



**VANIER MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE**

APRIL 27-28 2019

821 avenue Sainte-Croix,  
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**A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ROBERT'S  
RULES OF ORDER**

A basic understanding of Robert's Rules of Order is imperative to maintaining fruitful parliamentary debate within a Model United Nations committee and also proves itself to be the most fundamental tool in a delegate's arsenal.

## **I. Quorum**

Quorum is the amount of delegates required to be present in order to pass documents or to enter Voting Procedure.

Debate: 2/3 of delegates must be present.

Voting on procedural matters: Procedural votes are done on procedural matters such as:

- speaker's time;
- to set an agenda;
- etc..

All delegates in the committee must vote on these matters and there can be no abstentions. Observer states or other organizations, should there be any, must also vote on procedural matters.

Voting on substantive matters: Sub matters include:

- motions to introduce Draft Resolutions;
- motions for an answer and question period;
- amendments to a Draft Resolution;
- motions to vote on a completed Draft Resolution;
- etc..

It is required to have a 50% + 1 majority in order for a vote to be successful. Observer states and other organizations, should there be any, are not allowed to vote on substantive matters.

## **II. Points**

Point of information: A question to a speaker who has been yielded time by the chair or another delegate.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Raises a question to the Dais concerning procedural matters (ex: how does a 2/3 majority work?).

Point of personal privilege: Addresses problems which prevent a delegate's participation (ex: room is too hot).

Right of reply: Response to a direct insult by another delegate (at the Chair's discretion).

Appeal to the Chair: Challenges a decision of the Chair.

Point of order: Points out a violation of Robert's Rules of Order.

### **III. Motions**

Motion to set the agenda: Starts debate on a topic and requires a 1/2 majority.

Motion to set the speaking time: Sets the speaking time for primary or secondary speaker's list and requires a 1/2 majority.

Motion for a moderated caucus: Rules of debate are imposed and, similar to a round table discussion, everyone remains seated and can talk only after having risen their placards and the Chair has given them the floor. Requires a 1/2 majority.

Motion for an unmoderated caucus: Debate is suspended and requires a 1/2 majority.

Motion to table a topic: Returns to the Primary Speaker's list without a vote on the topic to be discussed (which, by default, will be the second one) and requires a 2/3 majority.

Motion to close the Speaker's list: No new names can be added to the list and requires a 2/3 majority.

Motion to reopen Speaker's list: New names can be added to the list and requires a 2/3 majority.

Motion to close debate: Moves committee into voting procedure on the topic at hand and requires a 1/2 majority.

Motion to present a Draft Resolution: Resolution will need substantive majority (2/3 majority) in order to pass and be presented.

Motion to vote by Acclamation: The Draft Resolution being voted on will need consensus to pass. If one delegate is against the resolution, a Roll Call Vote will follow immediately.

Motion to divide the question: Each operative clause of a draft resolution is voted on individually and requires a 1/2 majority.

Motion to recess: Ends the committee meeting until the next scheduled time and requires a 1/2 majority.

Motion to adjourn: End the final committee meeting and requires a 2/3 majority.