

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO THE AMIEU RULES:

On 8 and 9 March 2012, a meeting of the Federal Executive of the Union endorsed a number of changes to the rules of the AMIEU. The changes are mostly of an administrative nature, but it is still important for members to be aware of them:

Transfers of Branch Officials:

The first rule relates to the transfer of officials between branches. The Union's rules provide for transfer of members between branches. However, last year, when a union official from one branch transferred to take up a position with another branch, the union realised it did not have any specific rules to say what process should be followed in that situation. The union therefore adopted the following rule to explain what should happen.

Motion

Moved: Charlie Donzow

Seconded: Graham Smith

That Rule 46 of the federal rules of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union be amended by inserting, after Rule 46.6, the following:

46.7 In respect of a member of the union who holds an office in a branch of the Union, the member shall not be entitled to transfer to another branch of the Union unless:

(a) The member either

(i) resigns from the office of that branch held by the member; or

(ii) is authorised by the committee of management of the branch in which the member currently holds to take leave of absence from the member's duties as an office-holder of that branch.; and

(b) Prior to making any application to transfer to another branch, the member notifies the Federal Secretary that:

(i) the member wishes to transfer to another branch of the Union;

(ii) the name of the branch to which the member wishes to transfer; and

(iii) the date from which the member proposes to make an application pursuant to Rule 46.1.

46.8 If a member of the union who holds an office in a branch of the Union purports to transfer to a different branch of the union without having complied with Rules 46.7(a) and 46.7(b), then the purported transfer does not take effect, and the member may be dealt with under Rule 35.1.2 of the union's rules (by the committee of management of the branch to which the member belongs, or the Federal Council).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rules about Union Fees

The next three changes were made to the rules about the collection and payment of membership fees.

Rule 9.1 sets a limit to the amount of union fees that can be charged to a member for a half-year ticket. Obviously fees increase over time, to cover the increasing costs of running the organisation and representing members. The fees currently charged by the union are getting closer to the maximum amount allowed by the rule. Based on past increases, it would still be years before the union's reach the current maximum figure in the rules. This rule change does not mean any automatic increase in membership fees; any increases will be decided by each branch's committee of management in the usual way.

Motion:

Moved: Charlie Donzow

Seconded: John Da Silva

That Rule 9.1 of the Union's rules be amended, by deleting the words "two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250)" and insert the words "five hundred dollars (\$500)"

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rule 9.9 of the Union's rules sets a lower rate of membership fees for junior workers who earn less than 70% of the rate for a Level 6 worker under the Federal Meat Industry (Processing) Award 2006. This award has now been replaced by the Meat Industry Award 2010. This rule change just updates the rule with the equivalent classification from the new Award.

Motion:

Moved: Charlie Donzow

Seconded: John Da Silva

That Rule 9.9 of the Union's rules be amended, by deleting the words "Level 6 of the Federal Meat Industry (Processing) Award 1996" and insert the words "Level MI7 of the Meat Industry Award 2010."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rule 9.10 of the Union's rules set a maximum amount (\$10 per member per half-year) for the capitation fee that branches have to pay to the Federal Council of the union. This capitation fee pays for the cost of running the Federal office of the Union. In the near future it looks like the Federal Executive will need to increase the capitation fee above \$10, so it was necessary to change the rule. The capitation fee is an amount paid by branches of the union to the federal office, it is not a fee paid by individual members.

Motion:

Moved: Charlie Donzow

Seconded: John Da Silva

That Rule 9.10 of the Union's rules be deleted, and replaced with the following rule:

9.10 An amount per half-year per member, as determined from time to time by Federal Council, shall be paid to the Federal Council and shall be called the Capitation fee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELIGIBILITY RULE CHANGE

On 8 March 2012, a meeting of the Federal Executive of the Union endorsed the following change to the eligibility rule of the AMIEU. A number of branches now employ organisers directly rather than having elected organisers. The Union changed the eligibility rule just to make it clear that officials are entitled to be members of the Union, even if they may not have worked in the meat industry prior to working for the Union.

Motion:

Moved: Charlie Donzow

Seconded: Graham Smith

“That the federal eligibility rules of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees’ Union be amended to insert Rule 4.3, to read as follows:

4.3 In addition to the foregoing, all persons, whether employed in the above industries or not, who have been elected as officials of the Union, or who are employed by the Union, shall be eligible to be members of the Union - other than those employees of the union engaged wholly or principally in clerical work, within the meaning of the Clerks – Private Sector Award 2010.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY