

# BASIC PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A Guide to the Color System for Debate

Motions two through eight are motions that deal with the main motion

Use **GREEN** or **RED**

Motion	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required
8. CLOSE DEBATE	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS
7. LIMIT OR EXTEND LIMITS OF DEBATE	NO	YES	TWO-THIRDS
6. POSTPONE TO A CERTAIN TIME	YES	YES	MAJORITY
5. REFER TO COMMITTEE	YES	YES	MAJORITY
4. AMEND THE AMENDMENT	YES	NO	MAJORITY
3. AMEND OR SUBSTITUTE	YES	YES	MAJORITY
2. POSTPONE INDEFINITELY	YES	NO	MAJORITY
1. MAIN MOTION [RESOLUTION]	YES	YES	MAJORITY

Motions [or Requests] that deal with the general conduct of the meeting

Use **YELLOW**

POINT OF ORDER	NO	NO	NONE
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY	NO	NO	NONE
DIVISION OF THE ASSEMBLY	NO	NO	NONE
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION	NO	NO	NONE
WITHDRAW	NO	NO	MAJORITY
DIVIDE A MOTION	NO	YES	MAJORITY
APPEAL FROM THE DECISION OF THE CHAIR	YES	NO	MAJORITY
OBJECT TO CONSIDERATION	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS
SUSPEND THE RULES	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS

The above seventeen motions should be sufficient for you to express your opinion on a motion before the assembly or to raise a question concerning the procedures of the assembly.

To speak in favor of a motion, indicate *green*. To speak against a motion, indicate *red*. The chair will alternate pro and con speakers. The use of *yellow* enables a member to move ahead of delegates waiting their turns with *green* and *red*. Use *yellow* to request information concerning the content of the motion or to ask a question or to make a point or a motion concerning procedure. Prior to using the yellow card, a delegate must first seek clarification on the *main* motion from the maker of the motion *and* the information table. A delegate is permitted to ask a question only if they are unable to obtain an answer from the maker of the motion or the information table. A member may *neither* speak to the motion *nor ask rhetorical questions* on *yellow*.

You are urged to consult the Parliamentarian or Basic Parliamentary Procedure Guide if you have any questions concerning parliamentary procedure.

## **GREEN**

**Speak in support of a motion or amendment**

**Postpone indefinitely**

**Amend the amendment**

**Postpone to a certain time**

**Close debate**

**Make a motion**

**Amend or substitute**

**Refer to committee**

**Limit or extend limits of debate**

The chair will recognize speakers alternating between red and green. Each speaker has 2 minutes to speak.

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## **RED**

**Speak in opposition to a motion or amendment**

**Postpone indefinitely**

**Amend the amendment**

**Postpone to a certain time**

**Close debate**

**Make a motion**

**Amend or substitute**

**Refer to committee**

**Limit or extend limits of debate**

The chair will recognize speakers alternating between red and green. Each speaker has 2 minutes to speak.

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## **YELLOW**

**Request for Information\***

**Parliamentary Inquiry**

**Modify or withdraw**

**Appeal from the decision of the Chair**

**Suspend the rules**

**Point of order**

**Division of the Assembly**

**Divide a motion**

**Object to consideration**

NOTE: A member indicating yellow may neither speak for or against the motion nor ask rhetorical questions. Members indicating yellow move in front of other speakers.

\*The member indicating yellow does not provide information under "Request for Information," but instead is asking for information through the chair.

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