

The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN)

Rules of Procedure Guide

Berkeley Model United Nations

Author Credits: Suma Thati

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Definitions

Quorum

Lobbying

Roll Call

Points

Motions

Yielding

Amendments

Voting Procedure

Language

Note-Passing

Funding

Miscellaneous

Flow of Debate

Introduction

There are some fundamental structural variations between THIMUN procedure and 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.

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 resolutions 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 resolutions on the committee's topics, which are then submitted to the Chair at the end of Friday's session. 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" or "Present and Voting" depending on their country's membership status within the United Nations (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 66 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 Thailand. 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 resolution. The delegate believes speaking time for the resolution has elapsed. Shouldn’t the committee be moving into voting procedures now?”*

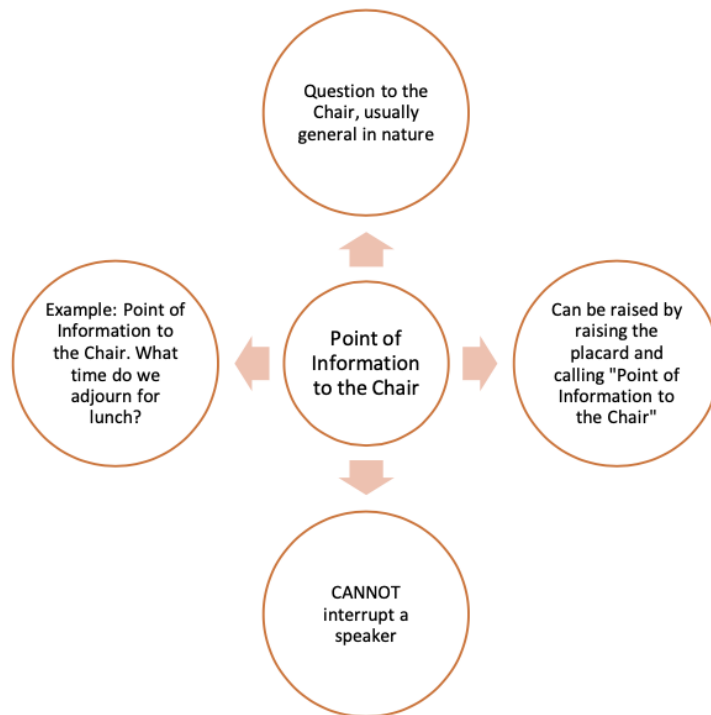
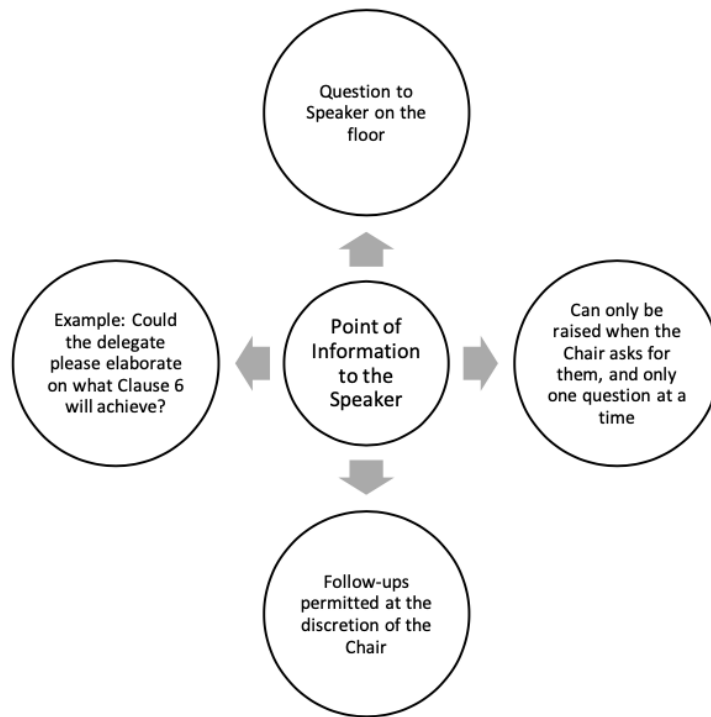
Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

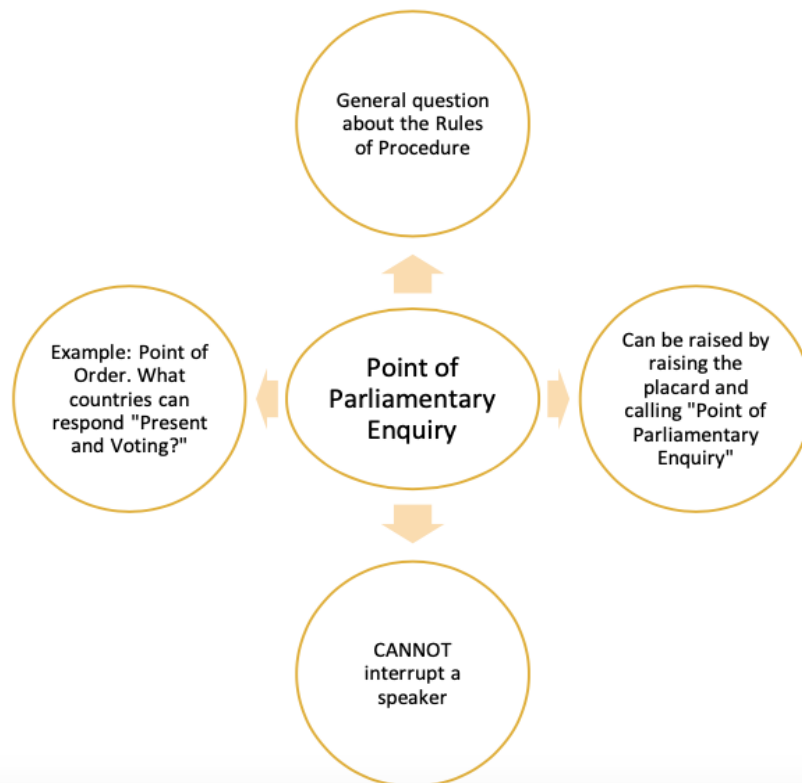
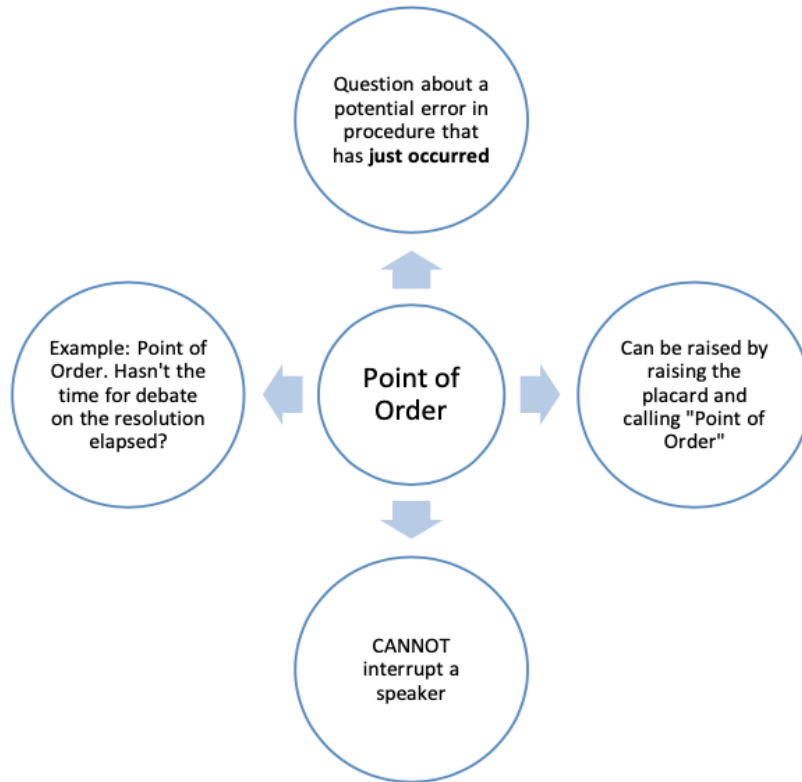
- A question directed to the Chair regarding the Rules of Procedure.
- Can be raised at any time by raising the placard and calling “Point of Parliamentary Enquiry.”
- May not interrupt a speaker.

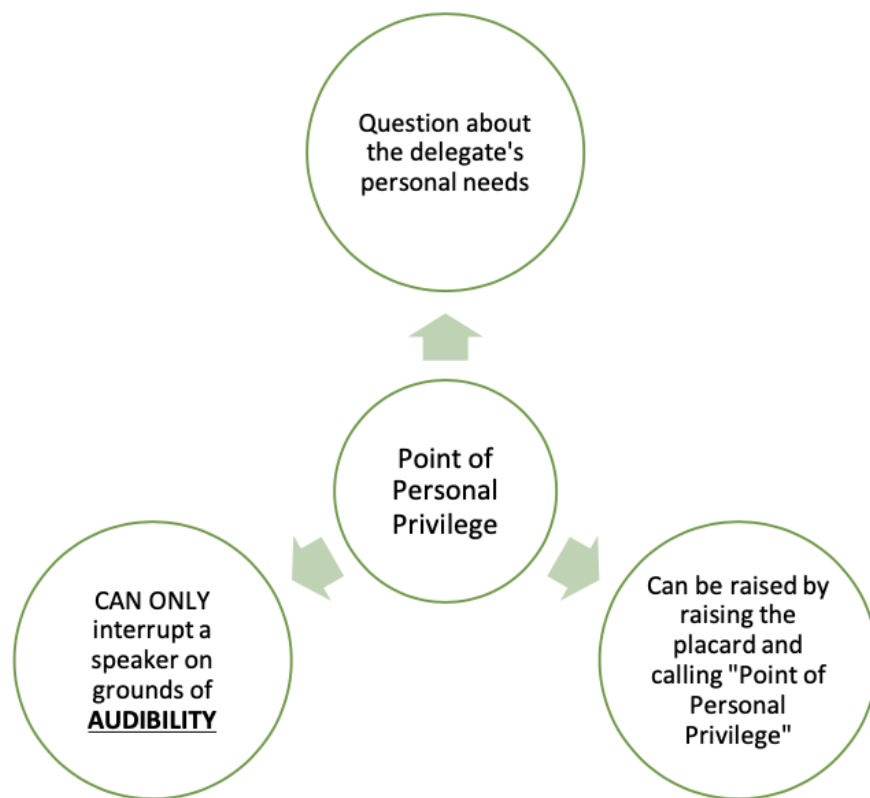
- General example: *“Point of Parliamentary Enquiry. What happens to the amendment if an amendment to the second degree passes?”*

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







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 resolution/amendment freely with other delegates in the committee.
- Requires a “second” from the house.
- Ultimately up to the Chair’s discretion.

Motion to Table a Resolution

- Calls for the temporary disposal of a resolution.
- The resolution can be debated on again only after all other resolutions on the agenda have been debated.

- The delegate who makes this motion must provide a short 30-second speech on their reasoning behind it.
- Chair will recognize two speakers in favour and two against the motion, unless there is a unanimous decision either way.
- The committee must vote on the motion and it passes by achieving simple majority.

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

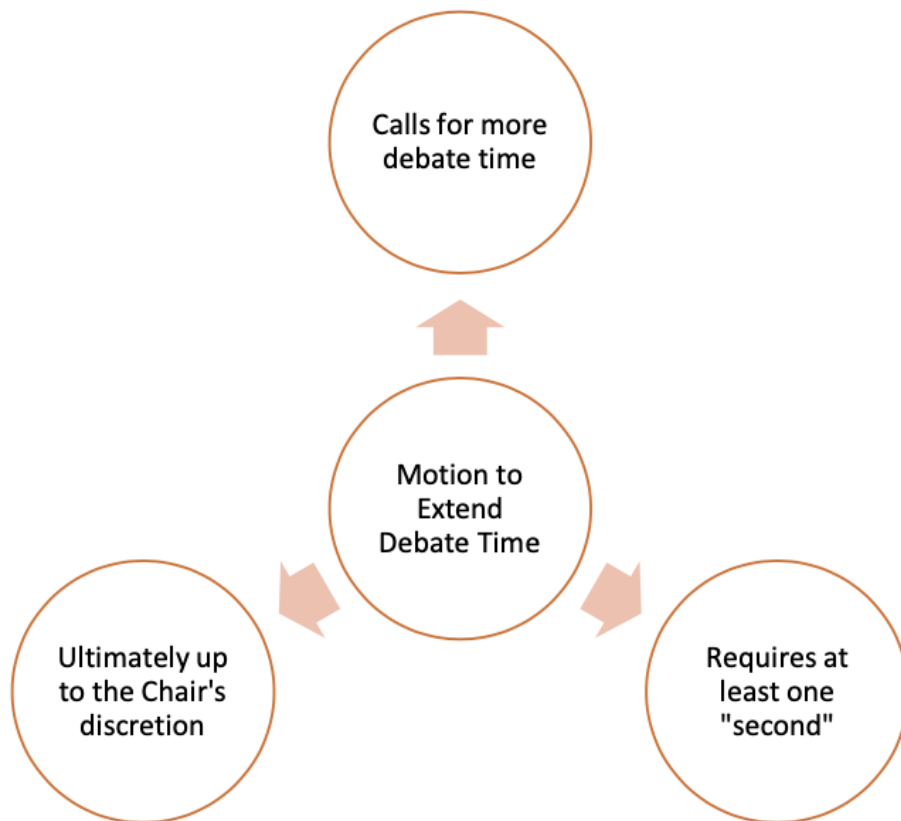
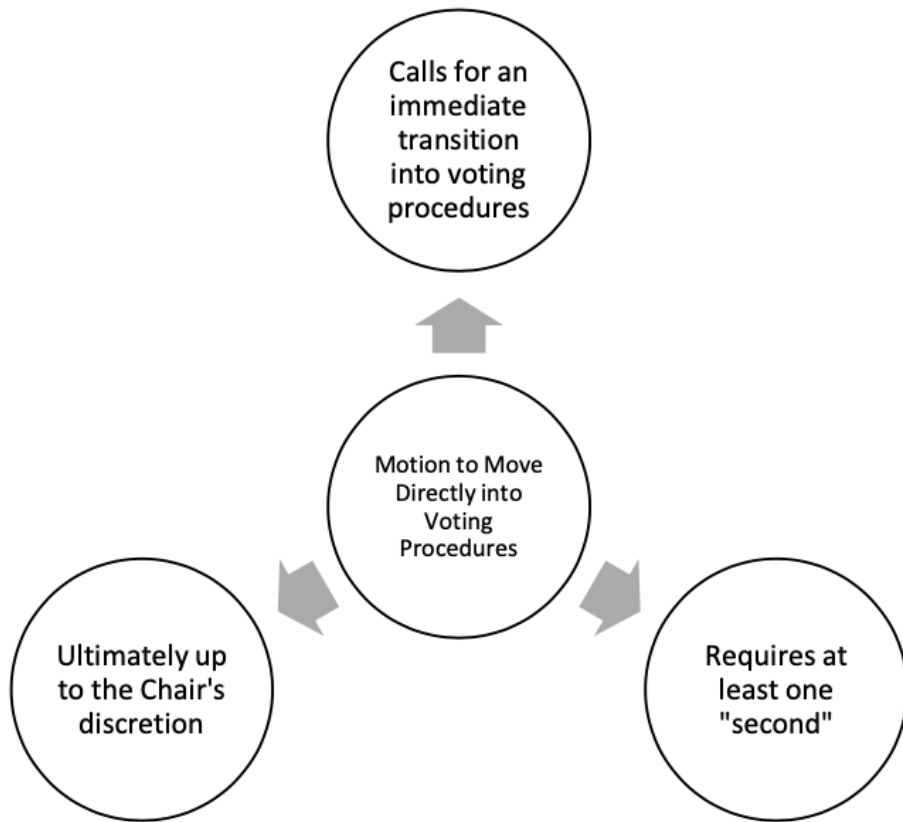
- This motion can be raised following a vote where there were a large number

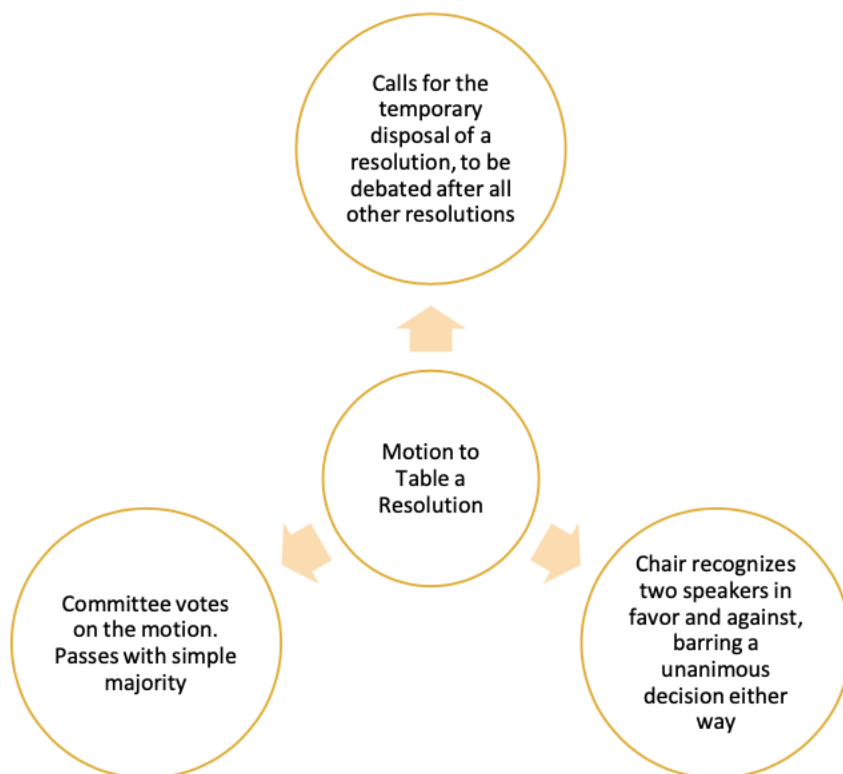
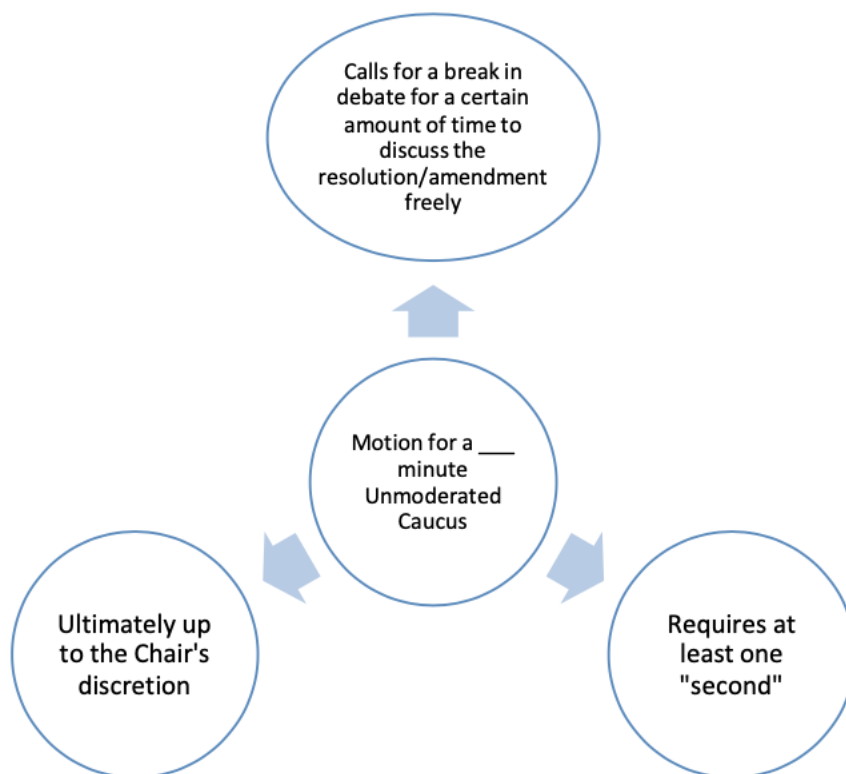
of abstentions (larger than the number for or against). • This is essentially calling for a roll-call vote where abstentions are no longer permitted.

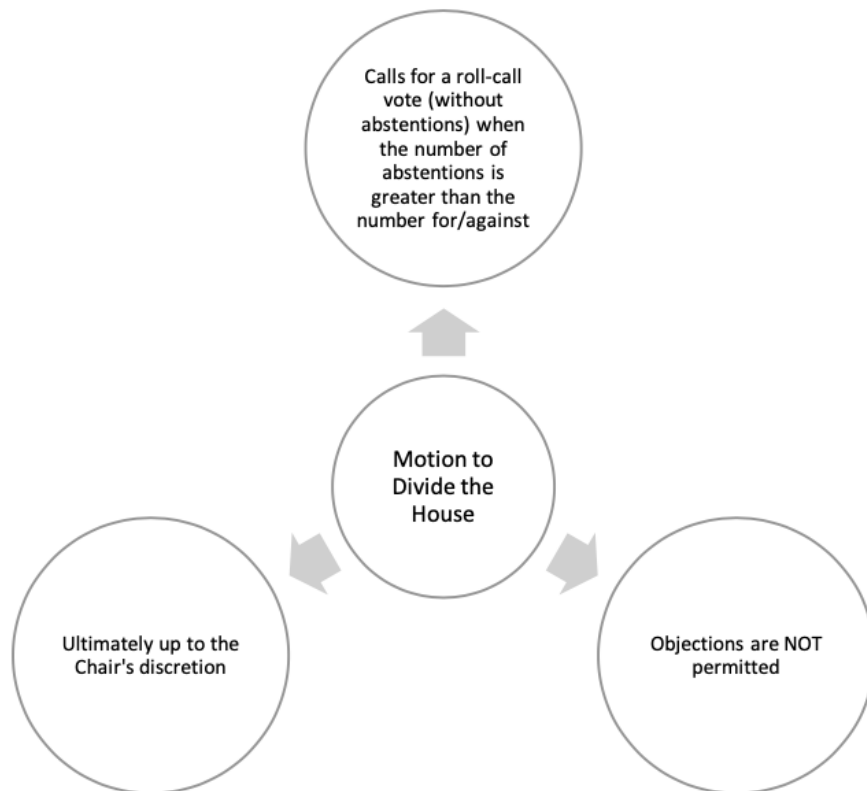
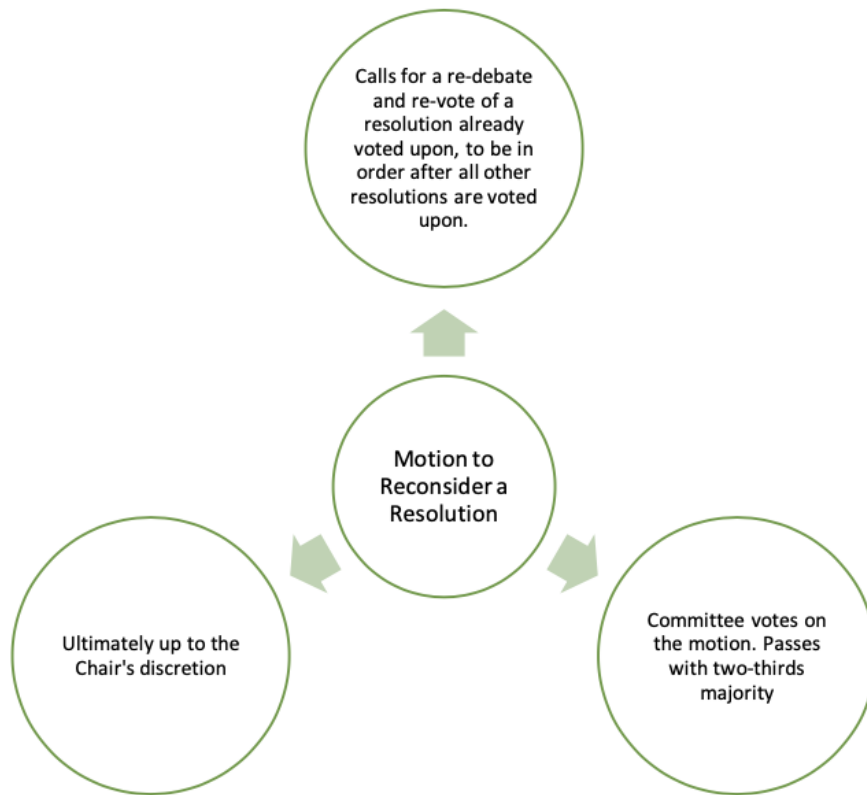
- Objections are not permitted, but it is ultimately up to the Chair's discretion.
- *Usually discouraged because of how time-consuming it is.*

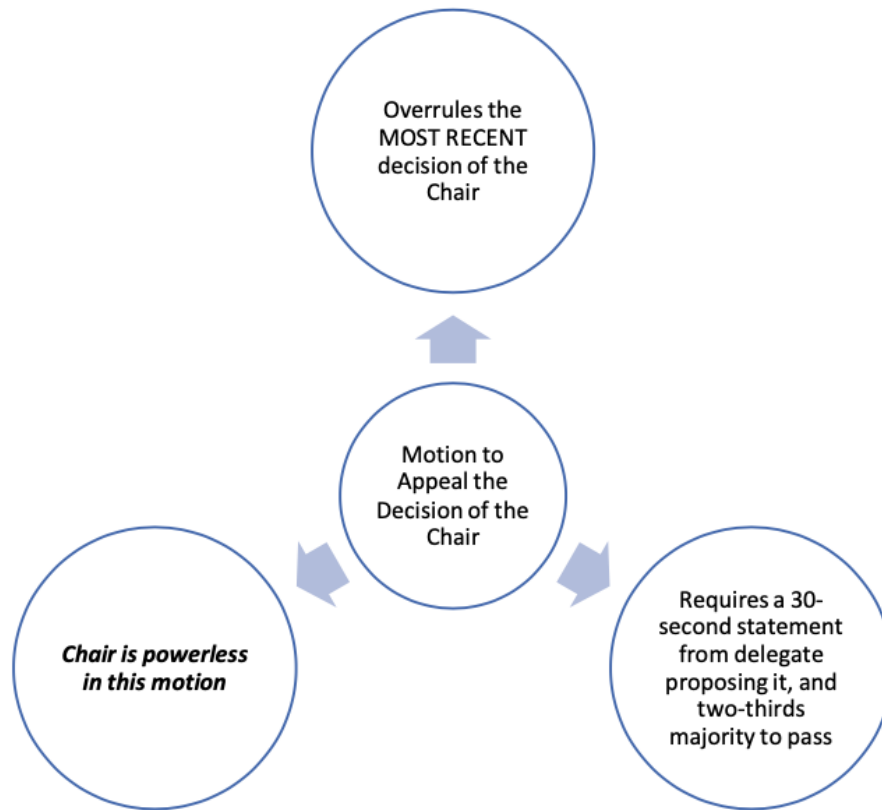
Motion to Appeal the Decision of the Chair

- 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









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 Argentina."
- 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 resolution 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 resolution. If it fails, no changes are made to the resolution. Amendments are submitted in written form to the Chair, and can either change, strike or add a part of the resolution ("Modify," "Strike," or "Add.") Amendments can manifest themselves in two ways:

- Amendment to the First Degree

- A change proposed to the original resolution.
- A delegate submits the amendment to the Chair, and when the Chair calls for speakers on the resolution, 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 resolution 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 resolution 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

Only member states of the United Nations are permitted to vote on resolutions and amendments. Non-member delegations and organizations are not permitted to vote. 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

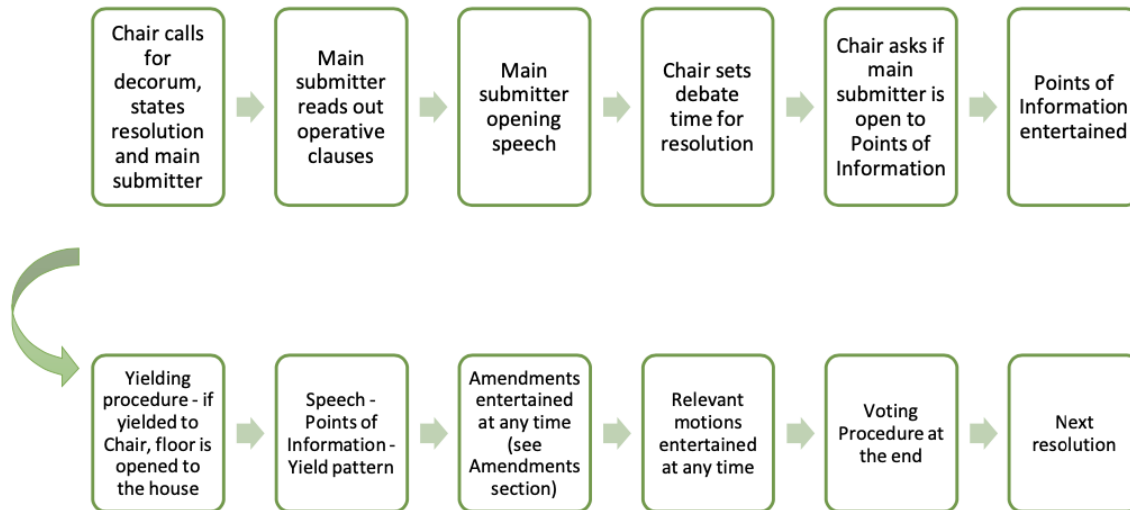
In the interest of debate, this committee will assume that funding for anything proposed in a resolution is unlimited. Delegates are permitted to discuss the source of funding, but are asked to refrain from discussing specific amounts. Please keep in mind that questions of funding should not take precedence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

Flow of Debate

FLOW OF COMMITTEE – A TYPICAL RESOLUTION 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 resolutions. Delegates are to submit their completed resolutions to the Chair at the end of the first day for approval. The dais asks for at least four resolutions (two per topic).
 - Formatting of a resolution will be in accordance with BMUN LXVI guidelines.
- Each resolution must also have one “main submitter” – this delegation will

act as the “head” sponsor of sorts. Essentially, the resolution is theirs, and they will be asked to present it to the committee at the start of debate. • Days 2 and 3

- All committee sessions on the second and third days of conference will be devoted to debating and voting on the resolutions written on Day 1. This section will outline the typical flow of debate of a resolution, including a situation where an amendment is submitted.

- Chair calls for decorum, and states the resolution and main submitter.
- Main submitter is called to the podium to read out the operative clauses.
- Chair sets the debate time for the resolution.
- Main submitter is invited to give an opening speech on the resolution.
- 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 the resolution as a whole.
- 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).
- Voting takes place. Resolution passes or fails.
- Committee moves into debate on the next resolution after a short break.