

Policy Proposal:

Date: 10/09/2025

Proposer/s: Union Communities Team

Current Policy/Situation

What happens at the moment?

Union Standing Orders are a set of rules or guidelines that govern how different parts of the Union operate. For Union student groups, these standing orders help ensure things run smoothly, fairly, and in line with the Union's values and goals.

Currently there are 2 separate standing orders for Student Activities that covers Union Societies (SO8), Union Sports (SO9).

The Union Activities team and Vice President Activities abide by these standing orders to ensure our students groups are operating accordingly.

Current Standing Orders can be viewed on the Union website via this link -

<https://www.derbyunion.co.uk/pageassets/change/governance/Standing-Orders-February-2025-v2.pdf>

New Proposal

What is your new proposal? This must include the exact wording that you would like in the Standing Orders?

This proposal is to change this Standing Order to be in line with the Union strategy which is changing Societies and Sports Clubs to Communities. This proposal will update and replace Standing Order 8 and combine it with Standing Order 9 into a new 'Student Communities' Standing Order highlighting some changes that this will incur and updating the terminology, under which all student groups will be governed. Standing Order 9 will be removed.

The Activities Representation Policy will be updated to reflect these changes.

Changes are shown below (amendments in blue and additions in red):

STANDING ORDER 8 – ~~UNION SOCIETIES~~ STUDENT COMMUNITIES

8.1. General

8.1.1. This Standing Order outlines how the Union of Students governs ~~societies~~ Communities through the ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities structure.

8.1.2. ~~Union Societies is the~~ The Student Communities team within the Union ~~that~~ represents the Union's affiliated ~~societies~~ Communities.

8.2. Objectives, Powers and Roles of ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities

8.2.1. The purpose of ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities is to:

8.2.1.1. Enhance the student experience at the University of Derby through supporting the development of strong and active Communities ~~societies~~ and through the development of ~~their these societies'~~ committee members;

8.2.1.2. Develop and approve policy that affects ~~Union societies~~ Communities;

- ~~8.2.1.3. Represent the interests of societies~~ **Communities** ~~to the membership of the Union;~~
- 8.2.1.4. Approve ~~Union Societies~~ **Communities** funding.
- 8.2.1.5. Annually elect ~~the Union Societies'~~ **both** Councils in accordance with the ~~Union Societies'~~ **Student Communities** Council rules.

8.3. Aims of the ~~Union Societies~~ **Student Communities**

- 8.3.1. ~~The Union Societies~~ **Student Communities** aim to:
 - 8.3.1.2. Be student driven, build meaningful connections, and promote inclusivity and student voice.
 - 8.3.1.2. Advance, promote and protect the interests of **Communities** ~~the Union Societies~~;
 - 8.3.1.3. Work in conjunction with the University of Derby to develop the experience for students at the University; and
 - 8.3.1.4. Encourage and promote the healthy and active lifestyles of students at the University of Derby.
- 8.3.2. Sports **Communities** aim to:
 - 8.3.2.1. To be the primary body for the governance of competitive student sport at the University of Derby;
 - 8.3.2.2. Advance, promote and protect the interests of all Sports **Communities**;
 - 8.3.2.3. Work in conjunction with the University of Derby to develop the sporting experience for students at the University of Derby;
 - 8.3.2.4. Work in conjunction with the University of Derby to develop a strategy for sport.
 - 8.3.2.5. Encourage and promote the healthy and active lifestyles of students at the University of Derby.

8.4. Governance of **Student Communities** ~~Union Societies~~

- 8.4.1. ~~Union Societies~~ **Student Communities** ~~is~~ **are** an integral part of the Union of Students and ~~are~~ **is** governed in accordance with the Union's Articles and ~~these~~ Standing Orders.
- 8.4.2. ~~Societies~~ **Communities** will be covered by their own individual constitution in which any individual ~~society~~ **Community's** rules will be listed, ~~including but not limited to, membership fees and committee positions.~~
- 8.4.3. The ~~Society's~~ **Community's** individual constitution can be changed at their ~~own~~ **Society's** AGM/EGM with normal quoracy for those meetings.
- 8.4.4. A ~~Societies~~ **Community's** Constitution shall be subordinate to the Union's Articles and ~~these~~ Standing Orders.
- 8.4.5. ~~There will be six (6) Community categories which will encompass 'Faith & Belief', 'Liberation & Equality', 'Nationalities & Culture', 'Academic', 'Hobbies & Interest', and 'Sports'. Union Societies Student Communities will be divided into 6 groups, each with an elected representative on the Union Societies Council:~~
 - ~~8.4.3.1. Academic Societies;~~
 - ~~8.4.3.2. Active and Performance Societies;~~
 - ~~8.4.3.3. Buxton and Chesterfield Societies;~~
 - ~~8.4.3.4. Charity and Campaigns Societies;~~
 - ~~8.4.3.5. Interest Societies;~~
 - ~~8.4.3.6. Religious and Cultural Societies.~~
- 8.4.6. ~~The relevant Executive Officer shall propose the categorisation of~~ **The division of each Community in collaboration with individual Community committees** ~~Societies into their groups will be proposed by the Vice President (Activities) and will be based on the wishes of the Society Committee.~~ Proposals will be ratified by the **Communities** ~~Union Societies~~ Council.

- 8.4.7. ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Councils will meet ~~on a fortnightly basis~~ at least once a month during ~~university terms~~ term time and ~~will~~ should be run in accordance with the meeting ~~guidance provided in Council training rules~~.
- 8.4.8. All ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Committee will meet twice per semester at ~~Union Societies'~~ the Communities Assembly or Sports Communities Assembly. The last meeting in the second term will be the ~~Union Societies'~~ Communities Annual General Meeting and Sports Communities Annual General Meeting (AGM).

8.5. Code of Conduct and Practice of the Student Communities ~~Union Societies~~

- 8.5.1. The Student Communities ~~Union Societies~~ must adhere to the principles of the Union's Articles, ~~these~~ Standing Orders and Student Communities policies.
- 8.5.2. If the Articles, ~~these~~ Standing Orders, or Student Communities policies of the Union are broken by ~~the any Community~~ ~~Union Societies~~ or its members, the Union reserves the right to follow the disciplinary procedure set out in the ~~Union~~ ~~these~~ Standing Orders.
- 8.5.3. ~~The Student Communities~~ ~~Union Societies~~ shall all abide by the Union Student Code of Conduct.
- 8.5.4. The Student Code of Conduct sets out expectations for all ~~Union Club, Society and Student Led Service~~ Community members in terms of the following:
- 8.5.4.1. Behaviour
 - 8.5.4.2. Abiding by the Union Rules and Regulations
- 8.5.5. All members shall accept the Student Code of Conduct contract as part of their registration as a Student Communities ~~Union Society~~ member.
- 8.5.6. The Student Code of Conduct is available to any member on the Union website.
- 8.5.7. Sports Communities shall have a separate Sports Club Code of Conduct which all members shall abide by.

8.6. ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Councils

- 8.6.1. Communities Council:
- 8.6.1.1. The members and details of ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Council are outlined in the ~~Activities~~ Student Communities Representation Policy.
 - 8.6.1.2. All Communities Councillors shall hold office from the 1 July to 30 June of the following year.
- 8.6.2. Sports Communities Council:
- 8.6.2.1. The members and details of Sports Communities Council are outlined in the Student Communities Representation Policy.
 - 8.6.2.2. All Sports Communities Councillors shall hold office from the 1 July to 30 June of the following year.

8.7. Membership of Student Communities ~~Union Societies~~

- 8.7.1. There will be two classes of ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities membership:
- 8.7.1.1. Full members
 - 8.7.1.2. Associate members
- 8.7.2. All registered students at the University of Derby are able to join ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities as full members by paying to join an affiliated Community ~~society~~.
- 8.7.3. Associate members of the Union, as outlined in Standing Order 2, may join ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities by paying to join an affiliated Community ~~society~~.
- 8.7.4. Student Communities will set any fees associated with Communities on an annual basis.
- ~~8.7.4. There will be an annual membership fee to be part of Union Societies as well as the fee to join an individual affiliated society. This fee will be set annually by the Union's Executive Committee.~~
- ~~8.7.5. Societies defined as Charity Societies will be exempt from the subscription fee.~~

8.8. Affiliation of Societies Communities to Union Societies Student Communities

8.8.1. Societies must have a minimum number of members to be affiliated to Union Societies and for any activity to take place:

8.8.1.1. Full Societies based at all university campuses must have a minimum of 15 full members of the Union of Students.

8.8.1.2. Micro Societies Sports Communities based at all university campuses must have a minimum of 15 5 full members of the Union of Students.

8.8.2. Any existing society Sports Community which fails to reach the minimum number of active and registered members by the end of November will be considered dormant and cease any activity, however they may submit a written petition to the Societies Sports Communities Council for a decision on their affiliation.

8.8.3. Any dormant society may submit a written petition to the Societies Council for a decision on their affiliation.

8.8.2.1. The Societies Sports Communities Council may approve a request for affiliation for that academic year only.

8.8.2.2. A Society Sports Communities may only petition for affiliation with less than the required number of members for a maximum of two consecutive years.

8.8.3. In order to affiliate, all Societies Communities Committees must attend mandatory committee training.

8.8.4. If a Society Communities Committee fails to attend training the Society Community shall not be able to undertake any activity until this has taken place.

8.8.5. To become a society Community, students must submit a New Community Society Form to the Societies Communities Councils with a list of students interested in joining the society.

8.8.5.1. Sports Communities There must be must have at least the minimum number of students required by the Union to affiliate as a Sports Community society included on the list.

8.8.6. Societies Communities can be created at any time of the academic year. For Communities created after the start of the second semester, any committee member who is not a registered student the following academic year will have their position resigned and considered vacant and open for nominations in accordance with other Standing Order 3.

8.8.7. All society Communities applications must be approved by the Union Societies Communities Councils before members are able to join the Community society.

8.8.8. The Union will provide timely updates on the status of the new Community application following its submission up to the point of approval by the Communities Councils. inform any society which is eligible to become a Union Society upon submission of their new society application form.

8.9. Definition of Society Groups

8.9.1. Societies are defined as follows:

8.9.1.1. Academic Societies are Union Societies with a link to one or more academic course(s); which offer activities to help support the learning/community of that/those course(s);

8.9.1.2. Active and Performance Societies are Union Societies which offer performance/ physical activity opportunities to its members;

8.9.1.3. Buxton and Chesterfield Societies are Union Societies which are based at either the Buxton or Chesterfield campuses at the University of Derby;

8.9.1.4. Charity and Campaigns Societies are Union Societies which work in relation with a specific charity or campaign and work to raise the profile and awareness of the cause to the student body;

~~8.9.1.5. Interest Societies are Union Societies which are linked to a particular hobby or activity which can be performed by students when meeting as a society;~~
~~8.9.1.6. Inclusive Societies are Union Societies which are linked to a particular hobby or activity which can be performed by students when meeting as a society;~~
~~8.9.1.7. Religious and Cultural Societies are Union Societies that represent a particular religion or culture of a group of students here at the University of Derby, celebrating the religion/culture within the group and wider University.-~~

~~8.9.2. The Union will inform any society which is eligible to become a Union Society upon submission of their new society application form.~~

~~8.9.3. The Society's status will be approved by the Union Societies' Council~~

8.9. Privileges of Inclusion in the Sports Communities

8.9.1. The privileges of being included in the Sports Communities shall be:

8.9.1.1. The right to use the prefix 'The University of Derby'

8.9.1.2. The rights to represent Team Derby

8.9.1.3. The right to have financial support from the Union

8.9.1.4. The right to be entered as a team or individual into the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS)

8.9.1.5. The right to be entered as a team or individual in a national competitive sport which is not provided by BUCS.

8.10. Union Societies' Student Communities Finances

8.10.1. ~~The Union Societies~~ Student Communities finances shall only be used to further the aims status and objectives of the Student Communities ~~Union Societies~~ as defined in this Standing Order and the Union's Articles.

8.10.2. The ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities team shall manage and administer ~~Union Societies~~ Communities finances concerning budgets and have the ability to draw up financial rules concerning administration following the financial regulations of the Union.

8.10.3. ~~Full societies~~ Communities will be able to apply for financial support from the Union for their continued development through the ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities Fund.

8.10.3.1 ~~Micro Societies~~ Sports Communities will not be able to apply for additional financial support for ~~Union funding to continue~~ their continued development on top of what is already provided until they have reached 15 full members and a full committee.

8.10.3.2. Information on any restrictions to ~~society~~ Communities funding will be made available by the Union during the application process.

8.10.4. ~~The Union Societies~~ Student Communities will publish annually the procedure for allocation of resources to affiliated Communities ~~societies~~, together with the appeals mechanism at the relevant Student Communities ~~Societies~~ AGM.

8.10.5. All ~~society~~ Community activity must align with charity legislation relating to educational charities.

8.10.6. Each ~~affiliated society~~ Community, except for Sports Communities, will have two accounts:

8.10.6.1. The Development Account: for general income and expenditure; and

8.10.6.2. The Union Budget Account: for income and expenditure from the Student Communities Fund ~~Union Societies Budget~~.

8.10.6.3. Sports Communities will have one Development Account for general income and expenditure.

8.10.7. No ~~Society~~ Community can open any form of external bank or other account.

- 8.10.8. The Union has the ability to freeze a ~~Societies~~ **Community's** account if its committee members have not adhered to the Union's financial procedures or whilst an investigation is undertaken.
- 8.10.9. All ~~affiliated Societies~~ **Communities** must specify two signatories for their accounts which must be:
- 8.10.9.1. The ~~Society President~~ **primary Student Leader**; and
 - 8.10.9.2. The ~~Society~~ Treasurer.
- ~~8.10.12. All affiliated micro societies must specify one signatory for their accounts which must be the Society President.~~
- 8.10.10. The payee on any financial form may not be the committee signatory for that payment requisition.
- 8.10.11. Any rules concerning ~~Union Society~~ **Student Communities** budgets shall be publicised to the **Community's Committee Society Presidents/Treasurers**.
- 8.10.12. All expenditure must be counter authorised by the Union's budget holder for **Student Communities** ~~the Union Societies~~.
- 8.10.13. Any breaches of these rules by **a Community Committee** ~~the Society Presidents/Treasurers~~ shall constitute as a disciplinary offence and shall be investigated in line with the procedure outlined in **Standing Order 7 Clause 34**.
- 8.10.14. Payment for expenses shall only be paid to ~~Societies~~ **Community** members. No expenses shall be paid to students whose names do not appear on the list of ~~society~~ **Community** members ~~submitted to the Union Societies~~.
- 8.10.15. It is the responsibility of the ~~Societies~~ **Communities** Committees to ensure the membership lists are accurate.
- ~~8.10.16. If a society does not reach its required membership by the end of the first semester, monies in the Union Budget account will be removed and reinvested in the Union on associated expenditure.~~
- 8.10.16. ~~Any unspent allocated funding that remains when the spending deadline date has passed can be reallocated by the Union.~~ **Funding applications must specify a spending deadline date, any monies not spent by this deadline shall be reallocated by the Union, and a new application must be submitted.**
- 8.10.17. All funding remaining in ~~society~~ **a Community's** Union Budget Accounts at the end of academic year shall be reinvested into the Union ~~on associated expenditure~~.
- 8.10.18. All funding remaining in ~~society~~ **a Community's** Development ~~Fund~~ Accounts at the end of the academic year shall be carried forward to the following year. Should a ~~society~~ **Community** close, ~~due to lack of members in the following year,~~ the money shall be reallocated to **Student Communities** ~~societies through discussion with the Union Societies Council.~~
- 8.10.19. ~~Societies~~ **Communities** may collect session fees from ~~its~~ **their** members and engage in other legitimate income generating activities to supplement their finances.
- 8.10.20. All income generated shall be recorded by the Union ~~Societies~~. These records may be requested **by any individual Community member** ~~for individual Societies by the Society's members.~~
- 8.10.25. The ~~Societies~~ **Communities** Council may ask to inspect any ~~Societies~~ **Community's** accounts.
- 8.10.26. Each Communities Committee shall submit a proposed annual budget and action plan for the next financial year to the Union.**

8.11. Property Regulations

- 8.11.1. ~~Union Societies'~~ **Student Communities'** assets and funds are the property of the Union of Students and should be treated appropriately.
- 8.11.2. Individual ~~Societies~~ **Communities** are responsible for maintaining an up-to-date inventory of all equipment and kit, with its value and life span, which should be kept alongside their Development Account and made available to the Union upon request.
- 8.11.3. Failure to submit an up-to-date inventory shall result in disciplinary action being taken against the ~~society~~ **Community**.
- 8.11.4. Individual ~~Societies~~ **Communities** are responsible for ensuring the safety of equipment or kit during use and storage.
- 8.11.5. ~~Union Societies~~ **Communities** Council may require ~~society~~ **Community** Committees to account for any conduct concerning equipment or kit.
- ~~8.11.6. Society Community Committees are responsible for ensuring the safety of the Union Societies Student Communities equipment whilst in use or in storage.~~
- 8.11.7. All inventories shall be checked against past inventories and any purchases made. Any discrepancies shall be investigated by the ~~Union Vice-President (Activities)~~.
- 8.11.8. Any loss or damage to equipment or kit should be reported to the Union as a matter of urgency.
- 8.11.9. In the event of such damage or loss being denied by insurance, or where no insurance exists, the Union shall consider the case and if the damage or loss were due to negligence the case may be referred to a disciplinary as outlined in the Standing Orders.

8.12. Health and Safety

- 8.12.1. All ~~Societies~~ **Student Communities** shall abide by the guidelines set out in the Union's Articles.
- 8.12.2. All ~~Societies~~ **Student Communities** must adhere to the Union's health and safety regulations.
- 8.12.3. The Union shall ensure all **primary Community Student Leaders** ~~Societies' Presidents~~ are made aware of the Health and Safety Guidelines relevant to their activity. All rules and regulations will be made available to all ~~Societies~~ **Communities** on the Union website.
- 8.12.4. All ~~Societies Presidents~~ **primary Community Student Leaders** are responsible for ensuring that their ~~Society~~ **Communities** members adhere to the Union Student Code of Conduct.
- 8.12.5. All ~~Society~~ **Community** Committee Members must ~~attend~~ **complete** any health and safety training and abide by any health and safety instruction provided by the Union or any partner organisations.

8.13. ~~Union Societies'~~ **Student Communities** Committees

- 8.13.1. ~~Communities Committee requirements are set out in Standing Order 5. All full Societies Communities affiliated to the Union Societies Student Communities shall have a Committee which shall be made up of a minimum of a:~~
 - ~~8.13.1.1. Society President;~~
 - ~~8.13.1.2. Society Treasurer; and~~
 - ~~8.13.1.3. Society Secretary.~~
- 8.13.2. ~~All micro societies affiliated to the Union Societies shall have a Committee which shall be made up of minimum of a Society President–~~ **Sports Communities Committees shall have a core Committee consisting of at least:**
 - 8.13.2.1. President or Student Leader;**
 - 8.13.2.2. Treasurer; and**
 - 8.13.2.3. Secretary.**

8.13.3. No student shall ~~be on the~~ hold the same position on more than one Community Committee ~~for or hold more than one position on the same society~~ Community Committee ~~or hold more than one position in the same society~~:

8.13.3.1 Should a student request to do so this shall be reviewed by the ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Councils on a case by case basis.

8.13.3.2 In such cases where a student runs for more than one Committee position on the same Community during the elections and is successful in gaining both, they will automatically fill the highest core Committee position.

8.13.4. ~~Society~~ All Community Committees are responsible for:

8.13.4.1. The running of the ~~Society~~ Community;

8.13.4.2. Ensuring the ~~Society~~ Community remains financially solvent;

8.13.4.3. Promoting the ~~Society~~ Community during the Fresher's periods to attract new membership;

8.13.4.4. The smooth running of any social events and activities;

8.13.4.5. The convening of the ~~Society's~~ Community's General Meetings and Committee Meetings;

8.13.4.6. Writing and circulating the minutes of these meetings; and

~~8.13.4.7. Providing a report of the Society's activities to the Societies Council.~~

8.14. Union Societies' Student Communities Committee Elections

8.14.1. ~~Society~~ Communities Committees shall be democratically elected to represent their members.

8.14.2. These elections will take place during the Union online ~~Communities Club and Society~~ elections period as following the principles set out in Standing Order 3.

8.14.3. ~~Society~~ Communities Committee elections will be limited to the membership of the ~~Community Society~~, which should have a quorum of ~~50% +1 for the first attempt; 40% +1 for the second attempt; and 30% +1 for each position to be successfully elected for the final attempt.~~ ~~Votes cast during the first attempt shall be carried over to the second and third attempt as if they were proxy votes. All votes, once deemed valid will remain until a new Committee is elected. If quorum is not met the elections will be reopened.~~

8.14.4. The Deputy Returning Officer of the main elections shall be the Returning Officer for ~~Community Society~~ elections.

8.14.5. The results of ~~Society~~ Community elections will be announced by individual ~~Communities Societies~~.

~~8.14.6. If a society fails to elect a full Committee during the online Club and Society elections then they will hold another secret ballot election.~~

8.14.6. The ~~Society~~ Community Committee shall take up office on the 1 July to 30 June of the following year.

8.14.7. The ~~Society~~ Community Committee shall receive a handover from the outgoing Committee.

8.14.8. The ~~Society~~ Community Committee shall attend the mandatory Committee training sessions provided by the Union.

8.14.9. If the ~~Society~~ Community Committee members fail to complete the mandatory Committee training prior to the ~~date set by the Union end of October (extension can be given at the discretion of the Union)~~, the Committee members will be deemed to have resigned from their role.

8.14.10. In the event of a vacancy in the ~~Society~~ Community Committee the ~~Society~~ Community shall hold an EGM or online election to fill that role. For physical EGMs a member of Union

Staff, a Councillor, or Executive Officer ~~Chair or Vice-President (Activities)~~ shall be in attendance.

- 8.14.11. The individual(s) who are deemed to have resigned from their positions through failure to ~~attend~~ complete training cannot stand in the next election.
- 8.14.12. The individual(s) may appeal this decision to the ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Councils, subject to any extenuating circumstances which impacted upon their ability to ~~attend~~ complete training.
- 8.14.13. Due to GDPR, details of ~~Society~~ Community Committee members shall only be released to a third party with the permission of the Committee member.
- 8.14.14. ~~Society~~ Community members may remove any member of the ~~Society~~ Community Committee by submitting a secure petition to the Vice-President (Activities) signed by at least 50% +1 of the ~~Society's~~ Community's total membership. This would take immediate effect and an election for the vacant position would be carried out.

8.15. The ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities Assemblies

- 8.15.1. ~~The Union Societies~~ Student Communities will hold a minimum of 2 Assemblies (General Meetings) per semester attended by all ~~Society~~ Communities Committees. The ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM would constitute one of these meetings.
- 8.15.2. These will be convened and chaired by the Vice-President (Activities).
- ~~8.15.3. The Union Societies' Chair will be Vice-Chair at Union Societies Assemblies~~
- 8.15.3. ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities Assemblies will be used to:
 - 8.15.3.1. Provide updates to ~~Societies~~ Communities from the Union, Vice-President (Activities) and ~~Union Societies'~~ Communities Councils; and
 - 8.15.3.2. Provide the opportunity for ~~Societies~~ Communities to feed back to their elected Representatives.
- 8.15.4. If a ~~Society~~ Community fails to attend three consecutive ~~Societies~~ Student Communities Assemblies, the ~~Societies~~ Communities Councils, upon recommendation from the Vice-President (Activities), shall consider taking any appropriate action against the ~~Community~~ Society. ~~These~~ Actions may include:
 - 8.15.4.1. Suspending the ~~Society's~~ Community's financial support ~~from the Union Societies~~ for a defined period;
 - 8.15.4.2. Disaffiliating the ~~Society~~ Community from the Union ~~Societies~~, preventing any activity from taking place.
- 8.15.5. Any ~~Community~~ member ~~of the Union Societies~~ may request agenda items by submitting their request to the Vice-President (Activities) at least seven working days prior to the meeting.
- 8.15.6. The Vice-President (Activities) or their nominee shall publicise the meeting and confirmed agenda at least five working days in advance to the ~~Society~~ Community Committees and on the Union website.
- 8.15.7. All ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities Assemblies shall have recorded minutes.
- 8.15.8. The minutes will be made available on the Union website.
- 8.15.9. Quorum for ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities Assemblies shall be 50% of all affiliated ~~Societies~~ Communities.
- 8.15.10. Only full members of the ~~Union Societies~~ Community Committees will have voting rights for the ~~Union Societies'~~ Student Communities Assemblies.
- 8.15.11. All decisions voted in by the ~~Union Societies'~~ Student Communities Assemblies shall be binding for all ~~Communities~~ Societies.

8.16. The Union Societies' Student Communities Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- 8.16.1. ~~The Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM will be convened by the Vice-President (Activities).
- 8.16.2. The membership of the ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM is as follows:
 - 8.16.2.1. Vice-President (Activities);
 - 8.16.2.2. ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Chairs;
 - 8.16.2.3. Incoming and Outgoing Societies Communities Committee members; and
 - 8.16.2.4. Any ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities member.
- 8.16.3. The ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Council shall deliver reports at the AGM for the academic year to date.
- 8.16.4. There must not be more than 18 months between Student Communities ~~Union Societies~~ AGMs.
- 8.16.5. Notice of the Societies' Student Communities Annual General Meeting:
 - 8.16.5.1. The Vice-President (Activities) shall publicise this meeting to the ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Committees and on the Union website five working days prior to the meeting.
 - 8.16.5.2. All documents for the ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM shall be published on the Union website at least five working days prior to the meeting.
 - 8.16.5.3. Dates for the submission of proposals to the ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM shall be publicised by the Union at least 28 days prior to the meeting.
 - 8.16.5.4. The ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM shall have recorded minutes.
 - 8.16.5.5. ~~The responsibility of minutes shall be discharged by the meeting to the Union Societies Council who shall agree the minutes as a true and accurate record.~~ Communities Councils shall be responsible for agreeing the minutes as a true and accurate record.
 - 8.16.5.6. Approved minutes shall be published at the earliest possible time on the Union website.
 - 8.16.5.7. Quorum for the ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM shall be a minimum of 30 members including at least 50% of all affiliated Communities societies.
 - 8.16.5.8. Any full member of ~~the Union Societies~~ Student Communities has the right to vote at the ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities AGM.

8.17. Complaints, Disciplinary and Appeals

When handling complaints, disciplinary actions and appeals, ~~Union Societies~~ Student Communities shall follow the Union's Complaints and Appeals Procedure, which can be found at www.derbyunion.co.uk/complaints.

8.18. Appealing a Decision of ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Councils

- 8.18.1 Any ~~Society~~ Community that wishes to appeal a decision of the ~~Union Societies~~ Communities Councils can submit an appeal in writing to the Union President. The appeal must outline the grounds for appeal and be submitted no later than five working days after the decision of the Councils.
- 8.18.2. Following an investigation by the Union President or their nominee, the Union President will make a final and binding decision based on the evidence provided.

8.19. Individual Competitive Sports

- 8.19.1. Any individual wishing to participate in BUCS individual competitions must liaise directly with the ~~Vice-President (Activities)~~ Student Communities team regarding potential opportunities.

- 8.19.2. The Union shall review participation in individual competitive sports on a case by case basis.
- 8.19.3. This review shall be based on the evidence provided by the individual which demonstrates successful competitive performance.
- 8.19.4. Any funding allocated for these competitions must meet the BUCS individual funding criteria.

Rationale for the change

What are the pros and cons of the change? How will any cons be managed/mitigated?

Due to the restructuring of the Union Activities Team into the Student Communities Team, in line with the new Union Strategic Plan, the relevant standing orders need to be updated. This includes reflecting the shift of all student groups under the new 'Student Communities' umbrella, organised into six categories:-

- Academic
- Faith & Belief
- Hobbies & Interest
- Liberation & Equality
- Nationalities & Culture
- Sports

What consideration or consultation have you taken prior to submitting this proposal? *All proposals go the exec team to be confirmed, so having insufficient consultation/consideration could mean the proposal is rejected.*

Student Communities' are a key strategic priority for the Union, as highlighted in the Union's Strategic Plan 2025–2028. This emphasis stems directly from student feedback, which revealed a shortage of student-led activities and notable barriers to participation and engagement. These insights underscore the urgent need for more inclusive and accessible opportunities, unified under a new, cohesive framework.

Have you considered any impact of the new proposal on any of the protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010? *What are the impacts and how will any negative impacts be managed/mitigated? For more information on the protected characteristics please see [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)*

The initiative has strong potential to positively impact many of the protected characteristics, particularly, Religion or Belief, Race, Sexual Orientation, Gender Reassignment & Disability. However, impact will depend on how well the initiative is implemented — especially regarding accessibility, visibility, funding, and support for student led liberation groups.

Appendices *if necessary.*

