

ROBERTS RULES CHEAT SHEET

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Complain about noise, room temp., etc.	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Decides
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move that we table it"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The above listed motions and points are listed in established order of precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below, but you may introduce another that is listed above it.

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Object to procedure or personal affront	"Point of order"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Ask for vote by actual count to verify voice vote	"I call for a division of the house"	Must be done before new motion	No	No	No	None unless someone objects
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question"	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take up matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	Yes	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	Yes	Yes	Only if original motion was debatable	No	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	"I appeal the Chair's decision"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of preference; any of them may be introduced at any time except when meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed from the first chart (Motion to Adjourn, Recess or Point of Privilege).



PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING A MAIN MOTION

What is Happening/Notes	The Chair Says/Does	Members Say/Do
Obtaining and assigning the floor		
A member rises when no one else has the floor		"Mr./Madam President/Chairman"
	Recognizes the member by name, title or nodding	
How the motion is brought before the assembly		
Member sits after		"I move that (or "to")..."
Another member believes the motion is worth discussing		"I second the motion" or just "Second"
"Is there any debate?" is a less formal alternative to "Are you ready for the question?"	"It is moved and seconded that (or "to") ... Are you ready for the question?"	
Consideration of the motion		
See rules for debate (sidebar)		Debate
The chair puts the question to a vote of the assembly		
	"Are you ready for the question?"	Further debate
After debate is ended, or if the formal motion Previous Question has been moved and adopted to stop debate, a vote is taken	"The question is on the adoption of the motion that ..." "Those in favor of the motion, say aye." (Pause) "Those opposed say no." (Pause)	Members vote
The chair announces the results of the vote		
	"The ayes have it, the motion is adopted, and ... (indicating the effect of the vote or ordering its execution)." OR "The noes have it and the motion is lost."	

PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING PARLIAMENTARY LAW

As stated in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, rules of parliamentary law balance the rights of individuals or groups within an organization's total membership. These rules are based on a regard for the rights:

- of the majority,
- of the minority, especially a strong minority greater than one third,
- of individual members,
- of absentees, and
- of all these together.

Ultimately the will of the majority decides matters, but only after full and free discussion. The rights of all (even those absent) must be protected. This pamphlet will help you run meetings more efficiently and effectively and help protect the rights of all members.

RULES FOR DEBATE

1. Members first obtain the floor.
2. The maker of the motion may speak first.
3. Debate is made to the chair; it is confined to the merits of the motion and not the motives or personalities of other members.
4. Amendments may be offered to improve the motion. They must be approved by the body, and the motion must still be adopted as amended.
5. Debate can be closed only by the assembly (2/3 vote) or by the chair if no one seeks the floor for further debate.