

HOW-TO: RUN ELECTIONS

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Preparation Before Elections

It is essential that as a Godol you set clear and concise guidelines for candidates to follow prior to elections in the form of a caucusing packet. This should be sent out about month in advance of elections and detail everything that a candidate should need to know about how to become a caucused candidate, the format for elections, speech times, etc. In order to for one to become a caucused candidate it is typical for them to be required to talk with a chapter advisor (Regional Director if for Regional/Council elections), the Chapter Godol (Regional/Council Godol is Regional/council elections), and the board member currently holding the position to which they aspire. These conversations are designed to ensure that the caucused candidate knows exactly what they are getting into and the intricacies of the position to which they aspire. As an outgoing Godol it is your responsibility to make sure that these conversations are informative and that they happen. Make clear dates which these conversations must happen by as well. Caucused candidates are also allowed the opportunity to hand in a Dossier/Platform/Qualifications sheet before elections in some cases. If you allow this as a Godol make sure they receive a due date for the sheets. Keep a list of candidates and check off each requirement as they complete it before elections. If a candidate does not meet all of the guidelines which you have clearly written out they should be told to run off the floor.

Elections: The Script

Elections begin with the Godol conduction Opening Rituals, conducting Roll Call (Make sure that roll call is taken accurately as you need the numbers to determine voting quorum), and asking, “**Is there a motion to dispense with all other business and move directly into Elections?**”

Caucussed Candidates

Once this motion has been passed elections begin and the Godol announces, “**Will all those caucused for a high and honorable position of Aleph Godol please rise?**” He will repeat this twice more and on the third repetition he will add, “**and remain standing.**” At this point the only people standing in the room should be the caucused candidates for Godol. The Godol should then place each candidates name onto a piece of paper and pull them out of a hat one by one to determine speaking order. While pulling the names out of the hat he says “**I recognize in no particular order...**” and proceeds to say each candidates name.

Question & Answer Period

The Godol will then tell the body that the question and answer period will be taking place in whatever pre-determined format he chooses. Q&A is only given to caucused candidates, not candidates from the floor.

Nominations

After Q&A the Godol asks “**Are there any serious nominations?**” Candidates may only be nominated once and the Mazkir should take down their names upon nomination. The Godol then asks, “**Are there any honorary nominations?**” After this the Godol should then ask each candidate in the order which they were nominated, “**Aleph _____ do you accept the nomination?**” They should respond by addressing the chair and saying either, “I accept the nomination”, or “I respectfully decline the nomination.” After the Godol elections, candidates may choose to drop down, but in order to do so they must be nominated by another Aleph and accept the nomination.

Speeches and Voting

After all of the nominations are closed speeches begin with all caucused candidates speaking first in their pre-determined amount of time. Then nominated candidates will have one minute to state only qualifications. Finally, drop down candidates have one minute to speak about whatever it is they would like. Once this has concluded, it is time to vote. Choose a section of your ballot to vote on collect all votes, and leave the room to count the votes. Upon returning, if you have been successful, announce, “**My brothers, we have been successful!**” If you have not been successful you announce , “**My brothers we have been unsuccessful.**” If you are unsuccessful you must vote again. If you are successful you invite all candidates up to the front, and ask them three times, “**If elected will you serve?**” They must answer yes to this question and then you announce the winner of the election.