

# Policy Proposal:

Date:  
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Proposer/s:  
Eleanor Humphrey

## **Current Policy/Situation**

*What happens at the moment?*

We currently have two Student Community Councils: the Sports Communities Council and the Communities Council. These councils role is supporting the development and sustainability of community groups across the Union. Their responsibilities include contributing to the review and approval of new community applications, supporting the ongoing wellbeing and governance of existing community groups, and acting as a communication link between communities and the wider Union through regular updates at Assemblies. In doing so, they help ensure that student communities remain active, representative, and aligned with the Union's priorities for engagement and inclusion.

## **New Proposal**

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

This proposal updates and replaces the Standing Orders with the removal of Communities Council and the remaining of Sports Communities Council, as shown below (amendments in blue and additions in red):

### **4.2. Councils –**

#### **4.2.1 Communities Council**

~~4.2.1.1. There shall be a Communities Council chaired by the Communities Chair~~

~~4.2.1.2. Communities Council shall meet at least once per month.~~

~~4.2.1.3. The membership and regulations of this Council are listed within the Communities Representation Policy.~~

#### ~~5.5.2.5. 'Members of the Communities Council'~~

~~8.2.1.4 'Annually elect both Councils in accordance with the Student Communities Council rules.'~~ **Sports Communities Council will be elected in accordance with the Student Communities Council rules for the 2026/27 academic year.**

~~8.4.6. The relevant Executive Officer shall propose the categorisation of each Community in collaboration with individual Community committees. Proposals will be ratified by the Communities Council.~~ **The Vice President (Communities) shall propose the categorisation of each Community.**

~~8.4.7. Communities Councils~~ **'Sports Communities Council'** will meet at least once a month during term time and should be run in accordance with the meeting guidance provided in Council training.

### **8.6. Communities Councils Sports Communities Council**

#### ~~8.6.1. Communities Council~~ **Sports Communities Council**

~~8.6.1.1. The members and details of Communities Council~~ **Sports Communities Council** are outlined in the Student Communities Representation Policy.

~~8.6.1.2. All Communities~~ **Sports** Councillors shall hold office from the 1 July to 30 June of the following year.

### **8.8. Affiliation of Communities to Student Communities**

~~8.8.5. To become a Community, students must submit a New Community application form to the Union to the Communities Councils.~~

~~8.8.7. All Sports Communities applications must be approved by the Sports Communities Councils before members are able to join the Community.~~

**8.8.8.** The Union will provide timely updates on the status of the new **Sports** Community applications following its submission up to the point of approval by the **Sports** Communities Council.

**8.10.25.** The **Sports** Communities Council may ask to inspect any Community's accounts.

**8.11.5.** **Sports** Communities Council may require Community Committees to account for any conduct concerning equipment or kit.

**8.13.3.1** Should a student request to do so this shall be reviewed by the **Sports** Communities Councils on a case-by-case basis **or the Vice President (Communities)**.

**8.14.12.** The individual(s) may appeal this decision to the ~~Communities Councils~~ **Sports Communities Council or the Vice President**, subject to any extenuating circumstances which impacted upon their ability to complete training.

**8.15.3.1.** **Sports Communities Council to** provide updates to **Sports** Communities from the Union **and** Vice-President (Communities) ~~and Communities Councils;~~

**8.15.4.** If a Community fails to attend three consecutive ~~Student Communities Assemblies,~~ **Union Meetings,** the ~~sports Communities-councils,~~ **upon recommendation from** ~~and~~ the Vice-President (Communities), shall consider taking any appropriate action against the Community.

**8.16.3.** The **Sports** Communities Council shall deliver reports at the AGM for the academic year to date.

**8.16.5.5.** **Sports** Communities Councils shall be responsible for agreeing the minutes as a true and accurate record.

### **8.18. Appealing a Decision of Communities Councils**

8.18.1 Any **Sports** Community that wishes to appeal a decision of the **Sports** 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.

### **Rationale for the change**

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

Due to consistently low engagement from Communities Councillors and a sustained decline in attendance at Communities Council meetings over the past few academic years, a review of the council's effectiveness and impact has taken place. As a result of this review, it has been determined that the Communities Council is no longer operating as an effective representative or decision-making space for student community groups.

In response, the decision has been made to remove the Communities Council structure while retaining the Sports Communities Council, which continues to demonstrate stronger engagement and provides an effective forum for supporting sports clubs. This change will help streamline governance arrangements and ensure that staff and student leadership time is focused on structures that are active, representative, and able to meaningfully support community development across the Union.

**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.*

**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)*

**Appendices** *if necessary.*