# ROBERTS RULES CHEAT SHEET

To:	You say:	Interrupt	Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote
		Speaker	Needed			Needed
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn"	No.	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move that we recess until"	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Complain about noise, room	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
temp., etc.						Decides
Suspend further consideration of	"I move that we table it"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
something						
End debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration of	"I move we postpone this matter	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
something	until"					
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
	by"					
Introduce business (a primary	"I move that"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
motion)						

The above listed motions and points are listed in established order of precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed above it.

To:	You say:	Interrupt	Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
		Speaker	Needed			
Object to procedure or personal affront	"Point of order"	Yes	oN	No	No	Chair decides
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Ask for vote by actual count	"I call for a division of the house"	Must be done	No	No	No	None unless
to verify voice vote		before new				someone
		motion				objects
Object to considering some	"I object to consideration of this	Yes	ON	No	No	2/3
undiplomatic or improper	question"					
matter						
Take up matter previously	"I move we take from the table"	Yes	Yes	No	No	Majority
tabled						•
Reconsider something	"I move we now (or later) reconsider	Yes	sə <sub>A</sub>	Only if original	No	Majority
already disposed of	our action relative to"			motion was		
				debatable		
Consider something out of its	"I move we suspend the rules and	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
scheduled order	consider"					
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	"I appeal the Chair's decision"	Yes	Yes	Yes	oN	Majority

The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of preference; any of them may be introduced at any time except when meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed from the first chart (Motion to Adjourn, Recess or Point of Privilege).

# PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING A MAIN MOTION

**NOTE:** Nothing goes to discussion without a motion being on the floor.

## Obtaining and assigning the floor

A member raises hand when no one else has the floor

• The chair recognizes the member by name

# How the Motion is Brought Before the Assembly

- The member makes the motion: I move that (or "to") ... and resumes his seat.
- Another member seconds the motion: I second the motion or I second it or second.
- The chair states the motion: It is moved and seconded that ... Are you ready for the question?

#### **Consideration of the Motion**

- 1. Members can debate the motion.
- 2. Before speaking in debate, members obtain the floor.
- 3. The maker of the motion has first right to the floor if he claims it properly
- 4. Debate must be confined to the merits of the motion.
- 5. Debate can be closed only by order of the assembly (2/3 vote) or by the chair if no one seeks the floor for further debate.

## The chair puts the motion to a vote

- 1. The chair asks: *Are you ready for the question?* If no one rises to claim the floor, the chair proceeds to take the vote.
- 2. The chair says: The question is on the adoption of the motion that ... As many as are in favor, say 'Aye'. (Pause for response.) Those opposed, say 'Nay'. (Pause for response.) Those abstained please say 'Aye'.

#### The chair announces the result of the vote.

- 1. The ayes have it, the motion carries, and ... (indicating the effect of the vote) or
- 2. The nays have it and the motion fails

#### WHEN DEBATING YOUR MOTIONS

- 1. Listen to the other side
- 2. Focus on issues, not personalities
- 3. Avoid questioning motives
- 4. Be polite

# HOW TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN MEETINGS

#### **MAIN MOTION**

You w	<i>r</i> ant to propose a nev	v idea or action for the group.	
•	After recognition, ma	ake a main motion.	
•	Member: "Madame	Chairman, I move that	"

#### **AMENDING A MOTION**

You want to change some of the wording that is being discussed.

•	After recognition, "Madame Chairman, I move that the motion be amended by
	adding the following words"
•	After recognition, "Madame Chairman, I move that the motion be amended by
	striking out the following words"
•	After recognition, "Madame Chairman, I move that the motion be amended by
	striking out the following words,, and adding in their place the following
	words ."

#### **REFER TO A COMMITTEE**

You feel that an idea or proposal being discussed needs more study and investigation.

• After recognition, "Madame Chairman, I move that the question be referred to a committee made up of members Smith, Jones and Brown."

#### POSTPONE DEFINITELY

You want the membership to have more time to consider the question under discussion and you want to postpone it to a definite time or day, and have it come up for further consideration.

After recognition, "Madame Chairman, I move to postpone the question until
\_\_\_\_\_\_."

#### PREVIOUS QUESTION

You think discussion has gone on for too long and you want to stop discussion and vote.

• After recognition, "Madam President, I move the previous question."

#### LIMIT DEBATE

You think discussion is getting long, but you want to give a reasonable length of time for consideration of the question.

• After recognition, "Madam President, I move to limit discussion to two minutes per speaker."

#### POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

You want to kill a motion that is being discussed.

After recognition, "Madam Moderator, I move to postpone the question indefinitely."

#### POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

You are against a motion just proposed and want to learn who is for and who is against the motion.

• After recognition, "Madame President, I move to postpone the motion indefinitely."

#### **RECESS**

You want to take a break for a while.

• After recognition, "Madame Moderator, I move to recess for ten minutes."

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

You want the meeting to end.

After recognition, "Madame Chairman, I move to adjourn."

# PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW A MOTION

You have made a motion and after discussion, are sorry you made it.

• After recognition, "Madam President, I ask permission to withdraw my motion."

#### CALL FOR ORDERS OF THE DAY

At the beginning of the meeting, the agenda was adopted. The chairman is not following the order of the approved agenda.

• Without recognition, "Call for orders of the day."

#### SUSPENDING THE RULES

The agenda has been approved and as the meeting progressed, it became obvious that an item you are interested in will not come up before adjournment.

 After recognition, "Madam Chairman, I move to suspend the rules and move item 5 to position 2."

#### POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The noise outside the meeting has become so great that you are having trouble hearing.

- Without recognition, "Point of personal privilege."
- Chairman: "State your point."
- Member: "There is too much noise, I can't hear."

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

You are going to propose a question that is likely to be controversial and you feel that some of the members will try to kill it by various maneuvers. Also you want to keep out visitors and the press.

 After recognition, "Madame Chairman, I move that we go into a committee of the whole."

#### POINT OF ORDER

It is obvious that the meeting is not following proper rules.

• Without recognition, "I rise to a point of order," or "Point of order."

#### POINT OF INFORMATION

You are wondering about some of the facts under discussion, such as the balance in the treasury when expenditures are being discussed.

• Without recognition, "Point of information."

#### POINT OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

You are confused about some of the parliamentary rules.

• Without recognition, "Point of parliamentary inquiry."

#### APPEAL FROM THE DECISION OF THE CHAIR

Without recognition, "I appeal from the decision of the chair."

# **Rule Classification and Requirements**

Class of Rule	Requirements to Adopt	Requirements to Suspend
Charter	Adopted by majority vote or as proved by law or governing authority	Cannot be suspended
Bylaws	Adopted by membership	Cannot be suspended
Special Rules of Order	Previous notice & 2/3 vote, or a majority of entire membership	2/3 Vote
Standing Rules	Majority vote	Can be suspended for session by majority vote during a meeting
Modified Roberts Rules of Order	Adopted in bylaws	2/3 vote