



RIVER VALLEY
MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2019
RULES OF PROCEDURE



GENERAL RULES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The conference will be conducted in English. Delegates are expected to speak and write in English at all times during committee sessions.
2. The dress code for the conference is Western Business Attire. School uniforms and blazers are discouraged.
3. The use of electronic devices for research purposes is permitted in committee sessions. However, the use of communication applications e.g. WhatsApp and other social media platforms are strictly forbidden during committee sessions. The Dais reserves the right to suspend the use of electronic devices should this policy be violated.
4. Delegates are expected to treat all teachers, Secretariat members, Conference Staff, Dais and delegates with respect. Errant delegates would be strictly dealt with.
5. The Dais reserves the right to accept or decline any motion they view to be non-beneficial to debate by their discretion. The Dais also reserves the right to alter the Rules of Procedure in order to facilitate debate during committee sessions.
6. Delegates are expected to refer to themselves in third person during committee sessions.
7. Delegates must have a 70% attendance rate (present for 5 committee sessions) to be eligible for a Certificate of Participation and any awards.
8. Delegates who will be leaving early/arriving late or missing any committee sessions must inform their respective committee Dais through email at least one day before, with a valid reason.



VOTING RULES

1. Simple Majority is defined as half plus one of the total number of delegations present.
2. Substantive Majority is defined as two-thirds of the total number of delegations present.
3. Abstentions do not count as a vote.
4. Member states with Veto powers can only exercise their Veto during substantive voting.
Any exercise of the veto will immediately render the general vote to have failed.
5. Procedural Voting indicates that no abstentions will be allowed and all delegations are allowed to, and should, vote.
6. Substantive Voting indicates that abstentions are in order. Only member entities are allowed to vote and observes are, by default, abstaining.



DEBATE PROCEDURES

1. ROLL CALL

- a. Roll call takes place at the beginning of the committee session.
- b. Delegates are to raise their placards and state “Present” or “Present and Voting” when their Delegation is called by the Dais.
- c. Observer states are only allowed to announce that they are “Present” during roll call as they do not have voting rights on substantive matters.
- d. Delegations which announce that they are “Present and Voting” are not allowed to abstain on substantive matters.
- e. Delegations which announce that they are “Present” are allowed to abstain on substantive matters.
 - i. During voting on substantive matters, they are allowed to “pass” during the first round of voting. However, they must vote either “for” or “against” during the second round of voting.
- f. Delegates who have arrived late must send a note paper to their chairs to indicate their attendance and voting status.

2. OPENING SPEECHES

- a. Delegations will be recognised in alphabetical order.
- b. Delegates are given 90 seconds to deliver their opening speeches.
- c. During Opening Speeches, note passing will not be in order.



3. GENERAL DEBATE

- a. After opening speeches, the committee will move into the General Speaker's List (GSL).
- b. Note passing is in order during General Debate.
- c. When the Dais calls for speakers, Delegates who wish to be added to the GSL can raise their placards. Alternatively, they can send a note paper to the Dais to request to be added to the GSL.
- d. Delegates have **90 seconds** of speaking time. They are free to raise any issues pertaining to the council topic being debated on in that particular committee session. At the end of their speech, Delegates are required to yield their time (refer to Section 4).
- e. The Committee can temporarily move out of General Debate and proceed into other forms of debate such as Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses (refer to Section 5) by introducing a Motion (Section 6).

4. YIELDING

- a. Yielding is necessary for speeches during General Debate. There are 3 forms of yielding.
 - i. Yielding **back to the Dais**: Delegates pass the time back to the Dais and return back to their seats.
 - ii. Yielding to **Points of Information (POI)**: Delegates open themselves up to any questions from the floor about the content of their speech. Depending on the amount of time left, the Dais can decide whether or not to entertain such a yield, and if so, the number of questions that will be entertained.
 - iii. Yielding to **another Delegate**: Delegates pass their remaining time to another Delegate, who can choose to accept, or reject the yield.
- b. After yielding to POIs or another Delegate, the Delegate has to and can only yield his time back to the Dais. Other forms of secondary degree yielding are not in order.



5. CAUCUSES

- a. The maximum time for any Moderated or Unmoderated Caucus is 20 minutes.
- b. An Unmoderated Caucus refers to an informal debate where delegates can freely move about to engage other delegates in discussions. A topic is not required for Unmoderated Caucuses. The **total time** of the Unmoderated Caucus is set by the delegate who motions for it.
 - i. The Delegate who motions for the Unmoderated Caucus will be given **90 seconds** to summarise the discussion after the Unmoderated Caucus has elapsed. Yielding is not in order at the end of this speech.
 - ii. The committee will return to the GSL upon the end of an unmoderated caucus.
- c. A Moderated Caucus refers to formal debate on a specific sub-topic pertaining to the issue. The **topic**, as well as **total and individual speaking time** is set by the delegate who motions for this Moderated Caucus.
 - i. The Delegate who motions for the Moderated Caucus will be given the option to speak first or last on the Caucus.
 - ii. When the Dais call for speakers, Delegates who wish to speak on the Moderated Caucus can raise their placards.
 - iii. Yielding is not in order during Moderated Caucuses.
 - iv. If there is time left in the moderated caucus, and there are no further speakers wishing to speak, the time for moderated caucus will automatically elapse and the Committee will return to the GSL.



6. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- a. Procedural Motions require a simple majority (>50%) to pass. Abstentions are not in order during Procedural Voting.
- b. The motions would be entertained and voted upon from the most to least disruptive, in the following order:
 - i. Motion to Suspend Debate: closes debate at the last committee session of the conference
 - ii. Motion to Adjourn Debate: puts debate on hold for purposes of lunch breaks or to end off the last committee session of the day
 - iii. Motion for Unmoderated Caucus (refer to Section 5b)
 - iv. Motion for Moderated Caucus (refer to Section 5c)
 - v. Motion to Introduce Draft Resolution (refer to Section 8)
 - vi. Motion to Introduce Unfriendly Amendment (refer to Section 9)
 - vii. Motion to move into Direct Voting Procedure (refer to Section 10)
- c. When one motion is passed, motions that have previously been raised will be automatically disregarded.



7. POINTS

- a. **Right to Reply:** This point can be raised by Delegates when they feel personally offended by another Delegate. This includes: personal attacks that insult a Delegate or his country. Delegates may only raise a Right to Reply after the Delegate at the podium has completed his speech to avoid any disruption. The dais, at their discretion, may require the Delegate at the podium to apologise for their remark.
- b. **Point of Personal Privilege:** This point can be raised by Delegates regarding their personal welfare. Points of Personal Privilege encompasses issues pertaining to audibility, charging of laptops, room temperature, etc.
 - i. To raise a point of personal privilege, Delegates may either raise their placards, or send a note paper to the chairs. For RVMUN, the latter is preferred to minimise disruptions during debate with exceptions of audibility issues.
- c. **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** This point can be raised to the Dais to clarify anything related to the Rules of Procedure or committee proceedings.
- d. **Point of Order:** This point can be raised to point out any major protocol errors or breaches in procedure committed by the Dais.



8. RESOLUTION

- a. After substantial debate on the issue, Delegates can craft resolutions to propose various solutions to the issue. A resolution is a document encompassing all proposed solutions raised in council sessions, comprising of both preambulatory and operative clauses.
- b. Delegates are strictly not allowed to refer to in their speeches or circulate any Draft Resolutions which have not been introduced in the committee.
- c. Notepassing is in order during resolution debate.
- d. All solutions included in the Draft Resolution should have been discussed in council sessions. Any form of plagiarism or pre-writing would be strictly dealt with.
- e. There can only be 1 main submitter and 3 co-submitters for each Draft Resolution, with 20% of the committee as signatories (excluding submitters) before the Draft Resolution can be submitted to the Dais. Observer states can be a submitter or a signatory of a Draft Resolution.
- f. There can be several Draft Resolutions on the floor at the same time, and debate can either be general – pertaining to several Draft Resolutions – or specific – pertaining to a single Draft Resolution or a specific clause.
- g. Draft Resolutions can be removed from debate by a **Motion to Table Draft Resolution**. This motion involves a two-thirds majority to pass.
- h. To submit a Draft Resolution, Delegates may email a copy of the Draft Resolution to the Dais or submit it via a thumbdrive.
- i. Delegates can Motion to Introduce the Draft Resolution after the Dais has read, approved and informed the Delegate that it can be introduced.
- j. Upon the introduction of a Draft Resolution, the main submitter would be invited to read out the operative clauses of the Draft Resolution. Thereafter, the Committee would be given a stipulated reading time by the discretion of the Dais. The main submitter would then have **90 seconds** to speak for the Draft Resolution.



- k. The Committee would then move into closed debate on the Draft Resolution, with **2 speakers for**, and **2 speakers against** the Draft Resolution, in alternate order. Yielding is not in order during closed debate.
- l. Thereafter, the Committee moves into Open Debate on the Draft Resolution.



9. AMENDMENTS

- a. Amendments allow the Committee to make changes to a Draft Resolution such as the adding, deleting or editing of any clauses in the Draft Resolution. To submit an amendment, Delegates can send a note paper or email the specific amendment to the Dais.
- b. Amendments should be specific to one/several particular clause(s) in a Draft Resolution.
- c. There are two types of amendments:
 - i. **Friendly Amendments** are amendments which have been approved by all main and co-submitters, and do not require voting. All main and co-submitters are required to sign the amendment in order for it to be recognised as a Friendly Amendment. Amendment has to be approved, then introduced to the Committee.
 - ii. **Unfriendly Amendments** are amendments which have not been/are not approved by the submitters. Delegates can submit Unfriendly Amendments to the Dais and after approval, they can Motion to Introduce the Unfriendly Amendment. The Introduction of the Unfriendly Amendment follows the protocol of the Introduction of a Draft Resolution (refer to Section 8).
- d. However, if more than 50% of the clauses in the Draft Resolution have been amended, the Draft Resolution is automatically tabled.



10. VOTING ON RESOLUTION AND UNFRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

- a. To vote on Draft Resolutions or Unfriendly Amendments, the main submitter must raise a **Motion to move into Direct Voting Procedure on the Draft Resolution/Amendment**. After the motion passes, the Committee will move into Direct Voting Procedure.
- b. During Direct Voting Procedure on the Draft Resolution/Unfriendly Amendment, note-passing will be suspended and Delegates would not be allowed to leave the committee venue.
- c. To pass the Draft Resolution/Unfriendly Amendment, a **substantive majority** ($\geq \frac{2}{3}$ of the committee) is required. Delegates can choose to vote for, against, or abstain from voting. Observer States will not have voting rights during Direct Voting Procedure, and by default, abstains.
- d. Only one Draft Resolution can be passed per topic. Should the Draft Resolution pass, the committee moves into the second topic. However, if the Draft Resolution fails, the committee moves back into General Debate on the topic.
- e. During Direct Voting Procedures, the Motion to Divide the House, Divide the Question and for Roll Call Vote may be raised. All three motions involve a procedural vote before the Committee enters the respective motion.
 - i. Motion to **Divide the House**: This motion can be raised before or after Direct Voting Procedure. When this motion has been passed, all Delegates with voting rights will not be allowed to abstain and must vote either for or against. This motion can be raised after the Draft Resolution fails by a close margin.
 - ii. Motion to **Divide the Question**: This motion is raised when the committee is unable to come to an agreement on certain clauses. When this motion has been passed, all Delegates will vote substantively on the Draft Resolution clause by clause. Abstentions are in order when Dividing the Question. If more than 50% of the clauses in the Draft Resolution fails, the Draft Resolution automatically fails.



- iii. Motion for **Roll Call Vote**: This motion mandates each Delegate to verbally announce their vote to the committee. Once this motion passes, there will be two rounds of voting. In the first round, Delegates are allowed to vote for, against, to abstain, or to pass to the second round of voting. In the second round, Delegates must choose to vote for, against, or to abstain.