

**IFN ELECTION POLICY**

All candidates, whether an incumbent or not, is subject to Islamic discipline for his or her campaign misconduct

**All Nominated Candidates****Shall:**

- a. be faithful to the Allah (SWT), follow Sunnah, and shall not be influenced by special interests, public uproar, or fear of criticism;
- b. maintain the dignity of elected office and act in a manner consistent with the impartiality and integrity.

**Shall NOT:**

- a. act un-Islamically;
- b. publicly criticize another candidate;
- c. make derogatory remarks against another candidate;
- d. spread untruthful stories about another candidate; or
- e. authorize or knowingly permit any other person to do for the candidate what the candidate is prohibited from doing under the Sections of this Rule;
- f. make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of the moral and legal duties of the Board;
- g. knowingly misrepresent the identity, qualifications, present position or other fact concerning the candidate or an opponent;
- h. while a proceeding is pending or impending in the Election Commission, make any public comment that might affect its outcome;
- i. commend or criticize members of the Election Commission.
- j. make personal attacks on other candidates



## **ETHICS AND ACCUSATIONS**

### **Accusations**

If the complaint is filed, proper investigation will be followed. The Ethics Committee itself, however, may initiate and investigate complaints.

### **False Complaint**

**If the complaint is found to be unwarranted and brought in bad faith or for the purpose of harassment, IFN may impose a penalty of up to \$1000.**

The Ethics Committee is cautious about accepting ethics complaints from specific individuals in the election process. Allegations of ethical misconduct, especially if frivolous, however, can be ruining. Negative headlines and conversations at IFN can overshadow the investigation itself. Often, votes must be cast as unproven accusations linger, leaving the accused candidate(s) little opportunity to defend against the complaints. Ethics Committee want to protect the integrity of the complaint process against misuse. At the same time, they acknowledge their responsibility to give the public information to make informed election decisions.

The Board of Trustees at IFN requires the Ethics Committee to keep complaints confidential until after a preliminary hearing, the accusers should trust the Committee and they should not disclose the names of alleged violators. In response, the Ethics Committee of Islamic Foundation North's legal authority will be to dismiss a complaint—any complaint, not just those during the election season—if the filer makes it public. The Board of Trustees will maintain the integrity of the process from filing to resolution, to be more transparent. The Ethics Committee will focus on its own process to dismiss complaints promptly if they are insignificant or frivolous.

***All complaints regarding elections should be addressed to the Ethics Committee***

***The Ethics Committee wants to protect the integrity of the complaint process against misuse. The final days of a campaign are important times for candidates and the IFN community. IFN community members will be informed if they need to know about candidates' ethical violations in order to make informed decisions.***