



University Board of Elections
Fall 2024 Rules Report



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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Introduction | 3 |
| University Board of Elections Rules | 4 |
| Common Violations | 4 |
| Public Summaries of Cases | 5-6 |
| Official Rulings | 5-6 |
| Statistics | 7 |
| Ruling Statistics for Fall '24 | 7 |
| Mean Ruling Processing Time for Fall '24 | 7 |

Introduction

The **University Board of Elections (UBE)** is a special status organization (SSO) at the University of Virginia which aims to supervise all University-wide student elections. These include elections for organizations such as [Student Council](#), the [Honor Committee](#), the [University Judiciary Committee](#), and School Councils.

In order to achieve this goal, the UBE maintains an internal **Rules Committee**, whose purpose is to enforce the [UBE Rules and Regulations](#) in order to sustain the trust and honor in our elections. The jurisdiction, extent, and depth of these rules and regulations are detailed in the preceding rules document.

New UBE rules became effective on September 10th, 2024. The Fall Residence-Leadership Experience (RLE) First-Year Council (FYC) elections and the New Student Elections (NSE) were the first elections administered by the UBE operating under these new rules.

Along with the new rules and regulations, the UBE Rules Committee chose to undertake multiple new policies at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year. This included the issuance of [this rules report](#) along with holding office hours for candidates in the NSE to ask questions about the rules.

For the purposes of this report, rulings detailed below are only those issued prior to or during the extent of the RLE-FYC elections and NSE.

University Board of Elections Rules

The [UBE Rules and Regulations](#) detail the power and jurisdiction of the UBE Rules Committee, rules regarding campaigning and electioneering, election procedures, processes in event of rules violations, and future amendments to the rules.

When the UBE receives a complaint via our online complaint form, the UBE Rules Committee team performs an investigation to determine whether a violation has occurred. The Rules Team makes an **Initial Ruling** and determines the appropriate sanction. Additionally, UBE provides **advisory opinions** to aid students, upon their inquiry, in interpreting the UBE rules and regulations. These opinions are nonbinding advice and are given when no rules violation has taken place.

Common Rules Violations

Historically, the two most common violations that the UBE encounters are both minor violations: improper signage and improper campaign material attribution. These also make up the majority of advisory opinions the UBE makes, as it is often what most candidate inquiries are regarding.

Data regarding the most common rules violations found in this election cycle can be found in the **Statistics** section below.

Public Summaries of Cases

There were five official UBE Rules decisions along with four advisory UBE Rules decisions during the Fall election cycle. Details of advisory opinions are not included, but summaries of official rulings are included below. These summaries are written in a way to maintain the anonymity of the complainants and the accused.

Official Rulings

Official Ruling 1 (NSE):

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging that a prospective candidate in the NSE election had created a campaign-oriented social media account prior to the stated allowed campaigning date.

The initial ruling of the UBE Rules Committee was for the candidate to delete or archive the social media account. The accused student complied and no appeal was made on their behalf.

Official Ruling 2 (NSE):

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging two separate minor violations against two candidates in the NSE election: both candidates were accused of improper signage and leaving a campaign table unattended for multiple hours.

The initial ruling of the UBE Rules Committee was to issue two minor violations to each accused candidate. Both students complied, removed the improper files, and no appeal was made on either of their behalfs.

Official Ruling 3 (NSE):

Complaints were made to the UBE by a single complainant alleging eight separate examples of improper signage against two candidates in the NSE election.

The initial ruling of the UBE Rules Committee was for the candidates to remove the improper signage, along with issuing a singular minor violation individually to each accused candidate for all of the improper signage examples. Both candidates complied, removed the improper fliers, and no appeal was filed on their behalf.

Official Ruling 4 (NSE):

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging a minor violation against the same two

candidates mentioned in Official Ruling 2 in the NSE election. The complaint alleged improper signage. While the complaint was substantiated, it detailed improper signage documented during the 'grace period' given to the accused candidates in Official Ruling 2 to take down the improper fliers detailed in that ruling. The fliers had already been taken down.

Thus, the UBE Rules Committee ruled no action was necessary.

Official Ruling 5 (NSE Runoff):

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging that two candidates in the NSE election had posted campaign material to a social media platform prior to the allowed stated campaigning start time.

The accused candidates provided proof that the material had not been posted prior to the allowed stated campaigning start time. Thus, the UBE Rules Committee ruled no action was necessary.

Rulings Statistics for Fall 2024¹

| Item | Count | Percent of Total ² |
|---|-------|-------------------------------|
| Number (#) of Rulings | 9 | 100% |
| Advisory | 4 | 44% |
| Official | 5 | 55% |
| # of Complainants | 7 | 100% |
| # of Accused (in official) | 5 | - |
| # of minor violations given to candidates | 6 | - |
| # of major violations given to candidates | 0 | 0% |
| # of candidates disqualified | 0 | - |
| # of Complaints Submitted to UBE | 11 | 100% |
| # of complaints Involving signage | 9 | 81% |
| # of complaints Involving social media | 2 | 18% |

Mean Ruling Processing Time for Fall 2024

| Item | Time |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Average Ruling Processing Time | 2.11 days |
| Rulings processed in ≤ 2 days | 6 |
| Rulings processed in > 2 days | 3 |

¹ Rulings in 'Fall' refer to those rulings issued during the RLE FYC and NSE elections which the UBE administered.

² Percent totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.