

General Conference

Rules of Order

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GENERAL CONFERENCE

RULES OF ORDER

party interests, not to cater to nationalistic or regional ambitions, but to work “for time and eternity” and participate in the divine mission for the salvation of the world—7T 258, 259. Delegates and committee members are warned against a spirit of

in council and committee meetings (see Ms 29, 1895, p. 8).

The overarching concern of church sessions and committees is to discover and understand God's will regarding the issues, plans, and appointments to be considered. In the light of this purpose, the object of rules of order is to facilitate accomplishing the will of God. In this sense, the delegated sessions of the Church are **sui generis**

with the right to vote may make motions or speak to motions.

1a. Requires a second.

1b. A simple majority vote is required for

Procedure for questions of privilege

Do not require a second.

Cannot be debated.

Cannot be amended.

Can interrupt a person speaking.

Are usually decided by determination of the chair (though two delegates can appeal from the decision).

Can be reconsidered.

Cannot be amended.

Requires a simple majority.

Cannot be reconsidered.

Does not apply to committee reports or motions.

3b. Motion to Call the Previous Question.

The purpose of this motion is to stop and close debate immediately and vote on a motion.

3. SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

Subsidiary motions apply to a main motion and take precedence over the main motion because they need to be decided before the main motion can proceed. Privileged motions have precedence over subsidiary motions.

These rules of order recognize six kinds of subsidiary motions: motion to table, calling previous question, refer to committee

ly, and limit time of debate.

3a. Motion to Table.

A motion to table should be used when delegates or committee members wish to postpone to a later time consideration of an item that has been moved. It is not used to "drop" or suppress a motion; the correct

A motion to take from the table business previously tabled, is treated in the same way as a motion to table, though it can be renewed if it fails to pass.

A motion to table

Requires a second.

Cannot be debated.

Can be amended.

Requires a simple majority.

having to make a decision by placing responsibility on the delegates or members.

The appeal

Requires a second.

Generally is debatable, but not when the decorum of the session or meeting is in question or when an undebatable question is pending.

Cannot be amended.

Requires a simple majority.

Motions to “table” and “privileged motions” take precedence, as does “previous question” when the appeal is debatable.

Can be reconsidered.

In a question of appeal a delegate or member may speak only once, except by special permission of the chair, and the chair has the right to present the arguments in favor of the chair's decision or ruling.

4b. Division of a question.

The purpose of this motion is to divide a question having several propositions or sections (e.g. document with several pages or paragraphs) into separate parts which are to be considered and voted on as distinct questions. When divided, each part is voted on separately as if it had been offered alone. For practical purposes, it is better to divide a question when it is introduced, though the motion can be made any time while the question is pending.

The formality of a vote on division of a question can be dispensed with, the chair ruling by common consent regarding the method of division. If this procedure is objected to, then a formal motion to divide becomes necessary, specifying how the question is to be divided.

The motion to divide

Applies only to main questions and amendments.

a) Requires a second.

b) Requires a simple majority.

Yields to all privileged and subsidiary motions and to the incidental motion to appeal from a decision of the chair, except the motions to amend and to postpone

of subsidiary motions do not apply to the motion to divide.

Cannot be debated.

Can be reconsidered.

4c. Withdrawing or Modifying a Motion.

Before a motion has been stated by the chair, it is the property of the mover, who can withdraw it or modify it without asking for consent. After the motion has been stated by the chair, the maker must ask the assembly's permission to withdraw or modify the motion. If there is no objection, the chair shall treat the request as a unanimous-consent request. If there is an objection, the chair shall put the request to a majority decision vote.

A motion to modify or withdraw

Does not require a second.

Cannot be debated.

Cannot be amended.

Requires a simple majority.

Cannot be reconsidered.

After a motion has been withdrawn, the situation is as if the motion had never been made.

sessions and executive committee meetings within their territory. Any adaptation by a division for use in its territory shall be done by way of supplemental rules or addendum and not by modifying this document.

**Use of GENERAL CONFERENCE
RULES OF ORDER by Other Church
Organizations**

Other church organizations, such as local churches, boards, and faculty meetings, may use these rules of order.

MOTIONS SUMMARY TABLE