

Election Commission Meeting — Minutes

P@SHA CEC Elections 2026 (Term 2026–2028)
Scrutiny and Approval of CEC Nominations under Rule 18(11)

Meeting	Election Commission Meeting — P@SHA CEC Elections 2026
Date & Time	Friday, 28 August 2026 • 8:15 pm • Held online
Chair	Dr. Aftab Maroof, Election Commissioner (North)
Present — Election Commission	Dr. Aftab Maroof (North); Dr. Kashif Zafar (Center); Mr. Talib S. Karim (South)
Present — Secretariat	Syed Ali Abbas Hasani, Secretary General; Filza Maniar, Director Finance and Operations; Khawar Mahmood, Manager Member Services
Purpose	Scrutiny and approval of the nominations received for the Central Executive Committee, for display of the list of candidates on Saturday, 29 August 2026, and finalisation of the Commission's polling-day volunteers.

1. Constitution of the meeting under Rule 18(11)

The Manager Member Services recorded, and the Commission confirmed, that this meeting constitutes the scrutiny of nomination papers by the Election Commission required under Rule 18(11) of the Trade Organizations Rules 2013, and that the list of candidates is to be displayed within twenty-four hours of the close of nominations at 18:00 hrs on the same day.

2. Meeting cadence

The Secretary General proposed that the Commission meet periodically for short sessions of about thirty minutes, at times agreed in advance so that calendar invitations can be issued and members can plan around them.

Action: Khawar Mahmood to circulate a proposed schedule on WhatsApp for the Commission's input, and to issue calendar invitations accordingly.

3. Allocation of the ten general seats between the two classes

The Secretary General briefed the Commission that he had consulted the Directorate General of Trade Organizations, which advised that the division of the general seats between the Corporate and Associate classes was a matter for the Central Executive Committee to decide. The Central Executive Committee, in its meeting of 26 August 2026 and on the basis of past elections and their outcomes across the two classes, had resolved to allocate eight of the ten general seats to the Corporate class and two to the Associate class. The Secretary General reported that he had met the Regulator on 27 August 2026 and had conveyed the decision.

The Commission noted that Rule 21(5)(b) of the Trade Organizations Rules 2013 and Article 10(b) of the Articles of Association require that not less than fifty per cent of the members of the Executive Committee be from the Corporate class, and that the allocation satisfied that requirement.

The Secretary General suggested that the Association consider settling the class division of seats by amendment of the Articles of Association at a General Meeting, so that the question does not fall to be decided afresh at each election.

4. Class-segregated electoral colleges and ballot papers

The Secretary General explained that although the Rules have always provided that the electoral college for each class comprises the members of the general body of that class, the distinction between the Corporate and Associate classes had not previously been given effect in P@SHA elections. It will be enforced in this cycle. Ballot papers for the two classes will be printed in different colours so that a Corporate member votes only on the Corporate ballot and an Associate member only on the Associate ballot.

The Commission noted that the Central Executive Committee will comprise twelve members — the ten general seats together with the two seats reserved for women entrepreneurs.

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In answer to a question from Dr. Kashif Zafar, the Secretary General confirmed that no member votes on both class ballots: a Corporate voter votes only for Corporate candidates and an Associate voter only for Associate candidates. The two women's reserved seats are not voted on by the general body at all; they are filled by the newly elected Central Executive Committee from among the women nominees.

A ballot on which more candidates are marked than there are seats available for that class is void.

5. Scrutiny of nominations

The Secretary General placed the nominations received before the Commission:

Category	Nominations received	Hard copies received at the time of the meeting
Corporate seats	12	06 received; 06 in transit, tracking numbers held
Associate seats	07	06 received; 01 in transit (S.No. 5), courier receipt held
Women reserved seats	04	03 received; 01 in transit from Karachi
Total	23 nominations (22 individuals)	

The Commission noted that one candidate, Ms. Zunaira Omar, has filed for both a general seat of the Associate class and a women's reserved seat, which is permitted on separate nomination forms. The total of 23 nominations therefore represents 22 individuals.

The Secretary General confirmed that the requirement that a candidate's proposer and seconder belong to the candidate's own class had been verified for every nomination, and that this had been discussed with the Directorate General of Trade Organizations, which had cautioned that any nomination proposed or seconded across classes would be liable to be struck down. All nominations were found to comply.

Decision: The Commission, having scrutinised the nominations under Rule 18(11), approved the list of candidates for display on Saturday, 29 August 2026, subject to receipt of the outstanding hard copies, which are in transit and covered by courier receipts.

6. Polling-day mechanics

- A token system will operate at each polling centre. On arrival a member is checked against the Final Voter List in the waiting area and issued a token identifying the class, which determines the ballot paper issued at the ballot desk.
- Counterfoils of all ballot papers issued will be retained by the Secretariat. The ballot remains secret; the counterfoils establish the record of issuance.
- Voters must present an original CNIC or an original Passport. Photocopies, images on mobile telephones, expired documents and driving licences will not be accepted. Repeated reminders are to be issued to the membership before polling day.

7. Objections to nominations and the appeal window

Stage	Date
List of candidates displayed	Saturday, 29 August 2026
Last date for objections to nominations	Sunday, 30 August 2026
Secretariat to brief the Secretary General; Commission to consider	Monday–Tuesday, 31 Aug – 1 September 2026
Commission's decisions issued by email	Tuesday, 1 September 2026 (end of business)
Last date for a candidate to appeal to the Regulator	Thursday, 3 September 2026
Last date for the Regulator to decide	Thursday, 10 September 2026
Final list of candidates displayed	Saturday, 12 September 2026

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The Secretary General observed that any member of the general body, and not only a candidate, may approach the Regulator, and that the Commission should expect this cycle to be contested. Strict adherence to the timeline was emphasised.

8. Post-polling sequence

Date	Event
Thursday, 17 September 2026	Polling for the general seats, 09:00–17:00 hrs
Friday, 18 September 2026	Election of the two women reserved seats by the newly elected Committee
Tuesday, 22 September 2026	Election of Office Bearers — Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer
Wednesday, 30 September 2026	Annual General Meeting

The Commission discussed the practicability of holding the women's reserved-seat election in person on 18 September. As the results of the general election are not expected until late on 17 September, the Secretary General proposed that this session be held online. The Commission agreed to keep the position under review.

It was noted that the Office Bearer election on 22 September falls on the same day as the P@SHA ICT Awards, which are held in the evening; the timing of the election will be arranged around that engagement.

9. DGTO compliance and regulatory oversight

- An officer of the Directorate General of Trade Organizations will be stationed with the Association through the election process and until the Annual General Meeting, and will report to the Directorate on the conduct of the process.
- The Secretariat will submit an itemised compliance report against each of the DGTO Standard Operating Procedures, with an internal target of seven to ten days before polling day.

10. Venues and security

City	Venue	Note
Karachi	Movenpick Hotel	Letters to district management for security and safety
Lahore	Daftarkhwan Boulevard	Tighter crowd controls required
Islamabad	Daftarkhwan (Red Zone)	Access restrictions to be managed with the administration

Letters are to be sent to the district administration in each city so that the elections are on their record and officers can be deputed for security and safety, the Commission noting that the process may be politically charged.

11. Election Commission volunteers

The Secretariat requested the names and contact numbers of three volunteers for each of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad by 4 September 2026. Volunteers will assist with the issuance of the Corporate and Associate ballot papers, and one volunteer in each city will act as a shadow to the Commissioner so that the Commission is represented if a Commissioner is called away. A WhatsApp group will be created for the volunteers and a briefing webinar held around 6–7 September 2026 to assign duties.

Action Items

#	Action	Owner	Due
1	Publish the list of candidates for the Corporate, Associate and Women Reserved seats	SG (Ali Hasani)	29 Aug
2	Circulate a proposed meeting schedule on WhatsApp and issue calendar invitations	Khawar Mahmood	This week
3	Provide names and contact numbers of three volunteers per city	Election Commission	By 4 Sep
4	Create the volunteers' WhatsApp group and hold the briefing webinar	Secretariat	6–7 Sep
5	Receive objections to nominations, brief the SG and place them before the Commission	Khawar Mahmood	1 Sep

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#	Action	Owner	Due
6	Issue the Commission's decisions on objections by email	Election Commission	1 Sep (EOB)
7	Send letters to district management in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad	SG (Ali Hasani)	Early Sep
8	Submit the itemised DGTO SOP compliance report	Secretariat	7–10 days before polling
9	Issue repeated reminders on acceptable identification (original CNIC or Passport)	Secretariat	Before 17 Sep
10	Plan an online session for the women reserved-seat election on 18 September	SG (Ali Hasani)	Before 17 Sep

Minutes prepared by the Secretariat for the review and record of the Election Commission 2026.