



STUDENTS' GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

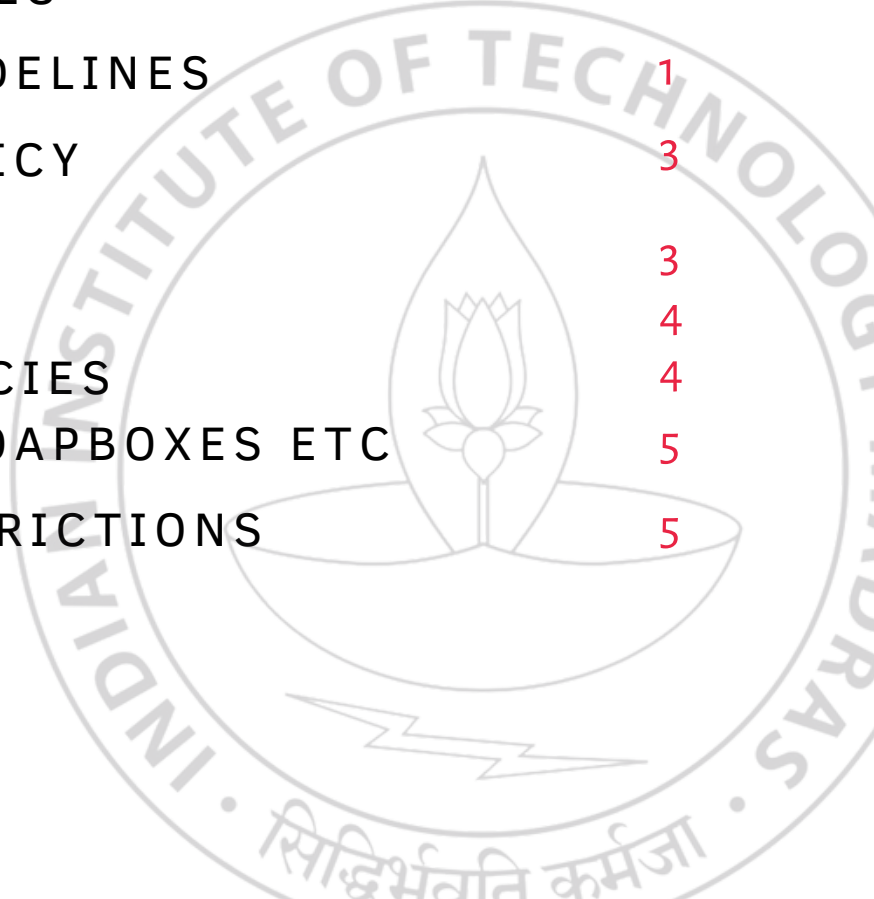
# MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

STUDENT ELECTION COMMISSION  
IIT MADRAS



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## GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. All students and candidates shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Student's Constitution.
2. No Student Organisation and their office bearers can endorse a candidate in any official capacity.
3. Elected representatives cannot endorse a candidate in their official capacity. They cannot accompany a candidate for canvassing votes.
4. Negative campaigning is strictly prohibited. A candidate/campaign must not attempt to tarnish the image of the opposing/any other candidate with libelous or slanderous accusations.
5. Anyone other than members of the election commission, or its agents, seen possessing a list of current students at the institute with the intention of manipulating or organized harvesting of votes or aiding a similar effort shall be reported to the competent Disciplinary Committee in addition to SEC's disciplinary action.

## CAMPAIGNING GUIDELINES

1. The campaigning period starts on February 24, 2024 Saturday at 10:00 AM and ends on March 10, 2024 Sunday at 10:00 PM.
  - a. Campaigning timings are as follows -
    - i. Weekdays: 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM
    - ii. Weekends and institute holidays: 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM
2. All campaigning is strictly limited to the campaigning period, and to within the campus. Any candidate who begins campaigning prior to the start of the campaigning period and after the campaigning period will be deemed in violation of the Model Code of Conduct. Any promotion utilizing physical and/or electronic media is prohibited until the start of the campaigning period or after the campaigning period.
3. Campaigning is allowed in public spaces of the hostel zone.
4. Door-to-door campaigning is allowed, at timings set by the SEC, except if the room occupant has specifically put up a notice of Do Not Disturb on the door of their room or verbally asked you to not do so.
5. Campaigning in departments is allowed only after 5 PM unless explicitly disallowed by the HoD.
6. Defacing of Institute property and use of PA systems for campaigning is strictly prohibited.



7. No gifts, in cash or kind, to the electorate are allowed. No funds from any source can be used for campaigning.
8. Submission of documents such as manifesto and feasibility report (SoP also in the case of aspiring legislators) is compulsory for all the candidates on or before 17th February 2024, 10:00 PM.
9. All the candidates can use their manifestos, feasibility reports in a digital format only provided that the content must be the same as the one that is submitted to the SEC during the window of document submission. No physical/printed posters shall be used. Usage of such physical/printed documents will be deemed as the violation of Model Code of Conduct and the candidate is subject to direct disqualification.
10. Executive Council candidates may request the SEC to put up posters and their video manifesto on the official SEC page. A maximum of two posters can be shared. These posters shall only be put on authorized digital platforms. Video Manifesto must be uploaded on the Nomination Portal and mail to SEC at [sec@smail.iitm.ac.in](mailto:sec@smail.iitm.ac.in) latest by 1st March 2024, 10:00 PM and shall be up to a maximum of 5 minutes long and up to 500MB in size or up to the size that have been mentioned in the Nomination Portal.
11. Smail outreach is allowed for Executive Council posts, restricted to two emails in the entire campaigning season. The mail can be sent latest by 10:00 PM, 7th March 2024 to Student Election Commission. SEC shall be intimated of the same in advance by emailing [sec@smail.iitm.ac.in](mailto:sec@smail.iitm.ac.in) for moderation. The moderation of these mails shall be done by the Student Election Commission only.

The 2023-24 Executive Council members who are the incumbent moderators of the students' mails are instructed to not approve any sort of election related mail to the public forum during the time of SGE 2024. All SGE 2024 related mails to be directly sent to SEC for perusal.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

All the candidates are allowed to campaign using their personal social media account handle without any form of negative campaigning. Any form of campaigning through social media pages at the cost of defaming another candidate(s) will be subjected to severe actions from the SEC. However, sending electioneering messages as direct messages (DMs) to students on WhatsApp (WA) is strictly prohibited. The candidates are discouraged from DM(ing) the students personally if the students at the receiving end don't wish to entertain their electioneering messages. Any attempt of transgressing the instructions of the student (at the receiving end of WA message) by the candidate shall lead to sanctions being imposed over the candidate. Candidates can send electioneering messages on WhatsApp groups until or unless the Admin of the group doesn't prohibit them from sending such messages in the group.

### POSTERS

1. All non-executive council candidates (Hostel and Department level posts) can make ONE poster detailing their candidacy and all executive council candidates (Institute Sports Secretary post) can make TWO posters detailing their candidacy.
2. Only those posters which are shared with SEC are official and can be shared on digital platforms through general accounts as well and SEC will not publish these, except for the Executive Council Post.
3. Upload your poster directly as an attachment in the election portal or mail it to SEC directly for SEC's approval.
4. Candidates should not lie or misrepresent their ideas. The poster should be reflective of the manifesto they have submitted during the regular process.
5. The Poster will be subject to fact-checking by a committee sanctioned by SEC and a violation of the above-stated principles will be considered a campaign violation subject to penalties.
6. No physical/printed posters shall be used. Usage of such physical/printed posters will be deemed as the violation of Model Code of Conduct and the candidate is subject to direct disqualification.

## SHARING VIDEOS

1. The candidates shouldn't post or share videos or any other posts that can be considered derogatory or slanderous/libelous toward other/any candidates.
2. The candidates should not propagate or be involved in the making or a part of a video/photograph that would be published in a social media post unless authorized by the SEC.
3. Only Executive Council candidates are allowed to make a video manifesto as allowed by SEC.

## INSTAGRAM POLICIES (ONLY FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS)

1. Executive Council candidates will be allowed to have their own unique social media handles/accounts, which are to be used for campaign purposes.
2. These handles should have to be approved by the SEC beforehand and use the username as prescribed by the SEC [eg. ras\_(first name of the candidate)].
3. Candidates cannot use their personal Instagram handles for the campaign. This is not applicable to the non-executive council members.
4. The social media handle should be made public and accessible to every student at any moment.
5. Candidates can use these pages as a means to communicate with the GSB periodically.
6. All guidelines pertaining to campaigning would be applicable to these pages. The candidates will be liable for their speech on these channels.
7. To avoid undue advantage to any candidate, these handles would have to be started on or after the campaigning period begins.
8. Any information disseminated through these handles should be stored.



## OPEN FORUMS, SOAPBOXES, etc.

SEC already organizes a SOAPBOX event for Institute level posts and has always instructed the current legislators to hold SOAPBOXES for all the posts that are up for election that belong to their electorate. The following clause in the election manual grants SEC this power.

*“The Student Election Commission shall organise open debates between the candidates standing for Executive Council Posts and other discussion or outreach forums between candidates and the electorate.”*

It has come to our notice that certain individuals want to hold forums of their own, where they invite candidates to participate. After holding this session, it is generally expected that they would want to post these sessions on Social Media platforms also. These videos with Candidates, however biased or unbiased, constitute electioneering and need SEC's approval.

We understand that the public interest in holding such forums trumps our general intent to enforce guidelines. We believe this also encourages vigilance and engagement. So we divide the forums into two categories

a. **TYPE-A:**

- i. **Soapbox** by SEC.
- ii. **Closed Door Questionnaire** by a Panel, including the Media Body. The video will be recorded and published online.

SEC mandates these two forums for all the Executive council candidates. These events serve as good outreach and will go on as scheduled even if candidates miss them. Kindly note participating in Soapbox is mandatory for all the candidates who are contesting for the posts of Executive Council 2024-25.

a. **TYPE-B:**

Any **external forum** managed by individual students comes under this category.

- Students who want to hold these forums need to apply for permission from the SEC. SEC will not publicize this event. It only grants permission.
- SEC will give only discretionary approval, upon considering the objectives of this Forum and will not mandate these forums to candidates.

- The organizers can hold the forum, in whatever form, for a particular post, if and only if, all the candidates who have filed for the post give consent to holding this forum. *If a candidate feels that he/she may not receive fair treatment in the forum, they can choose not to attend. The Forum must not be held for that post in such a scenario.*
- Holding a forum with only one, or a few of the candidates without consent of one, or a few others standing for the particular post will not reach an approval as it would just be free publicity for the individual participating. The organizers shall present SEC with a consent form from the candidates in the affirmative.
- In posts where only one candidate is contesting, SEC should be informed prior, the questionnaire as there is no legitimate scrutiny party in this scenario, and SEC would in all cases avoid giving permission to a flattery video with unserious questioning.

## MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS ON POLLING DAY

1. Entry to all Hostels is restricted to respective residents. Residents are instructed to carry their Institute ID cards with them.
2. Entry of non-residents to hostels excluding the SEC team members shall be reasonably restricted from 11th March 2024, 10:00 PM onwards till 12th March 2024, 10:00 PM.

## POLLING DAY RESTRICTIONS

1. Candidates and campaigners shall cooperate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom for the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction;
2. Candidates or campaigners shall not linger around the polling booths. If any student is found lingering around the polling booth, except election commission agents, they may be warned twice before reporting to authorities.
3. All students/scholars shall carry their ID cards on the day of the election.
4. No incentives will be promised/provided to voters to vote for a candidate, including facilitating vehicular travel to and fro the polling station.
5. Any form of canvassing on election day is prohibited.
6. Anyone other than members of the election commission, or its agents, seen with any list of current students in the institute shall be reported to the SEC.



Dr Sudakar Chandran  
Chief Election Officer

Dr M Jeganmohan  
Deputy Election Officer

Mr Sushant Jaswal  
Chief Election Commissioner

Ms Tejaswini Jagtap  
Election Commissioner

Ms Meenakshi Anoop  
Election Commissioner

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