Schedule 1 to the Rules; and

"Voting Year" commences at the close of the AGM held during the relevant Membership Year, and ceases at the close of the AGM in the following year.

2.

- rdan 4.6.3 On a vote in respect of a Weighted Voting Matter, the County Chair and Council Representative of each county (or their alternates) shall be entitled to exercise one half of the total number of votes allocated to such county in accordance with rule 4.7 below as Allocated Votes, provided that, in the event that such county has an uneven number of Allocated Votes in accordance with rule 4.7, the County Chair shall be entitled to exercise one half of the total number of Allocated Votes (rounded down to the nearest whole number) and the Council Representative shall be entitled to exercise the remainder of the Allocated Votes. The Welsh Representative of each Welsh county (as set out in part 2 of Appendix 1) shall be entitled to exercise the total number of votes allocated to such Welsh county in accordance with rule 4.7 below.
- 4.6.4 Voting Representatives are entitled to vote or abstain from voting in such manner as the relevant Voting Representative (or their alternates) sees fit and, for the avoidance of doubt, the County Chair and Council Representative of each county need not exercise (or refrain from exercising) the votes allocated to them in accordance with this rule in the same manner as the other, provided that all votes allocated to each Voting Representative must be cast (or made subject to abstention) in the same manner by such Voting Representative.
- 4.6.5 For the avoidance of doubt no Council Member other than a Voting Representative (or their alternate) shall be entitled to vote on a Weighted Voting Matter.
- 4.6.6 In the event that the Council Meeting takes places by electronic means, the chair shall ensure that all Council Members have the ability to vote on any resolution in respect of a Weighted Voting Matter by way of a suitable electronic voting system.

4.7 Allocation of votes to Voting Counties

- 4.7.1 Votes shall be allocated to Voting Counties in accordance with this rule 4.7.
- 4.7.2 Votes shall be based on aggregate County Subscription Income received or due from voting members of a Voting County for the relevant Membership Year in accordance with rules 4.7.3 and 4.7.4 below.
- 4.7.3 Votes shall be allocated to each Voting County pursuant to rule 4.7.2 on the following basis:
- 4.7.3.1 one vote for the first £50,000 of County

5.5 The chair of any general meeting at which a quorum is present may with the consent of the meeting (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting except business which might lawfully have been transacted at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

5.6 In addition, the chair may without such consent adjourn the meeting to another time and/or place if in the chair's opinion:

5.6.1

5.11. Demand for a poll shall not prevent the business of the meeting for the consideration of any business other than that in respect of which a poll has been demanded. If a poll is demanded before the meeting has commenced, the result on a show of hands shall be valid notwithstanding that the demand is duly withdrawn, and the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.

5.12 Proxies

- 5.12.1 Any voting member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at a general meeting in their stead.
- 5.12.2 A proxy must be a member.
- 5.12.3 The appointment of a proxy shall not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting concerned.
- 5.12.4 An appointment of proxy shall be in any usual or common form or in any other form which the Secretary may from time to time approve and shall be executed by the appointer or a duly authorised officer of the appointer.
- 5.12.5 The appointment of a proxy shall be delivered personally, by post to the office or such other place within the United Kingdom as may be specified by or on behalf of the NFU for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting, or electronically as specified in the notice convening the meeting (including by email), at least 48 hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote, but the Secretary may decide to treat a proxy as valid notwithstanding that it has not been received in accordance with this provision.

6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

6.2.5

A ballot shall not be invalidated by any accidental omission to send any notice or voting form to any voting member at their registered address or email address (as applicable).

6.6 Register of Members and mailing of Notices and Voting Forms

If, in accordance with rule 6.10, a ballot is necessary, voting forms shall be provided to voting

- 6.9.2.2 the date of the election, which shall be no later than 15 December in any year (unless the Secretary approves the holding of the election on a later date);
- 6.9.2.3 the date, at least 28 days before the election date, by which nominations of candidates must have been received by the Regional Director;
- 6.9.2.4 the approximate date on which voting forms will be sent to members and the date by which they must be returned; and
- 6.9.2.5 the name, address, email address and telephone number of the NFU office from which nomination forms may be obtained.

6.10 Hustings

The Governance Board may from time to time make rules relating to the holding and conduct of hustings in respect of the election of Council Representatives and County Chairs, which must not be inconsistent with the Constitution or the Rules.

6.11 Treatment of nominations or where no nominations are received

- 6.11.1 If only one candidate is nominated for a vacancy as Council Representative or County Chair in accordance with rule 6.7 then in respect of such vacancy the person nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
- 6.11.2 If there is more than one candidate for a vacancy as Council Representative or County Chair in accordance with rule 6.7 then a ballot of the voting members in the constituency shall be held in accordance with rules 6.11 to 6.14 (inclusive).
- 6.11.3 If no candidates are nominated for a vacancy as Council Representative or County Chair in accordance with rule 6.7 then rule 6.15 shall apply.

6.12 Ballot of the Members

~~6.12.1~~ Each ~~Regional Director~~, at least 14 days before the date of the election in any constituency, shall send voting forms to all voting members eligible to vote in the constituency.

6.12.2 The voting forms shall contain details of:

6.12.2.1

6.15.5.3 the total number of valid votes cast in favour of each candidate; and

6.15.5.4 the name of the candidate(s) elected for each constituency.

6.15.6 The Regional Director shall retain the voting forms for each constituency for a period of 30 days after the date on which the result of each election was published in each constituency. Thereafter, provided there has been no request by a member entitled to vote in the ballot to scrutinise the voting forms, they shall be deleted or destroyed (as applicable).

6.15.7 If within 21 days of the publication of the result of any election there has been a request to scrutinise the voting forms, which results in a challenge of the result of the election the matter shall be referred to the Regional Board. The Regional Board or a committee established for the purpose shall consider the matter within 21 days and publish its decision as soon as practicable. Its decision shall be final.

6.16 Procedure where no nominations are received

6.16.1 If no candidates are nominated for a vacancy in any constituency in accordance with Rule 6.7, then the Regional Board may, at its option:

6.16.1.1 select a candidate (who must fulfil the criteria set out in rule 6.2) for such unfilled vacancy and the selected candidate shall be deemed to be elected; or,

6.16.1.2 convene a meeting (or designate any scheduled meeting) of the county for the purposes of nominating and electing any person fulfilling the criteria set out in rule 6.2 to the relevant vacancy, in which case a ballot shall be held at such meeting.

6.16.2 The provisions of rules 6.12 and 6.14.2 to 6.14.7 (inclusive) shall apply mutatis mutandis to a ballot held pursuant to this rule 6.15.

6.17 Casual vacancies

In the event of a casual vacancy arising during the term of appointment of a Council Representative or County Chair, an election shall be held in accordance with rules 6.1 to 6.15 (inclusive). If the incumbent Council Representative or County Chair (as the case may be) is unwilling to, or incapable of, acting, then the Regional Director may appoint such person to act as interim Council Representative or County Chair (as the case may be) pending the election or appointment of a successor in accordance with this rule 6. Any such interim Council Representative or County Chair may exercise such right to vote as they would have been entitled to had they been duly elected.

Any time served by an individual in filling a casual vacancy shall not count towards a Council Representative or County Chair's (as applicable) term of office for the purpose of calculating their maximum permitted term in office in accordance with paragraph 6.2.4.

7. REGIONAL AND COUNTY ORGANISATION

7.1 Regional Organisation

7.1.1 Each Regional Board shall within 3 months of the year end in any year prepare a scheme for the organisation and administration of the region and to facilitate consultation and the exchange of information, knowledge and expertise with members. Such scheme shall be submitted to the Secretary for the approval of the Governance Board within 28 days of a request by the Secretary.

7.1.2 It shall be the responsibility of each Regional Director, in consultation with the Regional Board, to prescribe the arrangements for discharging the functions described in rule 7.1.1.

7.2 Regional Boards

Each Regional Board shall discharge such functions as are delegated to it by Council and shall be subordinate and accountable to Council.

7.3 Regional Commodity Boards

Each Regional Commodity Board shall discharge such functions as are delegated to it by Council and the relevant National Commodity Board and shall be subordinate and accountable

8.3 **Nomination Form**

Nominations shall be provided in the form prescribed by the Secretary from time to time. The nomination form may be copied in sufficient numbers for distribution to members who request a copy. The nomination form shall include:

- 8.3.1 the full names and registered address of the candidate;
- 8.3.2 the candidate's NFU membership number;
- 8.3.3 the name of the office for which the candidate is nominated;
- 8.3.4 the names and NFU membership numbers of the nominators (or details of the relevant meeting at ame od

- 9.2.1 Each Relevant Body may co-opt persons with relevant skills, knowledge or expertise (whether members of the NFU or otherwise) as additional members on such terms as they see fit but such co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote and provided that the number of co-opted members shall not exceed more than one quarter of the total number of members of the Relevant Body.
- 9.2.2 Save as provided by the Constitution, the chair of each Relevant Body shall be elected by the members of such Relevant Body from among any of their own number at the first meeting of the Relevant Body following the Annual General Meeting on a biennial basis and they shall hold office for a period of two years until the beginning of the first

- 11.4.3 A member who changes address shall inform the NFU Call Centre and/or the relevant Group Secretary, who shall update the Register of Members.
- 11.4.4 The Register of Members shall be deemed to contain a correct list of the members,

the notice of appeal against refusal. The decision of the Membership Panel on the refusal of an applicant's membership shall be final and binding. Any person whose

consideration by the Membership Panel, or the member provides evidence of significant procedural error on the part of the NFU or the Membership Panel.

- 11.6.14 If the President decides to allow the appeal, they shall determine the next meeting of the Council at which such appeal shall be considered. They shall also write to the member setting out the procedure that will apply to the hearing of the appeal by the Council, including any further information that may be provided by the member, the date by which such information should be provided and whether or not the member may appear in person to make representations at the Council meeting.
- 11.6.15 Council shall consider appointed representative (as previously determined by the President in accordance with rule 11.6.14), at the appointed Council meeting. Council's decision shall be taken by ordinary resolution and communicated to the member in writing within 14 days of the date of the Council meeting.

Suspension and Termination of Non-Voting Members

- 11.6.16 The proposed suspension or termination of the membership of a non-voting member shall be considered by the Membership Panel at a meeting convened for that purpose.
- 11.6.17 The Secretary (or an alternate nominated by the Secretary) shall notify the relevant member at least 28 days before the date of the meeting of:
- 11.6.17.1 the date of the meeting;
 - 11.6.17.2 a summary of the allegations of any misconduct or other matters which are to be considered by the Membership Panel, prepared on behalf of the NFU;
 - 11.6.17.3 copies of the evidence that will be provided to the Membership Panel (provided that the member shall not be entitled to receive copies of such evidence if this would infringe or undermine the data subject rights or confidentiality of any other person);
 - 11.6.17.4 the date by which the members' written submissions or other written evidence must be received by the Secretary (being not less than seven days before the date of the meeting).
- 11.6.18 The member may send to the Secretary (or an alternate nominated by the Secretary) written submissions or written evidence which they wish the Membership Panel to consider at its meeting at least seven days before the date of the meeting. No evidence provided after that date will be considered by the Membership Panel.
- 11.6.19 The Membership Panel will appoint a chair. The chair may decide the detailed procedure for the meeting but save in exceptional cases the matter will be decided based on the documentation provided to the Membership Panel.
- 11.6.20 The Membership Panel will consider the evidence provided to it on behalf of the NFU and any

11.6.22 A suspended or expelled member shall not be liable to pay any outstanding subscription. The NFU shall not be required to repay any portion of subscription fees already paid by that member

- 13.2 Any contract which, if made between private persons would be required by law to be in writing and, if made according to English law, to be entered into as a deed or under seal, may be made on behalf of the NFU in writing and executed as a deed by any two officers or one officer and the Secretary of the NFU. Such contract may be varied or discharged in the same manner.
- 13.3 Any contract which, if made between private persons would be required by law to be in writing and signed by the parties, may be made on behalf of the NFU in writing and be executed by any person acting under the express or implied authority of the Governance Board. Such contract may be varied or discharged in the same manner.
- 13.4 Any contract which, if made between private persons would by law be valid although made orally only and not reduced into writing, may be made either in writing or orally on behalf of the NFU by any person acting under the express or implied authority of the Governance Board. Such contract may be varied or discharged in the same manner.
- 13.5 In accordance with paragraph 20.2 of the Constitution the title to all land, property and investments held by, in trust for or on behalf of the NFU, shall be vested in the National Farmers' Union Trust Company Limited (or such other body) acting as custodian trustee and all contracts relating to land, property and investments shall be executed in the approved form either under seal of such company or by the duly authorised signatories of such company.

14. USE OF TITLE, COAT OF ARMS ETC.

No member, body, member of staff or other organisation or person shall use or display, or permit to be used or displayed, the name " " or its initials "NFU", or any logo or device representing the NFU, or the NFU coat of arms, or any other trademark or design, whether registered or not, owned by the NFU, without the prior express or implied consent of the NFU.

15. NOTICES

- 15.1 Any notice to be given to or by any person under the Constitution or these rules shall be in writing, except where otherwise expressly stated. Any such notice may be given using electronic communications provided sent to such address (if any) for the time being notified for that purpose to the person sending the notice by or on behalf of the person to whom the notice is sent and in the case of communications between the NFU and its members, in accordance with rules 15.2 and 15.3.
- 15.2 The NFU shall give any notice or other document under the Constitution or these rules to a member by whichever of the following methods it may in its absolute discretion determine:
- 15.2.1 personally; or
- 15.2.2 by posting the notice or other document in a prepaid envelope addressed, in the case

not/F[)]TJETØ1 0 1 106.85 760.54 Tm

shall be indemnified by the NFU from and against all actions, claims and other proceedings whatsoever and all costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses which they may incur or sustain by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by any such person in or about the discharge of their office or duties on behalf of the NFU.

16.2 This indemnity is given to members of staff of the NFU subject to their terms and conditions of

Schedule 1
Transitional Provisions 2023-2024

Part 1: Regional Re-organisation

1 Definitions

1.1 In this Schedule the following expressions where the context so admits shall have the following meanings:

1.1.1 **"Existing Regional Boards"** means the English regional boards of the NFU in place prior to the Regional Adoption Date as detailed in part 1 of Appendix 1

1.1.2 **"Existing Regional Commodity Boards"** means the English regional commodity boards of the NFU in place prior to the Regional Adoption Date as detailed in part 1 of Appendix 1

1.1.3 **"First Regional Transition Period"** means the period commencing on the adoption of these Rules and ending immediately prior to the Regional Adoption Date

1.1.4 **"New Regional Boards"** means the English regional boards of the NFU in place on and from the Regional Adoption Date as detailed in Appendix 2

1.1.5 **"New Regional Commodity Boards"** means English regional commodity boards of the NFU in place on and from the Regional Adoption Date as detailed in Appendix 2

1.1.6 **"Regional Adoption Date"** means 1 November 2023

1.1.7 **"Second Regional Transition Period"** means the period commencing on the Regional Adoption Date and ending on the Implementation Date

1.2 This schedule shall have effect notwithstanding anything in the Constitution or Rules.

1.3 Regional Chairs:

Existing regions	Proposed new Regions	Chairs during Second Regional Transition Period
North East		
North West	Northern	Chair elected by new Regional Board/Regional Commodity Board
East Anglia	Eastern	Chair elected by new Regional Board/Regional Commodity Board
South East		
South West	Southern	Chair elected by new Regional Board/Regional Commodity Board
West Midlands		
East Midlands	Midlands	Chair elected by new Regional Board/Regional Commodity Board

paragraph 1.3, in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders.

3.3.2 Prior to the commencement of the Second Regional Transition Period, each New Regional Commodity Board shall make arrangements to elect a chair of the New Regional Commodity Board pursuant to paragraph 1.3, in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders.

Part 2: Officeholders Terms of Office

- 1 This Part 2 shall apply to the following officeholders at the date of adoption of the Constitution and these Rules:
 - a. National Officeholders
 - b. County Chairs
 - c. Council Representatives
 - d. National Commodity Board chairs
 - e. National Commodity Board vice chairs
 - f. Appointed National Commodity Board members
 - g. Regional Commodity Board members
 - h. Regional Commodity Board chairs
 - i. Regional Board chairs(together the **Office Holders**).
- 2 The office term limits which are set out in the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders shall, subject

Farmer & Grower Member) and is engaged as a farmer and/or grower and is not in arrears of any subscriptions laid down from time to time by Council.

- 2 During the Interim Period, Farmer & Grower (Partner) Members shall be voting members (as defined in the Constitution) and the definition of voting member shall accordingly be deemed amended to the extent necessary during the Interim Period for that purpose.
- 3 Farmer & Grower (Partner) Members shall be eligible to stand as candidates for election to the offices of the National Officeholders pursuant to paragraph 10.2 of the Constitution, for so long as that class of membership remains.
- 4 For a Farmer & Grower (Partner) Member, the postal address of a member to be entered in the Register of Members shall be the address of their principal farm business.
- 5 At the end of the Interim Period, any Farmer & Grower (Partner) Member shall automatically convert to a Farmer & Grower Member, subject to the eligibility requirements of that class of member.

APPENDIX 1

Part 1: English Regions and counties to 31 October 2023

Region	Counties
South West (6 counties)	Gloucestershire (1) Wiltshire (2) Dorset (3) Somerset (4) Devon (5) and Cornwall (6)
East Anglia (6 counties)	Essex (1) Hertfordshire (2) Suffolk (3) Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire (4) Cambridgeshire (5) and Norfolk (6)
South East (7 counties)	Kent (1) East Sussex (2) Surrey (3) West Sussex (4) Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire (5) Hampshire (6)

