

Rules of Order for Member Motions at the AGM

Robert's Rules of Order in its most current edition will be the guide for conducting all meetings of the Society (DNS Bylaws, S. 8.1). DNS will simplify the rules of order for debating member motions at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to ensure the process is easy to understand and everyone has an equal opportunity to participate to the degree possible.

Move to a committee of the whole

This involves relaxing some of the rigid procedural rules to allow the group to debate and consider amendments or details without the same time constraints and strict rules of the formal assembly.

Discussion and debate

- The mover of a motion will have a set time limit to present and speak to their motion and delegates can direct questions to the mover/seconder during debate.
- Substituting motions from the floor will not be allowed. Substituting motions is essentially introducing a new motion, which we wouldn't otherwise allow.
- Motions can be amended. The proposed amendment must be relevant to the main motion; it cannot change the motion's fundamental character or intent.
- A mover can accept a 'friendly amendment', which is a proposed change to a motion that the original mover agrees with.
- The Chair can delay a proposed amendment if they feel the assembly wants to have more discussion/debate on the original motion.

Speaking during debate

Anyone wishing to speak during debate will approach the microphone if in person or indicate in the chat if joining virtually. Delegates will only speak when recognized by the Chair.

Voting

To ensure everyone can vote confidentially, we'll provide a means for electronic voting for delegates attending in person.

Time limits

Every effort will be made to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to speak. Please appreciate that there will be times when the Chair will have to enforce time limits for speakers. Time limits will be determined by the remaining business on the agenda.

A visual timer will be activated so the speaker will know when their allotted time is up.
