



Robert's Rules of Order Cheat Sheet

Action	What to Say	Can interrupt speaker?	Need a Second?	Can be Debated?	Can be Amended?	Votes Needed
Introduce main motion	<i>"I move to..."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	<i>"I move to amend the motion by // (add or strike words or both)"</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Move item to committee	<i>"I move that we refer the matter to committee."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Postpone item	<i>"I move to postpone the matter until..."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
End debate	<i>"I move the previous question."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to procedure	<i>"Point of order."</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decision
Recess the meeting	<i>"I move that we recess until..."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Adjourn the meeting	<i>"I move to adjourn the meeting."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Request information	<i>"Point of information."</i>	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Overrule the chair's ruling	<i>"I move to overrule the chair's ruling."</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

Action	What to Say	Can interrupt speaker?	Need a Second?	Can be Debated?	Can be Amended?	Votes Needed
Extend the allotted time	<i>"I move to extend the time by ____ minutes."</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Enforce the rules or point out incorrect procedure	<i>"Point of order."</i>	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Table a Motion	<i>"I move to table..."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Verify voice vote with count	<i>"I call for a division."</i>	No	No	No	No	No vote
Object to considering some undiplomatic matter	<i>"I object to consideration of this matter..."</i>	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take up a previously tabled item	<i>"I move to take from the table..."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	<i>"I move to reconsider our action to..."</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	<i>"I move to suspend the rules and consider..."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Close the meeting for executive session	<i>"I move to go into executive session."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Personal preference - noise, room temperature, distractions	<i>"Point of privilege"</i>	Yes	No	No	No	No vote

*A member may make a motion to reconsider something that was already disposed; however, the reconsidered motion may not be subsequently reconsidered. A motion to reconsider must be made during the same meeting and can extend to a meeting that lasts for more than one day

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Making a Motion

Board members must discuss one issue at a time to keep order in the boardroom. The board chair should only allow one person to speak at a time. Any member who wants to make a motion must request the floor —and be granted it — before speaking.

Robert's Rules classifies motions into the below categories.

6 Categories of Motions

1. **Main motion:** Introduces a new item
2. **Subsidiary motion:** Changes or affect how to handle a main motion (vote on this before the main motion)
3. **Privileged motion:** Brings up an urgent or essential matter unrelated to pending business
4. **Incidental motion:** Questions procedure of other motions
5. **Motion to table:** Kills a motion
6. **Motion to postpone:** Delays a vote (can reopen debate on the main motion)

You can read more about [these motions here](#).

Robert's Rules of Order Motion Steps

1. **Motion:** A member rises or raises a hand to signal the chairperson.
2. **Second:** Another member seconds the motion.
3. **Restate motion:** The chairperson restates the motion.
4. **Debate:** The members debate the motion.
5. **Vote:** The chairperson restates the motion, and then first asks for affirmative votes, and then negative votes.
6. **Announce the vote:** The chairperson announces the result of the vote and any instructions.

You can read more about the motions and how to use them in this article, "[Robert's Rules of Order: Types of Motions](#)".

TIP! If the board is in obvious agreement, the chairperson may save time by stating, "If there is no objection, we will adopt the motion to..." Then wait for any objections. Then say, "Hearing no objections, (state the motion) is adopted." And then state any instructions.

If a member objects, first ask for a debate, then vote, and then announce the vote.

Points in Robert's Rules of Order

Certain situations need attention during the meeting, but they don't require a motion, second, debate, or voting. It's permissible to state a point during a meeting where the chairperson needs to handle a situation right away. Board members can declare a Point of Order, Point of Information, Point of Inquiry, or Point of Personal Privilege.

- **Point of Order:** A member draws attention to a breach of rules, improper procedure, breaching of established practices, etc.
- **Point of Information:** A member can ask for a point of information if they want more information on a motion. A point of information should not be used as a means for the person calling for a point of information to present information.
- **Point of Inquiry:** A member may use a point of inquiry to ask for clarification in a report to make better voting decisions.
- **Point of Personal Privilege:** A member may use a point of personal privilege to address the physical comfort of the setting such as temperature or noise. Members may also use it to address the accuracy of published reports or the accuracy of a member's conduct.

**Note: A member may make a motion to reconsider something that was already disposed of; however, the reconsidered motion may not be subsequently reconsidered. A motion to reconsider must be made during the same meeting and can extend to a meeting that lasts for more than one day.*

Robert's Rules: Tips and Reminders for Chairpersons

Robert's Rules of Order was developed to ensure that meetings are fair, efficient, democratic and orderly. A skilled chairperson allows all members to voice their opinions in an orderly manner so that everyone in the meeting can hear and be heard. The following tips and reminders will help chairpersons run a successful and productive meeting without being run over or running over others.

- Follow the agenda to keep the group moving toward its goals.
- Let the group do its work — don't over-command.
- Control the flow of the meeting by recognizing members who ask to speak.
- Let all members speak once before allowing anyone to speak a second time.
- When discussions get off-track, gently guide the group back to the agenda.
- Model courtesy and respect and insist that others do the same.
- Help to develop the board's skills in the parliamentary procedure by properly using motions and points of order.
- Encourage members to present motions positively rather than negatively.
- Give each speaker your undivided attention.
- Keep an emotional pulse on the discussions.
- Allow a consensus to have the final authority of the group.

RETENTION SCHEDULE FOR BRANCH RECORDS (continued)

Type of Record	Retention Period	Notes
Grievances and Related Records		
EEO Case Files [full files]	5 years*	CAU policy.
Moving Papers only	7 years*	CAU policy.
Grievance Case Files [full files]	5 years*	CAU policy.
Moving Papers only	7 years*	CAU policy.
Merit System Protection Board Case Files [full files]	5 years*	CAU policy.
Moving Papers only	7 years*	CAU policy.
Workers' Compensation Case Files	5 years*	If branch handles workers compensation cases for its members.
	*after case is completed	
Financial Records		
Branch books	Permanent	Includes cash journals, equipment records, etc.
Financial Statements and Reports	Permanent	Annual reports after satisfying LMRDA requirement that records supporting DOL filings (LM-1, LM-2, LM-3 and LM-4) be kept for 5 years after year of filing.
Officers' bonds	Permanent	
Direct-Pay Per Capita Tax Rosters	5 years	LMRDA [29 USC 436] requires that records supporting DOL filings (LM-1, LM-2, LM-3 and LM-4) be kept for 5 years after year of filing.
Dues Reimbursement Listings	5 years	LMRDA [29 USC 436] requires that records supporting DOL filings (LM-1, LM-2, LM-3 and LM-4) be kept for 5 years after year of filing.
IRS returns and forms	5 years	Federal tax law mandates that tax records be kept at least 3 years [29 CFR 1600-1]. Since some IRS records support DOL filings, all should be kept for the 5 years required under LMRDA.
Labor Department Reports	5 years	LMRDA [29 USC 436] requires that filings and their supporting documentation be kept for 5 years after year of filing.
Members' dues payment records	5 years	LMRDA [29 USC 436] requires that supporting documentation for DOL filings be kept for 5 years after year of filing.

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