

Committee Rules

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Committee is going to be run following the rules of Parliamentary Procedure. The major parts of Parliamentary Procedure have been outlined below.

Rules of Decorum and Debate

Delegates must direct their remarks only to the chair. They may not address other members of the committee.

Avoid characterizing another delegates intent or motives and discussing personalities.

Do not use profane language.

Do not speak disrespectfully to anyone in the room.

Do not use any form of electronic communication including cell phones and lap tops.

Ways of Addressing the Committee

If you wish to speak you must raise your hand and wait until you are verbally recognized by the Chair.

When no rule has been set regulating the length of speeches the time will be limited to 5 minutes. A delegate may not reserve any unused time for later or pass it on to another delegate. If the delegate wishes to speak longer than five minutes it must be approved by the Chair.

All remarks must pertain to the question or topic at hand. If the delegate wishes to speak on another topic he or she must petition the chair and the Assembly as a motion to table the current topic and move on to something else. The Chair may move on to another speaker if the delegate goes off topic.

A Point of Order may be called by the Chair at any time if he or she feels the committee is becoming disorderly or disruptive to another speaker. When the Chair makes a Point of Order committee members are asked to be silent until the Chair acknowledges a speaker.

If a delegate does not understand something that a fellow delegate has said or did not hear them properly they may ask the Chair for a Point of Clarification. A Delegate may call out a Point of Clarification at any time but may not interrupt another speaker.

Motions and Voting

A delegate may make a motion at any time. However they must raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair.

They must state that they are making a motion and state the motion.

The motion must then be seconded by a fellow committee member.

The Chair will repeat the motion and ask if the committee by a show of hands wants to put the motion to a vote, discuss longer, or table the motion for later.

If the motion is deemed serious enough by the chair to require it, the Chair may decide that a two thirds majority vote is required for the motion to pass.

If the motion is put to a vote, the Chair will ask for those in favor to raise their hands and then ask for those against. If the majority says yes than the motion then it passes and is immediately put into effect. If the majority says no than the motion goes dead but can be made at another time but must again be seconded.