

MOORISH CIVIL RULES OF PROCEDURAL ORDER

Prepared by

Jonathan Bey

INTROCUTORY

With Aboriginal and Indigenous Moorish Americans being the authors and original crafters of Judicial Procedure and hence the *de jure* authority on same, I recognized it to be not only appropriate but most critical that we (Moors) as a matter of general common practice, set course within all required processes to effectuate deliberate and expedient engagement on all fronts of appropriate activity to again acquaint ourselves to the most astute measure possible with all proper procedural communication mechanisms and applicable *intellectual technologies* which may ensure and make favorable our engaging times ahead.

In tandem with our previous **CALL TO ACTION:**

“Set forth with an emphasized recognition of our current Application Era, and well reasoned reality that the time is undoubtedly now in which it is imperative that certain bold proactive initiatives must without further delay be called into being forthwith, to Initiate and Implement The Required Constructs of Viable Active Conventions of Evolutionary “Faithful” Moors, for the awe-inspiring solemn purpose of articulating and hearing with tolerance all reasonable National Concerns, to be accompanied by respectful discussion and seraphic deliberation(s) on the important merits of all tabled well-reasoned issues and affairs, united as one with an unwavering singular pursuit of sound and practical measured means in which to fashion and actuate, in a timely yet astute and thorough manner; adequately provisioned quorums of specifically qualified, suitably aged, responsible electors of various stature, yet common by soundness of mind; each possessing an astute acumen appropriately peculiar to Moorish Affairs, with well suited honest willingness, unique abilities and fortitude to succeed in the truly noble task of bringing to fruition a re-freshening of our body politic, to effectively address and accommodate with admirable fairness, the various needs, desires and revitalization requirements of our indigenous populous’ collective and individual well being in harmony with our Divine Universal Prophet’s Intent and Lovingly Established Moral Directive to be instrumental in the critically imperative task of Uplifting Fallen Humanity guided by the spiritually transcendent principles of Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice.”

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Empirical Reasoning

And where as it would also be most reasonably practical to desire that such a unique body would as a *Profoundly United Proactive Collective* improve upon far more efficiently and effectively the concepts, aspirations, efforts, deeds and accomplished achievements of any sole individual, while retaining the rights of the individual as its first priority, it could as justly be held in the minds of the reasonable that a singular Divine Will Governs All and stands as primal reason for this summation.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW - Basis of validity

In 1876 U.S. Army Major *Henry Martyn Robert* loosely modeled (from our well established Moorish Legislative Procedural Guidelines (of ancient origins)) the United States House of Representatives protocols, which later (as the story goes) after presiding over a church meeting came to discover that delegates from various areas of the territories differed greatly in their options as to what was to be considered proper/civil procedure, moving him to pen what would come to be known as *Robert's Rules of Order*, which has since been utilized worldwide as the most widely recognized model of procedural decorum across a vast spectrum of civil administrative engagement, and for lack of a more suitable template has been adopted as a reasonable base upon which to craft this outline entitled: **The Moorish Rules of Procedural Order** providing a mechanism to stand as being the applicable principles governing key activities of meeting and general procedures, including but not limited to:

- Establishing a Constitution and Bylaws for your student organization.
- Structure of the meeting Agenda and debate.
- Motions; including making, seconding, debating, modifying and amending motions.
- Sufficient majority and simple majority and which decisions are appropriate to them.
- Establishment of a quorum.
- Definition of membership.
- Voting rights of presiding officer and voting procedures.

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OUTLINE OF BASIC LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

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Parliamentary Authority: RRO 10th Ed., 2001.

I. Rules Governing an Organization

State and Federal Law - governing corporations, tax-exempt organizations, public legislative bodies, etc.

Articles of Incorporation - applicable to corporations

Governing Documents of Parent Organizations - applicable to chapters, affiliates, etc. of larger organizations

- D. Local Constitution and Bylaws - defines the organization's basic structure and fundamental rules.
Normally requires a 2/3 vote and prior notice for amendment and are not subject to suspension.
- E. Standing Rules - operating procedures consistent with all of the above. Normally can be amended by majority vote at any business meeting and can be suspended.
- F. Rules of Order - parliamentary authority, superseded by any of the above that conflict.

Precedent and Custom - apply when there are no written rules governing a situation.

II. Purposes of Parliamentary Procedure

Ensure majority rule

Protect the rights of the minority, the absentees and individual members Provide order, fairness and decorum

Facilitate the transaction of business and expedite meetings

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II. Basic Principles of Parliamentary Procedure

All members have equal rights, privileges and obligations.

A quorum must be *present* for the group to act – if the bylaws of the organization do not establish a quorum, the general rule is that a majority of the entire membership must be present in order to transact business. Full and free discussion of every motion is a basic right. Only one question at a time may be considered, and only one person may have the floor at any one time.

Members have a right to know what the immediately pending question is and to have it restated before a vote is taken.

No person can speak until recognized by the chair.

Personal remarks are always out of order.

A majority decides a question except when basic rights of members are involved.

A two-thirds vote is required for any motion that deprives a member of rights in any way (e.g., cutting off debate).

Silence gives consent. Those who do not vote allow the decision to be made by those who do vote. The chair should always remain impartial.

IV. Typical Order of Business

- A. Call to Order
- B. Opening Exercises, if applicable
- C. Roll Call/Determination of a Quorum
- D. Adoption of the Agenda
- E. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- F. Reports of Officers
- G. Reports of Standing Committees
- H. Reports of Special (Ad hoc) Committees
- I. Special Orders
- J. Unfinished Business and General Orders
- K. New Business
- L. Program, if applicable
- M. Announcements
- N. "Good of the Order"
- O. Adjournment

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V. **Role of the Presiding Officer**

- A. Remain impartial during debate - the presiding officer must relinquish the chair in order to debate the merits of a motion
- B. Vote only to create or break a tie (or 2/3 for matters requiring a 2/3 vote) – exception: the presiding officer may vote on any vote by ballot
- C. Determine that a quorum is present before transacting business
- D. Introduce business in proper order
- E. Recognize speakers
- F. Determine if a motion is in order
- G. Keep discussion germane to the pending motion
- H. Maintain order
- I. Put motions to a vote and announce results
- J. Employ unanimous consent (general consent) when appropriate

VI. **General Procedure for Handling a Motion**

- A. A member normally must obtain the floor by being recognized by the chair.
- B. Member makes a motion.
- C. A motion must normally be seconded by another member before it can be considered.

Before the motion is restated by the chair, any member can rise, without waiting to be recognized, and suggest a modification of the wording to clarify the motion. The maker of the motion can choose to accept or reject the modified wording (does not require a second).

If the motion is in order, the chair will restate the motion and open debate (if the motion is debatable).

The maker of a motion has the right to speak first in debate.

Debate is closed when:

- 1. Discussion has ended, or
- 2. A two-thirds vote closes debate ("Previous Question")
- H. The chair restates the motion, and if necessary clarifies the consequences of affirmative and negative votes.
- I. The chair calls for a vote.
- J. The chair announces the result.
- K. Any member may challenge the chair's count by demanding a "Division of the Assembly."

VII. **General Rules of Debate**

- A. No members may speak until recognized by the chair.
- B. All discussion must be relevant to the immediately pending question.
- C. No member may speak a second time until every member who wishes to speak has had the opportunity to do so.
- D. No member can speak more than twice to each motion.
- E. No member can speak more than ten minutes.
- F. All remarks must be addressed to the chair – no cross debate is permitted.
- G. It is not permissible to speak against one's own motion (but one can vote against one's own motion).
- H. Debate must address issues not personalities – no one is permitted to make personal attacks or question the motives of other speakers.
- I. The presiding officer must relinquish the chair in order to participate in debate and cannot reassume the chair until the pending main question is disposed of.
- J. When possible, the chair should let the floor alternate between those speaking in support and those speaking in opposition to the motion.
- K. When a large number of people wish to speak to a motion it may be advisable for the chair to make a speakers' list.
- L. Members may not disrupt the assembly.
- M. Rules of debate can be changed by a two-thirds vote.

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VIII. Motions in Ascending Order of Precedence

Only one main motion may be on the floor at a time, but more than one secondary motion may be on the floor. When any of the motions on the following list is the immediately pending motion (i.e., the last motion made), any motion listed below it on the list can be made at that time and any motion above it on the list cannot be made at that time. Pending motions must be disposed of in descending order of precedence.

A. **Main Motion** - introduces business to the assembly for its consideration. A main motion can only be made when no other motion is pending. A main motion yields to privileged, subsidiary and incidental motions.

B. **Subsidiary Motions** - change or affect how the main motion is handled (voted on before the main motion)

1. **Postpone Indefinitely** - made when the assembly does not want to take a position on the main question. Its adoption kills the main motion for the duration of the session and avoids a direct vote on the question. It is useful in disposing of a poor motion that cannot be either adopted or expressly rejected without possibly undesirable consequences. Unlike other subsidiary motions, debate on the motion to postpone indefinitely can go into the merits of the main motion.

2. **Amend** - changes the wording of the main motion before it is voted upon. An amendment must be germane to the main motion. Its acceptance does not adopt the motion thereby amended; that motion remains pending in its modified form. Rejection of an amendment leaves the pending motion worded as it was before the amendment was offered. An amendment can: delete words, phrases, sentences or paragraphs; strike out words, phrases or sentences and insert new ones; add words, phrases, sentences or paragraphs; or substitute entire paragraph(s) or the entire text of the motion and insert another.

When an entire motion is substituted for another, the chair must first call for a vote on the

Motion to Substitute to determine the advisability of substituting a new motion. If the Motion to Substitute passes, the chair then throws the Substitute Motion open to debate. The **Substitute Motion** in turn must be voted upon, and is subject to amendment. *Note: There is no provision in Robert's Rules for a "**Friendly Amendment**."* The only way a motion can be modified without a vote, after it has been stated by the Chair, is with the unanimous consent of the members present.

3. **Secondary Amendment** - An amendment can be offered to an amendment (amendment of the second order). Amendments of the third order are not permitted.

4. **Refer (Commit)** - sends a pending motion to a standing committee, or to an ad hoc (special) committee to be appointed or elected, for consideration. The motion to refer may include instructions to investigate, recommend, or take action, and may specify the composition of the committee.

5. **Postpone Definitely (Postpone to a Certain Time)** - delays action until a certain time specified in the motion (not beyond the next regular business meeting).

6. **Limit or Extend Debate** - is used (1) to reduce or increase the number or length of speeches permitted or (2) to require that debate be closed at a specified time. It requires a two-thirds vote.

7. **Previous Question ("Call for the Question")** - immediately closes debate if passed. Requires a second and a two-thirds vote.

8. **Lay on the Table** - enables the assembly to lay the pending question aside *temporarily* when something else of immediate urgency has arisen. It is not debatable. A motion to lay on the table is out of order if the evident intent is to avoid further consideration of the motion. Frequently when one indicates a desire "to table" a motion, the correct motion is either to Postpone Indefinitely or Postpone Definitely.

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- C. **Privileged Motions** - *do not relate to the pending business but have to deal with urgent matters which, without debate, must be considered immediately.*
1. **Call for the Orders of the Day** - requires the assembly to conform to the agenda or to take up a general or special order that is due to come up at the time ("time certain"), unless two-thirds of those voting wish to do otherwise. A member can interrupt a speaker to call for the orders of the day.
 2. **Raise a Question of Privilege** - permits a request or main motion relating to the rights and privileges of the assembly or any of its members. Examples include requests relating to members' ability to hear a speaker or a request to go into "executive session" (closed session). A member may interrupt a speaker to raise a question of privilege.
 3. **Recess** - used to request an intermission which does not close the meeting.
 4. **Adjourn** - used to close the meeting immediately. Not debatable.
 5. **Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn** - sets the time, and sometimes the place, for another meeting ("adjourned meeting") before the next regular business meeting to continue business of the session.

IX. **Incidental Motions** (*Questions of procedure that arise out of other motions and must be considered before the other motion*)

- A. **Point of Order** - used when a member believes that the rules of the assembly are being violated, thereby calling on the chair for a ruling and enforcement of the rules. A member can interrupt a speaker to raise a point of order.
- B. **Appeal** - used to challenge the chair's ruling on a question of parliamentary procedure. A member can interrupt a speaker to appeal from the decision of the chair.
- C. **Suspend the Rules** - used to make a parliamentary rule or special rule of an organization temporarily inoperative. The motion cannot be applied to the constitution and bylaws unless those documents include specific provisions for suspension. Normally requires a two-thirds vote.
- D. **Withdraw** - permits the maker of a motion to remove it from deliberation after the motion has been stated by the chair. If there is not unanimous consent, the motion is debated and voted upon.
- E. **Point of Information** - requests to the chair, or through the chair to another officer or member, to provide information relevant to the business at hand. *A point of information must be in the form of a question.* A request for information regarding parliamentary procedure or the organization's rules bearing on the business at hand is referred to as a **Parliamentary Inquiry**.
- F. **Objection to the Consideration of a Question** - suppresses business that is irrelevant or inappropriate and undesirable to be discussed. The objection must be made immediately

(acceptable to interrupt a speaker). Does not require a second, is not debatable, and requires a two-thirds vote opposed to consideration in order to pass.

- G. **Division of a Question** - divides a motion containing two or more provisions that can stand alone so that each provision can be considered and voted upon separately. Not debatable.
- H. **Division of the Assembly** - used to demand a rising vote to verify the vote count. The motion can be made without obtaining the floor, does not require a second, is not debatable, and does not require a vote.

X. **Main Motions That Bring a Question Back Before the Assembly**

- A. **Take from the Table** - resumes consideration of a motion laid on the table earlier in the same session or in the previous session. Not debatable.
- B. **Reconsider** - reopens a motion to debate that has already been voted upon in the same session. The motion to reconsider can only be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side. It suspends action on the motion to which it is applied until it has been decided. It cannot be postponed beyond the next regular business session.
- C. **Rescind (Annul or Repeal) or Amend Something Previously Adopted** - repeals or amends a motion for which it is too late to reconsider. Normally requires a two-thirds vote of those present or a majority vote of the entire membership; however, if previous notice has been given then only a majority vote of those present is required. A motion to rescind cannot be applied to action that cannot be reversed.

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Recommended Study Resources

The Holy Koran of The Moorish Science Temple of America

Moorish Zodiac Constitution

MoorishDirector.com

R.V. Bey Publications

Moorish Nation Public Records

MoorishCiviletter.com

Canaanland Moors' Presentations

Moorish Guide Post

U.S. CONSTITUTION

SELF

MOORISH CIVIL RULES OF PROCEDURALS ORDER QUICK REFERENCE

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

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 below, but you may introduce another that is listed above it.

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

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."

HOW TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN MEETINGS

MAIN MOTION

You want to propose a new idea or action for the group.

- After recognition, make 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."

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