



SPIMUN General Rules of Procedure

The beginning of the debates

1. *Roll-call.*

The Chair reads out the names of the delegations in alphabetical order. Delegations that are present respond by calling out "Present!"

2. Chair reads out the forum's agenda and schedule for that day.

3. Chair asks the main submitter of the 1st resolution to approach the floor and read out the operative clauses from the resolution.

Standard introductory phrase:

- We will now discuss the resolution on the question *%subject%*, submitted by *%name of delegation%*.

General rules

1. Addresses

Speakers need to address each other in the Third Person Singular at all times. Always "honorable speaker" or "fellow delegates", never "You" or "I".

2. Points

In general: **Points during debate may not interrupt a speaker** (exception: Point of Personal Privilege referring to audibility)

a. Point of Personal Privilege:

- i. Refers to the comfort and well-being of the delegate,
- ii. May only interrupt a speaker if it refers to audibility,
- iii. Is not debatable,
- iv. Does not require a second.

If a point of personal privilege is used during a speech, the Chair can react in two different ways:

- i. If the Chair is not certain that the point refers to the audibility of the speech:
 - I am sorry, your point is out of order during the speech.
- ii. If the Chair is certain that the point refers to the audibility of the speech:
 - Your point is well taken. Could the house please come to order / could the honorable delegate please speak a bit up / speak clearly into the microphone?

b. Point of Order:

- i. Refers to procedural matters only, i.e. if the chair makes an error in the order of debate or in the setting of debate time,
- ii. May not interrupt a speaker,
- iii. Is not debatable,
- iv. Can only refer to something that just happened, direct referral, otherwise out of order

Example: "Is it in order for the delegate to yield the floor to another delegation since the floor was previously yielded to him by *%delegation name%*?"

The Chair can react in two different ways:

- i. The Chair overrules the point:
 - All points are out of order at this time.
 - Your point is out of order.
 - There will be no points or motions at this time.
- ii. The Chair allows the delegate to make the point.

There is a point of order in the house:

- *%Delegation name%*, you have been recognized.
- The Chair will entertain the point of order proposed by *%delegation name%*. Please rise and state your point.

After this the Chair decides whether the point is actual or not:

Agrees:

- Thank you delegate, your point is well-taken. No, it is not in order, as the floor can be yielded from one delegation to another only once (*см пример*).

Disagrees:

- Thank you for your point. I am afraid, however, that the chair does not agree with you.
- Your point is not well taken. The delegate is entitled to state his opinion on this matter.

c. Point of information to the speaker:

- i. A question directed to the delegate having the floor, and who has indicated that he is willing to answer points of information,
- ii. Speaker asking the Point of Information may only speak if recognized by Chair,
- iii. Must be formulated in the form of a question, i.e. "Is the speaker aware that." A short introductory statement may precede the question,
- iv. Only ONE question by the same questioner. There will be no dialogue between speaker and questioner on the floor,

Example: "Could the honorable delegate, as he is the main submitter of this resolution, please explain to the house what he intends with clause 3?"

Answering points of information:

- i. The delegate having the floor is often willing to answer multiple points of information. Usually, the Chair will allow the speaker to answer a maximum of three points. After that he asks the delegate to yield the floor. The following lines can be frequently heard:
 - Thank you, *%name of the delegation%*. In the interest of the debate, this will be your last point of information. Does anyone have a point for this speaker?
 - Thank you very much. In the interest of the debate, I would like to ask you to yield the floor either back to the Chair or to another delegation
 - Thank you. Due to time restraints, I would like to ask you to yield the floor back to the Chair.

ii. The delegate usually complies with the Chair's request. However, he has to do so explicitly:

- I yield the floor back to the Chair.

If he does not yield the floor explicitly, the Chair asks him to do so:

- Please yield the floor back to the Chair.

d. Right to follow up

A right of the delegate to ask for a permission to make second point of information to the speaker in a row in case the previous answer of the speaker is not full/does not relate to the topic of the previous point of information of this questioner. The Chair decides whether the Right to follow up is granted or denied according to common sense and the time of the debates remaining.

e. Point of Information to the Chair:

- i. A question to the chair,
- ii. May not interrupt a speaker,
- iii. Can refer to almost anything, from issues to personal priorities.

Example: "Is it in order for the delegate to refer to the Secretary General as "John"?"

f. Point of Parliamentary Enquiry:

- i. Point of information to the chair concerning Rules of Procedures,
- ii. Example: "Could the Chair please explain to the house what is meant by closed debate?"

3. Motions:

- a. "Motion to move to the previous question":
 - i. *During open debates* calls for the closure of debate and vote,
 - ii. *During closed debates* calls for moving into the time against,
 - iii. May not interrupt a speaker,
 - iv. Requires a "second" by the house and is stopped by an "objection" of one delegation.

- b. "Motion adjourn the debate":
 - i. Calls for the temporary disposal of a resolution,
 - ii. Will be done if a deadlock in the debate has occurred and more informal lobbying is needed,
 - iii. Practically means the death of the resolution, due to lack of time,
 - iv. Not debatable,
 - v. Needs a simple majority,
 - vi. To take matters from the table a 2/3 majority is needed and resolution will be debated at end of business (if there is time).
 - vii. Also known as "Motion to table the resolution"

- c. "Motion to reconsider a resolution":
 - i. Calls for a re-debate and re-vote of a motion that has already been discussed (adopted or rejected),
 - ii. Done at the end of all other business,
 - iii. Only necessary if no other draft resolutions on the issue are present,
 - iv. Needs 2/3 majority, not debatable.

- d. "Motion to extend debate time":
 - i. Calls for extension of the debates
 - ii. May not interrupt a speaker,
 - iii. Requires a "second" by the house, and is stopped by an "objection" of one delegation.

- e. “Motion to divide the house” (roll call vote):
 - i. In case of arguable results of the previous voting procedure
 - ii. Abstentions are in order
 - iii. Needs 2/3 majority, not debatable.