



Old Dominion University Model United Nations Conferences  
Rules and Procedures

General Assembly

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If the Chair finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chair, or another member of staff designated by the Chair or Secretary-General, shall preside as Acting Chair. The Acting Chair shall have the same powers as the Chair.

*Rule 8 General Powers of the Chair*

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the Chair shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the session, direct debate in meetings, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, rule on points of order, and maintain decorum. The Chair shall maintain the list of speakers either by taking placard requests or by requiring requests in writing. The Chair may, in the course of the discussion of an item, limit the number of times each member may be placed on the speakers' list and limit their speaking time. The Chair is authorized to ask Delegates to focus their remarks on topics under discussion. The Chair may invite motions, judge the suitability of Draft Resolutions (Working Papers) and proposed Amendments, declare motions dilatory, and limit caucusing.

*Rule 9 Voting*

Only official Delegates vote. The Chair shall not vote on any matters concerning procedural

### *Rule 15 Speeches*

A Delegate may speak only if recognized by the Chair to do so. No Delegate may address the General Assembly, its committees, subcommittees, or another ODUMUN body without permission of the Chair. The Chair shall call upon speakers to be placed on a Speakers' List in the order of their turn to speak. The Chair may call a speaker to order if their remarks are not germane to the topic under discussion.

A Delegate wishing to yield time to questions, to the chair or another Delegation must note so at the beginning of their speech.

### *Rule 16 Time Limit on Speeches*

The committee or Chair may limit the speaking time allowed for each speaker. When debate is limited and a Delegate exceeds allotted time, the Chair shall call them to order without delay.

### *Rule 17 Points of Order (Procedural)*

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a Point of Order (a procedural question). The Point of Order shall be decided immediately by the Chair, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. A representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

A Delegate intending to seek information or clarification of procedure rises to a Point of Order as a means of obtaining the floor. However, *to Introduce a Motion* (request specific action), a Delegate raises their placard and waits to be recognized by the Chair.

A Point of Order also can be an intervention directed to the Chair, requesting the Chair to make use of some power of their office, such as the manner in which the debate is being conducted, the maintenance of order, observance of the rules of procedure, or how the Chair is exercising their powers. Under a Point of Order, a Delegate may request the Chair to apply a particular rule of procedure.

Delegates should not rise to Points of Order interrupting another Delegate's speech, except under extraordinary circumstances.

### *Rule 18 Points of Information (Substantive)*

A Point of Information (a substantive question) is used to request information or clarification of remarks by the Chair or a Delegate relating to material or arrangements of the meeting, documents, translations, etc. A Point of Order always is directed to the Chair.

A Point of Information can be used to request information from another Delegate, but must be addressed through the Chair.

### *Rule 19 Appealing the Decision of the Chair*

A Delegate may appeal a ruling of the Chair or Acting Chair. Appeals must be submitted in writing through the Chair. The appeal shall be put before the Secretary-General. The Chair's ruling shall stand unless overruled by the Secretary-General. Decisions concerning Right of Explanation, Right of Reply, Roll Call Votes and speaking times are not appealable.

*Rule 20 Right of Reply*

A request to speak under a Right of Reply must be submitted in writing to the Chair.

Recognition of a Right of Reply may be granted by the Chair to a Delegate allowing them an opportunity to correct a serious misunderstanding



d) to Close Debate.

*Rule 31 Draft Resolutions*

Working Papers for consideration as Draft Resolutions are submitted to the body's Director in writing with the appropriate number of signatures by sponsors. A Working Paper cannot be considered by the body until it has been approved by the Director. If accepted by the Director, the Working Paper becomes a Draft Resolution. It must be formally introduced by a sponsor in a speech. The Director is responsible for distribution of the resolution, if necessary.

*Rule 32 Proposed Amendments*

To amend is to change a Draft Resolution in some way. The process for submitting an Amendment is the same as for a Resolution.

Friendly Amendments, approved by the Sponsors, are automatically incorporated into the Resolution.

Unfriendly Amendments require the vote of the body to be added to the Draft Resolution. All unfriendly Amendments and the Draft Resolutions to which they apply shall be voted after debate is finished or closed.

*Rule 33 Reconsideration of Resolutions*

A Resolution or Draft Resolution may be reconsidered (re-opened for debate or modification after a vote). Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be limited to one speaker in favor and one against the motion.

*Rule 34 Withdrawal of Motion and Resolutions*

A Motion, Draft Resolution or Amendment

## VIII. VOTING

### *Rule 35 Voting Rights*

Each Member State of the General Assembly shall have one vote.

### *Rule 36 Questions Decided by a Simple Majority*

Unless provided otherwise in these rules, Decisions of the Body shall be determined by a simple majority.

### *Rule 37 Important Questions*

An issue may be designated upon majority vote of a committee as an Important Question if it relates specifically to recommendations on the maintenance of international peace and security, suspension of the rights and privileges of a member or membership, expulsion of members, and budgetary questions.

A matter designated an Important Question requires a two-thirds majority of members present and voting to pass.

### *Rule 38 Method of Voting*

The Body normally votes by a show of placards. Any Delegate may request a Roll Call Vote on a resolution. If there is opposition the Chair shall call for a majority vote on the question. A Roll Call Vote shall be taken in English alphabetical order of the names of Member States. One Delegate for each Member State shall reply *yes*, *no*, or *abstain*. A Delegation also may vote *pass*. When called again the Delegation must vote *yes*, *no* or *abstain*.

### *Rule 39 Conduct During the Vote*

After the Chair announces the start of voting, all caucusing and note passing must cease. No Delegate shall interrupt voting except on a Point of Order in connection with the actual conduct of voting. No one is permitted to enter or exit the meeting room once a vote has begun, until after the vote is completed.

### *Rule 40 Explanation of Vote:*

The Chair may permit Member States to explain their votes, after voting. The Chair may limit the time allowed for explanations. After explanations are concluded, the Chair shall ask for any change of votes.

### *Rule 41 Voting on Unfriendly Amendments*

When two or more UnT/F4 1 Tfq0.0000092 0 62 792 reW\*nBT/F104 Tf10 104 Tfe70.8TQq0.0000092 0 62 792 reW\*nBT/F



*Rule 42 Division of the Question*

At ODU Model United Nations Conferences there is no Division of the Question. The same goals can be achieved by amendment.

*Rule 43 Equally Divided Votes*

If a vote is equally divided, the proposal fails.

**IX. DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR**

*Rule 44 Discretion of the Chair*

Any matters of interpretation or items not covered