

OFNZ AGM motion submission

(To submit a motion to either delete, amend or add a rule to the Constitution please use format below. Please ensure all Rules affected are covered. Motions not fully explained according to this guide will be returned for clarification. Use a separate page for each motion submitted. Motions to be submitted to the Chair(s) TWO weeks before the AGM.)

Motion submitted by: Jim Bennett

Email te.aranga.organics@gmail.com

Ph/Mob 027 478 2258

Motion 1:

Reasoning

The process of rewriting the OFNZ constitution has dragged on too long. While thought is being given (again) to a revision, **it is urgent that the rules relating to the formation of our governing body are sorted now**. There should be no reluctance by members of the NCC to accept “piecemeal” amendments.

The method of electing the National Coordinating Committee needs adjustment. Having members of the NCC elected by each region is still vital. Regional representatives assist with the organisation of affairs in their area, and members know that there is a person on the NCC who has a focus of communicating their views to the organisation. It is vital to retain this, but it is also necessary for the Committee to draw in people with a nationwide perspective. The present method of electing members through only the regions, has made it difficult to achieve this.

It is really important to make this change **without further delay**.

Intention

The proposed phrasing of clause 12.1 will ensure that OFNZ members continue to be represented on the NCC by one of the members in their own region, but it will also facilitate the election of a small number of other people to the NCC. Three extra members elected by a nationwide poll, will bring new energy to the NCC. The extra members will not make the NCC too large as the recent merging of regions has reduced the current number. It will allow people with valuable skills to join the NCC team without taking away the current regional rep. Also, the current NCC is too small and individuals are having to take on excessive workloads.

Delete: existing Rule 12.1 and replace with new Rule 12.1 to read -

- (a) “The National Coordinating Committee shall be composed of a representative elected by the producer members in the area of each regional body, plus three elected by the nationwide producer membership of Organic Farm NZ, these three to be known as “nation representatives”.
- (a) Candidates for election as regional representatives shall be members resident in, and nominated and seconded by producer members within the region they are to represent.
- (c) Candidates for election as “nation representatives” shall be members nominated and seconded by producer members anywhere in Aotearoa New Zealand.

OFNZ AGM motion submission

If agreed, this motion will require minor wording alterations to rules 12.3, 12.4, 14, 14.1, 15.1.

12.3 reads:

Elected members of the National Coordinating Committee will be elected for a term of two years and retire on a rotation basis at each Annual General Meeting, but are eligible for re- election at the same and subsequent meetings. The North Island members will retire on odd numbered years while the South Island members will retire on even numbered years. **Insert here:** “Nation members will retire on even numbered years.” Newly elected National Coordinating Committee members will take office immediately upon their election.

12.4 reads:

Nominations for Regional Body positions on the National Coordinating Committee shall be by way of written nomination on the Society’s official form by a current member within the appropriate Regional Body and endorsed with the signature of the nominee member and given to the Secretary at least 60 days before the day fixed for the Annual General Meeting. A nomination may be withdrawn by the person nominated after the date on which nominations close.

Delete first mention of “Regional Body” and **replace** the second mention with “electorate”. The clause would then read –

Nominations for positions on the National Coordinating Committee shall be by way of written nomination on the Society’s official form by a current member within the appropriate electorate and endorsed with the signature of the nominee member and given to the Secretary at least 60 days before the day fixed for the Annual General Meeting. A nomination may be withdrawn by the person nominated after the date on which nominations close.

Clause 14 sets out the process of electing members to the NCC.

Delete title: “VOTING PROCESS FOR REGIONAL BODIES”

Replace with: “Voting process for election to the National Coordinating Committee”

Then **delete** current 14.1 which reads –

Voting will be required for the election of a member to represent a Regional Body. In order to achieve this the following voting process will be followed:

Replace with: “Voting will be required for the election of members to the National Coordinating Committee. In order to achieve this the following voting process will be followed:”

Then in sub-clauses (i), (ii) and (iv) **delete** the mention of “regional bodies”

Clause 14 would then read as

14 VOTING PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

14.1 Voting will be required for the election of members to the National Coordinating Committee. In order to

achieve this the following voting process will be followed:

- i. Nominations will be called for the positions when the notice of the AGM is sent to all registered members 90 days prior to the AGM.
- ii. The closing date for nominations will be 30 (thirty) days after the notice is sent.
- iii. In the event of three or more persons standing for election in any one of the Regional

OFNZ AGM motion submission

Bodies, a preferential voting system such as the Single Transferable Vote shall be applied.
iv. Voting forms containing the lists of nominees will be sent to all the appropriate producer members 30 days before the AGM. In a separate document, sent together with the voting forms, there will be a brief statement (no more than 200 words) from each of the candidates as to who they are, their background and why they want to be elected.

Clause 15.1 **Delete** second sentence:

Clause will then read:

The National Coordinating Committee will have a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, elected by the newly appointed National Coordinating Committee.
The National Coordinating Committee will appoint a Secretary/Treasurer, who may or may not be a member of the NCC.

2 To submit a motion to add to or amend the wording of a Rule

Reasoning

The current wording in the constitution has led to intense argument about the ability of OFNZ to have members co-opted to the NCC.

Intention

The intention is to clarify and confirm that, when necessary, the elected members of the National Coordinating Committee can co-opt additional members who can contribute specific additional skills to the Committee. The co-option period would expire at the time of the next AGM.

Add Rule 12.5.

Added rule to read:

“The National Coordinating Committee will have the power to co-opt up to two additional members in order to bring specific skills to the Committee. Co-opted members will not hold voting rights on the Committee. Their term shall expire at the following annual general meeting of the Society.”