

MSS November 2024 AMA-MSS Speakers' Ruling

Cook J. & Reddy N.

CREATED: 8/25/24

Dear Candidates and AMA-MSS Leadership,

In accordance with MSS IOP [6.5.3](#), your Speakers have established this ruling so that all candidates have equal access to guidelines. This document will be open to the AMA-MSS and specifically targeted towards individuals seeking candidacy for the positions of the **Chair-Elect and Medical Student Trustee**. Region Delegation elections and select Region GC elections will also occur during I-24, however candidates for those elections should refer to their Region bylaws and leadership for additional information. Candidates who submit campaign materials by the deadline will receive a copy of this document. A copy will also be provided in the Election Manual. Pursuant to MSS IOP [6.5.3](#), "Once released, the AMA MSS Speakers reserve the right to issue addenda or announcements as needed, with all changes shared with all candidates."

This document outlines the new Speakers' Ruling and how your Speakers plan to enforce the rules. Campaign rules outlined in the MSS Internal Operating Procedures (IOPs) are always in effect. **Region Bylaws should be followed in all instances but are superseded by the MSS IOPs and the Speakers' Ruling.** MSS IOP [4.4.5.3](#) charges your Speakers to "Provide for oversight and enforcement of the Campaign Rules...including responsibility for investigation of alleged infractions and reporting of substantiated infractions to the Assembly prior to balloting." Such Rulings ensure that elections held at the national meeting are in accordance with the Bylaws and procedures of our AMA and AMA-MSS IOPs. Clarifying your Speakers' interpretations of the MSS IOPs early allows candidates to campaign accordingly and avoids members misinterpreting ambiguous IOPs.

In order to receive the most up-to-date information, candidates should contact your Speakers (mssspeaker2425@gmail.com & mssvicespeaker2425@gmail.com) once they have decided to seek candidacy. Candidates are encouraged to ask your Speakers and/or the Chair of the Rules Committee to clarify any rules in the Speakers' Ruling in order to avoid misapplication of the rules. Misunderstanding a rule's application does not absolve the candidate from an infraction. IOPs for reference can be found [here](#).

Any dispute about a provision in this Ruling being inconsistent with the MSS IOPs or AMA Constitution and Bylaws should be escalated to the MSS Chair and Speakers via email and will be resolved by your Governing Council and promptly addressed by your Speakers.

We welcome any questions about election campaigns or about the MSS Internal Operating Procedures at any time. Our highest priority is to support you, provide a level playing field for all candidates, and to enforce the election rules in an impartial and transparent manner. We applaud you for dedicating your time and energy to furthering our section and cannot wait to see what you accomplish. Best of luck to all the candidates!

I. Deadline for Material Submission

1. The deadline for submitting applications including materials to be included in the I-24 Election Guide is October 14, 2024 by 11:59 PM PT. We strongly encourage students to submit application materials ahead of time.
 - a. Candidate application materials must strictly adhere to the word limit in the candidate application form. Candidate application materials exceeding the posted word limit will have words removed, starting from the bottom, until the materials conform with the posted limit.
2. No applications will be accepted after this deadline for inclusion in the I-24 Election Guide, although supporting materials may be accepted at the discretion of the AMA staff.
3. After this date, candidates must be nominated and run from the floor for any of the MSS positions that are up for election at the I-24 meeting.
4. If a candidate is nominated from the floor, we are unable to guarantee that your application will be made available to the MSS Assembly.
 - a. Application materials including the conflict of Interest forms and necessary school signatures from all candidates must be completed by the morning of Friday, November 8, 2024, at 9am ET. If not completed by this time, a candidate cannot be included on the ballot.
5. Candidates who run from the floor will not have materials included in the official I-24 Election Guide, *but they will be included on the MSS website after receipt and approval by staff.*
6. Candidates who run from the floor will not be able to participate in the I-24 Candidate Forum if the nomination period follows the Candidate Forum.

II. Eligibility

1. Although the Chair-Elect is a non-voting member of the Governing Council and the term does not apply to MSS IOP [4.7](#), the following rules apply for the Chair term:
 - a. MSS members are term-limited to a combined 3 years of service on Governing Council and AMA Council Student Members. (MSS IOP [4.7.2](#))
 - b. This is inclusive of a maximum of 2 years on the same AMA council, 1 year maximum in the same Governing Council position, and a maximum of 2 years in any combination of Governing Council positions (MSS IOP [4.7.3](#)).
2. The Chair and Medical Student Trustee also are beholden to the the following rules that do not apply to the “elect” period:
 - a. MSS members who serve on an AMA Council or in an AMA Liaison position may not also serve in a voting Governing Council position or as the Medical Student Trustee (MSS IOP [6.2.1](#))
 - b. MSS members serving on Regional Executive Council, as Regional Delegate or Regional Alternate Delegate, or representatives from other organizations to the MSS Assembly may run, but cannot concurrently hold aforementioned roles if serving in a voting Governing Council position (MSS IOP [6.2.2](#))

III. Campaign Period

1. No campaigning for any other election besides those elections taking place at the upcoming meeting will be permitted. The official campaign period shall be defined as starting on September 3, 2024, the first day the Speakers' Ruling was made available to MSS members. (MSS IOP [6.5.2.3](#)). The information contained in this section pertains to campaigning for elections taking place after the upcoming meeting (i.e. A-25 and beyond).
 - a. All activities related to announcement of candidacy, endorsement, or campaigning, including but not limited to communications, and speaking opportunities shall be limited to the campaign period defined above (MSS IOP [6.5.2.4](#)).
 - i. **Permissible** communication outside of the campaign period includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Discussing one's viability as a potential candidate with individual MSS members before deciding to declare candidacy.
 2. Reaching out to current and previous MSS members individually for more information on the responsibilities of a position
 3. Assembling individuals to serve as a member's campaign team, should they decide to run.
 - a. As part of these conversations, it is permissible for candidates to speak on their own behalf and announce their candidacy, for the purpose of recruiting these members to their campaign team.
 - b. Members of a candidate's campaign team may not reach out on behalf of a candidate to other members outside of the campaign period.
 4. Creation of permissible campaign materials including a Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page. However, campaign materials may not be accessible to members outside the campaign team until the campaign period begins.
 - ii. Your Speakers' intent is to restrict communication which could be interpreted as active campaigning or declaration of candidacy outside of the campaign period. No campaign materials can be disseminated prior to the campaign period. Communication outside of the campaign period that is **not permissible** includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Publication of a Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page.
 2. Posts to social media declaring candidacy or intent to run for an elected position.
 3. Distribution of campaign materials.
 4. Coordinated outreach to multiple parties with the intent of declaring candidacy or garnering support, including outreach on official AMA-MSS channels.
2. The Speakers' Ruling from the preceding national meeting is in effect until your Speakers release the new Ruling for the meeting.

IV. Campaigning: Campaign Teams and Involvement

1. Campaigning includes, but is not limited to, discussing candidate platforms or displaying or distributing campaign materials, but does not include merely stating their candidacy for a position (MSS IOP [6.5.8.1](#)).
2. **Informational Session:** At a date determined by the Speakers, an informational session with incumbent student leaders may be advertised and hosted by the Speakers for interested candidates, even if those incumbent student leaders are required to maintain neutrality under Section IV.4. Potential candidates and candidates who would like to learn more about the position to which they intend to apply will be invited to attend the informational session. However, such discussions must be limited to the position's roles and duties and may not encompass candidate viability or campaign strategy. Candidates and members may also use this time to ask questions about campaign rules.
3. **Campaign Team Composition:** Pursuant to the MSS IOPs, only members of the MSS may be publicly involved with any candidate's campaign. This provision encompasses public endorsements, with exceptions outlined in MSS IOP [6.5.7.4](#) and [6.5.9.3](#).
 - a. It is the responsibility of each candidate running for an elected position to ensure that any MSS members involved in their campaign are familiar with the policies outlined in the Speakers' Ruling, codified in the MSS IOPs, and outlined in the AMA Constitution and Bylaws.
 - b. Campaign teams shall be identified in writing to the MSS Speakers within 72 hours following campaign team selection. This information will be forwarded to the Chair of the Rules Committee upon their selection.
4. **Campaign Involvement:**
 - a. **Restricted Members: MSS Governing Council (GC) members (including Chair-elect), MSS Rules Committee members, MSS Region Chairs, Chairs-Elect and Acting Chairs, the current AMA GRAF, and the current MSS student member of the AMA Board of Trustees** are **not** permitted to join a campaign, publicly endorse a candidate, or take any action that could be construed as using a leadership position to influence the election as determined by your Speakers. These AMA leaders must maintain absolute neutrality when it comes to campaigns and candidates.
 - i. Candidates may reach out to one of the aforementioned members who currently holds or formerly held their position of interest to ask questions about the role and responsibilities. However, they may **not** discuss their viability as a candidate or campaign strategy.
 - ii. Candidates may not ask any of the aforementioned AMA-MSS leaders to connect them with individual MSS members for the purposes of campaigning.
 - iii. Candidates may not suggest or imply to any MSS member that any of the aforementioned AMA-MSS leaders support their candidacy in any way.
 - iv. The aforementioned AMA-MSS leaders are not prevented by the MSS IOPs from speaking privately about their personal opinions of a candidate as long as it is clear they are **speaking as an individual** and not in any official capacity.

- v. Any AMA member regardless of their current position including the aforementioned members may publicly endorse their own candidacy and be involved in their own campaign if they are running for a position, so long as they preface the endorsement with a statement that they are **speaking as an individual** and not as an AMA leader.
 - b. All other MSS members may join campaigns and publicly endorse candidates including MSS members who serve on an AMA Council are permitted to join a campaign or to publicly endorse a candidate **on behalf of themselves as individuals** and not while using or acting under the title of their respective leadership position. (MSS IOP [6.5.9.1](#)). Your Speakers have determined that your MSS Councilors represent a valuable resource of perspective to the section that should not be discounted.
 - c. Campaign Activities: Involvement in campaigns includes, but is not limited to, public endorsements of candidates (see below), holding meetings, formally or informally, in a group or individually, to plan or advise, individual campaigns.
 - i. **Public endorsement** shall include, but is not limited to, public written support or coordinated individual outreach on behalf of the candidate.
 - ii. Speaking in favor or in opposition of a candidate in a candidate discussion without the explicit request of the candidate does not consist of campaign involvement.
5. Other Campaign Rules:
- a. The usage of physical campaign materials promoting candidates (e.g. buttons, stickers, paraphernalia, etc.) are disallowed. (MSS IOP [6.5.5.2](#))
 - i. This rule will not apply for pins for AMPAC, the AMA Foundation, specialty societies, state and regional delegations, and health-related causes that do not include any candidate identifier. These pins should be small, not worn on the badge, and distributed only to members of the designated group. (MSS IOP [6.5.5.2](#))
 - b. Pursuant to MSS IOP [6.5.8.2](#), Campaigning at MSS Regional, state, or official school chapter meetings prior to the AMA meeting at which the election occurs (I-24) is prohibited.
 - c. Pursuant to MSS IOP [6.5.6](#) The total expenditure per candidate per campaign shall not exceed \$200, including all monetary donations, but not including the candidate's travel to and lodging at the meeting at which the election is held.
 - d. Pursuant to MSS IOP [6.5.11](#) Receptions and/or hospitality shall not be used for promotion of candidates.

V. Campaigning: Communications

1. Campaign communications procedures are covered by (MSS IOP [6.5.7](#)).
2. Your Speakers' guiding principle for online communications is to limit excessive campaign communications while ensuring easy access to the candidates' platforms. To this end, we have the following rules for online communications for national elections:
 - a. Individual Communications: Candidates and campaign team members may reach out to individual MSS members to discuss their campaign but should be

prudent and courteous regarding the number, length, and content of messages sent prior to the election, including but not limited to emails, phone calls, text messages, social media communications, and group chats. Non-electronic mailings by candidates or other organizations on behalf of a candidate are not permissible. (MSS IOP [6.5.7.1](#) & [6.5.7.2](#))

- b. Mass Communications: No mode of MSS- or AMA-sponsored communication, including but not limited to the Open Forum, Virtual Reference Committee, AMA MSS listservs, phone or email lists, or other mass communication methods (e.g. GroupMe, etc.) shall be used for announcements of candidacy, endorsement, or campaigning. (MSS IOP [6.5.7.3](#))
 - i. This includes the AMA MSS Updates Groupme, AMA MSS Discord channels, any MSS national or Regional email lists, and any meeting-specific MSS or AMA communication platforms created, managed, or moderated by the MSS Governing Council or MSS Region Governing Boards in their capacity as officers and/or AMA staff (including MSS standing committee, MSS Region-wide, and MSS national meeting-specific GroupMe chats.
 - ii. Exceptions to this rule shall only be made for campaign events that are hosted by your current Speakers and open for participation by all AMA approved candidates.
 - iii. Candidates are prohibited from being or requesting to be members of Facebook groups, GroupMes, or other communication channels for official MSS bodies **for the purpose of campaigning** - including but not limited to those of Regions, standing committees, task forces, and convention committees.
 1. Candidates may request membership to/post in such channels only for the purposes of sharing information pertaining to their current roles and group membership.
 2. Candidates who are unsure of whether joining a group or posting in a group would be a violation may reach out to the Speakers for guidance.
 - iv. Any MSS member is encouraged to address questions about the permissibility of any communication to your Speakers and/or Chair(s) of the Rules Committee prior to initiating said communication.
- c. Campaign Pages: No campaign websites or web pages will be permitted for campaign promotion, with the exception of candidate-created Facebook and/or Instagram page for each campaign, Speaker-created online candidate profiles, or candidate-specific materials uploaded to the AMA website (e.g. election manual).
 - i. Aside from a Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page, candidates may not create a campaign page or channel on any other public communication platform or social media channel.
 1. Private communication platforms can be used to manage campaign teams.

- ii. Pursuant to MSS IOP [6.5.7.4](#), candidates using campaign-specific social media accounts can only invite MSS members to follow said accounts.
 - iii. All candidates shall include a conspicuous statement on their campaign page(s), including Facebook and/or Instagram, asking that only MSS members “like” or “follow” the page(s).
 - iv. In the event that a candidate becomes aware of a non-MSS individual liking or following their respective Facebook and/or Instagram candidate page, the candidate or campaign team may notify your Speakers for additional guidance to resolve the problem, as described in Section IX.
 - v. Your Speaker, Vice Speaker, and the Chair of the Rules Committee reserve the right to become an administrator of the campaign page in order to monitor adherence to the rules.
 - vi. When sharing a Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page on a candidate's or campaign team member's personal page, please make sure to include a statement in the post on your personal page stating that only MSS members should "like" or “follow” the page.
- d. Public Announcements of Candidacy:
- i. Candidates may share a link once to the candidate's Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page and/or the Speaker-created online candidate profile along with a description of their platform on their personal pages to announce their candidacy, but otherwise will restrict all campaign-related material to their campaign pages.
 - ii. Candidates may have their Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page and/or Speaker-created online candidate profile shared once, respectively, to each Region Facebook page and once to each respective Region Instagram page, subject to approval by the MSS Region Chair or Acting Region Chair and pursuant to Region Bylaws. Candidates may share their own campaign page to their respective Region's Facebook page. Otherwise, the campaign page and/or a Speaker-created online candidate profile must be shared on Facebook by a Region member from the corresponding Region and on Instagram by the Region Instagram account.
 - iii. If a Region chooses to share a candidate's Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page on both the Region's Facebook and Instagram pages, the posts must be identical in substance, including any graphics or photographs.
 - iv. GC members, their designees, and administrators of Region Facebook and Instagram pages have the duty to delete any additional posts of a campaign page made beyond the original post.
 - v. Any additional public testimony or discussion on the candidate by Region members on the Region Facebook or Instagram pages is restricted to the comments section of the initial post.

- vi. Candidates should make every effort to move direct communication with MSS members that arises during Region Facebook or Instagram posts to their campaign page(s).
- vii. Any member of the Region may share a candidate's campaign page, with the exception of the MSS Region Chair, unless the Region has voted to formally support that candidate.
- e. Announcements from Campaign Team Members: Individual MSS members who are not prohibited from campaign involvement (pursuant to Speakers' Ruling Section IV) may share candidate pages and/or Speaker-created online candidate profile on their personal Facebook and/or Instagram pages, where they may elaborate with testimony and/or endorsement.
- f. The following items may be displayed on Facebook and/or Instagram campaign pages:
 - i. One (1) optional letter of endorsement by the Dean or Dean's representative from the candidate's medical school
 - ii. One (1) optional letter of endorsement by leadership or staff of the state medical society from the state in which the candidate attends medical school
 - iii. Any letters of endorsement of MSS members, Regions or organizations (including any specialty organization with voting representation within the MSS). To comply with this provision and avoid the possibility of an endorsement being called into question, the endorsing entity must at minimum do the following:
 - 1. Follow the entity's Bylaws dictating official endorsement,
 - 2. Take and document the results of an official vote, and
 - 3. Take and document quorum, including a list of local chapters represented, when the voting occurred.
 - iv. No other letters of endorsement will be permitted.

VI. Campaigning: Events and Speeches

1. At a date determined by the Speakers, a candidate forum will be advertised and hosted by the Speakers (MSS IOP [6.5.8.3.1](#)).
 - a. The Speakers will contact candidates regarding the date and time of the candidate forum at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled date.
 - b. The Speakers will advertise the session and access information to MSS members over AMA-MSS communication channels.
2. At a date determined by the Speakers, a meet and greet session with candidates may be advertised and hosted by the Speakers.
 - a. The Speakers will contact candidates regarding the date and time of the meet and greet at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled date.
 - b. Your Speakers will advertise the session and access information to MSS members over AMA-MSS communication channels.

3. At a date determined by the Speakers and Regions, Region candidate forums will be advertised and hosted by the Speakers and/or Regions. For more information, see Region Involvement Section (IX.) below.
4. At the discretion of your Speakers and at a date determined by your Speakers, with at least 1 week notice, candidates may be invited to record a video to be reviewed by your Speakers and/or Rules Committee.
 - a. The video can be up to two minutes in length to address the MSS Assembly about their candidacy. Time limits for speaking will be strictly enforced.
 - b. If the Speakers choose to request candidate videos, the videos will be posted on the AMA-MSS website.

VII. Campaigning: Platform

1. Campaign platforms or ideas are subject to review by your Speakers, and may be deemed out of order if inappropriate.
2. Candidates running for any compensated position within our MSS, whether direct or indirect, cannot make campaign promises to redirect use of this compensation at any time or by any means.

VIII. Joint Campaigns and Elections

1. In order to provide a fair campaign and election process for candidates, your Speakers require that all candidates campaign independently of one another.
2. Candidates are not permitted to endorse any other candidates or serve on other campaign teams. This includes speaking to other MSS members about other candidates, in a formal capacity. For example, a candidate should not actively reach out to MSS members on behalf of another candidate.
3. Campaign team members may be part of 2 (two) teams, as long as they are not supporting two candidates running for the same pair of positions. Paired positions include Section Delegate/Alternate Section Delegate and Speaker/Vice Speaker. For example, if a campaign member is managing a candidate for Section Delegate, they may not serve on the campaign teams of any other candidates for Section Delegate or Alternate Section Delegate.
 - a. Campaign team members are not permitted to endorse candidates other than the campaign team(s) to which they belong to.
 - b. This includes speaking to other MSS members about candidates they are not managing, in a formal capacity. For example, a campaign team member should not actively reach out to MSS members on behalf of another candidate.

IX. Region Involvement, Responsibilities, & Endorsements

1. Restrictions: All region members may engage in campaigns on behalf of themselves including Regional Governing Council members and Regional Delegates and Alternate Delegates as outlined in the Speakers' Ruling **except** the Regional Chair, Chair-elect, members of the Governing Council and the Student Trustee.
2. Sharing Election Information: The Speakers will ensure all the Official Election Guide and all available candidate information is promptly disseminated to Region Executive

Councils. MSS Region Chairs or Acting Region Chairs must share the Official Election Guide to their respective Region channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and/or GroupMe pages at least seven (7) business days prior to the MSS Meeting, and must share floor candidate information when it is available on the AMA website.

- a. If a Region chooses to share a candidate's Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page on both the Region's Facebook and Instagram pages, the posts must be identical in substance, including any graphics or photographs.
 - i. Any member of the Region may share a candidate's campaign page with the exception of the MSS Region Chair, unless the Region has voted to formally support that candidate pursuant to Speakers' Ruling Section IX.3.
 - ii. Any additional public testimony or discussion on the candidate by Region members on the Region Facebook or Instagram pages is restricted to the comments section of the initial post.
 - b. Region Chairs/Acting Region Chairs and Candidates should make every effort to move direct communication with MSS members that arises during Region Facebook or Instagram posts to their campaign page(s).
3. Region Candidate Discussions & Endorsements: Regions may provide public support for candidates as permitted by Region Bylaws. When speaking in official support of a candidate on behalf of an MSS Region. If a Region does not have Bylaws specifying quorum or rules dictating official support, MSS Region Chairs or Acting Region Chairs must contact the Speakers for guidance (MSS IOP [6.5.9.3.2.1.1.1](#)).
- a. Candidate Discussions/Forums: If a candidate discussion and/or candidate forum is being held regarding candidates at the Region level, information regarding the structure of these forums and/or discussions must be relayed to your Speakers by MSS Region Chairs or Acting Region Chairs fourteen (14) days prior to the Region meetings.
 - i. The Speakers will contact candidates regarding the date and time of Region candidate forums at least ten (10) days in advance of the scheduled dates.
 - ii. The Region Executive Council must advertise the forum and provide candidate information to Region members over Region communication channels at least seven (7) days in advance of the forum.
 - iii. Candidates, whose candidacy has been approved by the AMA, will be notified of the format of Region discussions by your Speakers and will be provided with instructions for attendance.
 - iv. If a candidate is in attendance at their own Region meeting, they must leave said meeting during discussion of other candidates for the position they are running for. Members of a candidate's campaign team may attend their own Region meeting, but should disclose their position during discussions.
 - v. Candidates and their campaign team are prohibited from contacting Regions to request time to speak during their Region business and policy meetings.

- vi. One of the Speakers, Rules Committee Members, or Governing Council Members must be present at the Region candidate forums
- b. Endorsements: Regions may endorse any candidate including candidates from Regions outside their own, pursuant to Region Bylaws (MSS IOP [6.5.9.3.2.1.1](#)). In order to maintain the collegiality of our section, Regions may not vote to oppose any candidate. (MSS IOP [6.5.9.3.2.3](#))
 - i. MSS Region Chairs or Acting Region Chairs must be sure that an official vote by the Region took place in accordance with the Region's Bylaws and rules dictating official support. (MSS IOP [6.5.9.3.2.1](#))
 - ii. The endorsing Region must:
 - 1. Document that quorum was met when the voting occurred (MSS IOP [6.5.9.3.2.1.2](#))
 - 2. Document the results of the vote pursuant to Region Bylaws. (MSS IOP [6.5.9.3.2.1.3](#))
 - 3. Have one member of the GC or Rules Committee in attendance during the endorsement.
 - iii. Upon endorsement of a candidate, the Chair or Acting Chair of the endorsing Region should also share notice of the endorsement with all candidates and Region members using their Region GroupMe channel or main communication channel.
 - iv. Upon endorsement of a candidate by a Region and at the approval of the MSS Region Chair or Acting Region Chair, the endorsed candidate or a campaign team member may also share a notice of official endorsement to their Facebook and/or Instagram campaign page.
 - 1. A candidate's announcement of endorsement by a Region shall be limited to one (1) post on the candidate's Facebook campaign page and one (1) post on the candidate's Instagram campaign page.
 - v. Unless their respective Region has voted to endorse a candidate, MSS Region Chairs, Chairs-Elect or Acting Chairs may not endorse a candidate through any means of communication through which AMA members receive official news from their MSS Region Chair, which includes, but is not limited to, email, telephone, Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and GroupMe.
 - vi. The Speakers may advertise Region endorsements of candidates.

X. Enforcement of Rules

1. Alleged infractions, including but not necessarily limited to violations of the Campaign Rules, should be reported in writing to the MSS Speakers, or to the Chair(s) of the MSS Rules Committee within 48 hours of initial identification of an alleged infraction. The individuals responsible for carrying out investigation of the infraction, from heretofore referred to as the designated investigator(s), are appointed according to MSS IOP [6.5.12.2](#).

- a. The designated investigator(s) may include your Speakers, the Rules Committee Chair(s), or AMA Staff, depending on the nature of the investigation.
 - b. Any member may speak with the designated investigator(s), about suspected rules violations before filing a formal report. This will allow the designated investigator(s) to clarify the interpretation of the rules when assessing a potential infraction.
 - c. When the designated investigator(s) receives an allegation against a candidate or campaign, said investigator(s) may choose to consider and remedy the infraction informally, depending on the gravity of the accusation as judged by the designated investigator(s).
 - i. A formal report for an alleged infraction will result in an investigation and the return of a final verdict from the designated investigator(s) as laid out in X.2.
 - ii. Allegations in writing which explicitly state that they are not formal reports will be defined as an informal report and will not be counted towards a formal infraction against a candidate, unless deemed to be a major infraction by your Speakers.
 - iii. The designated investigator(s) are not required to communicate the resolution of informal reports directly to all relevant campaigns.
 - d. The designated investigator(s) will keep all reports of alleged infractions, whether formal or informal, in strict confidence to protect the participation of MSS members in this process.
 - e. The designated investigator(s) will communicate the resolution of formal reports directly to all relevant campaigns.
 - f. Should your Speakers be the witness to an infraction, so long as they are eligible to conduct investigations, they may decide to resolve the situation informally, regardless of history of previous infractions. However, your Speakers may also decide to file a formal report. If the formal report is filed based on an infraction witnessed by only one of your Speakers, the witnessing Speaker will recuse themselves from the investigation and the other Speaker may continue to oversee the investigation. However, if both Speakers are witnesses to the infraction, the MSS Chair with the Rules Committee Chair will oversee the investigation, and the Speakers filing the report shall have no role in the investigation or adjudication of the violation.
2. Should an investigation be required, the designated investigator(s), in conjunction with the Rules Committee, shall be fully responsible for its conduct in accordance with the (MSS IOP [6.5.12.2](#)) and the below guidelines:
- a. All formal reports will require investigation.
 - b. The designated investigator(s) will inform the accused candidate of the nature of the allegations by email and/or in writing, providing as much information as possible without directly or indirectly revealing the identity of the reporting party.
 - c. The designated investigator(s) will ascertain the candidate's interpretation of the rules with their account of the actions reported.

- d. The designated investigator(s) will obtain a list of people the candidate would like to be interviewed in the investigation.
- e. The designated investigator(s) will not proceed with an investigation until the candidate has had an opportunity to speak with the investigator(s), unless:
 - i. The candidate cannot speak with the investigator(s) within one week of initial contact, or
 - ii. The election is scheduled to occur within one week and the designated investigator(s) have made a good faith effort to speak with the candidate.
- f. For any concern about the validities and impartiality of the investigation conducted by the designated investigator(s):
 - i. The MSS GC will then ensure that the investigation was performed in good faith and the investigator(s)' ruling was appropriate.
 - ii. This will require a majority vote of the GC, with the recusal of the Chair.
 - iii. The reporter and those who give testimony to the GC will remain anonymous.
 - iv. The accused will have the opportunity to speak to the GC only on the validity and impartiality of the investigative process.
- g. For campaign violations that involve the inappropriate campaigning by MSS members, your Speakers will determine the gravity of the allegations involved as either minor or major infractions.
 - i. For an infraction deemed to be minor, such as inadvertent or unintentional mistakes, your Speakers would rather not penalize candidates for actions beyond their control.
 - ii. A written warning preserving the anonymity of the offending party will be sent to all known candidates involved in the election.
 - iii. Any infraction made by an MSS member deemed major (including, but not limited to, campaigning using any official AMA mode of communications such as listservs or campaigning for a candidate outside of the campaign period), or any subsequent violation by an individual that has already received a warning, will be dealt with as a major infraction via formal investigation as previously described in this section.
- h. Any infraction made by a member of a candidate's campaign team will be considered as an infraction by the candidate, and will be dealt with via formal investigation as previously described in this section.

XI. MSS Assembly Meeting

1. Any rules of procedure not specifically outlined in this Speakers' Ruling, the MSS IOPs, or the AMA Constitution and Bylaws default to the parliamentary authority used by the AMA House of Delegates - the current edition of The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, as outlined in [AMA Bylaws 11.1](#).
 - a. Further communication regarding business of our MSS meeting will be provided to the section in a timely manner, pending decisions from the greater AMA
2. Election Voting: Election Voting is covered by (MSS IOP 6.6 & 6.7)

- a. Voter Eligibility: Credentialed MSS members acting as MSS Delegates for the meeting will be eligible to vote.
- b. Method of Voting: When there is no contest, a majority vote without ballot shall elect. All other elections shall be by ballot.
 - i. All contested elections shall use instant runoff voting without separate runoff elections.
 - 1. The ballot shall give voters the option of ranking candidates in order of preference.
 - 2. If a candidate receives a simple majority of first preferences, that candidate is elected.
 - 3. If no candidate receives a majority of first preferences, an instant runoff re-tabulation shall be performed. The instant runoff re-tabulation shall be conducted in rounds. In each round, each voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever continuing candidate the voter has ranked highest. The candidate with the fewest votes after each round shall be eliminated until only two (2) candidates remain, with the candidate then receiving the greatest number of votes being elected.
- c. No ballots will be cast after the expiration of the voting period. Upon receipt of the election results, the Presiding Officer will announce the results to the Assembly.
- d. Appeals: Appeals of the election process and results must be made in writing to the Assembly's Presiding Officer no later than two (2) hours after the official announcement of the final results.
 - i. Any appeal of the process of ballot(s) distribution will be considered by the Rules Committee. Consideration of such appeals and merits of said appeals will be determined in whatever manner the committee deems necessary. The results of the committee's recommendations must be forwarded in writing by the Committee Chair to the Assembly's Presiding Officer.
 - ii. Any appeal of the ballot processing, tabulation, and announcement of results, shall be considered by the Credentials Committee. Consideration of such appeals and merits of said appeals will be determined in whatever manner the committee deems necessary. The results of the committee's recommendations must be forwarded in writing by the Committee Chair to the Assembly's Presiding Officer.
 - iii. No person who is a candidate in the election being appealed may participate in any part of the appeals process.
 - iv. The Assembly's Presiding Officer and the Governing Council will consider the appeals report(s) from the Committee(s) dealing with the matter. Final decision on the election results will be the jurisdiction of the Governing Council.