FAQ

Where can I find SOG 6.35?
The campaign regulations are published here, http://www.asse.org/about/sog-section-635/.

What if there is a specific scenario or situation not accounted for in the SOG?
The SOG is designed to provide a baseline of general guidelines. There are complexities that make each scenario different, which is why each violation is managed on a case-by-case basis by the Nominations & Elections Committee.

What if I see something that I think might be a campaign violation?
Contact the committee. You can do this by contacting our Staff Liaison, Kim McDowell (kmcdowell@asse.org) and she will escalate to the chair. If the possible violation was performed by an officer or leader representing a Society Unit, you can also contact the officer(s) of the Chapter, Practice Specialty, or CIG to make them aware. This gives them the opportunity to cease any continued violation or to correct the actions. But it’s important to always contact Kim McDowell, even if the potential violation and actions are stopped or corrected.

What is the process once a campaign violation is reported?
The facts are collected and reported to the committee by the committee chair. The committee will discuss on a conference call and determine if a violation has been made and the appropriate course of action. There are examples of steps the committee can take outlined in the SOG but each case is managed based on the facts of the situation.

Example Scenarios

Frequently we’ll receive questions or example scenarios, before they happen, to see if they are in line with the rules. We encourage this and are happy to review any scenarios with you. To help provide examples, here are a few.

Scenario 1
Can a Chapter publish the following in their newsletter: Candidate X, who is a professional member and SPY award winner is standing for election for <Insert position>, against candidate Y. Please visit www.asse.org/elections to review his/her bio and other pertinent information for you to make a value judgement.

The question is, is this language aligned with the Campaign regulations.

The answer is, is that this language is too one sided to be within the outlined regulations. Emphasizing the accomplishments of one Candidate by referencing the SPY award creates an unbalance. The goal is a balanced approach, where communities are encouraging members to review all bios and platform statements and to make their own choice.
**Scenario 2**
Another scenario we’ve seen is the need to be careful when sending e-mails asking for support. Reaching out to people personally known to you for support is perfectly acceptable because they are personally known to you. But if you send an e-mail to the Chapter board, there may be people on that list not personally known to you. Or if you send the e-mail to a general alias, like Treasurer@Chapter.com, assuming you know the treasurer – sometimes these general e-mails get routed to someone else and your e-mail might not be going to the person you thought. When reaching out for support, if you have any questions about who is going to receive that request for support, you might just want to pick up the phone, as opposed to sending an e-mail you might lose control of.

**Scenario 3**
If I am part of a social media group with my peers can I or someone else post I am running for office.

Social media groups can be complex, as even though they are your peers – you may not be able to guarantee or prove they are each personally known to you. You can also easily lose control of postings. In this instance it’s advised; if you do want to post that you post a general reminder to vote and a link to the elections website at www.asse.org/elections. If someone else wants to post that you are running, they should post both candidates names and a link to the elections website.

**Scenario 4**
What if I see a post that highlights just me as a candidate, but I didn’t authorize the post? I can’t control what other people do.

That’s correct, you can’t. If you see something that you feel may not align with the campaign violations, there are two steps to take.

1. Contact the person/parties and ask them stop the behavior or remove the posting in question.
2. Contact Kim McDowell at kmcdowell@asse.org to notify the N&E committee

All we can do is ask the candidates and ASSE leaders take on a role in promoting a fair and ethical election process.