

Queere Jugend NRW's Election Regulation

Text adopted in April 2017, updated version after amendment of section §4 at the early 2019 Queere Jugend NRW network meeting.

§ 0 Validity and Amendments

This Election Regulation is effective as of the 7th April 2017 and is valid for an unlimited period of time in the absence of amendments. Modifications shall be made by means of an amendment request. This must be sent in written form to the Queere Jugend NRW office at least 4 weeks before a network meeting. Amendments are then submitted to vote on the day of the network meeting and adopted if they receive a 60% majority vote.

§ 1 Decision-Making Capacity

Queere Jugend is entitled to adopt decisions if the invitations to a network meeting were sent out at least 8 weeks in advance. This gives all youth groups the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

§2 Right to vote

Every member group of the Queere Jugend NRW network is entitled to vote. If a youth group cannot participate in a meeting, their vote may be delegated to another youth group. The Queere Jugend NRW office should be informed previously about this. It is also possible to cast the vote in advance directly.

§3 General Decisions

Every youth group has the right to cast 1 vote on general Queere Jugend decisions. Decisions in Queere Jugend NRW are adopted by a simple majority. Except for the election of the Advisory Board, vote is usually done by a show of hands, but it can be conducted in secret ballot upon request.

§4 Advisory Board Candidates

Candidacies are announced 14 days before network meetings through a written presentation in which nominees explain their motivation to work in the Advisory Board. Candidates may be elected in absentia. People up to and including the age of 30 without a full-time job in queer youth work can stand for election.

§5 Election Period

The Advisory Board is elected annually at the first network meeting of the year.

§6 Composition of the Advisory Board

The participation of different identities and the representation of their interests in the board is to be ensured:

- > one reserved seat for women*
- > one reserved seat for non-cis people
- > three open seats

The assignment of the quota seats takes places on a self-determination basis. In order to have decision-making capacity, the Advisory Board must have a minimum of 3 members.

§7 Election of the Advisory Board

The election of the Advisory Board is held by secret ballot. Each youth group is entitled to cast one vote per board position. Candidates must receive 60% of the votes to be elected to the Advisory Board.

The election takes place in two rounds of voting. Quota seats are chosen on a first ballot and open seats are elected on a second one. Candidates who were not elected for the quota seats may stand for election again in the second round of voting. A runoff election between the corresponding candidates is held if one or multiple seats were not chosen by a 60% majority. If none of them reach 60% of the votes then, the seat remains empty.

If a reserved seat is vacant, the Advisory Board may assign the position it to a person following the requirements of the quota system. Vacant open seats may also be assigned by the Advisory Board independently.

§8 Responsibilities of the Advisory Board

The Queere Jugend NRW Advisory Board is a body that aims to ensure the self-determination and participation of queer youth and young adults within the Queere Jugend NRW network. The members of the board are committed to act in accordance with the guiding principles of Queere Jugend NRW.

The Advisory Board can decide to invite assessors to board meetings in order to receive thematic counselling.

The Advisory Board plays a representative role while speaking on behalf of Queere Jugend NRW with politicians and the administration.

The Advisory Board offers advice to the full-time staff of the Queere Jugend NRW office.

The Advisory Board cooperates closely with the staff of the Queere Jugend NRW office to improve the content work of Queere Jugend NRW.

The Advisory Board is the point of contact for youth groups leaders and it brings their issues into its own work. In this way, the Advisory Board can act as a mediator between the youth groups and the specialist office.

The Advisory Board may establish new work groups and has an overview of the conclusions of the different work groups.

The Advisory Board participates in the content design of network meetings.

§ 9 Withdrawal from the Advisory Board

Withdrawals from the Advisory Board can take place when a person resigns or when they are voted out of the body by the members of the board. Resignations must be submitted in written form to the Advisory Board and to the Queere Jugend NRW office within a period of two weeks. In the case of legal violations that result in an entry on the criminal record, an immediate expulsion of the member takes place. For a member of the board to be voted out, 60% of the entire Advisory Board must cast a ballot in favor of it. In this case, the full-time staff of the Queere Jugend NRW office will provide advice. Following reasons can lead to an expulsion:

- Violation of the guiding principles of Queere Jugend NRW
- Major violations or neglect concerning the tasks of the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board has the possibility to fill the vacant seat of the former member following the requirements of the quota system. However, if the withdrawal of the member leaves the total number of board members below the minimum of three, the entire Advisory Board must be re-elected as soon as possible. If the time span to the next regular network meeting is too long, an exceptional one can be organized by the full-time staff of the Queere Jugend NRW office.