

The Partick Thistle Football Club Trust Club Board Representative Election 2024 Election Rules

Approved by the Trustees on Wednesday 3rd April 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Club-Trust Agreement, signed in February 2024, there is a commitment from both the Partick Thistle Football Club Trust (“the PTFC Trust”) and Partick Thistle Football Club Limited (“the Football Club”) to appoint two fan representatives on the Football Club Board of Directors (“the Club Board”) by the end of May 2024.
- 1.2 In the longer-term, elected fan representation on the Club Board, and indeed all other Club Board appointments, will be dealt with under the Club’s Corporate Governance Manual. However, that document is still under development. The Election Rules should therefore be understood as interim arrangements, enabling the first set of democratic elections to take place while work is done to put elected fan representation on a more permanent footing.
- 1.3 At the end of May 2024, the PTFC Trust will make two nominations for director appointments to the Club Board. These nominations will be determined by the results of a PTFC Trust beneficiary vote. The Election Rules set out the process by which those nominations will be arrived at.
- 1.4 Any individual becoming a Club Board member as a result of this nominations process will serve in that role until no later than the 123rd Annual General Meeting of the Football Club. Based on the previous pattern of AGMs, we expect this term of office to expire in late 2025 or early 2026.

2. The election timeline

- 2.1 The election period will commence on **Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 12.01am**.
- 2.2 Eligible beneficiaries will have until **Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 11.59pm** to submit their nomination to be a candidate in the election, or to withdraw their nomination.
- 2.3 All valid nominations will be announced on **Thursday 16th May 2024**.
- 2.4 Ballots for the election will be issued no later than **Wednesday 22nd May 2024**.
- 2.5 All ballots must be submitted no later than **Wednesday 29th May 2024 at 10.00pm** to be valid and counted.
- 2.6 The results of the election will be announced on **Thursday 30th May 2024**.

3. Oversight of the election

- 3.1 The election process will be administered by the PTFC Trust's Election Management Committee.
- 3.2 The Election Management Committee will consist of three people:
 - (a) one nominee from TJF 1876 Limited (t/a The Jags Foundation)
 - (b) one nominee from the Partick Thistle Supporters Association (t/a The Jags Trust)
 - (c) one independent nominee, appointed by agreement of both trustees
- 3.3 The Election Management Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the Election Rules are adhered to. It will rule on any disputes that may arise as to the interpretation of the rules or the conduct of the elections.
- 3.4 The ballot will be conducted using [ChoiceVoting](#), an online voting platform. It operates using an automated secret ballot, generating and sending a unique voter ID and key, which is then emailed to each beneficiary.

4. Standing for election

- 4.1 To be eligible to stand for election (to be "a candidate") an individual must be a beneficiary of the PTFC Trust at the beginning of the election period (i.e. on **Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 12.01am**). Whether or not someone is a beneficiary can be clarified by contacting the PTFC Trust at contact@theptfctrust.co.uk.
- 4.2 A person is ineligible to be a candidate if, at the beginning of the election period or subsequently, they are, or become, prohibited by Scots law, or by any rule of the Scottish Football Association or Scottish Professional Football League, from serving as a director of the Football Club. Potential candidates should have particular regard to the "fit and proper persons" test set out in [the Articles of Association of the Scottish Football Association](#).
- 4.3 If the Election Management Committee reasonably believes that a person is ineligible, under 4.1 or 4.2 above, to serve as a director of the Football Club, it may at its absolute discretion disqualify the individual, excluding them from any ballot.
- 4.4 All individuals on the beneficiary database will be sent an email link, shortly after the election period commences, to the nomination form, which they must complete if they wish to be a candidate. Candidates will be given the opportunity to make a personal statement (of up to 200 words) and to provide a portrait-style photograph. These will appear on the ChoiceVoting ballot and will be made prominently available online during the election campaign.
- 4.5 The Companies Act 2006 and the Articles of Association of the Football Club regulate the conduct of Partick Thistle Football Club directors. By submitting the nomination form, an individual acknowledges these legal obligations and agrees to abide by them if elected.

5. The franchise and the voting system

5.1 Every individual listed as a beneficiary in the beneficiary database as of **Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 12.01am** will be eligible to vote in the elections. Whether or not someone is a beneficiary can be clarified by contacting the PTFC Trust at contact@theptfctrust.co.uk.

5.2 The electoral system used will be [Approval Voting](#). A maximum of two candidates may be endorsed on each beneficiary's ballot.

5.3 When the polls close, candidates will be ranked based on the number of votes received. The two candidates with the most votes will become the nominees of the PTFC Trust. In the event of a tied vote, lots will be drawn to distinguish between the candidates.

5.4 If for any reason a nominee is unable to assume appointment as a Club Director following the beneficiary vote, the trustees may, by unanimity, agree to nominate the next highest ranked candidate in the election for appointment.

6. Conduct in the election

6.1 Candidates may canvass support via social media. This should strictly be in support of their candidacy and should not include any derogatory comment about other candidates, the Trust, the trustees, or the Football Club.

6.2 In particular candidates must refrain from:

(a) defaming any candidate, the Trust, either of the trustees (or their representatives), or any third-party;

(b) harassing, bullying, or unlawfully discriminating against any candidate, the Trust, either of the trustees (or their representatives), or any third-party;

(c) making false or misleading statements; or

(d) impersonating any other candidate, the Trust, either of the trustees (or their representatives) or any third-party.

6.3 Reasonable criticism will, obviously, be permitted in the course of the campaign. However, the boundaries between reasonable criticism and personal abuse must be recognised and respected by all candidates.

6.4 If a candidate breaches the rules on election conduct, they may be disqualified by the Election Management Committee from the election.