

**RULES
GOVERNING**



**AFL-CIO
Local
Central
Bodies**

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

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1. Status of Rules.

These rules are issued by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the AFL-CIO. They supersede all rules previously issued. These rules and the Constitution of the AFL-CIO shall govern the conduct, activities, affairs, finances and property of all local central bodies of the AFL-CIO and provide the procedures for the discipline, including suspension and expulsion, of such bodies or their officers by the AFL-CIO. These rules may be amended at any time by the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, subject only to the provisions of the AFL-CIO Constitution.

2. Definitions.

When used in these rules, the term "local union" shall include local lodges, local brotherhoods or other local units of affiliated national or international unions or organizing committees which, in such unions, perform the functions of local unions.

When used in these rules, the term "president," unless otherwise specified, shall mean the president of the AFL-CIO, and the term "secretary-treasurer," unless otherwise specified, shall mean the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

3. Composition of Local Central Bodies.

(a) Local Central Bodies shall be composed exclusively of locals of national and international unions and organizing committees affiliated with the Federation, directly affiliated local unions and local councils chartered by the trade and industrial departments of the AFL-CIO. Joint boards, district councils and similar subordinate organizations within the geographical limits of the local central body which are duly chartered by an affiliate of the AFL-CIO may affiliate where the constitution of the local central body so provides. Any question that may arise with respect to the proper local central body or bodies to which local unions or other subordinate bodies are to affiliate or the extent of such affiliation shall be determined by the President of the AFL-CIO.

dent and two copies thereof shall be submitted to the President upon their adoption.

The President may, at any time, require any local central body to formally amend its constitution or bylaws in order to bring them into conformity with the provisions of these rules and of the Constitution of the AFL-CIO.

9. Delegate Meetings.

Local central bodies shall hold delegate meetings at least once a month. The President or his designee may, for good cause shown, permit exceptions to this rule. Each local central body shall report to the President the times and places of its regular meetings.

10. Representation and Voting.

(a) The constitution or bylaws of local central bodies shall provide, among other things, for the holding of meetings, the selection of delegates to such meetings, and the basis of representation therein. They shall provide for representation and voting procedures on a basis which will be equitable and which will assure the representative character of the local central body, and shall provide for a roll-call vote on any pending question, including elections, upon demand of a reasonable fixed percentage or number of delegates, which percentage or number shall not exceed thirty (30) percent of the delegates present. The number of votes to which a local union is entitled on roll-calls shall be equal to, or directly proportional to, the average membership of the local union as determined by the per capita tax payments to the central body for the preceding two calendar quarters, or such longer reasonable period as the central body's constitution may prescribe, but not to exceed the number of months between elections. The average membership of a local union affiliated for less than the prescribed period shall be computed from the month of affiliation and shall be determined by dividing the total per capita tax paid for all months affiliated by the number of months affiliated or by the number of months in the prescribed period whichever is greater. The votes of a local union shall be divided equally among all its accredited delegates present and each delegate shall be entitled to cast only his

assigned number of votes, except that one delegate may be permitted to cast all the votes of the delegates representing his local union when such procedure is properly provided for in the local central body's constitution. Organizations other than local unions affiliated with the local central body shall be allotted one delegate and one vote for each such organization.

(b) A roll-call on elections may be conducted orally, or it may be conducted by written or printed ballots where deemed desirable to expedite the holding of the election, provided each ballot clearly shows the name, organization and number of votes of the delegate casting the ballot. Such ballots shall become part of the records of the central body and shall be preserved and available for examination by any delegate or officer of an affiliated organization for a period of not less than six months.

11. Delegates.

(a) No person shall be eligible to serve as a delegate to a local central body unless he is a member of a local union affiliated with such local central body or, if the constitution or bylaws of the central body so provides, unless he is a national or international union representative regularly servicing such a local union, nor shall any person be eligible to serve as a delegate who holds a salaried position, or any other position of administrative or executive authority, in a union or any subordinate branch of a union which has been suspended or expelled from the AFL-CIO.

(b) No local central body shall reject credentials presented by a duly elected or appointed delegate who is eligible to be a delegate under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this rule.

(c) Any delegate to a local central body may, upon conviction, after charge, notice and hearing, be expelled or suspended from such body for having engaged in conduct or a course of activity hostile or contrary to the best interests of the local central body or contrary to its constitution or bylaws.

12. Officers and Agents.

(a) The constitution or bylaws of each local central body shall provide for the election of of-

officers, the filling of vacancies of office, the duties of officers and their terms of office, and shall set forth the requirements for eligibility for office.

(b) No individual shall be eligible to serve as an officer, member of the executive board or committee or other governing body of, or as a representative of, agent or employee of any local central body who is a member of the Communist Party, any fascist organization, or other totalitarian movement, or who consistently pursues policies and activities directed toward the achievement of the program or the purposes of the Communist Party, any fascist organization or other totalitarian movement.

(c) No person shall be eligible to serve in any of the capacities enumerated in paragraph (b) of this rule, who holds a salaried position or any other position of administrative or executive authority in a union, or any subordinate branch of a union, which has been suspended or expelled from the AFL-CIO.

13. Removal of Officers.

Any local central body, acting through its delegate body, may suspend or remove any officer or member of its executive board, executive committee or other governing body, on written charges, notice and hearing for violation of the Constitution of the AFL-CIO or these rules, or the constitution or bylaws of the local central body, or for conduct unbecoming an officer of the local central body, misappropriation of funds, malfeasance in office or neglect of duty. Appropriate provisions for such removal of officers shall be contained in the constitution or bylaws of the local central body.

14. Records and Reports.

Local central bodies shall keep such records and file such reports in such manner and at such times as may be required by the President by regulation or otherwise, and shall produce their books and records on demand of the President.

15. Revenue of Local Central Bodies.

The constitution or bylaws of each local central body shall prescribe the per capita tax and fees

payable to such local central body and the penalties including suspension or expulsion for failure to pay such tax or fees. The fees of local unions shall be on a per capita basis and shall be uniformly applied to all local unions, with no maximum or minimum, and shall be based on the actual number of dues-paying members of such local unions. The fees of subordinate bodies other than local unions shall be fixed on a uniform basis, which shall not exceed \$15.00 per year.

16. Expenditures.

The funds of a local central body shall be expended only pursuant to authorization by the procedures set forth in its constitution or bylaws. The funds shall be used only for legitimate expenditures in furtherance of the objectives of such body or of the AFL-CIO.

17. Financial Practices, Reports and Audits.

Local central bodies shall follow such financial practices and keep such records as will ensure that their funds and properties will be safeguarded and will be expended only for authorized purposes. The Secretary-Treasurer may require any local central body to amend its financial practices and procedures so as to come into conformity with the provisions of this rule. The Secretary-Treasurer may at any time require any local central body to submit financial reports, and may cause a full audit to be made of the books, records, funds, property or accounts of any local central body and may require the local central body to bear the expenses thereof.

18. Bonds.

All officers and agents of any local central body having a financial responsibility shall be covered by a fidelity bond. The Secretary-Treasurer may determine the amount in which such officers and agents shall be bonded and may require that additional bonds be secured at the expense of the local central body in a sum sufficient to protect the funds of the local central body. Upon the discovery of any irregularity or deficiency in the accounts or transactions of the local central body or any officer or agent thereof, the person making such discovery shall immediately report such

irregularity or deficiency to the Secretary-Treasurer.

19. Organizing.

Local central bodies should lend all possible assistance to the organizing activities of local unions and their parent national or international unions or organizing committees affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

20. Strikes.

No local central body shall have the authority or power to order any local union or other organization to strike or to take a strike vote. This prohibition, however, shall not prevent such central body from giving proper assistance to such local union or such other organization with the approval of its parent body, so long as such assistance is not inconsistent with the objects, principles and policies of the AFL-CIO.

21. Collective Bargaining.

No local central body shall take part in any collective bargaining activities or in any labor dispute involving any affiliated local union except upon the request or consent of the national or international union or organizing committee with which such local union is affiliated or, in the case of local unions directly affiliated to the AFL-CIO, except upon the request or consent of the President.

22. Boycotts and Unfair Lists.

No local central body shall have power or authority to originate a boycott or to initiate action to place an employer on an "unfair" or "do not patronize" list. All such action shall be taken only on written request of the aggrieved union or in response to an action of the AFL-CIO.

When such action is requested by an aggrieved union, the central body shall be governed by the following regulations:

(a) **Disputes affecting contractual interests of other unions**—If the requested action is directed against an employer which has a contract or working agreement with any union or unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, other than the aggrieved union, then the written consent of the national or international union or organizing committee of the AFL-CIO shall be required.

union or unions shall be required. If such consent is not given, no further action shall be taken by the central body, except as authorized by the President or by the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO.

(b) **Local Disputes**—If the requested action is directed against an employer for a dispute arising within the area of the local central body which does not involve the contractual interests of other AFL-CIO unions, the local central body may take the requested action if, in its judgment, such action is warranted.

(c) **Disputes in areas of other central bodies**—If the requested action is directed against an employer for a dispute arising wholly outside the area of the central body, no action shall be taken unless the local central body, or state central body, in whose area the dispute arose has first acted favorably on the request of the aggrieved union in keeping with applicable rules.

(d) **National and regional disputes**—If the requested action is directed against an employer for a dispute which is national or regional in scope, no action shall be taken by the central body unless the national or international union involved has first secured approval of the AFL-CIO.

23. Publications and Advertising.

Experience has demonstrated that irresponsible publishers of so-called labor papers, yearbooks and directories and/or unscrupulous solicitors of advertising for such publications and for so-called advertising boards, have, on occasion, exploited the name and good reputation of the AFL-CIO to further their own selfish ends, and to the detriment of the best interests of organized labor. Therefore, no local central body shall be associated in any way with a so-called advertising board, or with a yearbook or labor directory when such yearbook or labor directory accepts commercial advertising of any kind.

It should be clearly understood that labor publications should exist for the sole purpose of furthering the best interests of the labor movement, not as a source of additional revenue. Therefore, advertising should be accepted in labor publications only if it is necessary to the publications'

existence. No local central body shall be associated with any publications except in conformity with the following requirements.

(a) Any publication, including newspapers, newsletters, magazines or any other form of publication owned, in whole or in part, either directly or through a corporation, by a central body, or which is issued in the name of, or which is endorsed, authorized or given official approval by a central body, shall be required by the central body to conform to the provisions of this rule and to such ethical trade union standards as may be determined by the President by regulation or otherwise. The central body shall furnish to the responsible officer or manager of any such publication a copy of this rule and a copy of the ethical trade union standards as determined by the President of the AFL-CIO.

(b) No local central body shall authorize or permit any such publication to claim or imply by use of geographical or other terms in its name or title, or in any other way, that it is the publication of any other central body unless the publication is also officially endorsed by such other central body.

(c) No local central body shall authorize or permit such publication to solicit local advertising (as distinguished from national advertising) outside the regular area of circulation of the publication, which area of circulation shall not include any part of the geographic jurisdiction of any other local central body without the written consent and approval of such other local central body.

(d) No local central body shall authorize or permit such publication to accept paid political advertising.

(e) Any contract made by a local central body for the production of such publication shall incorporate this rule as an integral part of the contract.

24. Lists.

All lists of affiliates or members of affiliates in possession of the local central body shall be used exclusively in carrying out the authorized programs and work of the local central body and

shall not be released to any person or organization for any other purpose unless such release has been duly authorized by the central body and the appropriate officers of the affiliate or affiliates involved. Officers of organizations affiliated with the local central body shall be entitled to access at the place where the records are kept and at reasonable times to full information concerning the names of delegates and the number of votes of each affiliated organization.

25. Discipline of Local Central Bodies and Their Officers by the AFL-CIO.

(a) The President is authorized to take disciplinary action against local central bodies, including the authority to suspend or expel any officer thereof, and to suspend such organizations or revoke their charters. Such disciplinary action may be taken against any such organization or officer, when such organization or officer violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Constitution of the AFL-CIO or of these rules, or engages in any activity or course of conduct which is contrary or detrimental to the welfare or the best interests of the AFL-CIO, or when any such organization fails to conform its policies to the policies of the AFL-CIO.

(b) In any case where disciplinary action is taken under this rule the organization or any officer charged shall first be given reasonable notice of the nature of the charges and shall be afforded a full hearing either by the President or by a person or persons delegated by the President to act for him as a Hearing Officer or Officers. In the latter event, such Hearing Officer or Officers shall, as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing, make a report, either oral or in writing, to the President who shall make the ultimate decision. The decision of the President shall be in full force and effect unless or until reversed or changed upon appeal as provided in paragraph (g) of this rule.

(c) In cases of emergency, where the interests of the AFL-CIO reasonably require such action, the President is empowered to suspend any officer and to assume a trusteeship over the property of local central bodies prior to the hearing provided

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