



The Modern Rules of Order Overview

Purpose: To promote timely consideration of the substance of the meeting rather than a ritualistic procedure.

- 1) Issues that require consideration of the meeting may be discussed with or without formal motion.
- 2) Discussion of any issue is subject to regulation by the Chair to assure adequate consideration of relevant points of view in the best interests of the organization.
- 3) A principal element of these rules is to place in the hands of the Chair the requisite authority to lead the meeting through its business, using these rules as a guide.
- 4) The essential element of democratic form is preserved through the right of any member to appeal a ruling of the Chair to the meeting as a whole.
- 5) Frequently, the best interests of the organization will become easily distilled such that a general consensus can be determined. If the issue cannot be resolved by consensus, the Chair should call for a formal motion.
- 6) Prudent leadership requires that the meeting hear all points of view, and molding different approaches or opinions into a general consensus is the hallmark of capable leadership.
- 7) Whenever the Chair realizes there is a significant division within the meeting or that a reliable sense of the meeting cannot be stated, a motion should be invited that will bring about formal resolution by discussion leading to a vote.
- 8) Meeting conduct motions carry a sense of urgency, therefore they are the most privileged and have the highest priority for action.
- 9) Main motions are the fundamental issues facing the meeting for decision. In the usual circumstance, only one main motion should be considered at a time.
- 10) Because disposition motions affect main motions, they logically have precedence over main motions and therefore may be raised while main motions are pending.
- 11) A motion to close debate affects the most fundamental right of any member, the right to speak one's views. For that reason, it is the only procedural motion that requires greater than a majority vote – a two-thirds vote of participants voting is required.
- 12) There are a number of archaic or simply unnecessary motions that complicate and encumber procedure. The substance of these motions may be incorporated into recognized motions or may otherwise be handled effectively by the Chair's direction of the meeting.