

The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN)

Rules of Procedure Guide
Specific to THIMUN Security Council Procedure

Berkeley Model United Nations LXVII

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Introduction

This year, NATO will function under the procedural guidelines set forth by The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN). There are some fundamental structural variations between THIMUN procedure and standard BMUN procedure, and this guide will outline these differences. It will provide an overview of the terms delegates will encounter in THIMUN procedure and then describe how a typical committee running in THIMUN procedure would function.

Additionally, NATO will observe the rules of procedure followed by a Security Council committee operating under THIMUN. THIMUN Security Council procedure follows a clause-by-clause debate style, and is much more detail oriented and specific. This guide will offer a detailed overview of this.

In its essence, THIMUN is a procedure focused mainly on resolutions. Rather than opening a speaker's list and writing resolutions during a caucus, debate in THIMUN begins with a completed resolution. The goal of debate is to better the resolution through amendments, and ultimately, to pass it.

General Definitions

Quorum

Resolutions need a Quorum to be debated and voted upon, and this is achieved when at least **one third** of the committee is present. Committee sessions can only be opened and debate is only permitted when quorum is achieved.

Lobbying

This is one of the biggest differences between standard BMUN procedure and THIMUN procedure. Lobbying is the time designated by the Chairs for delegates to come together and draft clauses on the topics. It is similar to an unmoderated caucus, but lobbying occurs only once during the first committee session on Friday evening. During lobbying, delegates can form groups to write complete clauses on the committee's topics, which are then submitted to the Chair at the end of Friday's session. These will then be combined into a "collection" per topic for debate. Delegates are encouraged to come prepared with at least a few clauses on the topics to aid in the lobbying process.

Roll Call

Roll call occurs every time delegates collectively return to committee, i.e. after a break or lunch. Roll call is also taken before the morning's committee session. Delegates may respond "Present and Voting," seeing as every member of NATO is entitled to one equal vote within the committee (please see the "Voting Procedure" section of this guide for voting guidelines).

Points

Most “points” in THIMUN procedure are essentially questions. Delegates are able to raise points at any time during the debate by raising their placards in the air. A point can only be entertained at the Chair’s discretion, and may *not* interrupt a speaker, save for a Point of Personal Privilege due to audibility. There are many points in THIMUN procedure, and the ones that will be used in BMUN 67 are outlined below:

Point of Information to the Speaker:

- A question directed to a delegate who has the floor and who has indicated that they are open to answering Points of Information.
- Can only be raised once the Chair has asked for Points of Information.
- Must be phrased in question form, but a short introductory statement is permitted preceding the question.
- Only **one** question may be asked at a time.
- Follow-up questions are permitted at the discretion of the Chair.
- General example: *“The delegate’s speech referred to the creation of a rehabilitation program in Kashmir. Could the delegate please expand on how this will be achieved?”*

Point of Information to the Chair:

- A question directed to the Chair.
- Can be raised at any time by raising the placard and calling “Point of Information to the Chair.”
- May **not** interrupt a speaker.

- Can refer to anything that is not covered in other points.
- General example: *“Point of Information to the Chair. What time do we adjourn for lunch?”*

Point of Order

- A question raised if the delegate believes the Chair has made an error in procedural matters such as keeping time, order of debate, etc.
- Can be raised at any time by raising the placard and calling “Point of Order.”
- May **not** interrupt a speaker.
- Should only reference that which has just happened.
- General example: *“Point of Order. The Chair just asked for more speakers on the clause. The delegate believes speaking time for the clause has elapsed. Shouldn’t the committee be moving into voting procedures now?”*

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

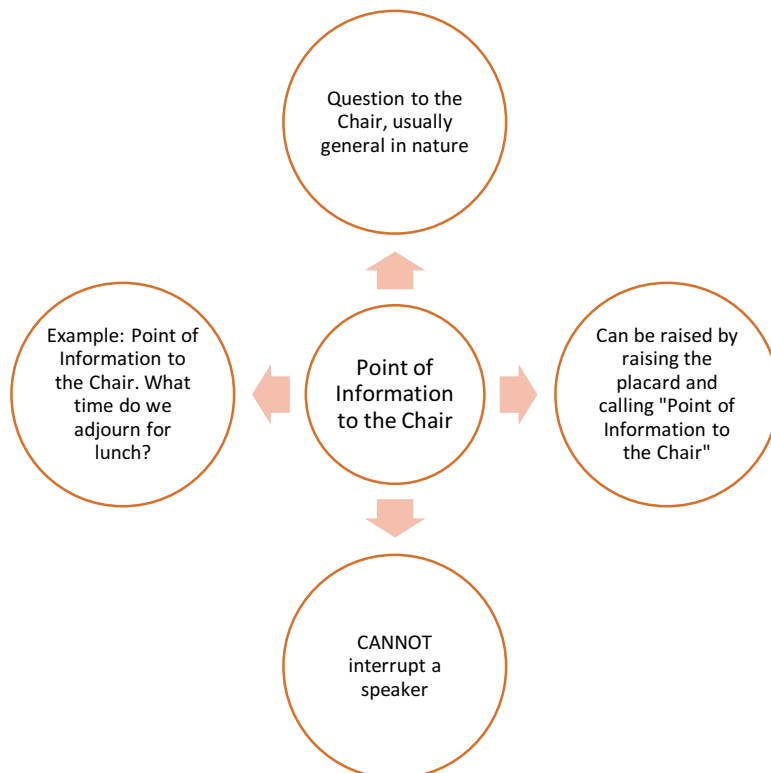
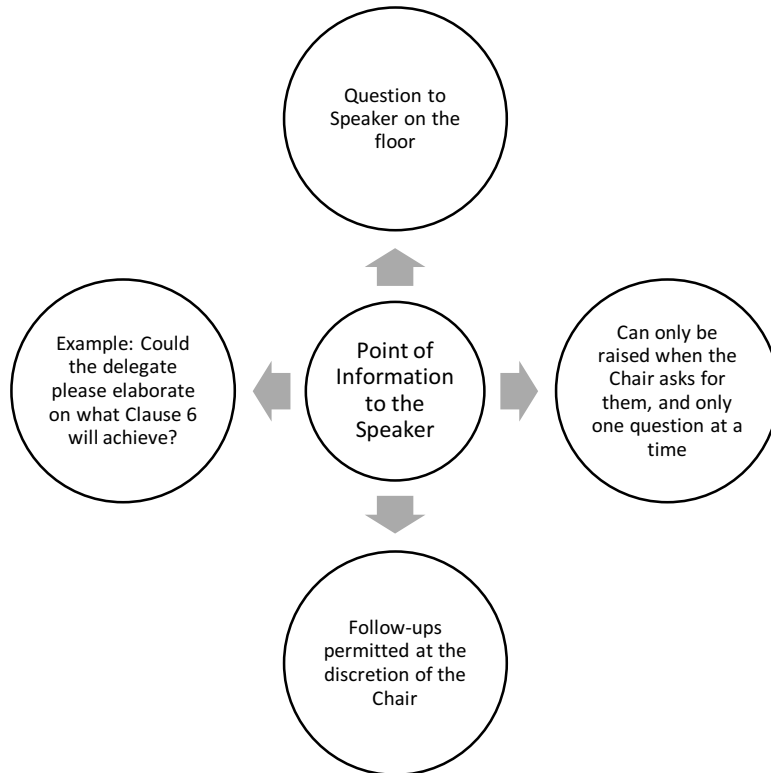
- A question directed to the Chair regarding the Rules of Procedure.
- Can be raised at any time by raising the placard and calling “Point of Parliamentary Enquiry.”
- May **not** interrupt a speaker.
- General example: *“Point of Parliamentary Enquiry. What happens to the amendment if an amendment to the second degree passes?”*

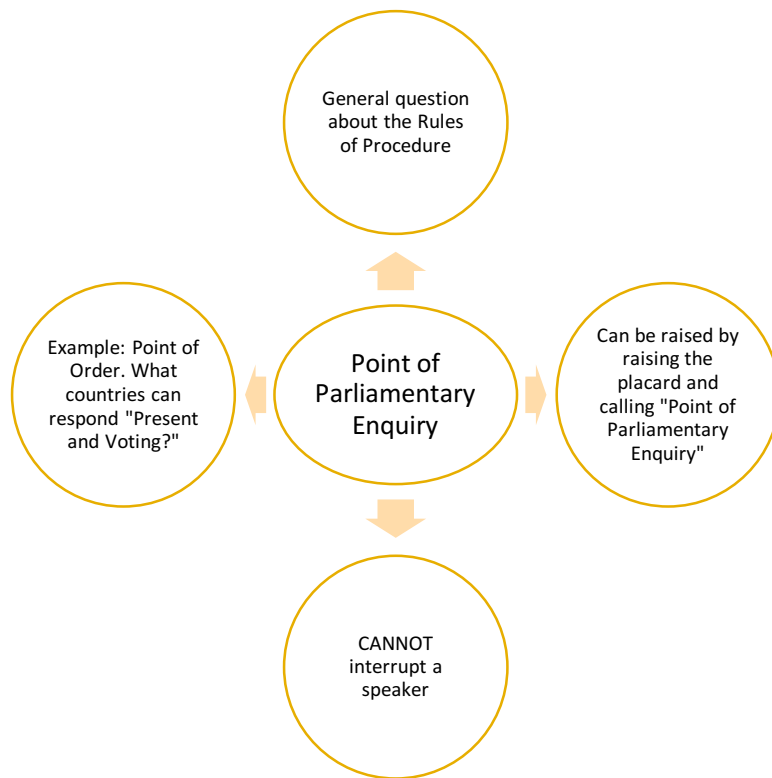
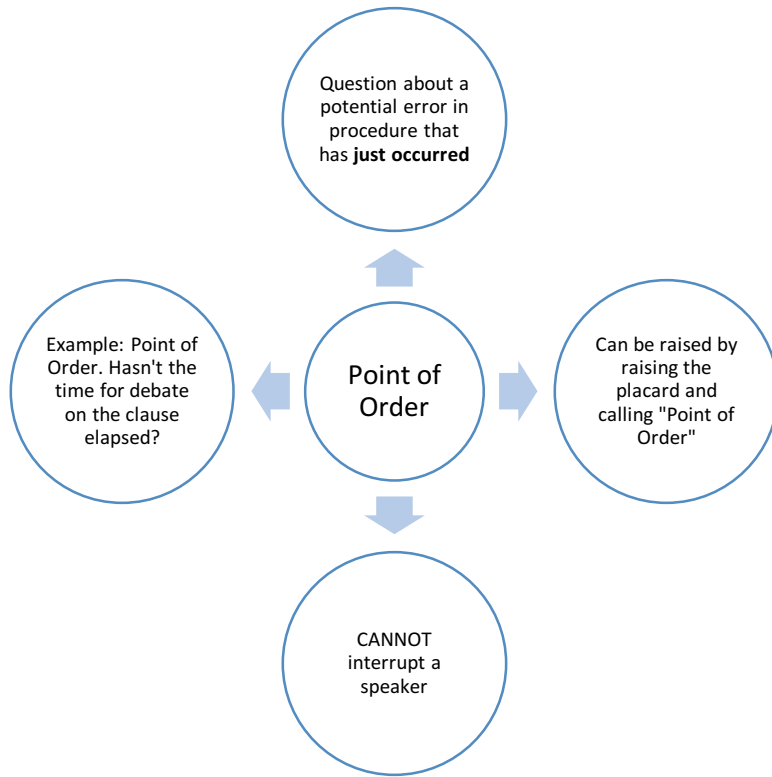
Point of Personal Privilege

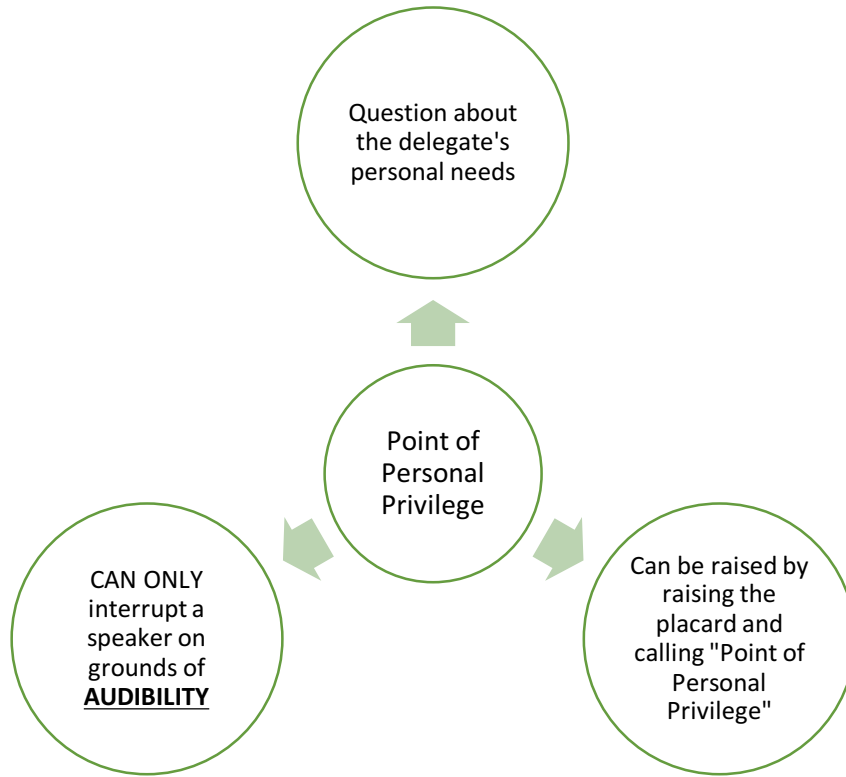
- A question raised regarding the delegate’s personal needs.
- **Can only interrupt a speaker if it relates to the audibility of a delegate.**
- Audibility example: *“Point of Personal Privilege – Audibility.”*

- General example: “*Point of Personal Privilege. Could the AC please be turned off?*”

POINTS: A SUMMARY







Motions

Motions are actions proposed by delegates that require support from the rest of the committee and the Chair's approval. Motions are usually called at any time when a delegate is not speaking by raising the placard and stating the motion. Most motions raised by a delegate require vocal support from at least one other delegate: a "second." If a delegate raises a vocal "objection," however, the motion is immediately out of order (in most cases).

Motion to Move Directly into Voting Procedures

- Calls for the closure of debate at the time and for an immediate transition into voting procedures.
- Requires a "second" from the house.
- Ultimately up to the Chair's discretion.

Motion to Extend Debate Time

- Calls for more time for speakers, amendments etc.
- Requires a "second" from the house.
- Ultimately up to the Chair's discretion.

Motion for a ____ minute Unmoderated Caucus

- Calls for a cessation of debate for a certain amount of time specified by the delegate for the purposes of discussing the clause/amendment freely with other delegates in the committee.
- Requires a "second" from the house.
- Ultimately up to the Chair's discretion.

Motion to Reconsider a Resolution

- Calls for a re-debate and re-vote of a resolution that has already been debated and voted upon.
- Only valid if all other resolutions have been debated and voted upon.
- Needs two-thirds majority.
- Ultimately up to the Chair's discretion.

Motion to Withdraw a Resolution

- This motion can be raised at any time during debate before voting by **the main submitter and other sponsors** of a resolution to withdraw it from the agenda completely, as long as there is unanimous agreement by the main submitter and other sponsors.

Motion to Divide the House

- This motion can be raised following a vote where there were a large number of abstentions (larger than the number for or against).
- This is essentially calling for a roll-call vote where **abstentions are no longer permitted**.
- **Objections are not permitted**, but it is ultimately up to the Chair's discretion.
- *Usually discouraged because of how time-consuming it is.*

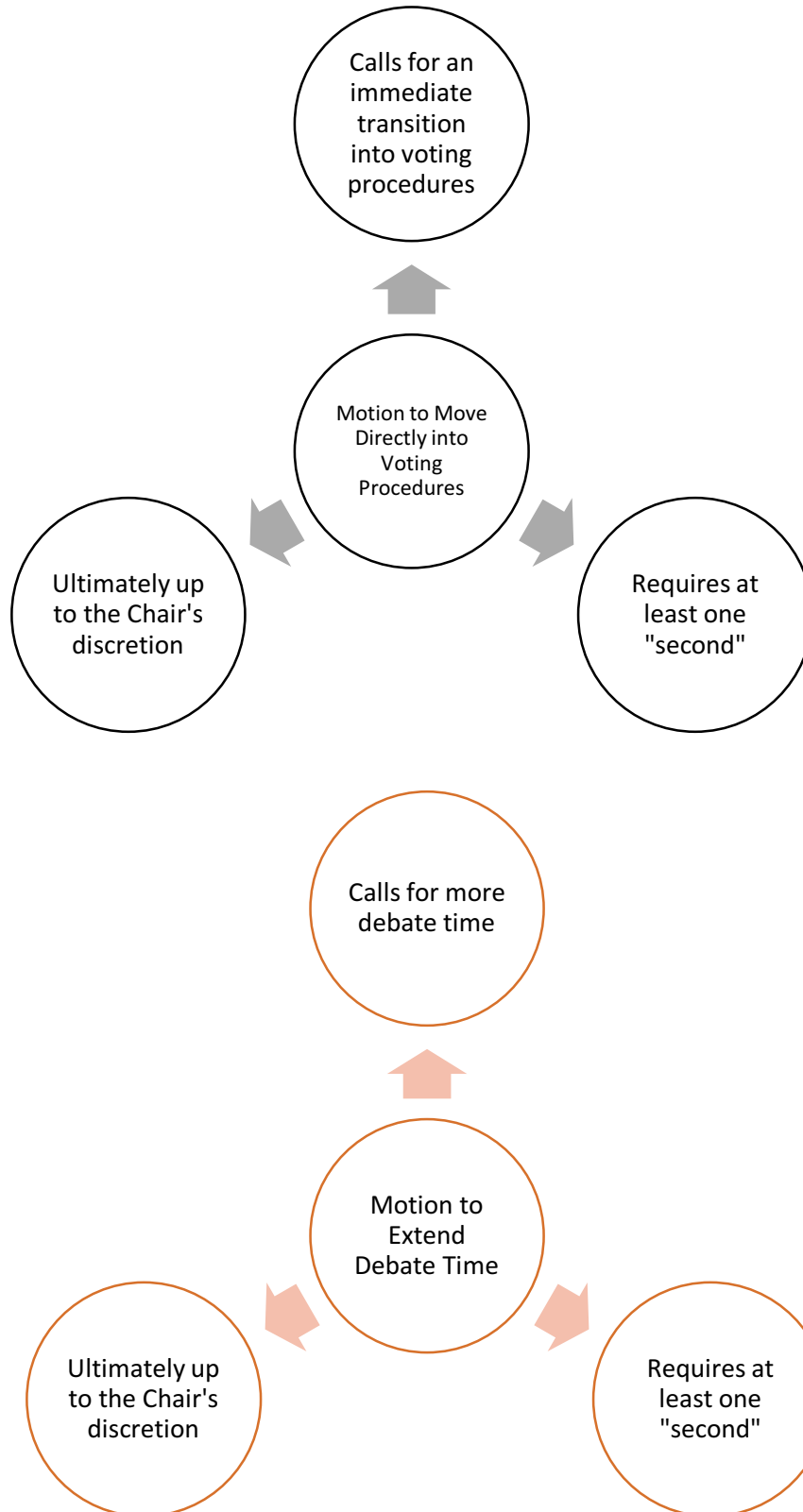
Motion to Appeal the Decision of the Chair

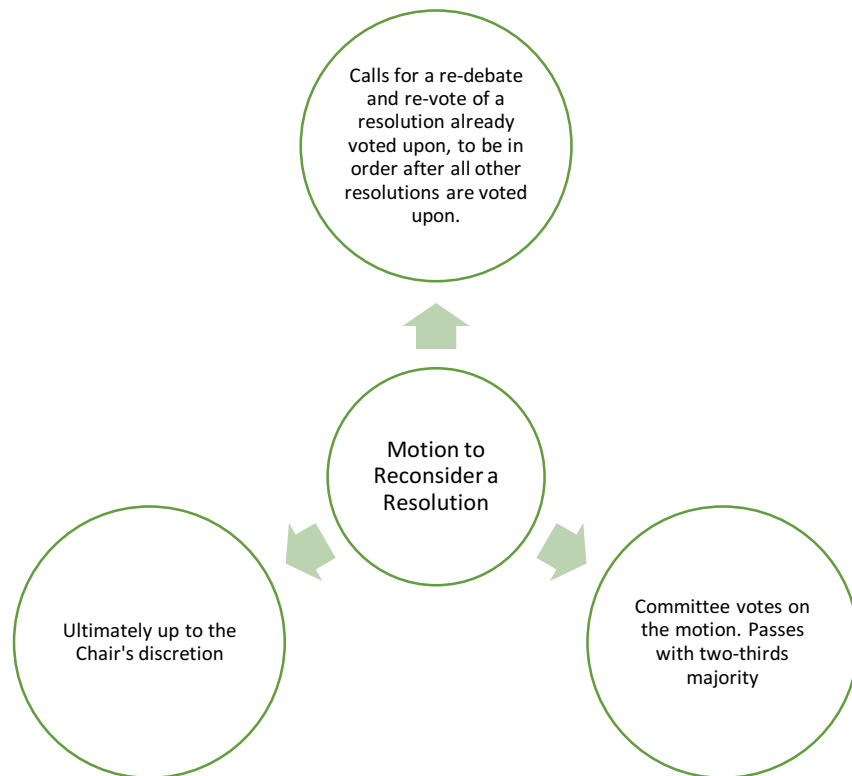
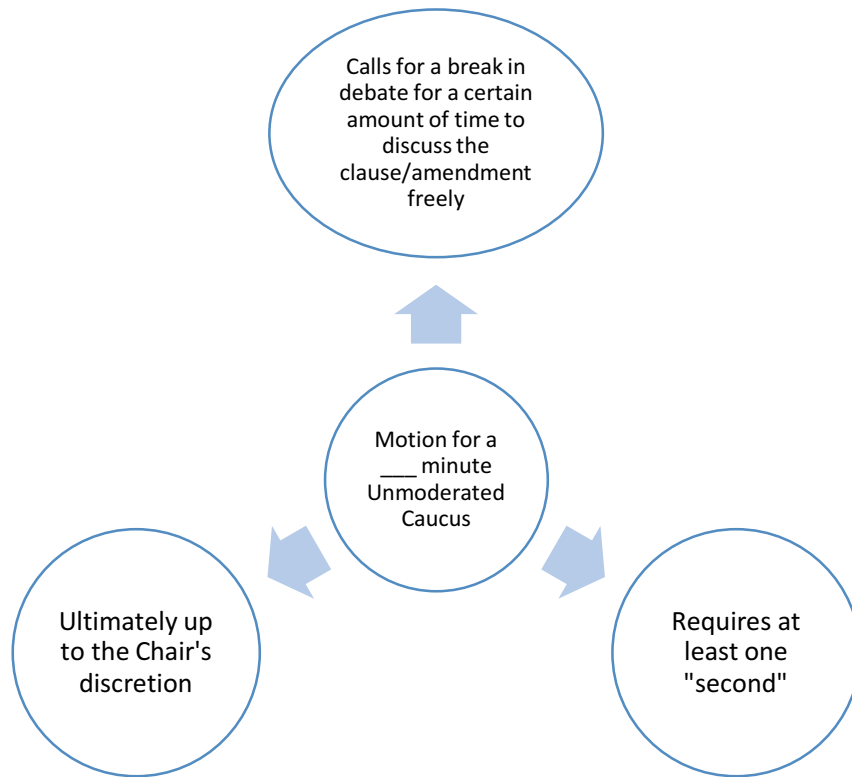
- This motion overrules the decision of the Chair, and only pertains to the most recent decision a Chair has made.
- Requires a 30-second statement from the delegate proposing it on their reasoning behind it.

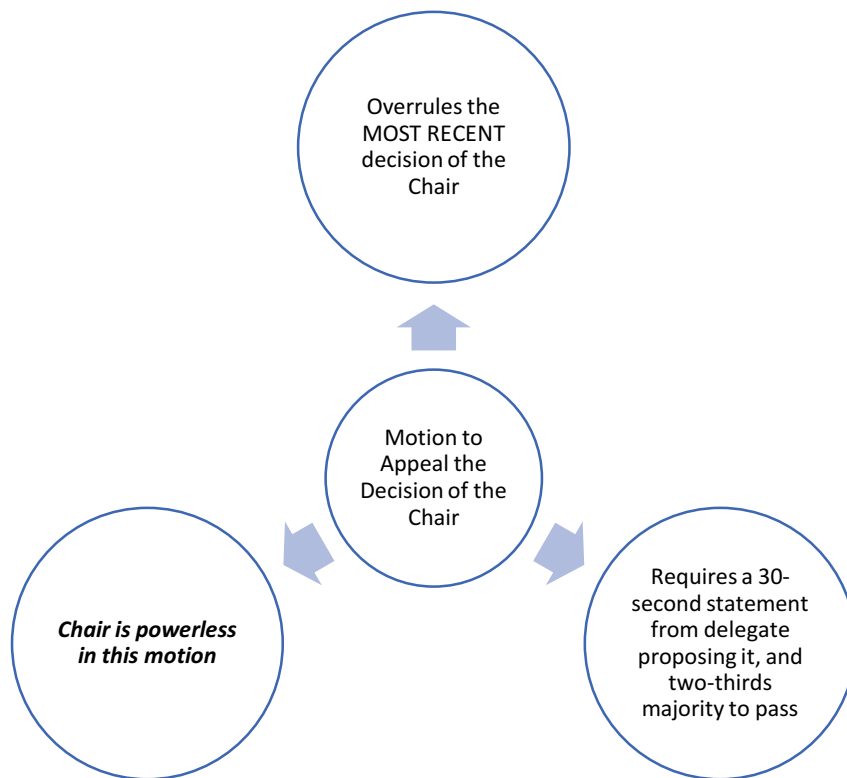
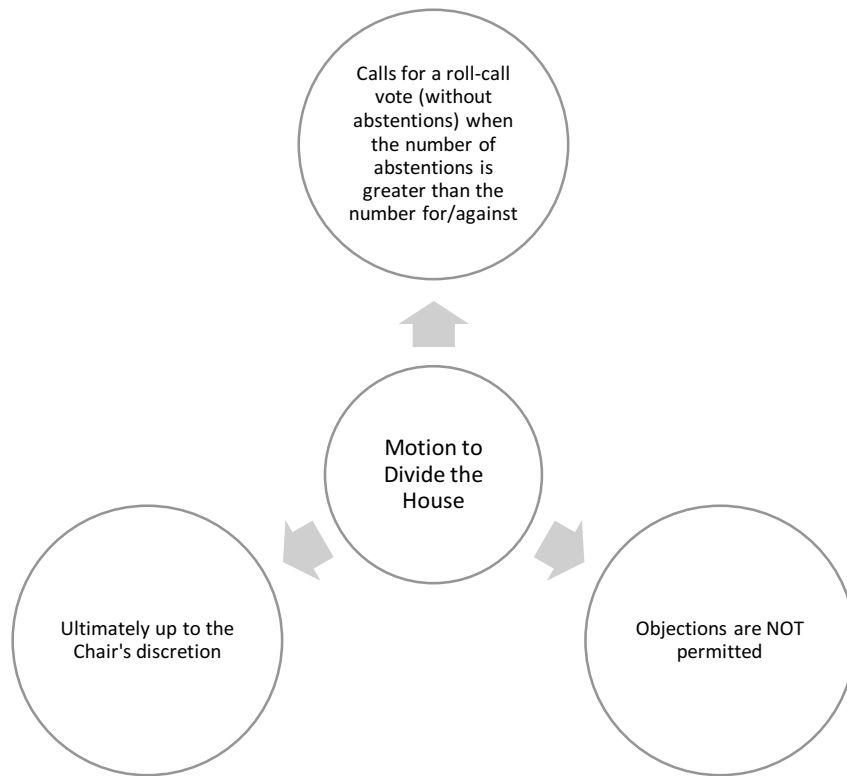
- Requires a two-thirds majority to pass.
- **Chair is powerless in this motion.**

MOTIONS: A SUMMARY

Note: This section contains the most common motions derived from the more exhaustive list above.







Yielding

Following the completion of a delegate's speech and exhaustion of all Points of Information to the speaker, the Chair will ask the delegate how they wish to yield the floor. The delegate is presented with two ways to yield the floor:

- **Yield to Another Delegate:** The delegate can choose to yield to another delegate from a different delegation. This is only in order once consecutively, and is also ultimately up to the Chair's discretion. The delegate yielding must obtain the permission of the delegate being yielded to prior to this.
 - General Example:
 - Chair: "How does the delegate wish to yield?"
 - Delegate: "The delegate of the USA would like to yield the floor to the delegate of France."
- **Yield to the Chair:** The delegate can choose to yield the floor back to the Chair following Points of Information, and therefore the floor is open to all delegates once again.
 - General Example:
 - Chair: "How does the delegate wish to yield?"
 - Delegate: "The delegate yields the floor back to the Chair."

Amendments

Amendments are changes to the clause proposed by delegates. Once an amendment has been submitted, it is then debated upon for a period of time set by the Chair, is voted upon, and if it passes, is included in the original clause. If it fails, no changes are made to the clause.

Amendments are submitted in written form to the Chair, and can either change, strike or add a part of the clause (“Modify,” “Strike,” or “Add.”) Amendments can manifest themselves in two ways:

- **Amendment to the First Degree**

- A change proposed to the original clause.
- A delegate submits the amendment to the Chair, and when the Chair calls for speakers on the clause, the delegate can raise their placard to be recognized. Once recognized, they must then state “The delegate has submitted an amendment.”
- Amendments are debated in the order they are submitted in, but Chairs will prioritize more constructive amendments – amendments that aim to modify/add to a clause rather than striking something.
- Once the delegate’s amendment is recognized, this is the sequence of events:
 - The Chair will set a debate time on the amendment, e.g. 20 minutes.
 - **Debate will only be open to that amendment** – speeches/Points on the general clause are not permitted
 - The submitter of the amendment will make a speech on the amendment, and will then answer Points of Information.
 - The Chair will then open the floor up to any other delegates wishing to speak for/against the amendment.
 - Once debate time has elapsed, the house will vote on the amendment – delegates may vote for, against or abstain.

- **Amendment to the Second Degree**

- A change proposed to an amendment being debated at the time

- The house then moves into debate on the Amendment to the Second Degree - the same process as above then takes place
- If an Amendment to the Second Degree passes, changes will be made to the original amendment, and **the original amendment automatically passes.**
- If an Amendment to the Second Degree fails, no changes will be made to the original amendment, and the house moves back into debate/voting on the original amendment.

Voting Procedure

Every member of NATO in the committee is entitled to one equal vote in all voting matters. In any vote, delegates may vote for, against, or abstain from voting, **except for when a Motion to Divide the House is in effect, in which abstentions are not permitted.** Note-passing is not permitted during voting.

Language

Delegates are encouraged to speak in a professional, diplomatic manner, and are only to refer to themselves and other delegates in **third person or by their delegation.** For example, to refer to themselves, the delegate may say “this delegate” or “the delegate of the UK.”

Note-Passing

As direct conversation between delegates is discouraged, delegates are permitted to pass written notes to other delegates in the committee. As there is no administrative staff to screen the notes, we ask that delegates be respectful in their communications and only pass notes on matters

relevant to debate. We also ask that delegates submit to the Chairs any notes found to be offensive in any way.

Funding

In the interest of debate, NATO will assume that funding for anything proposed in a clause or resolution is unlimited. Delegates are permitted to discuss the source of funding, but are asked to refrain from discussing specific amounts. Please keep in mind that questions of funding should not take precedence in debate, as they detract from actually discussing the specifics of the clause or resolution being debated.

Miscellaneous

Please only raise your placard once the Chair has **finished speaking**, and only when the Chair calls for speakers or if a Point/Motion needs to be made.

A Note on THIMUN Security Council Procedure

NATO will adopt the rules of procedure of a typical Security Council committee functioning under THIMUN. The points and motions as defined in the previous sections remain the same – the main difference is in the **flow of debate**. This will be elaborated upon in the next section.

A typical resolution debate in THIMUN Security Council procedure consists of clause-by-clause debate – each operative clause is debated separately and on its own and voted upon. The Chair will set a debate time for each clause. It is not permitted to discuss clauses other than the one at hand during an operative clause debate. Once all operative clauses have been debated and voted upon, the entire resolution as it stands is voted upon.

Think of this as several mini-debates – each follows the same procedure with speeches, points, motions, amendments, voting etc. The only difference is that you will focus on only one operative clause rather than the whole resolution.

Additionally, please note that the power of veto does **not** apply to this committee.

Flow of Debate

An Overview of Conference

- Day 1 (First Committee Session)
 - The entire first committee session is devoted to the lobbying process and the creation of clauses for debate. As we are following THIMUN Security Council procedure, delegates are asked to submit clauses on one or both topics to the Chair at the end of the first day for approval. These clauses will then be combined into a “collection” per topic. Delegates are encouraged to write clauses collaboratively by consulting other delegates, as lobbying is essentially one very long unmoderated caucus.
 - Formatting of the operative clause will be in accordance with BMUN LXVII guidelines.
 - Each operative clause of the resolution must also have a “main submitter” – this delegation will act as the “head” sponsor of sorts. Essentially, the clause is theirs, and they will be asked to present it to the committee at the start of debate. Delegates are encouraged to make their clauses as detailed as possible.
- Days 2 and 3
 - All committee sessions on the second and third days of conference will be devoted to debating and voting on the clauses written on Day 1. This section will outline the typical flow of debate of a topic’s collection of clauses to the point where it becomes a full resolution, including a situation where an amendment is submitted.
 - Chair calls for decorum, and states the topic being debated.
 - Main submitter of Operative Clause #1 (OC #1) is called to the podium to read it out.

- Chair sets the debate time for OC #1.
- Main submitter is invited to give an opening speech on OC #1.
- Chair asks if main submitter is open to Points of Information, and then entertains Points of Information from the house.
- Main submitter is asked to yield the floor either to the Chair or to another delegate. If yielded to another delegate, the same speech→Points of Information pattern follows.
- If yielded to the Chair, the Chair opens the floor to the house for speakers on OC #1, and *only* on OC #1.
- Delegates are then permitted to raise their placards and wait for the Chair to call on them for speeches.
- Amendments can be submitted at any time by writing them out on a piece of paper and placing it on the Chair's desk.
- If the Chair recognizes a delegate who has submitted an amendment, the committee moves into debate on the amendment (see Amendments section above).
- Relevant motions can be raised at any time, per the Rules of Procedure.
- Once all speeches and amendments have been exhausted, the committee will move into voting procedure on OC #1.
- Voting takes place. OC #1 passes or fails.
- Committee moves into debate on the next operative clause.
- Once all operative clauses have been debated, committee moves into voting procedure on the resolution as a whole.

FLOW OF COMMITTEE – A TYPICAL DEBATE

