



Parliamentary Procedure

Updates

Below is a summary of updates to the Parliamentary Procedure LDE Handbook for the 2026-2027 cycle.

HANDBOOK UPDATE:

No changes

Purpose

The purpose of the parliamentary procedure leadership development event is to encourage students to learn to participate in a business meeting and meetings of organized societies effectively and to assist in developing 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 state 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 possessing an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.
- The top two teams from each region will qualify for the state contest.

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 FOUR 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)

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 to 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 *the last five years of National FFA Parliamentary Procedure LDE tests*. Participants will have one hour to complete Part II of the exam. **NOTE:** [References](#) and materials **cannot** be used for this part.

The average score of the six team members will be used to compute the total team score that will be utilized for each round.

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

Main Motion:

I move that our chapter send two delegates to WLC.

Required Motions:

Lay on the Table

Amend

Suspend the Rules

Appeal

Recess

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 a 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 as 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%)

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: 51–65 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
• 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
• Required motion: 10 points x 5 members = 50 points (5%) • Additional motion: 10 points x 5 members = 50 points (5%) • Debates: 300 points (30%) • 20 points maximum per debate • Four debates/member included • Five members • Chair: 80 points (8%) • Ability to preside: 65 points • Leadership: 15 points	

- **Team effect: 20 points (2%)**

- Conclusions reached by team
- Team use of debate
- Team presence

C. ORAL QUESTIONS 100

- 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 on the written exam.

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

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	10 pts / person	Individual Questions 16 pts / person	Total 96 pts / person
	10 pts/person	Pts	Main	PP Indef	Amend	Refer	PP Def	Bring Back	Total				
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
Chair	Ability to Preside (65 pts.)				Points	Leadership (15 pts.)				Points	Chair Questions (20 pts.)		
	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					Tactful, sensitive, firm, understanding, good voice, proper pace							
	Excellent = 51-65 pts., Good = 26-50 pts., Poor = 0-25 pts.					Excellent = 10-15 pts., Good = 6-10 pts. Poor = 0-5 pts.							
Team Effect (20 pts.)													
Team Effect	Conclusions Main motion was well analyzed. What, When, Where, Who, How was answered				Discussion Convincing, logical, realistic, orderly and efficient, germane and free from repetition				Team Voice 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: -2 pts./second after 11:00												
Total Deductions													
Team Score													
Notes:													

