

Parliamentary Procedure Basics

At the start of each session, the chair will ask for a motion to start debate.

Then, the chair will ask for other points or motions. The chair will ask for points or motions after each moderated caucus, unmoderated caucus, or other interruption in committee.

Motions are voted on in the order of most to least disruptive.

From least to most disruptive, possible motions include:

Moderated Caucus: Formal debate on a set topic. Delegate who motions sets topic, total time, and speaking time.

Unmoderated Caucus: Informal discussion among delegates usually for putting together directives or resolutions. Delegate simply sets total time. This is good for merging resolutions, coming up with directives, etc.

Introduce Directives: Chair simply reads out desired directives. Delegate can choose to introduce all or some directives. Once a directive has been introduced it can be discussed formally and voted upon

-Delegates may motion to include a summary period by the directive's sponsor or Q & A period with a set time limit

Voting Procedure: Delegates may motion to vote on all or just specific directives. The doors are "locked," and no one may enter or leave the room once voting procedure has begun. Delegates vote for, vote against or abstain on each directive

>Delegates can motion to have **2 speakers for and 2 speakers against** each directive with set speaking time

>Anyone can call for a **roll call vote** without having the motion approved. This means voting goes around the room and each delegate must state their vote one at a time.

Points include:

Point of Order- Basically points out a delegate or the chair's failure to adhere to parliamentary procedure

Point of (Parliamentary) Inquiry - Delegate may ask the chair a question about committee flow or about crisis updates, chair has discretion in answering question

Point of (Personal) Privilege - Delegate may complain about something making them uncomfortable (ie "Turn the AC down!")

Right of Reply - If a delegate is personally insulted by another delegate in committee, then they may call for a right of reply. The delegate must submit the text of this speech to the chair, and the chair will read aloud (if appropriate). Only personal insults count.