

MADHUSUDAN LAW UNIVERSITY, CUTTACK

Students' Union Election 2026–27

Guidelines for Contesting Candidates

1. Appointment of Polling Agents

1. Each contesting candidate may appoint polling agents in accordance with the prescribed election rules.
2. The appointment of polling agents must be made in the prescribed format and submitted to the Election Authority within the stipulated time.
3. Polling agents must carry their appointment letters and valid university identity cards.
4. Polling agents must report to the designated polling station before the commencement of polling.
5. Polling agents shall observe polling proceedings without interfering with the duties of polling personnel.
6. Polling agents shall not canvass, influence voters, or disclose the voting choices of any voter.
7. **No Mobile Phones/Electronics communication gadgets** shall be allowed for Polling Agents inside the Polling Booth.

2. Appointment of Counting Agents

1. Each contesting candidate may appoint counting agents in accordance with the prescribed election rules.
2. The names and particulars of counting agents must be submitted to the Election Authority within the stipulated time.
3. Counting agents must report to the designated counting centre at the prescribed time.
4. Counting agents shall maintain discipline and follow the instructions of the Election Authority or the officer authorised to conduct counting.
5. Counting agents may observe the counting process but shall not touch ballot papers or interfere with the counting officials.
6. Any objection regarding the validity of a ballot paper or counting procedure must be raised before the authorised officer in the prescribed manner.


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7. The decision of the authorised election officer shall be followed in accordance with the applicable election rules.

8. No Mobile Phone/Electronics communication gadgets gadgets shall be allowed for Counting Agents inside the Polling Booth.

3. Election Campaign and Canvassing

1. Candidates may canvass peacefully and fairly within the period permitted by the Election Authority.

2. Canvassing must be conducted strictly in accordance with the university's election rules and the applicable Lyngdoh Committee recommendations.

3. No candidate shall resort to intimidation, coercion, threats, inducements, or undue influence to secure votes.

4. No candidate shall offer money, gifts, food, or any other material benefit to voters in exchange for votes.

5. No campaign material shall be displayed on university property without prior permission.

6. Campaigning shall not disturb classes, academic activities, or the normal functioning of the University.

7. No candidate shall make defamatory statements, spread false information, or engage in personal attacks against another candidate.

8. The use of loudspeakers, rallies, processions, or other campaign activities shall be subject to the University's prior permission and applicable rules.

9. Candidates shall remove campaign materials within the period prescribed by the Election Authority.

10. Campaigning must stop at the prescribed time before polling begins.

4. Maintenance of Discipline and Decorum

1. All candidates and their supporters must maintain peace, discipline, and decorum throughout the election process.

2. No candidate or supporter shall engage in violence, physical confrontation, intimidation, or abusive behaviour.

3. No candidate shall obstruct the duties of polling personnel, counting personnel, or the Election Authority.

4. Unauthorised persons shall not enter polling stations or counting centres.


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5. Candidates and their supporters shall comply with instructions issued by the Presiding Officer, Polling Officer, or Election Authority.
6. Any complaint regarding misconduct or violation of election rules must be submitted to the Election Authority through the prescribed procedure.
7. Any violation of election rules may invite appropriate action under the applicable university rules.

5. Casting of Votes and Validity of Ballot Papers

A. Procedure for Casting Votes

1. Every eligible voter must produce a valid university identity card or other prescribed identification.
2. A voter may cast their vote only once and must follow the instructions of the polling personnel.
3. The voter must put a clear tick mark (✓) in the designated box against the candidate of their choice.
4. The voter must maintain the secrecy of the ballot.
5. After marking the ballot paper, the voter must fold it as instructed and deposit it in the designated ballot box.
6. **No Voter shall carry Mobile Phone/Electronics communication gadgets** into the Polling Booth.

B. Valid Votes.

1. A clear tick mark (✓) placed against one candidate for a particular post shall be treated as a valid vote, subject to the prescribed election rules.
2. The voter's intention must be clear and unambiguous.
3. The mark should be confined to the designated box against the candidate of choice.

C. Invalid Votes Candidates should be informed that a ballot paper may be rejected, subject to the prescribed election rules, in the following circumstances:

1. A tick mark is placed against more than one candidate for the same post.
2. A mark other than the prescribed tick mark is used, where the rules require a tick mark.
3. The tick mark crosses the boundary of the designated box and encroaches upon the box of another candidate, making the voter's intention unclear.


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4. The ballot paper bears the voter's signature, name, or any other identifying mark prohibited by the rules.
5. The ballot paper is marked in such a manner that the voter's choice cannot be determined.
6. The ballot paper is otherwise marked in violation of the prescribed election rules.

Important clarification: A tick mark crossing a box boundary should not automatically invalidate a vote if the voter's intention remains clear. The decision must be made according to the University's approved election rules.

6. Polling Procedure and Voting Arrangements

1. Polling shall take place at the venue and during the hours notified by the Election Authority.
2. Voters must enter the polling station in an orderly manner.
Queue discipline must be maintained.
3. No campaigning shall be permitted inside the polling station or within any restricted area prescribed by the Election Authority.
4. No candidate or polling agent shall attempt to influence voters inside the polling station.
5. Any technical problem, disturbance, or irregularity must immediately be reported to the Presiding Officer.
6. No person shall take photographs of a marked ballot paper or otherwise compromise ballot secrecy.
7. The polling personnel shall ensure that ballot papers are issued only to eligible voters.

7. Counting of Votes and Declaration of Results

1. Counting shall take place at the notified venue, date, and time.
2. Only authorised counting agents and officials shall be permitted inside the counting centre.
3. Counting shall be conducted transparently and in accordance with the prescribed procedure.
4. Disputed ballot papers shall be placed before the authorised officer for a decision under the applicable rules.
5. Counting agents may raise objections in the prescribed manner and at the appropriate stage.


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6. No counting agent shall handle ballot papers unless specifically authorised.
7. The result shall be declared by the competent election authority after completion of counting and verification.
8. All candidates and their supporters shall maintain discipline during and after the declaration of results.
9. Any request for recounting shall be submitted in accordance with the applicable election rules.

8. Complaints and Dispute Resolution

1. All complaints relating to nomination, canvassing, polling, counting, or misconduct shall be submitted in writing to the Election Authority.
2. Complaints should contain the relevant facts and supporting evidence, wherever available.
3. Candidates shall not take the law into their own hands or disrupt the election process.
4. Disputes shall be considered by the competent authority in accordance with the applicable rules.
5. Candidates shall cooperate with the Election Authority in resolving disputes peacefully.

9. Prohibition of Unfair Practices

The following practices shall be strictly prohibited, subject to the applicable election rules:

1. Impersonation or voting in another person's name.
2. Bribery or offering inducements to voters.
3. Threatening, coercing, or intimidating voters.
4. Tampering with ballot papers or ballot boxes.
5. Attempting to cast more than one vote.
6. Interfering with the duties of election officials.
7. Creating disturbances or engaging in violence
8. Deliberately spreading false information about candidates or election procedures.

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