

SAME
PRINCIPLES.
A HIGHER
PURPOSE.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE: The Great Pizza Debate!

Robert's Rules in C.A. Service

ORDER
DISCUSSION
SERVICE
PIZZA!

1/9



WELCOME

NARRATOR: This presentation gives C.A. members a practical introduction to parliamentary procedure at Group, District, Area and World Conference service levels.



THE REFERENCE

C.A. World Service Conference uses Robert's Rules of Order with modifications. An abridged guide appears in the C.A. World Service Manual.



OUR PURPOSE

We will use a series of mock motions to demonstrate common procedures. This cannot cover every situation, but it explains the motions members meet most often.



WHERE MOTIONS ARISE

Motions usually appear under Old Business or New Business. For this dramatization, assume that every player is eligible to make a motion.



THE SERVICE BODY

Members gather, review the agenda and wait to be recognized. The Chair protects order so that every voice can be heard fairly.



THE HOSPITALITY IDEA

The Hospitality Committee has discussed a recurring problem: Area business sometimes continues through the lunch hour.



READY TO BEGIN

A proposal must be stated clearly enough that everyone understands exactly what action the body is being asked to take.



NEXT: THE MOTION

With the committee assembled and the agenda open, the Great Pizza Debate is ready to begin.

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THE MAIN MOTION

MAKER: I move that when Area business runs into the lunch hour, Area adopt an official pizza lunch, effective immediately.



A SECOND

SECONDER: Second! A motion must be seconded before the body may debate it or vote on it.



THE CHAIR STATES IT

CHAIR: It has been moved and seconded that Area adopt an official pizza lunch when business runs into lunch. Is there discussion?



RECOGNITION

Members raise their hands. The Chair recognizes speakers, who then speak in the order in which they were recognized.



WHY IT IS MAIN

NARRATOR: This is a Main Motion because no other motion is pending. Business begins by putting a proposal formally before the body.



KEEP IT DIRECT

The maker states the proposal simply, without packing supporting arguments into the wording of the motion.



THE MAKER SPEAKS

CHAIR: Would the Committee like to speak to its motion? The maker is normally offered the first opportunity to debate.



IN FAVOR

MAKER: We worked hard to create an environment that is businesslike but fun. This reflects committee dialogue and group conscience. Please vote in favor.



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POINT OF ORDER

MEMBER, interrupting: Point of Order! Because it must be raised immediately, the member does not wait for recognition.



STATE THE POINT

CHAIR: Please state your Point of Order. The Chair pauses the debate to hear the procedural objection.



THE OBJECTION

MEMBER: We cannot distribute Area funds without first giving GSRs time to take this question back to their Groups.



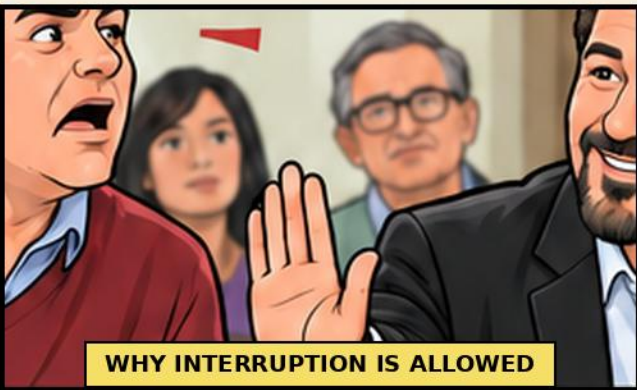
THE RULING

CHAIR: The motion meets the requirements. The Area committee and attending GSRs are entrusted to disburse funds for the groups they serve.



RIGHT OF DECISION

CHAIR: Concept Three, the Right of Decision, also gives GSRs responsibility to decide business that arises at Area.



WHY INTERRUPTION IS ALLOWED

NARRATOR: A Point of Order challenges whether the rules are being followed. It must be raised before other business continues.



COMPLEX QUESTIONS

Motions with substantial impact on C.A. should be presented, seconded and then tabled so Groups and Committees can consider them thoughtfully.



BACK TO DEBATE

With the ruling made and accepted, the Chair returns the body to orderly consideration of the main motion.



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RECOGNIZED

CHAIR: The member is recognized and has the floor.
MEMBER: I have a Point of Information.



ONE QUESTION

CHAIR: Very well. What is your question? A Point of Information is a question asked of, or through, the Chair.



THE VENDOR QUESTION

MEMBER: Must the Area Service Committee follow the Hospitality Committee's vendor selection when purchasing the pizza?



DIRECTED THROUGH CHAIR

CHAIR: Would the motion's maker care to answer? The Chair controls the exchange and identifies the appropriate respondent.



THE ANSWER

MAKER: Area may select another contractor when it has a sound basis, while still including the Hospitality Committee in the selection process.



NOT A SHOUTED FACT

NARRATOR: A Point of Information is not new information shouted from the floor. The member must first be recognized.



ORDER AND LIMIT

Questions are taken in recognition order. The Chair answers or calls on someone else. Only one question may be asked at a time.



QUESTION VS DEBATE

Asking a question is not debate. The member may later be recognized to debate. Second speeches wait until everyone has had a first opportunity.



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FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

MEMBER: I offer a friendly amendment: make pepperoni the official topping of this Area.



UNANIMOUS CONSENT

NARRATOR: A small correction may be accepted informally only by unanimous consent of the voting members present.



THE BODY OWNS IT

Once the Chair states a motion, it belongs to the whole Area, not to its original maker. The maker alone cannot accept a change.



ONE OBJECTION

CHAIR: Are there objections? If even one member objects, the friendly amendment is not adopted informally.



PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

MEMBER: Parliamentary Inquiry! May I move an amendment now that my friendly amendment was rejected?



THE FLOOR MATTERS

CHAIR: Normally yes, but you relinquished the floor and already had your turn. Another member in line may move it.



FORMAL AMENDMENT

ANOTHER MEMBER: I move to insert, "and pepperoni be the official topping," after the pizza-lunch language. SECONDER: Second!



AMENDMENT PENDING

CHAIR: The amendment is moved and seconded. It is debatable and will be decided before the body returns to the main motion.



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ADD PINEAPPLE

MEMBER: I offer a friendly amendment to add "and pineapple" after pepperoni.



NO OBJECTION

CHAIR: Are there objections to adding pineapple? Hearing none, pepperoni and pineapple become the proposed official toppings.



DEBATE THE CHANGE

MEMBER: I favor the amendment. I love pepperoni, and pineapple is the best!



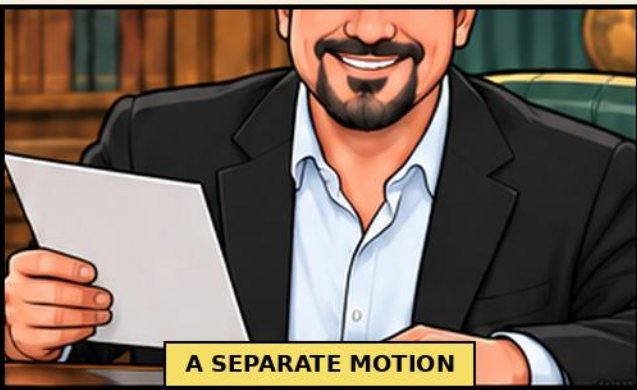
ANOTHER IDEA

MEMBER: I offer a friendly amendment to include hot wings as part of the pizza lunch.



RULED OUT OF ORDER

CHAIR: That would amend an amendment that has already been amended. No motion may carry more than two levels of amendment.



A SEPARATE MOTION

Any proposal concerning hot wings must wait and be offered as a separate motion after the pending business is completed.



VOTE ON AMENDMENT

CHAIR: Prepare to vote on inserting "pepperoni and pineapple" into the main motion. All in favor? All opposed?



AMENDMENT PASSES

The ayes have it. The main motion now includes pepperoni and pineapple as the official topping, effective immediately.



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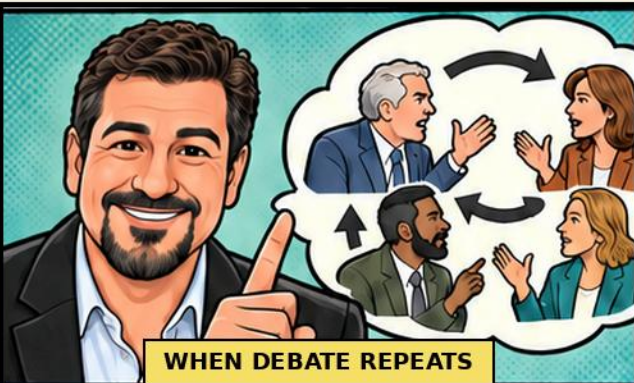
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WHEN DEBATE REPEATS

NARRATOR: If debate produces no new points, a member who has the floor may move to close debate by Calling the Question.



CALL THE QUESTION

The motion to close debate requires a second, is not debatable and needs a two-thirds majority to pass.



WHO MUST BE WAITING

There must still be other members waiting to debate after the member who calls the question; otherwise the call is out of order.



LIMITING DEBATE

A motion may instead limit debate—for example, to twenty minutes. It applies only to the pending main motion and also requires two-thirds.



NO FURTHER DEBATE

In this meeting, no one else seeks recognition. The Chair prepares the body to vote on the main motion as amended.



READ IT BEFORE VOTE

CHAIR: When business runs through lunch, Area will provide pizza with pepperoni and pineapple, effective immediately. All in favor?



THE MAIN VOTE

Most members raise their hands in favor; opposing members vote no. The ayes hold a majority, so the amended main motion passes.



WHY ORDER MATTERS

NARRATOR: Formal amendments are debatable and decided first. After an amendment passes, the Chair must read the revised main motion before its vote.



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URGENT PROCEDURES

NARRATOR: Members may interrupt for a Parliamentary Inquiry, an immediate Appeal from a Decision of the Chair, or a timely Motion to Reconsider.



MOVING ON

CHAIR: Is there anything further before we continue with the remaining committee reports?



FIFTH CONCEPT

An opposing GSR raises a hand, is recognized and asks to make a Fifth Concept statement.



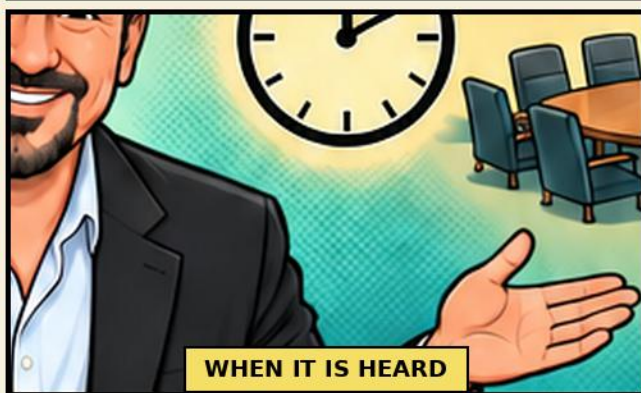
ELIGIBILITY CHECK

CHAIR: Did you vote on the losing side? MEMBER: Yes. The Chair recognizes the member to state the minority view.



THE MINORITY VIEW

MEMBER: I oppose the motion as submitted. The committee worked hard, but I am not sure we considered everything.



WHEN IT IS HEARD

NARRATOR: A Fifth Concept statement must normally be made before the next item of business begins.



CHAIR'S DISCRETION

The Chair may nevertheless allow the Fifth Concept statement at another point during the same business meeting.



SECOND THOUGHTS

A member who voted with the prevailing side reflects on the minority concern and asks to be recognized.



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RECONSIDER

MEMBER: I move to reconsider the previous motion. I voted with the prevailing side. SECONDER: Second!



DEBATE OPENS

CHAIR: A Motion to Reconsider has been made and seconded. Is there debate on this motion?



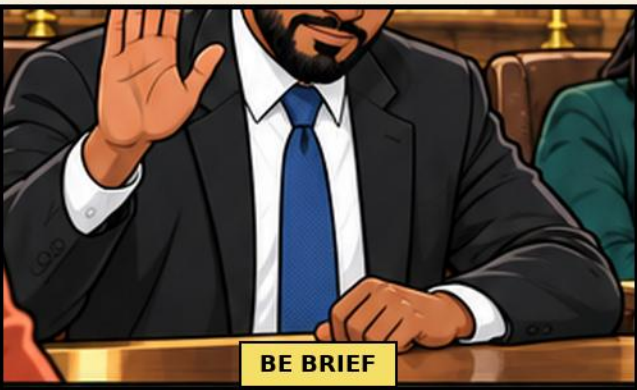
FOR RECONSIDERATION

MEMBER: We voted without enough debate about including this in the Manual. We should consider the full consequences of today's action.



AGAINST RECONSIDERATION

MEMBER: The issue was clear. Limited debate showed understanding, and more debate is unlikely to resolve the minority's concern or change the majority.



BE BRIEF

MEMBER: I oppose reconsideration; my argument has already been made. NARRATOR: Briefly stating a position respects valuable floor time.



THE VOTE

CHAIR: All in favor of reconsidering? All opposed? The motion clearly fails, and the body returns to the remaining reports.



THE RULE

Only a member who voted with the prevailing side may move reconsideration. Anyone may second. Passed or failed motions may be reconsidered.



CONCLUSION

Debate concerns reconsideration—not the original motion. If reconsideration passed, the original would return for debate and amendment. This concludes our dramatization.



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