



Parliamentary Procedure

Purpose

The purpose of the parliamentary procedure leadership development event is to encourage students to learn to effectively participate in a business meeting and to assist in the development of their leadership, research, problem-solving skills and critical-thinking skills.

Objectives

Upon completion of participation in the event, students will be able to

- Use parliamentary procedure to conduct an orderly and efficient meeting.
- Demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary law.
- Present a logical, realistic and convincing debate on motions.
- Evaluate minutes and organizational documents.
- Utilize parliamentary resources to solve problems of organizational management and operations.

National Association of Parliamentarians Body of Knowledge:

In consultation with the National Association of Parliamentarians and the American Institute of Parliamentarians, this event has been aligned with the National Association of Parliamentarians Bodies of Knowledge for members and leaders of organizations.

Partnership for 21st Century Learning:

The skills, knowledge and disposition cultivated in this event are aligned with the P21 Framework.

Event Rules

A team representing a chapter will consist of six members from the same chapter. All practicums will involve all six team members.

- FFA Official Dress is required for this event.
- The advisor will not consult with the team after entering the holding room prior to each round of the event.
- Any participant in possession of an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.

EQUIPMENT

Materials the student needs to provide:

- Each participant must bring a minimum of two sharpened No. 2 pencils for each team member.
- A copy of the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- Materials provided by the event committee:
 - A gavel will be supplied for the chair. Teams may choose to use their own gavel if they so desire.
 - Paper and pencils will be provided to chair and secretary stations.

THE EVENT WILL HAVE FIVE PHASES:

- Written examination.
- An 11-minute team presentation of parliamentary procedure.
- Oral questions following the presentation.
- Team problem-solving practicum.

Event Format

WRITTEN EXAM (200 POINTS OR 20%)

Part I

Consists of five open-book parliamentary procedure research questions using the current (12th) edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. Participants will be allowed 30 minutes to complete Part I of the exam. All team members are required to provide their own copy of the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. It is allowable to have highlighting in your book and tabs. It is not allowable to add written pages to the RONR or have written additional notes.

An example of one research question is outlined below:

- Responses to the research questions in the written exam will require referencing the Section and Paragraph in the 12th edition of RONR.

Answer: *RONR, Section ____, Paragraph. ____ or RONR §__:* ____

Part II

Forty-five(45) multiple-choice questions taken from *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*. Participants will have one hour to complete Part II of the exam. **NOTE:** [References](#) and materials **cannot** be used for this part.

Exam content will be guided by National Association of Parliamentarians members and Leaders Body of Knowledge and the Society for Agricultural Education Parliamentarians (SAEP) accreditation processes. These questions will be pulled from the last five years National FFA Parliamentary Procedure exams.

The average score of the six team members will be used to compute the total team score.

PRESENTATION (500 POINTS OR 50%)

1. Item of Business

Each team will address a local chapter item of business, which would normally be a part of a chapter's program of activities (consult FFA.org, the Official FFA Manual and Student Handbook for specific activities and current programs.) The motion will be specific and must be moved as an original main motion as it is written on the event card.

Motions not on the chart of permissible motions, or secondary motions and debate applied to them, will not be scored.

2. Event Card

There are 25 permissible motions in the national FFA event. From the list of permissible motions, the event officials will select two subsidiary motions, two incidental motions and one privileged motion or a motion that brings a question again before the assembly. These motions will be on an index card, and one will be randomly assigned to each team member. Motions must be demonstrated in the classification that is indicated on the motion card (i.e. privileged, subsidiary, incidental, motions that bring back again before the assembly).

All teams in each section will be assigned the same motions. Team members will have one minute to review the main motion, the motions to be demonstrated and to identify his/her motion (which may be noted by bolding, underlining, or highlighting). Members may not confer or use nonverbal communications during the one-minute time period or during the demonstration.

SAMPLE CARD

| |
|---|
| <p>Main Motion:</p> <p>I move that our chapter send two delegates to WLC.</p> <p>Required Motions:</p> <p>Lay on the Table</p> <p><u>Amend</u></p> <p>Suspend the Rules</p> <p>Appeal</p> <p>Recess</p> |
|---|

3. Opening and Closing the Demonstration

The team demonstrating shall assume that a regular chapter meeting is in progress and new business is being handled on the agenda. The chair shall start the presentation by saying, "Is there any new business?" Time will stop when the chair declares the meeting adjourned.

Original Main Motion: The event official will assign the main motion on an index card; no other original main motions may be used. Making other original main motions that are not on the event card will result in a 50-point deduction from the overall team presentation score.

The assigned original main motion is to be the first item of business presented, unless, Take from the Table, Reconsider or Rescind are required on the event card. If any of these motions are on the event card, the team may choose to demonstrate the motion at the beginning of their demonstration or at the end of the demonstration, after they have disposed of the original main motion. Points are only deducted if parliamentary error occurs or if event time requirements are violated. If this is the case, an alternative main motion for Take from the Table, Reconsider or Rescind will be provided.

The person who makes the assigned main motion will be given credit for an additional motion.

4. Secondary Motions

There is no limit to the number of subsidiary, incidental and privileged motions that a team may demonstrate.

A member's required motion will not be counted as an additional motion for another member. No motion may count for an additional motion for more than one member.

Incidental and privileged motions cannot be demonstrated as incidental main motions.

Only motions listed in the permissible motions chart will be counted for required and additional motions.

5. Individual Member Recognition

A member may speak in debate on the main motion and conclude by offering a secondary motion. Judges will award points accordingly for both the debate and the secondary motion.

Omission of the assigned motion by the assigned member on the event card will result in a 50-point deduction from the overall team presentation score.

6. Motions that bring a question again before the assembly

If the officials in charge designate Take from the Table, Rescind or Reconsider as a motion to be demonstrated, a scenario will be included on the event card. These motions shall not be used unless listed on the event card as a required motion.

7. Call for the Orders of the Day

If the event officials designate call for the orders of the day as a motion to be demonstrated, a scenario will be provided on the event card. Participants are to assume that a motion was postponed at the last meeting and made a special order for a time during the current demonstration.

8. Debate

The top four debates per member will be tabulated in the presentation score. No more than two debates per member per motion will be tabulated, even if the subsidiary motion to extend the limits of debate has been passed.

9. Time Limit and Deductions

A team shall be allowed 11 minutes in which to demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary law. A deduction of two points/second for every second over 11 minutes will be assessed. A timekeeper will furnish the time used by each team at the close of the event.

- Example: Time of 11:05 = 10-point deduction.

ORAL QUESTIONS (100 POINTS OR 10%)

Individual Questions (100 points)

The team members (not including the chair) will be asked a planned question, which may include one to three parts, relating to their assigned motion. No one may step forward to help another member answer their individual question. The chair will be asked a question relating to presiding, debate, assigning the floor or other general parliamentary procedures. Each member will be scored a maximum of 16 points for responses to questions. Chair will be scored at a maximum of 20 points. Questions will be asked from the [Oral Questions CD Basic and Challenge by Shane Dunbar \(SKU: PARL-24C\)](#).

Clarifying Questions

The judges will have three minutes to ask clarifying questions related to the team's demonstration that may impact other aspects of team demonstration scores. Questions may be directed to the team or an individual member. Team members may volunteer to answer the question for the team or to help another member. This round of questions is not scored separately but is used to inform other aspects of the score card.

Scoring Guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR SCORING DISCUSSION (60 POINTS PER MEMBER)

1. It is essential that each judge observes and maintains consistent criteria in scoring debate for the duration of the event.
2. Judges must overlook personal opinions and beliefs and score debate in an unbiased manner. All debate should be scored at the time it is delivered.
3. Each time a participant in the presentation discusses any motion, they may earn a score. However, an individual may never earn more than 60 points in a given presentation. The top four debates per member will be tabulated in the presentation score. No more than two debates per member per motion will be tabulated even if an extension of debate is passed.

Characteristics of effective debate

1. Characteristics of effective debate include the member's ability to state his or her position, provide reason(s) supporting his or her position and tell or encourage the delegation how to vote. The delivery of the debate will include:
2. Completeness of thought.
3. Logical reasoning.
4. Clear statement of speaker's position.

5. Conviction of delivery.
6. Concise and effective statement of debate.

GOOD DEBATE

A good debate would be characterized by a presentation that includes the components of a good debate as well as the quality of delivery in which the debate is delivered. Those components are

- States position.
- Provides more than one reason supporting the position.
- Tells delegation how to vote.

AVERAGE DEBATE

An average debate would be characterized by a presentation that includes only one supporting reason or lacks in the quality of delivery. However, the following basic components of a debate will still be included:

- States position.
- Provides one reason supporting the position.
- Tells delegation how to vote.

POOR DEBATE

A poor debate would be characterized by a lack of effective delivery, poor grammar, reasoning and substance as well as the omission of one or more components of an effective debate.

Suggested grading scale for debates:

Good: 15–20 points.

Average: 8–14 points.

Poor: 0–7 points.

GUIDELINES FOR SCORING THE CHAIR (80 POINTS)

The chair is evaluated by his or her ability to preside and his or her leadership.

Ability to preside (65 points)

The ability to preside includes the following being able to state motions correctly, follow rules of debate, keep members informed, put motions to a vote, announce results of vote, use the gavel and maintain awareness of business on the floor.

A suggested grading scale is as follows:

Excellent: 51–60 points.

Good: 26–50 points.

Poor: 0–25 points.

Leadership (15 points)

Leadership is stage presence, poise, self-confidence, politeness and voice.

A suggested grading scale is as follows:

Excellent: 1–15 points.

Good: 6–10 points.

Poor: 0–5 points.

GUIDELINES FOR SCORING TEAM EFFECT (20 POINTS)

Conclusions reached by the team:

The main motion was well analyzed, which may include answering who, what, when, where, why and how.

Team use of debate:

The degree to which debate was convincing, logical, realistic, orderly and efficient, germane and free from repetition.

Team presence:

This includes voice, poise, expression, grammar, gestures and professionalism.

Scoring

| PHASE | POINTS |
|--|------------|
| A. WRITTEN EXAM | 200 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society for Agricultural Education Parliamentarians Accreditation Exam • 45 multiple-choice questions x 4 points each = 180 points • 5 research questions x 4 points each = 20 points | |
| B. PRESENTATION | 500 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required motion: 10 points x 5 members = 50 points (5%) • Additional motion: 10 points x 5 members = 50 points (5%) • Debates: 300 points (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 points maximum per debate • Four debates/member included • Five members • Chair: 80 points (8%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to preside: 65 points • Leadership: 15 points • Team effect: 20 points (2%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions reached by team • Team use of debate • Team presence | |
| C. ORAL QUESTIONS | 100 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Questions (80 points) Five team members, 16 points maximum per question • Chair, 20 points maximum | |
| TOTAL POINTS | 800 |

TIEBREAKERS

Tiebreakers for teams will be

- Total final presentation score out of 500 possible points.
- Average debate score of entire team.
- Team average score on the written exam.

References

This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

NATIONAL FFA CORE CATALOG

- CDE Q&A's, FFA.org
- Additional parliamentary procedure resources, including those formally offered in the National FFA Education Resources Catalog can now be found online at shopFFA.org.
- The official text for 2021 will be the 12th edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. (published in September 2020)
- Additional references may include FFA New Horizons magazine, the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.

EXAM

- The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*
- Dunbar's Manual of Parliamentary Procedure Test Questions (PARL-2) available from the Parliamentary Procedure Instructional Materials Center, <http://www.dunbarparlipro.com>
- Study Guide for the National Association of Parliamentarians Registration Exam, found at <https://nap.users.membersuite.com/shop/store/browse>
- American Institute of Parliamentarians — Here is the Answer! What is the question? Cover Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, found on Amazon at <http://amazon.com>. Search for "Here is the Answer! What is the question?"
- National Association of Parliamentarians Body of knowledge found at <http://www.parliamentarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/BOK-Booklet3-a.pdf>
- Past National FFA Event Exams, Questions and Practicums, available at FFA.org at no cost

PRESENTATION

- The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*
- Past National FFA Event Finals Recordings (available at, FFA.org at no cost)
- American Institute of Parliamentarians — Presiding: You Can Do It, found on Amazon <http://www.Amazon.com> Search for "Presiding: You Can Do It"
- [Official FFA Manual](#), includes Spanish version
- [FFA Student Handbook](#) and in [Spanish](#)

INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

- The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*
- Past National FFA Event Exams, Questions and Practicums, available at FFA.org at no cost
- National Association of Parliamentarians Body of knowledge found at <http://www.parliamentarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/BOK-Booklet3-a.pdf>
- Dunbar's Parliamentary Procedure Oral Questions (PARL-24c) available from the Parliamentary Procedure Instructional Materials Center, <http://www.dunbarparlipro.com>

Chart of Permissible Motions

| Motion | Second Required | Debatable | Amendable | Vote Required | Reconsider |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--|---------------|
| PRIVILEGED MOTIONS | | | | | |
| Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn | Yes | No | Yes | Majority | Yes |
| Adjourn | Yes | No | No | Majority | No |
| Recess | Yes | No | Yes | Majority | No |
| Raise a Question of Privilege | No | No | No | Chair Grants | No |
| Call for the Orders of the Day | No | No | No | No vote, demand | No |
| SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS | | | | | |
| Lay on the Table | Yes | No | No | Majority | Neg. only (3) |
| Previous Question | Yes | No | No | 2/3 | Yes |
| Limit or Extend Limits of Debate | Yes | No | Yes | 2/3 | Yes |
| Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority | Yes |
| Commit or Refer | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority | Yes |
| Amend | Yes | Yes (1) | Yes | Majority | Yes |
| Postpone Indefinitely | Yes | Yes | No | Majority | Affirm only |
| Main Motion | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority | Yes |
| INCIDENTAL MOTIONS | | | | | |
| Appeal | Yes | Yes (1) | No | Majority | Yes |
| Division of the Assembly | No | No | No | No vote, demand | No |
| Division of a Question | Yes | No | Yes | Majority | No |
| Objection to the Consideration of a Question | No | No | No | 2/3 | Neg. only |
| Parliamentary Inquiry | No | No | No | Chair answers | No |
| Point of Order | No | No | No | Normally no vote, chair rules | No |
| Request for Information | No | No | No | No vote, chair responds | No |
| Suspend the Rules | Yes | No | No | (2) | No |
| Withdraw a Motion | No (3) | No | No | Majority (3) | Neg. Only |
| MOTIONS THAT BRING A QUESTION AGAIN BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY | | | | | |
| Reconsider (4) | Yes | Yes (1) | No | Majority | No |
| Rescind (4) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority with notice, 2/3 or majority of entire membership (3) | Neg. Only |
| Take from The Table (4) | Yes | No | No | Majority | No |

(1) If applied to a debatable motion.

(2) Rules of Order 2/3 vote, standing rules --- majority vote.

(3) Refer to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition for rule(s).

(4) Refer to parliamentary procedure LDE rules before using these motions in the demonstration.

(5) Only motions listed in the permissible motions chart will be utilized as required motions and allowed as additional motions

National FFA Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event
Form 2 Team Score Sheet

| FFA Chapter: | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|--|----------|-------|-------|--|------------|--|-------------------------|
| Participant | Required Motion | | Discussion (60 pts. max./member, 20 pts.max./item) Excellent 15-20 pts., Good 10-14 pts., Average 5-9 pts., Poor 0-4 pts. | | | | Additional Motion | | Individual Questions 16 pts./person | Total 96 pts./person |
| | 10 pts./person | Pts | Main | PP InDef | Amend | Refer | PP Def | Bring Back | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chair | Ability to Preside (65 pts.) | | Points | | | | Leadership (15 pts.) | | Points | |
| | State motions correctly, follow rules of debate, keep members informed, put motions to a vote, announce results of vote, use of gavel, awareness of business on the floor. | | Tactful, sensitive, firm, understanding, good voice, proper pace | | | | Excellent = 10-15 pts., Good = 6-10 pts. Poor = 0-5 pts. | | Chair Questions (20 pts.) | |
| Team Effect | Conclusions | | Discussion | | | | Team Voice | | | |
| | Main motion was well analyzed. What, When, Where, Who, How was answered | | Convincing, logical, realistic, orderly and efficient, germane and free from repetition | | | | Voice: Volume, enunciation, pitch, pace, grammar Poise: confidence, professional, eye contact Expression: conviction, gestures | | | |
| Exam | Average of all 6 individual exam scores (200 pts.) | | | | | | | | | |
| Minutes | Minutes taken from Individual Minutes and Other Records Practicum (50 pts) | | | | | | | | | |
| Research | Team Problem Solving Research (150 pts.) (Preliminaries & Semis) | | | | | | | | | |
| Deductions (List mistakes) 5-20 pts per mistake | Omitting assigned motion - 50 pts | | | | | | | | | |
| Time | Deduction for overtime. -2pts/second after 11:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Notes: | Total Deductions Team Score | | | | | | | | | |