

# **SMHS**

**St. Mary's High School**

## **Model United Nations Assembly**

Woodstock and District  
Community Complex

### **Rules for Debating**

**Thursday, May 4, 2006  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

## 1. Rules

These rules shall apply to all regular sessions of the Model United Nations Assembly and its committees.

## 2. Authority of the Rules of Procedure

The authority of these rules derives from Article 21 of the Charter and shall constitute the prime authority for procedural matters. In cases not covered by these rules, the Charter and the decision of the Executive shall constitute the authority for procedural matters.

## 3. Agenda

Before each meeting, the Chair shall draw up a provisional agenda of all non-procedural questions, which shall be announced at the opening of the session. All resolutions not relieved within the prescribed limit shall be included at the end of the Agenda.

## 4. Amendments to the Agenda

Amendments to the Agenda upon its announcement may be made by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly. Debate on such amendments shall be considered important questions. When such amendments have been exhausted, the amended agenda shall be considered approved by the General Assembly. No amendment will be made until the completion of the resolution that is in process.

## 5. Powers of the President(s)

In addition to exercising powers conferred upon him/her/them noted elsewhere in these rules, the President(s) shall: declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the General Assembly, direct the discussions during the session, ensure observance of these rules, and accord the right to speak, pose questions, and announce decisions. The President(s) shall rule on Points of Order, and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of any meeting of the General Assembly and the maintenance of order therein.

## 6. Impartiality of the President(s)

The President(s) shall maintain complete impartiality on each question considered in the General Assembly.

## 7. Authority of the President(s)

The President(s) in the exercise of his/her/their functions remain(s) under the authority of the General Assembly. All decisions of the President(s) are final and will not be subjected to any reconsideration.

## 8. Conferral of Authority

The President(s) may, from time to time as he/she/they deem(s) necessary, appoint another person to act in her/her/their place, who shall then have the same powers and duties of the President(s).

## 9. Meetings

The meetings of the General Assembly and its committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private. However, adequate precautions shall be taken to ensure the security of all participants.

## 10. Quorum

A simple majority of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

## 11. Absence of Quorum

During the absence of quorum the only items that may be considered shall be a motion for adjournment, or a motion to recess with the purpose of finding a quorum.

## 12. Roll Call

At the beginning of each meeting, the President(s) shall take the roll of the delegations. He/She/They may call the roll or take a simple count of the delegations at any later point if the existence of a quorum should seem in doubt.

## 13. Silent Prayer or Meditation

Immediately after the opening of the session of the General Assembly, the President(s) shall invite the delegates to observe one minute of silence devoted to prayer or meditation.

## 14. Language

English is the working language of the General Assembly and its committees. No interpretation will be provided. However, a delegate is permitted to address the Assembly in any other language if he/she provides interpretation in English.

## 15. Recognition by the Chair

To be recognized by the Chair, a delegate must rise to address it “Mr./Madame President(s).” If recognized, he/she must then state the nature of his/her point, beginning by addressing the Chair and waiting for acknowledgement, after which he/she may then proceed, beginning by re-addressing the chair. Failure to address the Chair properly will result in the delegate being ruled out of order.

## 16. Important Questions

Decisions of the General Assembly on an Important Question shall be made by a two-thirds majority. Such questions include recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, admission of new members the United Nations, budgetary questions, amendments to the charter, and motions deemed Important Questions in these rules.

## 17. Resolutions

Only resolutions introduced in writing and circulated to all delegations shall be discussed or put to a vote unless the President(s) decide(s) otherwise.

## 18. Amendments

Motions to delete, augment, or revise part of a resolution are considered to be amendments. Preambles of resolution may not be amended.

## 19. Moving Amendments

When speaking on a resolution or an amendment, a delegate may move an amendment to that proposal. If the amendment is approved by the introducer of the resolutions, it is immediately adopted; however, if it is not approved, the President(s) shall call upon one speaker in favour and one against, after which that amendment may be adopted by a simple majority of the General Assembly.

## 20 Copies of Amendments

The President(s) must have a clear copy of any amendment from its proposer in writing before it is introduced, and may apply rule 16 where feasible.

## 21. Recess

A delegate may move for recess for the purpose of caucusing immediately before the vote on a resolution, or for a lunch break at an appropriate break in the proceedings of the Assembly. A move for recess, if carried, shall cause temporary cessation of all work of the Assembly, to be resumed afterwards at the point where it was left off. A motion to recess shall not be debatable; however, amendments regarding the duration of the recess may be proposed. In the absence of further amendments, this motion shall immediately be put to a vote. Under all other circumstances, the Assembly will recess at times designated in the Agenda, or, at the discretion of the Presidents(s).

## 22. Adjournment

Motions for adjournment are in order only at times designated in the Agenda. Such motions are not in order otherwise.

## 23. Shelving of a Resolution

A delegate may move for a resolution to be shelved, which, if carried, shall cause all consideration on the subject at that time to cease immediately. Debate is limited to one speaker in favour and two speakers against.

## 24. Reference

A delegate may move to have a resolution referred to an appropriate committee or the Security Council (where applicable under the Charter). Adoption of such a motion shall cause all debate on that resolution to cease immediately and the General Assembly shall not, unless it subsequently decides otherwise, make a final decision on any such resolution until it has received a report from the committee concerned. Debate shall be limited to one speaker in favour and one against.

## 25. Competence

A motion for a decision on the competence of the General Assembly under the Charter to discuss or adopt a proposal submitted to it may be made at any time, and shall have one speaker in favour and two opposed. If such a motion is carried, the resolution shall immediately be shelved.

## 26. Reconsideration

When a resolution has been adopted, rejected, or shelved, it may not be re-considered at the same session unless a two-thirds majority decides otherwise. A motion for reconsideration shall only be in order should it be accompanied by disclosure or new and important information pertaining to it. Debate is to be limited to two speakers in favour and two speakers opposed.

## 27. Motion of Censure

A delegate may move for the censure of delegate, delegation, of officer of the Chair if he/she feels that particular party has been consistently and purposely out of order or disorderly. Debate on a motion of censure is limited to two speakers against censure. No one may be censured more than twice in a session.

## 28. Order of Precedence of Motions

- 1) Recess
- 2) Adjournment
- 3) Closure of Debate
- 4) Shelving of a Resolution
- 5) Competence
- 6) Reference
- 7) Amendments
- 8) Resolutions

## 29. Dilatory Motions

The President(s) may rule out of order any motion that is clearly dilatory or without purpose.

## 30. Withdrawal

A resolution, motion, or other proposal may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting, providing there are no statements or amendments pending.

## 31. Point of Order

A delegate may rise on a Point of Order if he/she feels that some irregularity in procedure has been committed. A delegate making a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of a proposal under consideration. It shall immediately be decided by the President(s) in accordance with the rules. Points of Order are also used to introduce a motion.

## 32. Right of Reply

A delegate may rise to request a Right of Reply if he/she feels that he/she individually, or his/her country, has been insulted by the speaker on the floor. The president(s) may then accord him/her the Right of Reply, and ask the offending delegate if he/she wishes to apologize.

## 33. Point of Personal Privilege

A delegate may rise on a Point of Personal Privilege if he/she feels that he/she has been misquoted or misconstrued by the speaker on the floor.

#### 34. Point of Information

A delegate may rise on a Point of Information immediately following another delegate's speech to question the speaker on the floor on the substance of his/her speech before the Assembly. The speaker reserves the right to refuse such a point. A Point of Information must be made immediately after a speech and must refer to it. Points of Information are not intended to allow an opportunity to rebut any of the speaker's points, nor are they permitted on procedural matters. However, this point may also be raised to the Chair on matters of procedure. One question per point of information is permitted.

#### 35. Order of Precedence of Points

- 1) Point of Order
- 2) Right of Reply
- 3) Point of Personal Privilege
- 4) Point of Information

#### 36. Limitation of Motions and Points

The President(s) reserve(s) the right to limit motions and points if he/she/they find(s) that members are using them merely to delay or confuse the proceedings.

#### 37. Speaking Rights

No representative may address the Assembly without previously having obtained the permission of the President(s). The President(s) may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

#### 38. Speaking Right of Non-Members

A representative of a non-member nation, territory, or organization acknowledged by the United Nations may speak in place of a member if that member has invited him/her to do so and has the right to speak. A non-member does not have the right to present a motion unless the President(s) rule(s) otherwise.

#### 39. Statements

With the permission of the President(s), a delegate may make a statement on a subject unrelated to the matter under discussion.

#### 40. Interruption of Speakers

A delegate may interrupt a speaker on the floor only for a Point of Personal Privilege, or to request a Right of Reply.

#### 41. Time Limit on Speeches

The President(s) reserve(s) the right to limit the time a speaker has to present his/her speech in order to save time.

#### 42. List of Speakers

At the start of debate on a resolution or an amendment, the President(s) shall call for speaker on the proposal who shall signify their desire to address the Assembly through written notes sent to the Chair. Delegates shall be placed on the list in order in which such notes are received to the Chair. However, the President(s) may accord those delegates directly concerned the right to speak first. At any time during the course of the debate, the President(s) may declare the Speaker's List closed.

#### 43. Closure of List of Speakers

During the course of a debate, a delegate may move for closure of the Speaker's List on the motion being discussed. Debate on closure is limited to one speaker in favour and two speakers against.

#### 44. Closure of Debate

A delegate may, at any time, move for closure of debate on the proposal which is then under consideration, whether or not other speakers remain on the Speaker's List. If closure is declared, debate on the motion under deliberation shall cease and voting will commence. Debate on this motion requires one speaker in favour and one against.

#### 45. Voting Rights

Each member nation of the General Assembly shall have one vote.

#### 46. Voting Procedure

The General Assembly shall normally vote by raising the placards of their countries. Only one delegate holding one placard per delegation is permitted to rise during voting.

#### 47. Roll Call Voting

A delegate may request that a roll call vote be taken. If seconded, this motion shall require that during such a vote, the name of each member nation be called, and delegates shall announce their votes verbally. The President(s) may rule such requests out of order, or limit them in order to save time.



#### 48. Conduct During Voting

After the President(s) has(/have) announced the beginning of voting, no delegate may interrupt voting except on a Point of Order relating to voting procedure.

#### 49. Explanation of Vote

A delegate may explain he/her vote on a resolution immediately after the result of voting has been declared, provided he/she requests this of the President(s) before voting commences. This is permitted only of delegates other than the proposer of the resolution or any amendments to it.

#### 50. Clause by Clause Vote

A delegate may request a Clause by Clause vote on the resolution under discussion. If this motion is accepted by the proposer and seconder of the resolution, the motion will be considered passed, and voting will be considered on the basis of each clause individually. Otherwise, debate to one speaker in favour and one speaker against. A Clause by Clause vote applies only to the operative clauses of the resolution.

#### 51. Voting on Amendments

Where the adoption of an amendment implies the rejection of another, the latter shall not be voted on.

#### 52. Equally Divided Votes

If a vote is equally divided, the motion shall be considered rejected.

#### 53. Establishment of Committees

The General Assembly and its committees may respectively set up committees and sub-committees as deemed necessary.

#### 54. Security Council and Committee Procedure

The procedure of the Security Council and the Committees shall be the same as outlined in these rules for the General Assembly.

#### 55. Expulsion of Disorderly Delegates

If, during a meeting, a delegate becomes disorderly or is out of order excessively, the President(s) is (/are) empowered to expel that delegate from the meeting for a period not longer than the remainder of the day.

#### 56. Suspension of a Meeting

If, during a meeting, the majority of the Assembly becomes disorderly, the President(s) may suspend the meeting.

#### 57. Removal of Members of the Assembly

A delegate may move for the removal of another delegate or delegation if the party concerned has proven themselves no longer worthy of membership or further participation. Debate is limited to two speakers in favour and two speakers opposed. This is an important question, and is to be used with extreme caution.

#### 58. Foreign Policy

Delegations are required, and must accurately represent their nations. A delegate may rise on a Point of Order if he/she feels a delegation has made a serious breach of its policy. If the offending delegate cannot successfully substantiate his/her breach, the President(d) may rule him/her out of order.