

ELECTION OFFICE, SIKKIM UNIVERSITY, GANGTOK
Sikkim University Students' Association Elections 2023-24
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CANDIDATES

1. No candidate(s)/supporter(s) of candidate(s) will be allowed to enter any University Department or Hostel premises for the purpose of canvassing without proper identification i.e. University Identity Card or an Identity Slip issued by the Office of the Chief Election Officer.
2. Candidates are to take prior permission from the Head of the Department/In- Charge to canvass at teaching departments and from the wardens at hostels. Candidates should make sure that the regular classes are not disturbed due to canvassing.
3. No candidate or her/his supporters will indulge in any act of indiscipline such as:
 - (a) Physical assault or threat to the physical force, against any member of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the University and their family members and against any voter/student of the University.
 - (b) Carrying of/ use of/ threat of use of any weapons.
 - (c) Any violation of the provisions of Civil Rights Protection Act 1976
 - (d) Violation of the status, dignity and honour of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Differently Abled, EWS and Women.
 - (e) Causing disruption in any manner of the academic functioning of the University System.

Such indiscipline by a candidate or the supporter of a candidate would lead to disciplinary action including the cancellation of candidature.

4. No candidate shall indulge in, nor shall abet, any activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious, regional, linguistic, or between any ideological group(s) of students.
5. The candidates shall not appeal to regional, caste or communal feelings for securing votes.
6. All candidates shall be prohibited from indulging or abetting, any activities such as bribing or intimidation or impersonation of voters, canvassing or the use of propaganda within 100 (ONE HUNDRED) meters of the premises of the polling station
7. All candidates shall be prohibited from holding meetings during the period of 24 (TWENTY FOUR) hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.
8. Criticism of other candidates, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of any aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of other candidates or supporters of such other candidates. Criticism of other candidates, or their supporters, based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
9. No candidate shall be allowed to make use of printed posters, printed pamphlets, or any other printed material for the purpose of canvassing. Candidates may only utilize handmade posters and materials for the purpose of canvassing, provided that such handmade materials are procured within the allowed expenditure.

10. The candidates may utilize handmade posters for campaign which can be displayed in the allocated places in various buildings. Such posters are to be removed by the candidate within 24 hours of the declaration of results.
11. No candidate/supporter, deface or cause any destruction to any property of the University. All candidates shall be held jointly and severally liable for any destruction or defacing of any University property.
12. No candidate shall be permitted to carry out processions or public meetings or in any way canvass or distribute propaganda outside the Academic/Departmental and hostel buildings of the University.
13. The use of loudspeakers, vehicles, animals, printed materials like banners, posters and pamphlets for the purpose of canvassing shall be strictly prohibited.
14. On the day of polling, the Candidates shall:
 - i. Cooperate with the Election Officers and follow their instructions to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to annoyance or obstruction.
 - ii. Not serve or distribute cash or any kind like eatables or other solid and liquid consumables on polling day.
 - iii. Not hand out any propaganda on the polling day or near polling stations.
15. Except the voters, no one shall enter the polling station without the permission of Election Officers.
16. All candidates shall be jointly responsible for ensuring the cleaning up of the polling area within 48 (FORTY EIGHT) hours of the conclusion of polling.
17. Certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Section 153 A and Chapter IX A: Offences Relating to Election) may also be made applicable to the election of the SUSA if deemed necessary.
18. If the candidates have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections they may bring the same to the notice of the Election Observer/Patron.

IMPORTANT:

(i) Any violation of this Code of Conduct may make the candidate liable to be stripped of her/his candidature or from the elected post, as the case may be. The University may also take appropriate disciplinary action against such a violator.

(ii) Contesting, campaigning and voting for the Sikkim University Students' Association Elections is the absolute prerogative of the existing students of Sikkim University. If any teacher, non-teaching staff of the University, ex-student or any other is found to indulge in any of the activities related to SUSA elections, disciplinary action as per rules and regulations will immediately follow.