

Rules and Procedures

Administration and General Conference Rules

Section 1: Administration

1.1: Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee shall have under its authority all matters that deal with: the assignment of countries, substantive matters of the conference, and the Secretariat. The Executive Committee has sole authority at WHSMUN regarding staff and conference logistics. The Executive Committee is composed of the Secretary-General, the Director-General and the IWA WHSMUN Coordinator.

1.2: Senior Staff:

The WHSMUN Senior Staff shall consist of the Secretary-General, the Director-General, the Under Secretary-General(s), and other designates of the Secretary-General at his/her discretion. The Senior Staff provide a direct point of contact for problems, concerns and ideas for the future. Only members of the Senior Staff may act as the official and final voice of the Secretariat.

1.3: Conference Composition:

WHSMUN shall consist of a General Assembly, a selection of Main Committees of the GA, and their respective subcommittees, as well as special committees. The composition of WHSMUN may be altered at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

1.4: Final Authority:

In any situation not covered by these rules, the Secretary-General of WHSMUN will be the final authority, using the United Nations Charter as a guide. The Secretary-General shall have all powers assigned to that position under the Charter and shall be assisted directly by other members of the Secretariat so designated by the Executive Committee.

1.5: Presiding Authority:

The President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council, and the Committee Chairpersons shall have complete control over the maintenance of order during the meetings at which they preside, and can exercise any powers conferred upon them by the Secretary-General.

1.6: Rules Clarification(s):

In any parliamentary situation not covered by these rules, final authority shall rest with the WHSMUN Secretariat. Such decisions are final and may not be appealed.

1.7: Quorum:

A quorum will be one fourth of the member delegations in attendance at the conference. A quorum is required for all business to take place. The number required for quorum may be altered at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

Section 2: General Rules

2.1: Diplomatic Courtesy:

Delegates are expected to act respectfully to their fellow delegates, faculty advisors, and to the Secretariat. Delegates who are found to be in violation of this may be censured or expelled from their committee. This decision may not be appealed. Delegates are expected to be in Western business attire for the duration of the conference.

2.2: Speeches:

Delegations may only speak after receiving recognition from the Chair. Delegations, and not individual representatives, are recognized so multiple delegates may speak when a delegation is recognized. Delegates must speak only about the topic at hand. The Chair may censure speakers who are off topic; said decision may not be appealed.

2.3: Recognition of Speakers:

Delegations wishing to be recognized to speak must raise their placard. The Chairs will recognize only official WHSMUN issued placards.

2.4: Right of Reply:

The Chair may allow a Right of Reply to any delegation if a speech made by another delegation contains extraordinary language clearly insulting to personal or national dignity.

- Requests are to be made in writing to the Chair detailing the language used which was found to be insulting.
- If entertained, the time allowed will be set by the Chair.
- The decision of the Chair may not be appealed.

2.5: Withdrawal of Motions:

Any motion may be withdrawn by its proposer until voting begins. If the motion has been amended, it may not be withdrawn.

2.6: Dilatory Motions:

The Chair may rule dilatory any motion duplicating a similar motion that has already been recently decided by the body. Said decision of the Chair may not be appealed.

2.7: Languages:

The official working language of WHSMUN is English. Every attempt by delegations should be made to ensure that delegates can communicate effectively in spoken and written English.

2.8: Censure:

Delegations found to be in repeated, severe violations of WHSMUN rules, regulations, and policies will be censured. Censure consists of removing voting and speaking privileges for a delegation for a period time as determined by the presiding authority. In extreme cases, expulsion will be considered. If a delegation is participating in actions that are considered severe enough, the presiding authority will attempt to issue a warning to the delegation notifying them they are in danger of censure, and why they will be censured if the behavior does not stop. Appeals to censures will be granted and conducted with the offending delegates, head delegate, and faculty advisor. The Secretary-General will act as presiding authority. Until the appeal is completed, the delegation will not be allowed to vote or speak in formal session.

Section 3: General Assembly (GA)

3.1: Agenda:

The order of the agenda of the plenary session of the GA on the second day of the conference shall be set by the Secretariat. New items may not be added to the agenda of the General Assembly.

3.2: Precedence:

The points and motions as listed in Section 4 are in order of precedence. This means that if there is a motion on the floor, only motions of higher precedence may be called for by delegates. Points are of higher precedence than motions.

3.3: Recognition of Speakers:

Delegations wishing to speak on an item before the body will signify by raising their placards when points, motions or speakers are requested by the Chair from the floor. When making a motion or speaking on a resolution/ amendment, delegates must raise their placards, when no other delegate is speaking, and wait to be recognized by the Chair. When making a point, delegates must state their point as they raise their placard. Only points of order (Rule 4.1) may interrupt a speaker.

-The correct grammar to be used when making a motion is:

The delegation of _____ moves to...

3.4: Debate Time Limits:

The Chair sets predetermined limits to debate:

-Delegates proposing **resolutions** in the General Assembly shall have **ten minutes** to speak on their resolution.

This does not include the time necessary for the resolution to be read to the Assembly.

- Proposers of **amendments** shall have **three minutes** to speak, after the amendment is read by the Dais staff.
- Substantive speeches**, such as speaking on a resolution or amendment, will be limited to **three minutes**.
- Procedural speeches**, such as the pro and con speakers for a motion, will be limited to **thirty seconds**. →All of these limits may be changed with Rule 4.11. The Chair may also, at his or her discretion, set a cap regarding the total amount of time available for discussion of any resolution or amendment.

3.5: Yielding the Floor:

Once a delegation is finished with a substantive speech (on a resolution or amendment), they must yield the remainder of their time to:

- the Chair = no other delegations may respond
 - questions/points of inquiry = other delegations can ask questions of the delegate on the speech he or she just made. [Answers to points of inquiry count against the speaker's allotted time. Yields to points of inquiry can be made until the speaker's time has elapsed.](#)
 - another delegation = that delegation will speak on the issue to which the first delegation was recognized
- No more than two yields between delegations** shall take place for each speaker recognized by the Chair. There may be no yields of any kind after a procedural or a proposal speech.

3.6: Penalties:

Delegations who are recognized to speak to a position on a main motion and who speak on the opposite shall be censured. Delegations falling to observe diplomatic courtesy toward fellow representatives, Secretariat members, faculty, or other individuals may be censured and removed from their committee or the conference. The latter decision rests jointly in the hands of the Secretary-General and the IWA WHSMUN Coordinator.

3.7: Observer Status:

Observer nations represented shall not be allowed to vote in the General Assembly or in the Main Committees. In addition, observer nations may not make or second motions dealing with adjournment of debate, closure of debate or adjournment of the meeting.

3.8: Voting Rights

Each member state shall have one vote in each Committee/Council in which they have representation. No delegate may cast a vote on behalf of another state.

3.9: Simple Majority

Unless otherwise stated, motions require a simple majority to pass. Simple majority rules state that there must be more votes in favor than against to pass, which does not include abstentions. If there are more opposed or an equal division between votes in favor and those opposed, the motion fails.

3.10: Methods of Voting:

The General Assembly shall vote by a show of raised placards. A member nation may call for a [Division of the the Assembly](#) on substantive motions. This requires 15 delegations to second the motion, as it is not debatable or put to a vote. Delegates shall reply with "yes," "no," "abstain," or "abstain from the order."

- A delegation may abstain from the order once during a roll call vote; a second abstention from the order will be recorded as an abstention.
- [Abstentions are not permitted on procedural votes](#)
- Before the final results of a roll call are announced, delegations will be asked if they wish to change their vote. Delegates who request to change their vote must change their vote.

3.11: Conduct During Voting

Immediately prior to a vote, the Chair will explain to the Committee/Council the item to be voted on, and will explain the consequences of an "in favor" or "opposed" vote. Voting begins when the Chair states that "we are now in voting procedure," and ends when the results are announced.

- Once in voting procedure, no interruptions are allowed, except a Point of Order or a Point of Information regarding voting procedure.
- During voting procedure, there must be silence on the floor and delegates may not enter or leave the Committee/Council chamber.

3.12: Explanation of Votes:

Delegations that vote in favor of or against any main motion may be allowed 30 seconds after the results of the vote have been announced to explain why they voted as they did. This only applies if the delegation's vote may have been considered out of character or against foreign policy, and they wish to explain their decision.

- An explanation is only permissible after a roll call vote, if the delegation **indicated "with rights"** when stating their vote (It is not allowed if the delegation abstained from the vote).

3.13: Votes Inconsistent With Foreign Policy:

If a delegation believes that another delegation is acting out of character, please approach a member of the Secretariat, who will in turn resolve the issue.

Section 4: General Assembly Rules (Points & Motions in Order of Precedence)

4.1: Point of Order:

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order if he or she believes that the committee is proceeding in a manner contrary to the WHSMUN rules.

- When a representative feels that the committee is out of order, he must state the exact violation of the WHSMUN Bylaws. This would include not being able to hear the speaker, as that would be a violation of Rule 2.1, Diplomatic Courtesy.
- A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker, but it should be noted that it is discourteous to do so unless the problem is pertinent.

4.2: Point of Information:

A Point of Information may be called for if a representative is unclear about the business before the assembly, or if he wishes to obtain clarification about the procedure of the assembly.

- This point may not interrupt a speaker.

4.3: Point of Inquiry:

At the end of any substantive speech, delegates may rise to a "Point of Inquiry" to ask a question of the speaker if the speaker so chooses and distinguishes that choice by yielding their time to questions/points of inquiry.

- Points of Inquiry may not be made until after a delegation finishes their speech.
- Delegations wishing to raise a point of inquiry should rise immediately following a speaker's substantive speech (but wait to be recognized by the Chair). Points of Inquiry are only in order if the speaker has not already yielded the balance of his or her time to the Chair.
- The speaker may decline to continue accepting points of inquiry at any time.
- This point may not interrupt a speaker.

4.4: Caucus:

Unmoderated Informal Session: A delegate may move to recess to an unmoderated informal session when the floor is open, prior to closure of debate. This motion requires a second and is not debatable.

- The motioning delegate must **give a purpose and an overall time limit** for the caucus.
- The time limit and acceptance of the motion are subject to the Chair's discretion.
- Once the motion is accepted, it is immediately put to a vote, requiring a simple majority to pass.

Moderated Informal Session: A delegate may move to recess to a moderated informal session when the floor is open, prior to closure of debate. This motion requires a second and is not debatable.

- The motioning delegate must **give a purpose, an overall time limit for the caucus, and a speaking time for the individual speeches.**
- The time limit, number of speakers, and acceptance of the motion are subject to the Chair's discretion.
- Once the motion is accepted, it is immediately put to a vote, requiring a simple majority to pass.
- If the motion passes, the assembly will move directly into the moderated informal session for the specified amount of time. The Chair will accept speakers on the predetermined subject of the moderated caucus, and the Assembly will return to formal session when the time limit has expired.

4.5: Suspension of the Meeting:

The motion for a suspension of the meeting is used to suspend the meeting for a specified amount of time and for a

specific purpose (such as a meal or the end of the day).

- This motion requires a second.
- This motion is not debatable and requires a simple majority for passage.

4.6: Adjournment of the Meeting:

This motion is used to end substantive business of the committee for the year.

- This motion requires a second.
- This motion is not debatable and requires a simple majority for passage.
- The Chair may refuse to recognize a motion to adjourn the meeting if the Committee still has enough time to discuss substantive business.

4.7: Division of the Assembly:

Any representative may call for a division of the assembly if he feels that the results of a substantive placard vote were close enough to merit a roll-call vote.

- A delegation wishing for a roll-call vote should move to divide the assembly immediately following the announcement of the results of the placard vote.
- A motion for Division of the Assembly requires [a second](#).
- [The motion may be requested up until the proposal speaker for the next agenda item is recognized.](#)
- [Whether or not a Division of the Assembly is in order is always subject to the chair's discretion and may not be appealed.](#)

4.8: Adjournment of Debate:

Moving for adjournment of debate has the effect of ending debate on a main motion – a resolution or amendment – without bringing that particular motion to a vote. In effect, this tables the main motion, to be brought back only with a motion to reconsider (Rule 4.14).

- This motion requires a second.
- This motion is debatable, with two speakers for and two speakers against the motion.
- This motion requires a simple majority for passage.

4.9: Closure of Debate:

A motion for closure of debate is used to end substantive debate on a main motion – a resolution or amendment – and bring the assembly to an immediate vote on that main motion.

- This motion requires a second.
- Two speakers will speak against this motion.
- This motion requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

4.10: Change the Order of the Agenda:

A motion to changing the order of the agenda is used to rearrange items on the agenda.

- Only one item may be moved each time this motion is made.
- This motion may only be made in the General Assembly, and only before the General Assembly enters substantive business on the first agenda topic.
- This motion is not debatable and requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

4.11: Consideration of Amendments:

Moving to amend a resolution is used to add, subtract, or modify the content of a resolution.

- [All amendments must include the following information:](#)
 - [The Name and Number of the resolution to be amended](#)
 - [The names and signatures of the delegations who are signatories on the amendment \(amendments do not distinguish between sponsors and signatories\)](#)
- [Amendments must be signed by at least 15 delegations before they may be approved by the Secretariat \(an exception exists for “friendly” amendments in subcommittee, see rule 6.3\)](#)
- [The amendment proposer must then move to amend the resolution, but only after the amendment has received approval from a member of the GA dais staff.](#)
- The number of signatures required for amendment may be altered at the discretion of the Secretariat and said decision

may not be appealed.

- This motion does not require a second. Once the motion is properly made, the amendment is automatically on the floor.

4.12: Change the Limits of Debate:

This motion is used to change the amount of time allotted to each speaker.

- Delegates moving to change limits of debate must state the new limit(s) they propose.
- This motion requires a second, and is debatable.
- This motion requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

4.13: Object to Consideration:

If the General Assembly does not wish to even consider a specific issue on the agenda, a delegation may make this motion when the agenda item comes up for consideration.

- If the motion is approved, then debate on the resolution ceases immediately and the agenda item is in effect skipped.
- This motion requires a second.
- This motion may be made any time until the proposal speech for the resolution in question is completed.
- This motion is not debatable.
- This motion requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

4.14: Division of the Question:

This motion is used to divide a resolution into multiple resolutions to be voted on separately. (It is used when different parts, although relating to a single subject, are capable of standing alone as complete resolutions, potentially due to their controversial nature. To completely remove a clause from consideration, make an amendment to strike it.)

This motion must clearly state in what way the resolution is to be divided. *This motion is only in order after debate has been closed on the resolution, but before moving into voting procedure.*

- Delegations will first vote on whether or not to divide the resolution.
- This motion requires a second and is debatable, with the pro and con speakers only discussing the merits of the actual motion.
 - If there are multiple motions to “Divide the Question,” then they are disposed of in the order of descending disruption to the resolution.
 - If the first vote fails, the Assembly returns to voting procedure on the resolution as it stands. If the first vote passes, the resolution is divided into two pieces to then be voted on separately.
- The second vote is taken to determine whether or not to keep the divided out portion of the resolution.
 - If the second vote passes, then the divided segment(s) will be kept but as an annex to the original resolution. If the second vote fails, the particular clauses under consideration are discarded and no longer part of the resolution.
- Both votes require a simple majority for passage.
- [Procedure surrounding division of the question is subject to the chair’s discretion.](#)

4.15: Reconsideration:

This motion is used to bring back any main motion (resolution or amendment) for which debate was adjourned.

- This motion requires a second for consideration.
- This motion is debatable, with two affirmative, and two negative speakers.
- This motion requires a 2/3 majority for passage.
- Upon passage, the item to be reconsidered comes up for discussion immediately. This motion can only be made between substantive agenda times.

Section 5: Main Committees

5.1: Applicability of GA Rules:

Unless provided for otherwise in this section, all rules of the General Assembly apply to the Main Committees.

5.2: Agenda:

The Main Committee agenda shall be set by the Secretariat. Only resolutions from subcommittees may be discussed in the Main Committees. All resolutions that pass in the Main Committee shall go onto the agenda for the General

Assembly Plenary Session.

5.3: Debate Time Limits:

- Proposers of **resolutions** shall be allotted **ten minutes** to speak on the resolution, not including the reading of the resolution.
- Proposers of **amendments** shall be allotted **five minutes** to speak on behalf of their amendment.
- **Substantive speeches** are limited to **five minutes**.
- **Procedural speeches** are limited to **three minutes**.
 - These time limits may be changed with the proper motion.

Section 6: Subcommittees

6.1: Presiding Authority:

The Chair of each subcommittee shall determine the rules for their subcommittee.

6.2: Resolution Proposer:

Before the end of the subcommittee meeting, the delegations must select one representative of the Subcommittee to propose the resolution in the Main Committee.

6.3: “Friendly Amendments”:

After a draft resolution has been approved by the Secretariat, a “friendly” amendment may be made. Friendly amendments require the signatures of all original sponsors and signatories of the amendment. Once a friendly amendment has been approved by the dias staff, it then becomes part of the draft resolution without a vote.

Section 7: Security Council (SC) and Historical Security Council (HSC)

7.1: Presiding Authority

The Security Council President will be the Chairperson at all Council sessions and will have authority similar to that of the Secretary-General of WHSMUN. If the Council President should find it necessary to be absent during any part of the session, authority will be transferred to the Vice President or another member of WHSMUN staff chosen by the Security Council President.

7.2: Provisional Agenda:

Delegations in both of these committees must be prepared to debate all of the issues listed for their committee in the issue guide. The actual agenda shall be set by delegates of the committee and is subject to change. At any point during the committee session, the Secretary-General may call upon the committee to act upon an urgent international crisis, after which time they may return to their standard order of business.

7.3: Daily Order of Consideration for the Agenda:

The Council will establish the order of consideration for agenda topics at the start of the session. Once established, this will become the working agenda for the duration of the conference.

- Agenda topics will be discussed based on the order that they appear on the working agenda.
- A delegation wishing to change this order may move to change the order of consideration for the working agenda.

7.4: Quorum:

Quorum shall consist of ten member states in the Security Council and the Historical Security Council. When the Historical Security Council is simulating the year 1965 or before, quorum shall be seven member states.

7.5: Attendance:

Each Security Council member delegation assumes the responsibility to have two accredited representatives present at each Council session.

7.6: Formal Session:

When the SC or HSC is in formal session, the Security Council President shall facilitate debate. Speakers on the main motion need not alternate between pro and con speakers. By a 2/3 vote, the SC and HSC may set their own rules relating

to time limits. Passage of main motions may occur only in Formal Session.

7.7: Amendments:

All amendments must be **signed by at least 5 delegations** before they may be accepted by the Secretariat. The amendment proposer, after Secretariat approval, must then move to amend the resolution. The number of signatures required for an amendment may be altered at the discretion of the Secretariat and said decision may not be appealed. There shall be no friendly amendments.

- [All amendments must include the name and number of the resolution to be amended, as well as the requisite number of signatures](#)

7.8: Voting:

All voting shall be subject to Article 27 of the United Nations Charter. Voting shall be by show of placards, except on Main Motions and amendments, when any member nation may call for a roll call vote (which is obligatory if called for).

- Each member state shall have one vote.
- On matters where there is little or no division among the members, unanimous consent may be requested of a motion. All votes of absentia shall not count toward the total vote for the purposes of determining a majority.
- During a roll call vote, before the final results are announced, delegations will be allowed to change their vote. Delegates who request to change their vote must change their vote.
- During voting procedure, there must be silence on the floor, and delegates may not enter or leave the Security Council Chamber.

7.9: Explanation of Votes:

Delegations that vote in favor of or against any main motion (but do not abstain) may be allowed 30 seconds after the results of the vote have been announced to explain why they voted in a way that may seem contrary to their nation's foreign policy. Delegates wishing to do so must say "with rights" when they give their vote during the roll call.

7.10: Consent of the Five Permanent Members:

Per the Charter of the United Nations, each of the five permanent members – China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States – shall have the power to veto any substantive motion brought before the Security Council

7.11: Applicability of General Assembly Rules:

In Section 8, the rules of for the Security Council simulations are listed. Aside from the additions and changes, which are noted, many of the GA rules apply. For a complete description of these rules, please read under Section 4. Please refer to the short form for more information about each motion.

Section 8: Security Council Rules (Points of Procedure and Motions in Order of Precedence)

8.1: Point of Order

See GA Rule 4.1

8.2: Point of Information

See GA Rule 4.2

8.3: Point of Inquiry

See GA Rule 4.3

8.4: Suspension of the Meeting:

The President may use their authority to request an amendment to such motion if it is deemed necessary.

8.5: Adjournment of the Meeting

See GA Rule 4.6

8.6: Adjournment of Debate

See GA Rule 4.8

8.7: Closure of Debate on an Agenda Topic:

This motion is in order during any point of discussion of a particular agenda topic. If it passes, it has the effect of ending debate on a topic area, and it brings all remaining draft resolutions for that topic area to a vote.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for the motion to pass.

8.8: Closure of Debate:

Closing debate on a resolution or amendment has the effect of bringing that particular main motion to an immediate vote.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for the motion to pass.

8.9: Enter Consultative Session:

With a majority vote, the SC and HSC may enter into an informal consultative session. While in informal consultative session, the Chair facilitates discussion among the delegations. No motions may be made during informal consultative sessions, with the exception of a motion to suspend the meeting. **When the motion to begin an informal consultative session is made, the moving delegation must specify the time that the body will move back into formal session.**

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for this motion to pass.

8.10: Add an Agenda Topic:

This motion is used to consider whether or not the body wants to add an additional topic to the agenda. If this motion passes, the new agenda topic is added at the end of the current agenda.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for passage.

8.11: Change the Order of Consideration for the Working Agenda:

A motion to change the order of the consideration for the working agenda has the effect of changing the order in which topics are discussed before the council. The delegate making this motion must state the new order in which the agenda topics are to be considered.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for passage.

8.12: Set Working Agenda:

At the start of each daily session the Security Council shall establish a working agenda. A delegation may move to set the working agenda. This motion must contain the order in which the agenda topics are to be considered.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for passage.

8.13: Limits of Debate:

A motion to limit or extend the time allotted to each delegation, or limit the number of times each delegation can speak on a proposal, is in order at anytime. A motion to limit the time of debate on an agenda topic, draft resolution, or amendment is in order.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for passage.

8.14: Division of the Question

8.15: Consideration of Draft Resolutions:

A draft resolution may be brought to floor at anytime, but only one draft resolution may be considered on the floor at any given time.

- This motion is not debatable.
- The sponsoring delegation will be allowed to speak first on the draft resolution, if desired.

8.16: Consideration of Amendments

8.17: Party to the Dispute:

When an issue before the Security Council involves a non-Council UN member nation or observer, the Council may request that the delegation be represented during Council sessions in which the issue is being discussed. To do this a Council delegation must move that the nation become a party to the dispute. A delegation that has been requested to attend Council sessions will usually be given debating privileges; this would allow the delegation to be recognized by the President during debate. A delegation requested to attend a Council session but not given debating privileges will be subject to a question and answer period monitored by the President and conducted by the Council as a whole.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for passage.

Section 9: Council of the European Union

9.1: Agenda:

The agenda of the Council of the European Union consists of the issues presented in the January supplement. Until modified by a motion to change the agenda, the agenda is considered to be the order as printed in the supplement. The motion to change the order of the agenda is in order except during a vote and when motions of higher precedence are on the table.

9.2: Quorum:

Quorum for the Council of the European Union consists of 15 of the 25 member nations of the EU.

9.3: Formal Session:

Unless moved into an informal session or suspension, the Council of the European Union is considered in formal session. Formal session is facilitated by the President of the Council of the European Union, who is the presiding authority of the Council. Speakers in formal session will be recognized by the President to speak, and the President will be responsible for maintaining order.

9.4: Informal Session:

Informal session is an unmoderated period of debate where the President of the Council does not actively facilitate discussion. It is expected that delegations have at least one delegate sitting at their placard.

- If a delegation wants an extended period of time to discuss matters privately with another delegate or in small groups, they would be better served to suspend the meeting instead of moving for an informal session.
- No motions can be made during an informal session.

9.5: Resolutions:

Resolutions passed by the Council of the European Union must have **at least 5 sponsors** before they are brought to the floor with a motion to bring a draft resolution to the floor. Sponsors must vote for a resolution if it is voted on without amendment.

- Resolutions must have one operative and one pre-ambulatory clause.
- Any number of draft resolutions can be on the floor for a particular issue, but only resolutions pertaining to the issue are considered on the floor. Therefore, if the agenda is changed before a resolution is voted on, the resolution can not be voted on until the agenda is changed again to address the relevant issue.

9.6: Amendments:

All amendments must be **signed by at least 5 delegations** before they may be accepted by the President. The amendment proposer, after Secretariat approval, must then move to amend the resolution. The number of signatures required for amendment may be altered at the discretion of the Secretariat and said decision may not be appealed.

- [All amendments must include the name and number of the resolution to be amended, as well as the requisite number of signatures](#)

9.7: Explanation of Qualified Majority Voting (QMV):

The Council of the European Union uses Qualified Majority Voting for all substantive matters. Qualified Majority Voting is designed to ensure representation based on population, at the same time as maintaining sufficient relative power for smaller states.

- All states are assigned a number of votes based on population, but weighted towards smaller states.
- To be passed, a substantive measure must satisfy two conditions:

- a majority of the present member states in favor of it, and
- it must receive 72.3% of the total possible votes of the present member states.
- When a state votes yes, it is considered in favor of the measure, and its votes are added to the total necessary to be passed.
- If a substantive measure does not have sufficient majorities in either category, it is not passed. Statistics on number of votes per country and an example on how a qualified majority vote would take place are found in Appendix 4.

9.8: Points, Procedural Motions and Substantive Votes:

- Points are made to request a clarification of the rules or question a speaker. They do not require a vote and are subject to approval by the President.
- Procedural Motions are implemented to change the rules of the Council, and require simple majority votes, unless otherwise stated or unless a request for a Qualified Majority Vote is granted by the President.
- Substantive Votes are votes on the substantive matter of the Council (the resolutions and amendments up for debate). Substantive votes are taken only after a motion to close debate or a division of the question has passed, or if a request for a Qualified Majority Vote has passed on a procedural motion. Substantive votes always use Qualified Majority Voting.

→Procedural Votes are not subject to Qualified Majority Voting, and a procedural motion passes if a simple majority of states present are in favor (unless otherwise indicated), or unless a request for a Qualified Majority Vote is allowed and seconded.

Section 10: Council of the European Union Rules

10.1: Point of Order:

During formal session discussion of any matter, a Representative may rise to a Point of Order if he/she believes that the committee is proceeding in a manner contrary to these rules.

- When a representative feels that the committee is out of order, he must state the exact violation of the WHSMUN Bylaws. This would include not being able to hear the speaker, as that would be a violation of Rule 2.1, Diplomatic Courtesy.
- A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker, although should whenever possible wait until a speaker has concluded speaking.

10.2: Point of Information:

Point of Information may be called for in formal session when a representative is unclear about the business before the assembly, or he wishes to obtain clarification about the procedure of the assembly.

- This point may not interrupt a speaker.

10.3: Point of Inquiry:

See GA Rule 4.3

10.4: Request for a Qualified Majority Vote

To ensure the fairness of proceedings, the President will entertain a motion to make any procedural motion other than a point of order, point of information, or point of inquiry a Qualified Majority Vote. If the motion is ruled in order by the President and has two seconds, the vote on the motion will no longer be a simple majority vote, but a Qualified Majority Vote. This request has the effect of making a procedural motion a substantive motion.

- This motion requires two seconds.
- This motion is at the discretion of the chair.

10.5: Suspension of the Meeting:

The motion for a suspension of the meeting is used to suspend the meeting for a specified amount of time and for a specific purpose (such as to take a short break or to caucus). The President may ask that the proposer reconsider the amount of time for suspension.

- This motion is not debatable and requires a simple majority for passage.
- This motion requires a second.

10.6: Informal Session:

A motion for an informal session has the effect of moving into informal session, where no motions can be passed but where delegates are expected to remain in their seats to discuss issues before the body. When this motion is made, a

period of time for the informal session must be stated; after that amount of time passes, the formal session resumes.

- This motion is not debatable and requires a simple majority for passage

10.7: Change the Agenda

A motion to change the agenda, if it alters the current agenda issue, has the effect of ending debate on the issue at hand and switching the agenda to another issue. All resolutions on the floor for that issue are considered tabled until the agenda is changed to return the issue to the current agenda topic.

- This motion requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

10.8: Closure of Debate:

A motion to close debate is made to end debate on a resolution that has been brought to the floor and bring it to an immediate vote. The motion must be made in reference to a specific resolution, and once the motion is made and passed, that resolution and all amendments to it will be voted on. Following the vote, regardless of its passage or failure, the resolution and its amendments can not be voted on again.

- The motion to close debate requires a 2/3 majority of states present in favor (unless a request for a Qualified Majority Vote is made and approved); however, the actual vote on amendments and resolutions requires Qualified Majority Voting.
- This motion is debatable.

10.9: Adjournment of the Meeting:

This motion is used to end substantive business of the committee for the year.

- This motion is not debatable and requires a simple majority for passage.

10.10: Consideration of a Draft Resolution:

To bring a draft resolution to the floor, the resolution must have **5 sponsors**. Upon making a motion to accept a draft resolution, the President will ask for the sponsors to raise their placard to signify themselves as such. Sponsors of a resolution are required to vote for that draft resolution, unless it is amended. Multiple draft resolutions can be on the floor at one time.

- This motion is not debatable.

10.11: Consideration of an Amendment to a Resolution:

To bring a draft amendment to the floor, it must have **5 signatures**, or another number announced by the President if there is a drastic shortcoming in members present. Once a draft amendment has been brought to the floor, it will be voted upon during closure of debate to be added to the pertinent resolution. If it passes then, it will be added to the resolution.

- This motion is not debatable.
- All amendments must include the name and number of the resolution to be amended, as well as the requisite number of signatures

10.12: Limits on Debate:

A motion to limit or extend the time allotted to each delegation, or limit the number of times each delegation can speak on a proposal, is in order at anytime. A motion to limit the time of debate on an agenda topic, draft resolution, or amendment is also in order.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for passage.

10.13: Division of the Question:

- Delegations will first vote on whether or not to divide the question at all.
- This motion requires a second and is debatable, with the pro and con speakers only discussing the merits of the actual motion. This motion requires a simple majority for passage.
- If the motion to divide the question passes, a second vote is taken to determine whether or not to divide the segments of the draft resolution and create separate draft resolutions. This vote is required to be a Qualified Majority Vote.

10.14: Party to the Dispute:

When an issue before the Council of the European Union involves a non-Council nation, NGO, or individual, the Council may request that the delegation be represented during Council Sessions in which the issue is being discussed. To do this a

Council delegation must move that the nation, NGO, or individual become a party to the dispute. A delegation that has been requested to attend Council sessions will usually be given debating privileges; this would allow the delegation to be recognized by the President during debate. A delegation requested to attend a Council session, but not given debating privileges, will be subject to a question and answer period monitored by the President and conducted by the Council as a whole.

- This motion is debatable.
- A simple majority is required for passage.