

**Proposed Election Rules  
for the  
Governance and Regulation  
of the  
Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils**

**Article I: Purpose of the Election Standing Rules**

- Section 1      This document serves to establish uniform standards for all elections held by the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils. (CRASC) All candidates, delegates, and officials shall abide by these rules in the process of electing CRASC officers and the Student Member on the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County.
- Section 2      Violation of the rules listed in this document is grounds for investigation and the possible disqualification of a candidate by the CRASC Ethics Committee.

**Article II: Candidate Campaigning and Electioneering**

- Section 1      Campaigning and Electioneering is defined as:  
*The direct statement of one's candidacy to voting delegates; the act of persuading voters to bolster one's candidacy; the act of distributing materials directly related to a candidate by that candidate and/or the candidate's campaign staff; any action that is directly related to assisting a person's candidacy. Buying and preparing materials does not constitute Campaigning and Electioneering.*
- Section 2      Nominee is defined as:  
*A student who is in the process of pursuing election or appointment to an official office but who has not received an official notice of candidacy, pending interviews or the closing of a nomination period.*
- Section 3      Candidate is defined as:  
*A student who is in the process of pursuing election or appointment to an official office and who has received an official notice of candidacy.*

**Article III: Nomination**

- Section 1      A student's pursuit of an elected position must begin with a nomination. A student is nominated to run for an elected office by submitting a completed nomination form to the Office of Student Leadership within the designated nomination period.
- Section 2      A public statement, announcing the names of all nominees, will issued at the conclusion of the nomination period. This announcement may be released by the Office of Student Leadership or the AACPS Communications Office.
- Section 3      All candidates from Student Member of the Board of Education must be rising seniors in good standing and of good character in a public secondary school in Anne Arundel County as of the following September, and must:

- A. Attend at least one CRASC General Assembly and one CRASC Executive Board meeting in the year he/she is seeking nomination.
- B. Submit a resume to the Office of Student Leadership & Involvement by the designated deadline(s).
- C. Provide letters of recommendation (one from a community leader, one from a teacher, and one from their high school principal or the advisor of a school recognized club or activity) along with their resume.

#### **Article IV: Interviews**

- Section 1 In the event that there are four or more nominees after the nomination period closes, there will be an interview process by an interview panel to narrow the selection to three candidates.
- Section 2 For the SMOB elections, this interview panel will consist of the following positions with the final approval of the executive staff by a 2/3 vote.
- A. The highest ranking member of the CRASC executive staff who can participate without a conflict of interest.
  - B. A member of the current Board of Education, preferably the current Student Member, unless this presents a conflict of interest.
  - C. A representative of the superintendent, such as the CRASC Advisor.
  - D. A non-voting representative from an employee bargaining unit such as TAAAC or SAAAC
  - E. A student at large to be selected by the CRASC Advisor and approved by the CRASC President. (said student must be a member of a student organization, other than CRASC)
- Section 3 For all other elections, the interview panel will consist of
- A. Two members of the CRASC Executive Staff, to be appointed by the CRASC President
  - B. The CRASC Advisor
- Section 3 Students will be informed of the results of the interviews within 24 hours and before any public statement is issued by the Office of Student Leadership or the AACPS Communications Office.

#### **Article V: Campaign Advising**

- Section 1 Candidates are allowed and encouraged to seek campaign advice from the Office of Student Leadership. Candidates may also receive advice from any school based teacher, administrator, or counselor.
- Section 2 Candidates may not seek advice from any current member of the Board of Education or CRASC Officer.
- Section 3 Candidates may not receive advice or consultation from any professional publicity firms, campaign managers, or political parties.

## **Article VI: Campaign Activities**

- Section 1 Campaign activities will not be limited to the day of the election.
- Section 2 Electronic campaigning through social media outlets will be monitored by Office of Student Leadership and must be independent from a candidate's personal account.
- Section 3 Candidates will have equal opportunities to participate in a schedule of activities, including, but not limited to: Question and Answer sessions, debates, public speeches, interviews, and attendance at public events.
- Section 4 A full schedule of all campaign activities will be made available prior to the opening of the nomination period.

## **Article VII: Campaign Staff**

- Section 1 Campaign Staff is defined as any delegates or observers who distribute campaign materials and make general announcements about a candidate.
- Section 2 A list of campaign staff will be submitted to the CRASC Advisor and the CRASC Ethics Committee on the day of the election, prior to the arrival of delegates.
- Section 3 Student Board Member Candidates will be allowed 10 official campaign staff, while candidates for all other offices will be allowed 5 official campaign staff.

## **Article VIII: Ballots**

- Section 1 All CRASC-sponsored elections will be held by secret ballot.
- Section 2 Whenever possible, ballot counting will be overseen by an external firm.
- Section 3 In the event that an external firm is unable to oversee ballot counting, the counting will be conducted through the use of an electronic method such as software or scantron machines.
- Section 4 Ballots will only be counted and handled by approved representatives of an outside firm, the CRASC Advisor, or a school-based leadership advisor whose school does not have a candidate running for office.

**A. In all elections the candidate receiving the most votes will be declared the winner. A majority is not needed.**

**B.** A runoff election will only be conducted if it is necessary to determine a winner between two candidates receiving the exact same number of votes.

## **Article IX: Ethics Committee**

- Section 1 The purpose of the Ethics Committee is to ensure compliance with the Election Rules and to investigate all allegations of violations.

- Section 2 All decisions issued by the ethics committee will be binding and may result in a recount of election results or the disqualification of a candidate by a unanimous vote.
- Section 3 Any questions concerning the election process or election results must be submitted, in writing, directly to the Office of Student Leadership.
- Section 4 Meetings of the CRASC Ethics Committee will be facilitated by the CRASC advisor or a school-based leadership advisor whose school does not have a candidate running for office. The ethics committee will be composed of a student panel consisting
  - A. The CRASC Parliamentarian or an appointed proxy to be approved by the facilitator
  - B. The CRASC President or an appointed proxy to be approved by the facilitator
  - C. Two high school students at large
  - D. Two middle school students at large

**Article X: Campaign Finance**

- Section 1 Campaign spending limits will be set by the Office of Student Leadership and will be outlined prior to the opening of the nomination period.
- Section 2 On the day of the election, all candidates must submit a detailed accounting of their campaign expenses.
- Section 3 Candidates may accept donations from private persons or businesses but must disclose the origins of the donations and the value of all goods and services on their campaign finance reports.
- Section 4 The following expenses may be provided by a candidate’s school or by the office of Student Leadership and may be excluded from the campaign finance report.
  - A. Use of printers, computers, and tablets
  - B. Markers, pens, and paints that may be reused
  - C. Tape, tacks, pins or clips used for hanging and display of campaign materials

**Article XI: Voting Delegation**

- Section 1 A delegation from any secondary public school, public charter school, or public contract school may be able to vote in an election.
- Section 2 A school’s number of voting delegates is determined by school population, as provided in Article XI, Section 4 and 5
- Section 3 For the Student Member on the Board Election, the number of voting delegates for each member school shall be increased. The number of additional votes shall be determined by school population as provided in Article XI, Section 6.
- Section 4 Each middle school shall be apportioned the following number of voting delegates:

Enrollment	Votes
1-600	4

601-800	5
801-1000	6
1001-1200	7
1201-1400	8
1401-1600	9
1600+	10

Section 5 Each high school shall be apportioned the following number of delegates:

Enrollment	Votes
1-1100	8
1101-1300	9
1301-1500	10
1501-1700	11
1701-1900	12
1901-2100	13
2101-2300	14
2301-2500	15
2500+	16

**Section 6** Additional Voting Delegates will be allotted to school delegations for the Student Member of the Board Elections

- A. Each member middle school may send the following number of additional delegates from the following categories to Student Member on the Board Elections:

Category	Enrollment 1-1000	Enrollment 1001+
Arts (including but not limited to music, drama, newspaper)	1	1
Athletics	1	1
Miscellaneous Activities (including but not limited to FBLA, NHS, Key Club)	1	2

- B. Each member high school may send the following number of additional delegates from the following categories to Student Member on the Board Elections:

Category	Enrollment 1-1000	Enrollment 1001+
Arts (including but not limited to music, drama, newspaper)	1	2
Athletics	1	2
Miscellaneous Activities (including but not limited to FBLA, NHS, Key Club)	2	2

