

HENRY VIII RULES

This committee begins in 1526. Henry VIII has called his council to aid him in solving the major issues plaguing England. The council must find solutions to these problems and work towards achieving the king's wishes both domestically and diplomatically. Most pressing is the king's lack of an heir. The queen is past childbearing age, and the only living child she has produced is a daughter. The king is apprehensive about allowing a female inherit his throne. Since the dynasty is fairly new and therefore not yet secure, it is imperative that the king find an heir who will be able to unify the country. A queen regnant will not command respect, and this may plunge England back into civil war. Meanwhile, Henry has an acknowledged bastard son who he might also name heir. However, it is uncertain whether his subjects would accept an illegitimate child to succeed the king. Moreover, whoever is chosen as Henry's heir must also be a figure who will be respected by the other powers in Europe, and it is difficult to say whether England would be best represented by a bastard or a female ruler. Additionally, an heir must be determined as soon as possible; the plague is a constant threat and could break out at any moment at court, and it is possible that the king might succumb to illness. In the unlikely event that he passes away suddenly, it will be necessary to have a predetermined successor ready so as to keep the Tudor line in power. Henry has turned the problem of succession over to his council, which must find a solution immediately if the Tudor dynasty in England is to flourish.

1. **The Chair:** The chair of Henry VIII's council is an appointed representative of the king, since for practical purposes he is not always able to attend sessions.
2. **Language:** Modern English will be the working language of the committee, as Middle English has fallen out of use and Old English has not been heard since the Norman Conquest. Foreigners must either speak in English, or else they must provide a translator.
3. **Attire:** Council members must dress in full Western business attire for all sessions. No exceptions.
4. **Conduct:** Council members are expected to show courtesy and decorum at all times. They must pay proper respect to the Chair, as well as each other and all speakers who enter the room, especially the king.
5. **Roll Call:** At the start of each session, the Chair will take a roll call of all council members. Those who are late or absent must notify the chair in writing before the meeting. Members who have missed a session between Thursday and Saturday without notifying the chair are ineligible for awards.
6. **Quorum:** Two thirds of the council members must be present to begin debate and vote on directives.

7. **Powers of the King:** The king is not able to attend most of the council's sessions. However, he will be informed of its actions. He is prepared to adopt most or all of the measures advised by his council, but delegates should bear in mind that he has the ultimate say in all matters. Council members should bear in mind that the king has supreme power over England, and as such he has significant influence over the Committee. Members would do well to work towards achieving the king's desires, lest their heads roll.
8. **Flow of Time:** Time will flow in an accelerated fashion. Each session will cover a few years. Furthermore, the time it would take for a message or an individual to travel long distances will be drastically sped up in the committee.
9. **Speaking:** There is no speaking list; speakers will be chosen by the Chair. No member of the council may speak without recognition from the Chair. Speaking time is up to her discretion, and she may call a delegate to order if his or her remarks are inappropriate or irrelevant to the topic.
10. **Agenda:** The Committee has no official agenda, so discussion may flow freely between topics without a vote, as long as the topic is appropriate.
11. **Unmoderated Caucus:** In the event that a delegate believes that a break from formal debate is necessary, he or she may make a motion for an unmoderated caucus. These will be held for a specified length of time at the discretion of the Chair. Delegates are also permitted to make a motion to extend the duration of the caucus if they feel that it is necessary.
12. **Points of Personal Privilege:** If a delegate feels that his or her ability to participate in debate is in some way impaired by an outside factor, he or she may raise a point of personal privilege at any point in a debate, even if another delegate is speaking.
13. **Point of Order:** If a delegate feels that the rules of the Committee have been violated, he or she may raise a point of order. If the rules have been broken during a speech, a point of order may be raised if that same delegate is still speaking or any time after.
14. **Point of Inquiry:** If a delegate has a question pertaining to the procedures of the king's council, he or she may raise a point of inquiry.
15. **Point of Information:** If a delegate has a substantive question that would be of interest to the rest of the Council, he or she may raise a point of information. If the question is lengthy, not immediately relevant, or only of interest to one person, it should be submitted in writing.

16. **Written Works:** All written communication must be in the form of draft resolutions or finished directives. The purpose of a directive is to enact or express the Council's will. They must be submitted to the Chair, and, if she approves it, they will then be voted on. These directives may include suggestions on policy addressed to the king; orders issued towards groups or individuals, either private or related in some way to the government; official communications with foreign powers; issuing pamphlets or ordering speeches to be given to the populace; sending delegates to private meetings and, in some cases, initiating these meetings; and anything else the Council feels is pertinent. All of these must meet with the scrutiny of the Chair.
17. **Amendments:** The committee has the power to amend a directive. The amendment will be voted on before the actual directive, and a majority vote is required to pass the amendment.
18. **Executions:** Delegates may write a directive to arrest one of the king's subjects, including a member of the council, and submit it to the Chair. The decision to arrest a council member must be agreed upon by a two-thirds majority vote and then approved by Henry VIII. The offending individual will then be led away for trial and, in all likelihood, be found guilty and executed. An arrested delegate must immediately leave the committee room. Assuming that he or she is found guilty and executed, he or she will be given the dossier for a new delegate and then re-enter as this individual. Motions to execute the king or his mouthpiece, the Chair, will not be tolerated.
19. **Voting:** During the debates, a delegate may motion to begin a vote. Once this motion has been recognized by the chair, a simple minority vote will pass any directive that does not pertain to an execution.
20. **Independent Action:** No delegate may issue anything on behalf of the Council to an outside group or individual without submitting it to a vote. However, personal communication is permitted.
21. **Motion to Close Cabinet:** A delegate may motion to suspend debate and all other committee action until the next session. The Chair reserves the right to override the motion.