

I-17 AMA-MSS Speakers' Ruling

Dear Candidates and AMA-MSS Leadership,

In an effort to ensure a fair and transparent campaign period leading up to I-17 in Hawaii, your Speakers have established this document of rulings so that all candidates have equal access to all rules. This document will be open to the AMA-MSS and specifically targeted to AMA-MSS Governing Council, AMA-MSS State and Region Chairs, AMA Council Members, AMA Standing Committees, and AMA Convention Committees. All Governing Council candidates that submitted campaign materials by the deadline will receive a copy of this document, and a copy will be provided in the meeting Election Manual.

This document will outline past Speaker's Rulings that remain in effect, new Speaker's Rulings, and how your Speakers plan to enforce the rules. Remember that campaign rules outlined in the [Internal Operating Procedures](#) (IOP) are always in effect, and this document clarifies some of the rules. MSS IOP IV.D.6.b charges the 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 elections at the national meeting, presided over by the Speakers, are in accordance with the by-laws and procedures of our AMA and MSS. Clarifying your Speaker's interpretations of the IOP early allows candidates to campaign accordingly and avoids members misinterpreting ambiguous IOPs. In hearing feedback from students on the voting methods of the house, your Speakers have also included a section on voting procedures in order to ensure clarity. When in doubt, please reach out to your Speakers proactively with questions – no question is too small or silly.

Deadline for Submitting Materials for Candidacy

1. The deadline for submitting candidacy applications including materials to be included in the I-17 Election Guide is **October 12th, 2017 by 11:59pm CT.**
2. No new applications will be accepted after this deadline, although supporting materials will be accepted until the election guide is posted online.
3. After this date, candidates must be nominated and run from the floor for any of the MSS positions that are up for I-17 election.
4. Candidates who run from the floor will not have materials included in the I-17 Election Guide nor will they be able to participate in the I-17 Candidate Forum.
5. Candidates who run from the floor must provide the requisite application materials to the appropriate MSS staff member (mss@ama-assn.org, ATTN: Adam Currier and Haley Guion) immediately following Friday evening Region Meetings.

Campaign Communications

1. Refer to MSS IOP V.D.6 Campaign Communications.
2. Online Communications:
 - a. **No campaign websites or web pages will be allowed for campaign promotion, with the sole exception of a Facebook page.**
 - b. A candidate should make every reasonable effort to ensure that only MSS members 'Like' the campaign page.
 - i. One suggestion to comply with this ruling is to include an informational blurb on the candidate's Facebook page encouraging only MSS members to 'like' the page.

- ii. When sharing a Facebook campaign page on your personal page, please make sure to include a small sentence on your personal page prefacing that only MSS members may be allowed to “like” the page.
- c. A candidate may choose to make the Speaker and/or Vice Speaker an administrator of the campaign page in order to monitor the status of the page.
- d. Candidates are allowed to use their personal Facebook pages for an initial post to share their campaign pages online.
 - iii. Further updates on social media should be restricted to their specific campaign page.
- e. Candidates may share their campaign pages within their own Region’s Facebook pages.
- f. Candidates may have members of other regions share their campaign pages to their respective Region Facebook pages. The post to the Region Facebook page should only raise awareness of the candidate’s page and not include endorsement or testimony.
- g. Individual MSS members who are not prohibited from campaign involvement (see Campaign Involvement Section) may share candidate pages on their personal Facebook pages, where they are allowed to elaborate with testimony or endorsement.
 - iv. Linking to the candidate’s Facebook campaign page using any other social media platform should adhere to these same guidelines.
- h. All items listed in MSS IOP V.D.7.d may be displayed on a candidate’s Facebook page. In addition, the following items may be displayed on Facebook:
 - . One (1) optional letter of endorsement by the Dean or Dean’s representative from the candidate’s medical school.
 - i. One (1) optional letter of endorsement by staff of the state medical society from the state in which the candidate attends medical school
 - ii. Any letters of endorsement of MSS members, regions or organizations (including any specialty organization with voting representation within the MSS pursuant to COLRP Report B-A-13). In order 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 by-laws dictating official endorsement
 - 2. Take and document the results of an official vote
 - 3. Document that quorum was met when the voting occurred
- i. No other letters of endorsement will be allowed to be listed, displayed or linked as a resource.

Campaign Materials and Speeches During the Meeting

1. Candidates may distribute only the following campaign materials:
 - a. **Buttons, stickers, and pins no greater than 2.5” in greatest dimension**
 - b. **Standard-size business cards** (See MSS IOP V.D.4)
2. Candidates may not distribute the following types of campaign materials:
 - a. **No trinkets, candy, pens, or other items may be displayed or distributed.** (See MSS IOP V.D.4)
3. At the I-17 meeting, distribution of curricula vitae and personal statements will be limited to the Candidate Forum Displays. (See MSS IOP V.D.7.d.i)
 - a. Each candidate will be provided the following:
 - . One 22”x28” white, foam-backed display board.

- i. One display easel.
 - ii. Tape to affix the materials to the display board.
- b. Each candidate's display board will have the candidate's name and desired office. **All names and offices will be displayed in black and white and in the same font, size and style.**
- c. Candidates must comply with the following rules of display:
 - iii. All materials must fit within the borders of the 22"x28" display board.
 - iv. All displayed materials must be in two-dimensions (i.e. no materials may project outward from the display board).
 - v. All materials must be black & white.
 - vi. Only the following items may be affixed to a candidate's display board exactly as they are shown in the digital I-16 Election Manual:
 - 1. Candidate's personal statement.
 - 2. Candidate's curriculum vitae.
 - 3. Candidate's letter of endorsement by the Dean or Dean's representative from the candidate's medical school.
 - 4. Candidate's letter of endorsement by staff of the state medical society from the state in which the candidate attends medical school.
- 4. **Candidates will have up to three minutes to speak to the MSS Assembly on Friday morning followed by one (or more questions), with a one-minute response allowed per question, determined by the Governing Council.** Time limits for speaking will be strictly enforced. (See MSS IOP VII.D.4)
- 5. At their discretion, the Speakers may, in case of a tie between two candidates, allow candidates the opportunity to give one-minute responses to one or more questions as determined by the Governing Council. Voting will re-commence immediately after.

Campaign Involvement

- 1. Per MSS IOPs, only members of the MSS may be publicly involved with any candidate's campaign. Your Speakers believe this provision encompasses public endorsements which are further restricted herein. (See MSS IOP V.D.7.a)
- 2. The following public endorsements will be permitted by your Speaker:
 - a. One (1) optional letter of endorsement by the Dean or Dean's representative from the medical school that the candidate is enrolled in, and; one (1) optional letter of endorsement by staff of the state society from the state the candidate attends medical school will be permitted as provided within this section.
 - i. These optional letters of endorsement may be included in the Election Manual and may be displayed publicly on Facebook.
 - ii. Pursuant to IOP V.D.7.a, during a national meeting, these items can only be publicly disseminated via the Election Manual and can only be publicly displayed at the candidate forum.
 - b. Endorsements of MSS members, regions or organizations (including any specialty organization with voting representation within the MSS pursuant to [COLRP Report B-A-13](#)).
 - i. In order to comply with this provision and avoid the possibility of an endorsement being called into questions, the endorsing entity must at minimum do the following:
 - 1. Follow the entity's by-laws regarding issuance of official endorsements.

2. Document that quorum was met when the voting occurred.
 3. Take and document the results of an official vote.
- ii. The optional letters of endorsement permitted by this section will not be included in the Elections Manual but may be displayed publicly on Facebook.
- iii. Pursuant to IOP V.D.7.d, during a national meeting, these items cannot be publicly disseminated nor displayed, **except on Facebook**.
- iv. When speaking in official support of a candidate on behalf of an MSS Region, MSS Region Chairs must be sure that an official vote by the Region took place in accordance with the Region's by-laws for quorum and rules dictating official support.
 1. Although not required, it is strongly recommended to document results of the vote and quorum in case the legitimacy of the endorsement is questioned. Without such documentation, your Speakers may rule a declared vote of support invalid.
 2. If a Region does not have by-laws specifying quorum or rules dictating official support, then they must contact your Speakers for guidance.
 3. Regions may not vote to take an official stance prior to the meeting at which elections occur, with the exception being Regions where candidates attend medical school.
 4. Regions may also not vote to oppose any candidate, only support.
3. **MSS Standing Committee members, MSS Convention Committee members (besides Rules), MSS Councilors, MSS Representatives and Liaisons to any AMA group or outside organization, AMPAC Student Advisory Board members, and Region Governing Council members except Chairs can endorse candidates as long as they do not endorse a candidate while using or acting under the title of their respective leadership position. (See MSS IOP V.D.7.c).**
 - a. These AMA leaders must maintain official neutrality when speaking in their leadership role, but they can endorse a candidate as an individual member of the MSS.
 - b. Any student holding a position in another Section or Council must disclose that they are speaking strictly on behalf as an individual MSS member, and not on behalf of a Section or Council they serve, and that the outcome of the election will have no impact on the execution of their duties.
 - c. These AMA leaders are permitted to wear campaign advertisements during meetings and to assist with candidate campaigns, with the following exception:
 - i. **MSS Reference Committee members are permitted to wear campaign advertisements but should remove them during the MSS Assembly business meeting.**
 - ii. **MSS Standing Committee members should remove campaign advertisements when hosting programming sessions during the national meeting.**
4. **MSS GC members, MSS Rules Committee members, MSS Region Chairs, and MSS members compensated by the AMA such as the AMA GRAF and MSS liaison to the BOT are not allowed to be involved in a campaign or to publicly endorse a candidate. (See MDD IOP V.D.7.b and this Speakers' Ruling).**
 - a. **These AMA leaders must maintain absolute neutrality when it comes to campaigns and candidates and are NOT permitted to publicly endorse a candidate.**

- i. Involvement in campaigns includes, but is not limited to, holding meetings, formally or informally, group or 1:1, to plan, advise, or discuss individual campaigns, **unless** all candidates are involved equally.
 - ii. Public endorsement, as it pertains to campaigning shall include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Wearing buttons and/or stickers during an AMA meeting
 - 2. 'Like'ing or stating support on any campaign webpage that is available to other AMA-MSS members (including Facebook campaign pages), besides the Speakers who can do so for the purpose of monitoring compliance to rulings.
 - 3. Speaking publicly in favor of or in opposition to any candidate
 - 4. Any action that could be construed as using a leadership position to influence the election as determined by your Speakers.
 - iii. **MSS Region 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 e-mail, telephone, Facebook, and Twitter.**
 - b. AMA leaders including MSS Region Chairs are encouraged to make information about candidates available to their region or state giving equal time to all candidates (See MSS IOP V.D.7.a.)
 - i. For instance, if someone in a leadership role shares a candidate Facebook page, the person must do it side by side with all other candidate pages with no signs of public endorsement of one candidate over another. **If any of the declared candidates do not have an equivalent page or mode of communication, then leadership should at least include the other candidates' names and available contact information.**
 - ii. AMA leaders should also announce candidates that are declared after their communication, if the candidacy is announced by the [deadline](#) to be included in the meeting's Election Guide, through the same mode of communication afforded to the other candidates.
 - c. **AMA leaders including MSS Region Chairs are not prevented by MSS IOP from speaking privately about their personal opinions of a candidate as long as it is clear they are speaking as an individual. (See MSS IOP V.D.7.c).**
 - i. **Your Speaker suggests prefacing all private statements of support with the fact that they support the candidate as an individual and not as an AMA leader.**
5. **MSS Region leaders other than Chair are permitted to wear candidate campaign materials, as long as buttons, stickers, etc. are not worn while presiding over a MSS Region meeting.**
 6. **MSS Regions are prohibited from having candidates or their campaigns present speeches at region business/policy meetings. The candidates should have enough opportunity to make their campaign known through their election materials, promotional materials, Candidate Forum, official speech at the Opening Assembly, and availability to answer questions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning for members to be able to make informed votes.**
 - a. **It is up to the discretion of Region Chairs whether or not to reserve time during their region business/policy meeting for internal Regional discussion of the campaign process and/or candidates.**

Joint Campaigns and Elections

1. In order to provide a fair campaign and election process for all candidates, your Speaker recommends that all candidates campaign independently of one another.
2. **No joint campaign materials (cards, buttons, pins, ribbons, etc.) nor joint campaign social media pages for joint candidate tickets will be permitted.**
3. All Governing Council positions are elected independently of one another, and each candidate can spend up to \$1,500 for supplies (not reimbursed by the AMA or AMA-MSS). (See MSS IOP V.D.5)

Campaign Period

1. **No campaigning for any other election besides those elections taking place at the present meeting will be permitted.** Campaigning for office to be elected at the next national meeting may begin following the closure of the preceding national meeting. (See MSS IOP V.D.2).
2. The Speakers' Ruling from the preceding national meeting is in place until the Speakers release the new Ruling for the meeting.

Campaign Platform

1. **Although your Speakers do not want to constrain candidates' new, and oftentimes innovative ideas, we strongly recommend that each candidate vet novel and wide-ranging campaign ideas thoroughly with your Speakers, other appropriate GC members, appropriate committees/counselors and staff members *before* you begin to campaign.**
 - a. If at any time your Speakers feels that a campaign idea gives you an unfair advantage in campaigning or if an idea puts our AMA or any of its subsidiaries/divisions at jeopardy your Speakers will rule it out of order.
 - b. In order to comply with this section, your Speaker strongly recommends you vet any of your ideas with us directly so that we can point you to the appropriate resources for proper vetting.
 - i. Each candidate should submit a 'rough draft' platform proposal to your Speakers prior to the application deadline.
 - ii. Each candidate should submit a finalized platform proposal on or before the application deadline.
 - iii. Your Speakers will review these documents in a timely fashion and respond with approval or further instructions.
 - c. Candidates running for any compensated position within our MSS, whether direct or indirect, cannot make campaign promises to render use of this compensation at any time or by any means during their campaign.

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 any member of the MSS Rules Committee. (See MSS IOP V.D.12)

- a. **Only formal reports made in writing will be considered to allege an infraction (texts or emails explicitly stating that they are not formal reports will not be deemed formal reports).**
 - b. Any candidate should talk to your Speakers about suspected rules violations without it becoming official so we can clarify the interpretation of rules without consequences.
 - c. Submission of an informal report gives your Speaker the opportunity to mediate a compromise moving forward between candidates where rules may have been interpreted differently in the past.
 - d. Your Speakers will keep all reports of alleged violations, whether formal or informal, in strict confidence in order to encourage participation by MSS members in this process.
 - e. Should your Speakers witness an infraction, we will endeavor to resolve the situation informally. However, should the need arise for your Speakers to file a formal report, the Chair will be in charge of the investigation and the Speakers filing the report shall have no role in the investigation or adjudication of the violation.
2. **Upon receipt of a formal report alleging a campaign rule violation, your Speakers will attempt to reach a compromise between the candidates involved without input from the initial reporter who shall remain anonymous.** (See MSS IOP V.D.12.b).
 - a. **If a compromise is negotiated, the reporter will be contacted, informed of the negotiated compromise, and encouraged to rescind the formal report.**
3. **Should an investigation be required, your Speakers, in conjunction with the Rules Committee, shall be fully responsible for its conduct.**
 - a. Your Speakers will inform the individual of the nature of the allegations by email, telephone, or face-to-face discussion.
 - b. Your Speakers will ascertain the individual's interpretation of the rules with his/her account of the actions reported.
 - c. Your Speakers will obtain a list of people the individual would like to be interviewed in the course of the investigation.
 - d. Your Speakers and Rules Committee will not proceed with an investigation until the individual has had an opportunity to speak with us, unless:
 - e. The individual cannot speak to us within **one week** of initial contact, or
 - f. The formal report is made within **one week** of the election.
 - g. Any concern about the validity and impartiality of the investigation conducted by your Speakers and MSS Rules Committee may be appealed to the MSS GC by the candidate found to be in violation.
 - h. MSS GC will then ensure that the investigation was done in good faith and that the Speakers' ruling was appropriate.
 - i. However, the reporter and those who give testimony to the GC will remain anonymous.
4. **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.**
 - a. For infractions deemed to be minor, such as inadvertent or unintentional mistakes, your Speakers would rather not penalize candidates for actions beyond their control.
 - i. For a first infraction deemed minor by your Speakers, without investigation, written warning not identifying the offending party, will be sent to all known candidates involved in the election.

- ii. Any infraction made by an MSS member deemed more serious (including but not limited to publicly campaigning at any AMA meeting, campaigning using any official AMA mode of communications such as listservs, telling multiple MSS members to vote one way or the other, or talking to multiple people during an AMA event about a candidate), 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.

MSS Assembly Meeting

1. Any rules of procedure not specifically outlined in this Speakers' ruling, outlined in the MSS-IOPs, or covered by the AMA Constitution and Bylaws default to the parliamentary authority used by the AMA House of Delegates - the then current edition of The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (hereafter AIP).
 - a. To approve Resolutions or other business not otherwise outlined in the Speakers' ruling or MSS-IOPs, the following voting method on motions (adopted from AIP) will be followed in this order. This ruling is presented to keep the meeting efficient and timely. If there is any doubt with the results of a voting method, the Speakers will proceed down the list unless otherwise asked by members of the assembly for more careful voting methods. A motion must be presented for a Roll Call or Ballot vote - a majority vote is required to approve.
 - b. **Voice.** A majority will be determined by the presiding officer.
 - i. It must be stressed that only credentialed delegates/alternate delegates are allowed to vote by voice.
 - ii. Motions to forego this method are in order and require a majority vote to carry.
 - c. **Raising Placard.** (With/Without delegate also rising).
 - i. The majority will be visually determined.
 - ii. The majority will be physically determined.
 1. Tellers on the Rules Committee will count Delegates and report to the Chair of the Rules Committee. The Chair of the Rules Committee will make the announcement at the nearest microphone.
 - d. **Roll Call.** Individual schools will be called upon to vote by stating, "yea", "nay", "abstain". Delegates can also abstain by saying "present" or remaining silent when called upon.
 - e. **Ballot.** Secrecy is implicit in a ballot vote. The use of a voting machine/clickers or any other method (plain pieces of paper without identifying markings) is considered acceptable.
2. **Division of Assembly:** Division of the Assembly defaults to raising placards in the air and/or standing with manual counting by Rules Committee. However, the Speakers reserve the right to visually determine the outcome of the vote before choosing to have manual counting by Rules Committee. If anyone is dissatisfied with the determination by the Speakers, they may request via Division to have the Rules Committee manually count.

If you have any questions about this Speaker's Ruling, please feel free to email us at any time. We welcome any questions about election campaigns or about the MSS [Internal Operating Procedures](#). Our highest priority is to provide a level playing field for all candidates and to enforce the election rules in a completely impartial and transparent manner. Most of all, We want to encourage you to make the most of the unique opportunity to campaign for a national office. Have fun with it, meet as many new friends as you can, and realize that regardless of the outcome, you'll benefit more than you imagine just by having this experience! We look forward to seeing you in Honolulu! Best of luck to all the candidates!

Sincerely,



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