

nipsa  
ADC  
2022

NIPSA Annual Delegate Conference  
Online

## Conference Paper No.3

Digital Submission of Motions and Nominations

## INTRODUCTION

1. At the 2015 NIPSA General Conference Resolution No 21 was adopted which called on the General Council to bring forward the necessary constitutional amendments to allow for the submission of motions and nominations by electronic means. A paper was submitted to the 2016 NIPSA General Council which give effect to the constitutional amendments necessary to provide for the electronic submission of motions and nominations, which was adopted by conference. However, it was accepted that the proposed constitutional amendments did not fully meet the terms of reference of Resolution No 21 and further work was required.
2. At the 2021 NIPSA Annual Delegate Conference the following Resolution No. 64 was adopted:

***“Conference is disappointed by the continually low turnout in General Council elections; often below the 10% mark. The logical conclusion is that approximately 90% of our members do not feel that the General Council is worth making the effort to vote for. However it should also be noted that there are additional challenges which have to be navigated, such as Whistl (who hold the postal contract for much of the NICS) and their refusal to collect or deliver pre-paid envelopes, such as those used for General Council ballots, strike ballots etc. This is obviously an unwelcome impediment to active membership participation in trade union democracy.***

***Unfortunately NIPSA still insists on conducting much of its business via hardcopy paper-based forms, when often an email from a verified source would suffice; not to mention be more difficult to falsify than a signature on a paper form...***

***Conference believes that NIPSA needs to get serious about moving into the digital age and look to move to a ‘digital first’ approach in order to keep pace with technological advances in our society, help retain relevance with younger and future members, and attempt to increase member participation in general.***

***To that end, Conference instructs the incoming General Council to seek, where possible, to digitalise NIPSA’s correspondence and administration (such as Conference forms), and also investigate the ability for members to use online digital submissions in future elections and ballots. If necessary, Headquarters could specifically appoint someone tasked with the ‘digitalisation of NIPSA administration’ to help achieve this.”***

3. The submission of motions and nominations is carried out in line with the relevant rules of the union contained within the Rule Book and this has provided for the **submission of motions and nominations which must be signed and dated by two Branch Officers** that the motions and nominations were passed at a properly constituted meeting of the members of that branch. For motions and nominations submitted electronically the **Branch must confirm in writing, with two Branch Officers signatures, that the motions and nominations**

***submitted are those of the Branch and this confirmation must be received by the General Secretary within 3 working days of the last date for the receipt of Conference motions and nominations.*** The Rules also require for the ***consent of the nominee to be in writing and received within 3 working days*** of the date specified for final receipt of nominations.

4. In relation to General Council Elections there is currently no provision within the Rules for the submission of nominations or election addresses digitally. It is important to note the law relating to voting in General Council Elections requires that voting must take place by postal ballot.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

5. In order to move to an on-line digital process which removes any unnecessary written follow up and to streamline the process to make it easier for branches to submit nominations and motions, the following constitutional amendments are required:

- 5.1 **Rule 5.19, Lines 4-12:** After the word “*branch*”, delete the remaining words in the sentence and insert the following:

*“shall only be valid if certified by a Branch Officer of the branch concerned and passed at a properly constituted meeting of the members of that branch. The date, time, location or digital platform of the meeting must be supplied. Where signatures are required, digital/typed signatures are acceptable.”*

- 5.2 **Rule 5.19, Lines 12-15:** Delete the two sentences.

- 5.3 **Rule 5.19, Line 20:** Change the word “*electronically*” to read “*digitally*”.

- 5.4 **Rule 5.19, Line 23-28:** On line 23 change the word “*electronically*” to read “*digitally*” and delete the remaining two sentences in the paragraph.

- 5.5 **Rule 5.37, Lines 2-4:** Delete the last sentence.

- 5.6 **Rule 5.38, Lines 1-5:** Delete the first sentence and insert the following:

*“A nomination shall only be valid if made on the requisite form and certified by a Branch Officer of the branch concerned that it has been passed at a properly constituted meeting of the members of that branch. The date, time, location or digital platform of the meeting must be supplied. Where signatures are required, digital/typed signatures shall be accepted.”*

- 5.7 **Rule 5.38, Line 8:** Change the word “*electronically*” to read “*digitally*”.

- 5.8 **Rule 5.38, Lines 11-17:** On line 11 change the word “*electronically*” to read “*digitally*” and delete the remaining two sentences in the paragraph.

- 5.9 **Rule 6.38:** Delete the Rule and replace with the following:

*“A nomination shall only be valid if made on an official nomination form and certified by a Branch Officer of the branch concerned that the rule relating to the holding of branch meetings has been complied with. The date, time, location or digital platform of the meeting must be supplied. Where signatures are required, digital/typed signatures shall be accepted. Nominations may be submitted digitally, in accordance with the requirements as set out in the relevant section of the NIPSA website. The same requirements apply to nominations submitted digitally.”*

5.10 **Rule 6.41, Line 1**: After the word “written” insert the words “or digital”.

5.11 **Rule 6.47, Line 9**: Change the word “electronically” to read “digitally”.

5.12 **Rule 6.47, Lines 12-18**: On line 12 change the word “electronically” to read “digitally” and delete the remaining two sentences in the paragraph and replace with the following:

*“Nominations submitted digitally shall only be valid if certified by a Branch Officer of the branch concerned that the nominations submitted are those of the branch. Where signatures are required, digital/typed signatures shall be accepted.”*

5.13 **Rule 6.50, Line 8**: Change the word “electronically” to read “digitally”.

5.14 **Rule 6.50, Lines 12-17**: On line 12 change the word “electronically” to read “digitally” and delete the remaining two sentences in the paragraph and replace with the following:

*“Nominations submitted digitally shall only be valid if certified by a Branch Officer of the branch concerned that the nominations submitted are those of the branch. Where signatures are required, digital/typed signatures shall be accepted.”*

5.15 **Rule 6.51, Line 9**: Change the word “electronically” to read “digitally”.

5.16 **Rule 6.51, Lines 12-18**: On line 12 change the word “electronically” to read “digitally” and delete the remaining two sentences in the paragraph and replace with the following:

*“Nominations submitted digitally shall only be valid if certified by a Branch Officer of the branch concerned that the nominations submitted are those of the branch. Where signatures are required, digital/typed signatures shall be accepted.”*

5.17 **Rule 6.52, Line 1**: Change the word “electronically” to read “digitally”.

5.18 **Rule 6.52, Lines 5-10**: On line 5 change the word “electronically” to read “digitally” and delete the remaining two sentences in the paragraph and replace with the following:

*“Nominations submitted digitally shall only be valid if certified by a Branch Officer of the branch concerned that the nominations submitted are those of the branch. Where signatures are required, digital/typed signatures shall be accepted.”*

## **CONCLUSION**

6. Conference will be requested to give effect to the above constitutional amendments by adopting the following motion:

***“Conference endorses the content of Conference Paper No 3, in respect of the on-line digital submission of motions and nominations.”***