

1922

*The* COMMUNIST PARTY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN

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*Statutes and Rules*  
*as adopted by the Battersea*  
*Conference, Oct. 7-9, 1922*

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Central Office - 16 King Street,  
Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

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# THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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## STATUTES AND RULES

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1. The Communist Party of Great Britain is a section of the Communist International, and is bound by its decisions.

### MEMBERSHIP.

2. Membership of the Party is open to all who accept the Programme and Statutes of the Party, and who support the Party by taking an active part in one of its organisations as well as by assisting it financially. Every member of the Party shall place his whole time and strength in so far as he can himself dispose of them under existing conditions at the disposal of the Party, and shall regularly pay the established fees and subscribe to the Party Organ.  
All members must carry out the decisions of the Party lead.
3. The acceptance of members and candidates for membership takes place through such local Party Committees or other Party Organisations, as the Executive Committee may decide. Candidates for membership pass through a period

of probation, during which they will have no vote and will undergo training. At the end of that time they will be entitled to become full members provided they give satisfaction as to participation in work and understanding of the Party Programme.

4. The power to expel members is vested in the District Party Committees and the Executive Committee. The expelled member may appeal from the Executive to the Party Congress and to the International.

#### **DISTRICT ORGANISATION.**

5. The basis of the Party organisation is the District. The area of the District is fixed according to industrial, transport, and political conditions, and is determined by the Executive Committee. Districts are broken up and new Districts formed whenever required for more effective and uniform direction.
6. The District Congress is composed of representatives of the local organisations in the District. The District Congress lays down the lines of organisation for the District, subject to the sanction of the Executive Committee, and elects the District Party Committee and District Auditors. Special meetings of the District Congress are summoned when necessary by the District Party Committee.

Special District Congress may be

called at any time on demand of a proportion of the members in the said District. The proportion of membership necessary to call such meeting to be determined at the first meeting of the District Party Congress.

7. The District Party Committee combines and directs all the activities of the Party, both organising and political, within the District in conjunction with the Executive Committee, to which it reports. The District Party Committee shall work from the principal town in the District, and its members must be able to meet there continuously. The membership of the District Party Committee, which must include one representative of the District Women's Propaganda Committee and one of the Young Communist League, is sanctioned by the Executive Committee.
8. District Organisers are appointed by the Executive Committee from nominations by the District Party Committee, and report to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may at any time send Special Commissioners or Organisers to a district in charge of special tasks.
9. The District Party Committee appoints special Sub-Committees for special activities as required, which are responsible to it.



## LOCAL ORGANISATION.

10. In every local Party area (town, village, or administrative district of a town), the members are combined for daily activity in different working groups. Working groups are based on place of living, place of work, or Party activity, and are subordinated to the authority directing their activity, to whom they report.
11. General meetings of members in a local Party area are held at least once a month, and elect a Local Party Committee. The Local Party Committee may consist of the Group Leaders in the area when so decided by the general meeting. The membership of all local Party Committees is sanctioned by the District Party Committee, as also is the appointment of Group Leaders. On all Local Party Committees the right to a seat is held by the representative of the Young Communist League and of the Women's Propaganda Committee.
12. The Local Party Committee is instructed by the District Party Committee, and reports to it.
13. Local Organisers are appointed by the District Party Committee.
14. Local Party areas may be combined for special purposes, or a Sub-District of a combination of Local Party areas be formed, where so decided by the District Party Committee in conjunction with the Executive Committee.

## THE PARTY CONGRESS.

15. The Party Congress is the supreme authority of the Party, and is responsible to the Communist International. The Party Congress meets at least once a year. Questions affecting the Programme and Statutes and issues of principle regarding policy and tactics are decided by the Party Congress. The decisions of the Party Congress are final and must be accepted by all members until revised by a subsequent Congress.
16. Representatives to the Party Congress are elected from the local areas on a fixed numerical basis of representation. The right to participate in the Congress in a consultative capacity is held by members of the Party Executive, the Party Council and the Control Commission; Parliamentary members, the Editor of the Party Organ, members summoned by the Executive to report on given questions of Party policy for the Congress, the representatives of the Young Communist League and invited guests.
17. The Congress receives the political and business report of the Executive Committee, and the reports of the Parliamentary representatives and the Control Commission.
18. The Conference fixes the number of and elects the Executive Committee (which consists of the Political Secretary, the Organising Secretary, and such

other members as may be determined by the Congress), the Party Council and the Control Commission, and also fixes the number of and elects the substitute members for the same bodies. The Executive Committee is elected from nominations made by the Congress from the whole membership of the Party. The Party Council is elected on a District basis. Both the Executive Committee and the Party Council must contain one representative of the Young Communist League and one representative of the Women's Propaganda Committee.

19. The Congress elects the Political Secretary and the Organising Secretary of the Party.
- 19a. On the demand of the majority of the District Party Committees the National Executive Committee shall call a Party Congress.

#### **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE PARTY COUNCIL.**

20. The Executive Committee directs the current work of the Party, both organising and political, and is responsible to the Party Congress and to the International. The Executive Committee controls all Party officials and organisations.
21. The Executive Committee must be able to meet continuously at the Party Centre.
22. The Executive Committee appoints

special Sub-Committees responsible to it for the leading of special activities.

23. The Party Council is summoned by the Executive Committee for consultative purposes, when decisions have to be taken on important questions of Party Policy.

#### **THE CONTROL COMMISSION.**

24. The Control Commission is responsible to the Party Congress for reporting to it on the management of Party finance and the conduct of Party business. It has full powers of enquiry for the conduct of its work.

#### **THE PARTY PRESS.**

25. The Central Party Organ is issued under the direction of the Executive Committee, and the Editor attends the Executive Committee in a consultative capacity.

All Party organs must submit to the direction of the Executive Committee.

#### **PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES.**

26. All Parliamentary and Municipal representatives are under the direction of the Executive Committee.

#### **REPORTS.**

27. All organisations of the Party shall furnish regular reports to the authority directing their activity.
28. Every organisation of the Party, as well as every individual member, shall



have the right of communicating directly with the Executive Committee of the Party or of the International.

#### **ADDITIONAL RULES. FINANCE.**

1. (a) The dues of the Party shall be one shilling per member per calendar month. Of this sum 6d. per month shall go to Headquarters, 3d. to the District Party Committee, and 3d. per month shall be retained by the Local Party Committee.
- (b) The headquarters' levy of 6d. per month shall be payable by all members without exception. District Party Committees and Local Party Committees shall have power to fix reduced rates for the proportions payable to District Party Committee and Local Party Committee respectively in the case of married women whose husbands are members of the Party, youths, apprentices, unemployed, and those sick or on half-time.
- (c) The Local Party Committee shall be responsible to the District Party Committee and Headquarters for total dues from its members according to the membership shown on the last monthly return of their total membership. Each Local Party Committee shall apply for and pay for regularly, monthly, direct from Headquarters, sufficient stamps to provide for all its members as shown on

the last monthly returns for their total membership.

- (d) Divisional dues shall be remitted direct by the Local Party Committees to District Party Committees on the basis of membership shown on last monthly return of their total membership to Headquarters.
- (e) An entrance fee of 6d., in addition to the subscription of the current month, shall be paid by all new members as a contribution to the Local Party Committee's funds.

#### **MEMBERSHIP.**

2. All Local Party Committees and groups shall maintain a register of members and candidates for membership with such information concerning them as may be decided by the Executive Committee. Members must assist in keeping this information up-to-date. Copies of this register revised up-to-date shall be forwarded to the District Party Committee and to Headquarters twice a year.
3. Candidates for membership can be provisionally accepted by any Party Group. All persons declaring their acceptance of the Programme and Statutes of the Party and their readiness to obey its discipline will, on entry, be presented with a Party Questionnaire, which they will be required to fill up. The period of probation lasts at least six months, during

which period the Local Party Committee accepting a candidate shall be responsible for seeing that provision is made for his training. Candidates who have been members of the Young Communist League for a period of at least one year and attaining eligible age may automatically become full members of the Party.

4. The grounds for expulsion are: (1) refusal to abide by the Party Programme and decisions; (2) non-participation in Party work; (3) refusal to carry out the instructions of the authorised Party lead; (4) action hostile to the Party. In all but the gravest cases expulsion shall be preceded by a warning.

#### **DISTRICT ORGANISATION.**

5. In constituting a District the Executive Committee determines the District Centre and lays down the representation to the District Congress. After the constitution of the District the District Congress determines in agreement with the Executive Committee the District Centre and the basis of representation at the District Congress.

#### **LOCAL ORGANISATION.**

6. Groups based on place of living are composed of members living in easy walking distance of one another. The leaders of these working groups are appointed by the Local Party Committee and sanctioned by the District Party

Committee. They are responsible to the Local Party Committee for maintaining contact with the members of the group and receiving and forwarding subscriptions and reports. All members are combined in these small local groups.

7. All group leaders, and the responsible leaders of nuclei and fractions within a Local Party area, meet as a regular body to maintain contact with the Local Party Committee and arrange for the carrying out of local work.

#### **PARTY CONGRESS.**

8. Representation at the Party Congress is based on one representative for each twenty-five members. For purposes of representation at the Congress, Local Party areas may be grouped together, where a common aggregate meeting of members in the combined areas can be held for the purpose of electing the common representative. Such combinations of areas for election have to be sanctioned by the Executive Committee.
9. Representatives at the Party Congress have full powers of decision on all issues.
10. The Executive Committee gives notice of summoning a Congress at least eight weeks before the date of the Congress, and issues the Agenda to the Local organisation four weeks before the date of the Congress.

11. The Executive Committee appoints particular members to prepare reports on given questions of policy for the Congress. The Executive Committee is not bound by these reports. The Congress appoints a Resolutions Commission of separate Commissions on each principal issue, to consider the reports and discussions and draw up the necessary resolutions in accordance with the wishes of the Congress.
12. The election of the Executive Committee takes place by ballot vote on a single list. The election of the substitute members takes the form of a separate election immediately following upon the election of the Executive Committee. Substitute members, in order of the vote received, replace ex-members when these are unable to serve or are unable to continue in office.



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