

# Overview of Parliamentary Procedures

According to the RULE OF PROCEDURE for ALL DELIBERATIVE BODIES  
of THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. (Doc. 30.70)

To do this	You say this	May you interrupt the discussion?	Must you be seconded?	Is the motion debatable?	Is the motion amendable?	What vote is required?
<b>Substantive motion = shall be subject to and voted after the following subsidiary motions</b>						
Introduce a main substantive motion (Must be for a particular agenda item or matter of urgency)	"I move to ...[ <i>precisely name the motion in accordance with the written proposal</i> ]"	No	No	Yes	Yes	majority/ matters of <b>medical ethics<sup>1</sup></b> or <b>matters of urgency<sup>2</sup></b> : 3/4 of the <b>General Assembly (!)</b> delegates present and voting
<b>Subsidiary motions - In the order of precedence!</b>						
postpone temporarily	"I move to postpone this motion temporarily."	No	Yes	No	No	majority
terminate debate and vote immediately on the pending motion (only)	"I move to terminate debate and vote immediately"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 majority
postpone to a definite time	"I move to postpone this motion until..."	No	Yes	Yes, but only on the issue of postponement	Yes, but only on the issue of timing	majority
refer to another body	"I move to refer this motion to..."	No	Yes	Yes, only on the question of referral	Yes, as to any provision of the proposed referral	majority
amend (first degree)	"I move to amend this motion" (by adding, eliminating, substituting)	No	Yes	Yes, limited to the proposed amendment	Yes (second degree amendment) must be disposed of first	majority
postpone indefinitely (final disposition and equivalent to a negative vote)	"I move to postpone this motion indefinitely."	No	Yes	Yes	No	majority

These tables are for orientation only. They do neither substitute nor replace the text of any WMA statutory document.

<sup>1</sup> ARTICLES AND BYLAWS of THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.,( Doc. 32.2/Oct2012), CHAPTER IV - GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Section 6. Voting in the General Assembly item C

<sup>2</sup> ARTICLES AND BYLAWS of THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.,( Doc. 32.2/Oct2012), CHAPTER IV - GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Section 6. Voting in the General Assembly item D

Incidental motions						
To do this	You say this	May you interrupt the discussion?	Must you be seconded?	Is the motion debatable?	Is the motion amendable?	What vote is required?
to vote by secret ballot <sup>3</sup>	"I move to vote by secret ballot on this motion"	(No)	(No)	(No)	(No)	majority
reconsider a matter already voted upon (same session)	"I move to reconsider item [ <i>name precisely</i> ]"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	majority
divide the question and vote on each part separately *see privileges of the chair	"I move to divide the question and vote on each part separately."	No	No	No	No	Immediate decision by the chair – no vote
request information	"Point of information!"	Yes	No	No	No	To be answered by chair. No vote
suspect mistake, error or omission	"Point of order!"	Yes	No	No	No	To be ruled by chair.
ruling by the Chair is in error	"I appeal the ruling by the chair."(must be done immediately after the ruling by the chair)	Yes	Yes	Yes	(No)	majority
withdraw the motion *see privileges of the chair	"I request permission to withdraw my motion. [ <i>please name</i> ]"	Yes	Yes, if with-draw is not granted by chair	(No)	(No)	majority
recess the meeting	"I move to recess the meeting until [ <i>give exact time or duration</i> ]"	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, but only concerning the timing	majority
adjourn the meeting	"I move to adjourn the meeting"	Yes	Yes	No	No	majority

**Privileges of the chair:**

- When a main substantive motion has two or more independent parts, the Chair may rule that each part be voted on separately.<sup>4</sup>
- If there is no objection to withdrawing the motion, the Chair may grant the request<sup>5</sup>
- If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, and the Chair has not voted, he/she shall have the right to cast the deciding vote to break the tie.<sup>6</sup>

**Majority rule:**

The majority is calculated from votes cast by those present and voting. Members who abstain from voting are considered not voting.<sup>7</sup>

**Special rules including timelines apply for the amendment of Articles and Bylaws, the Rule of Procedures and the Operating Policies of the Association.**

<sup>3</sup> ARTICLES AND BYLAWS of THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.,( Doc. 32.2/Oct2012), CHAPTER V - COUNCIL, Section 6. Voting in the General Assembly.

<sup>4,5</sup> RULE OF PROCEDURE for ALL DELIBERATIVE BODIES of THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. (Doc. 30.70) Rule 10

<sup>5,7</sup> ARTICLES AND BYLAWS of THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.,( Doc. 32.2/Oct2012), CHAPTER V - COUNCIL, Section 7. Voting in the Council.