New Zealand Red Cross Regulations annual update 2026

Minor changes to the Regulations approved by the National President in September 2026

These changes 'do not alter the meaning or substance of any part of the Regulations' and are intended to improve clarity and reduce ambiguity.

Section	Current Regulations	Approved changes (updates in red)	Rationale
3.2.1: Area Awards	Nominations for awards must be submitted to the Area Support Team by 1 May and 1 November each year.	Nominations for awards must be submitted to the Area Support Team by 1 May and 1 October each year.	To allow time for endorsements, certificate and badge preparation for November and December presentations.
3.2.2: National Awards	National Awards are conferred by the National Board.	National awards are conferred by the Honours and Awards Committee of the National Board, except for Counsellor of Honour nominations, which must be approved by the National Board for decision by National Council.	This update reflects National Board decision in June 2026 to delegate authority to approve National Awards to the H&A Committee.
5.9: Annual General Meeting (Branches)	Branches must hold an AGM before 15 July each year.	Branches must hold an AGM after 30 June and before 15 July each year.	Annual finances cannot be calculated until 30 June and therefore cannot be approved by the Branch Committee before 30 June. This change clarifies that the meetings should be held early in our new financial year. We have at least one Branch that holds their AGM in March and doesn't approve their finances and elects their officials then. This provides a specific window in which the meetings should be held rather than just an end date.
Section 4: Group Section	Sue Chamberlain minor edits received after the board meeting to Group Section (1.6) with drafting improvements and clarifications. Approved separately by National President.	Changes tracked.	Clarity and plain english.

5.4: Financial management of a Branch	Branches may not spend their funds on any purpose, project or activity that is a non-approved activity or has been declined by the National Board or the Secretary-General.	Branches may only incur operating expenditure if the expenditure is in a budget approved by the National Board through the Area planning process. Branches may not spend their funds on any purpose, project or activity that is a non-approved activity or has been declined by the National Board or the Secretary-General.	Sentence has been added for clarity. Currently the reference to 'a non-approved activity' could be confused with activities in the *What we don't do* resource. The additional wording aligns with 12.4. Reordering of the existing paragraphs in 5.4 to improve the flow of information.
5.12 Closing a Branch	The accounts of the Branch must be finalised, with a copy of the income and expenditure statement and the final statement of balance of funds sent to the Area Council within four weeks of the formal resolution to close.	The accounts of the Branch must be finalised, and ~~with~~ a copy of the income and expenditure statement and the final ~~statement of~~ balance of funds ~~sent~~ must be forwarded to the Area Council within four weeks of the formal resolution to close. The Branch Treasurer must close any bank accounts.	Rewritten for clarity that Branch funds are forwarded to the Area Council bank account when a Branch transitions to a Local Group. Updated to align with the wording above it regarding the process for when a Branch closes, and to remove ambiguity around forwarding on of funds.
6.14 Starting an activity out of cycle	If a member, Branch, Group or Area wishes to start an activity after the National Board has approved the Area Plan, the first step is to seek agreement from the Area Council. If agreed, the Chair will discuss with the Area Coordination and Planning Lead and apply for approval from the National Board. For new activities (either new to Red Cross or new to the Branch, Group or Area), the New Activity Assessment Form must also be completed. The New Activity Assessment Form can be found in the Planning Hub.	If a member, Branch, Local Group or Area Council wishes to ~~start~~ add an activity after the National Board has approved the Area Plan, the first step is to ~~seek agreement from~~ discuss the proposed activity with the Area Council and Area Coordination and Planning Lead. If ~~agreed~~ they support it, ~~the Chair will discuss with the Area Coordination and Planning Lead and~~ the activity will be considered for approval ~~from~~ by the Board Liaison or the National Board, depending on the nature of the activity. All out-of-cycle activities will need to comply with the standard processes and documentation requirements. The Area Coordination and Planning Lead will advise on this process. ~~For new activities (either new to Red Cross or new to the Branch, Group or Area), the New Activity Assessment Form must also be completed. The~~	This change provides greater clarity on out-of-cycles processes in accordance with Area Planning guidance. The paragraph which refers to new activities has been removed here and added to 6.12 (Annual Area Planning and reporting).

		~~New Activity Assessment Form can be found in the Planning Hub.~~	
8.7: Conduct of National Council Meetings	There is currently no guidance in the Regulation as to whether Article 3.6.2 of the Constitution, which defines quorum for National Council AGMs as 'one half of the voting members' refers to actual elected voting members or all potential elected roles for voting members.	A quorum at the National Council Annual General Meeting consists of one half of actual elected voting National Council Members.	Clarifying Regulations in case elections do not result in filling all potential National Council Member roles in any given year. The language in the Regulations interprets the Article 3.6.2 of the Constitution as referring to actual voting members rather than all potential voting member roles whether elected or not i.e. vacant positions are not voting members).
10.4.1: Area Council elections – Representation and composition	Volunteer Members registered in an Area elect between five and nine members onto their Area Council.	~~Volunteer~~ Members who are not employees that are registered in an Area elect between five and nine members onto their Area Council	All members, not just volunteer members elect Area Council members.
10.4.4: Area Council elections Terms of Office	The maximum term for an Area Councillor is six years, being two successive terms of three years. At the end of the maximum period of six years, a member must stand-down for a period of three years. Following the stand-down period, a person may then be elected for no more than two further terms. An elected Area Council member wishing to serve a further term must nominate and participate in an election as a new nominee.	An Area Councillor may serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms, totalling six years. After completing two consecutive terms, the member must stand down from all Area Council elections for one full term (three years). Following this stand-down period, the individual may stand for election again and, if elected, may serve up to a further two consecutive terms. Any member seeking re-election after a stand-down period must nominate and stand for election as a new nominee.	Rewritten for clarity and including further definition as per legal advice that candidates cannot stand for election to **any** Area Council once they have completed 2 terms, not just the one that they were previously on. As written these terms apply irrespective of movement across boundaries. No substantive change but hopefully the advice is clearer.
12.4 Budgeting for activities	If Area Councils and/or Branches and Groups wish to deliver locally coordinated and led activities, they must provide information on the activities and the budget (including the funding) in the Area Council's draft annual Area Plan to the National Board	If Area Councils ~~and/or~~, Branches and Local Groups wish to deliver locally coordinated and led activities (including activities that involve providing funds to Red Cross Programmes or others) they must provide information on the activities and associated budget ~~(including the funding)~~ in the Area Council's draft ~~annual~~ Area Plan to the National Board as part of the ~~annual~~ Area planning ~~cycle~~ process.	Rewritten for clarity that providing funds is an activity and needs to be included in Area plans, which is not always the case currently. This amendment aims to improve the completeness of Area plans and budgets

	as part of the annual Area planning cycle. Funds for national programmes are coordinated centrally through the relevant programme team and any financial support to these programmes needs to be delivered through the national programme coordinators in line with the national annual plan and budget. The Area Plan must include all Branch and Group plans that operate within the boundaries of that Area. Area Councils and/or Branches and Groups may only incur operating expenditure if the expenditure is in a budget approved by the National Board through the annual business Area planning process.	Funds for national programmes are coordinated centrally through the relevant programme team and any financial support to these programmes needs to be delivered through the national programme coordinators in line with the national annual plan and budget. Funds provided to other organisations must be aligned with the Community Partnerships Policy and Community Partnership Screening form). ~~The Area Plan must include all Branch and Group plans that operate within the boundaries of that Area.~~ Area Councils ~~and/or~~ Branches and Local Groups may only incur operating expenditure if the expenditure is in a budget approved by the National Board through the annual ~~business~~ Area planning process.	by ensuring funding activities are captured through the Area planning process.
12.5 Unbudgeted expenditure	Any activity or purpose that is not included in the Branch or Area Plan and approved by the National Board is considered unbudgeted expenditure.	Any ~~activity or purpose~~ expenditure that is not included in the ~~Branch or~~ Area Plan and approved by the National Board is considered unbudgeted expenditure.	Rewritten for clarity.
Glossary of Terms	“Local Group” is a Group of Members that volunteer to deliver an activity that is not part of a national programme of service delivery.	“Local Group” is a Group of Members that volunteer to deliver activities that are not part of a national programme of service delivery.	Local Groups may undertake more than one activity; this appears to be an oversight.
Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for any references to approval from the National Board, and where relevant add ‘through the Area planning process’.	Changes tracked	Clarify that National Board approval is obtained through the Area planning process.

Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for any references to ‘Branch Plan’ and change it to ‘Area Plan’	Changes tracked	Reduced ambiguity and potential for confusion about planning and approval requirements.
Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for any references to ‘annual planning process’ and where relevant change it to ‘annual Area planning process’ or ‘Area planning process’	Changes tracked	Updated for clarity that Area Councils, Branches and Local Groups undertake planning through the Area planning process, and that it is continuous throughout the year. This change reflects that they can undertake planning and seek approval for new activities at any time.
Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for any references to ‘Area Forum’ and remove	Changes tracked	The Area Forum is being combined with the AGM in July to create a single annual event. Now only one reference to Area Forum in the Regulations to explain that.
Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for any references to Area Councils ‘approve’ area plans and change it to ‘endorse draft area plans’	Changes tracked	Reworded for clarity to distinguish that Area Councils ratify draft Area plans, while the National Board approves Area plans.
Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for any references to ‘business planning’ and change to ‘national planning’	Changes tracked	Updates align with the new language approved by ELT in October 2025 and used for Our Plan | Budget 2026/27.
Throughout Regulations	Update Regulations font to Noto Sans	Changes not tracked (formatting)	Update to align with updated Style and Practice Guidance
Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for references to previous ELT structure and update to reflect new ELT structure	Changes tracked	Updates reflect the new ELT structure
Throughout Regulations	Check Regulations for references to ‘Planning Hub’ and remove	Changes tracked	Reworded to use more generic language and ensure wording is future proofed
Contents page	Check page numbers are updated and correct	This change will be actioned at the end of the process.	Page numbers will be updated in the contents section to reflect changes through this process.