

[Note: The 1996 Business Meeting passed a completely new set of Standing Rules, consisting of a base document from the Standing Rules Working Group report and several amendments.]

Standing Rules for the Governance of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) Business Meeting September 1996

Rule 1: Meeting and Session. The Annual Meeting of the World Science Fiction Society shall be transacted in one or more **Preliminary Business Meetings** and one or more **Main Business Meetings**. The first session shall be designated as a Preliminary Business Meeting. All meetings at a Worldcon (preliminary, main or otherwise) shall be considered a single "session" as defined in the Parliamentary Authority ([see section 4.1 of the WSFS Constitution](#)), regardless of whether such gathers are called "meetings" or "sessions".

Rule 2: Preliminary Business Meeting(s). The Preliminary Business Meeting may not pass, reject, or ratify amendments to the [Constitution](#); however, all motions adhering to a Constitutional amendment are in order if otherwise allowed.. The Preliminary Business Meeting may not refer a Constitutional amendment to a committee unless the committee's instructions are to report to the Main Business Meeting. The Preliminary Business Meeting may not postpone consideration of a Constitutional amendment beyond the last Preliminary Business Meeting. The Preliminary Business Meeting may consider any business not expressly forbidden to it by the Standing Rules or expressly reserved to the Main Business Meeting.

Rule 3: Main Business Meeting(s). The Main Business Meeting may reject, pass, or ratify amendments to the [Constitution](#). One Main Meeting shall be also be designated as the Site-Selection Meeting, where Site-Selection business shall be the special order of business.

Rule 4: Scheduling of Meetings

The first Main Meeting shall be scheduled not less than eighteen (18) hours after the conclusion of the last Preliminary Meeting.

Rule 5: Deadline for Submission of New Business. The deadline for submission of non-privileged new business to the Business Meeting shall be two (2) hours after the official opening of the Worldcon or eighteen (18) hours before the first Preliminary Meeting, whichever is later. The Presiding Officer may accept otherwise qualified motions submitted after the deadline, but all such motions shall be placed at the end of the agenda.

Rule 6: Requirements for Submission of New Business. Two hundred (200) identical, legible copies of all proposals for non-privileged new business shall be submitted to the Presiding Officer before the deadline in Rule 5 unless such proposals are distributed to the attendees at the Worldcon by the Worldcon Committee. All proposals must be legibly signed by a maker and at least one seconder.

Rule 7: Interpretation of Motions. The Presiding Officer shall reject as out of order any proposal or motion that is obviously illegal or hopelessly incoherent. In the absence of the maker of a motion or instructions to the contrary, the Presiding Officer shall be free to interpret the meaning of any motion.

Rule 8: Short Title. Any item of new business considered by the Business Meeting shall contain a short title.

Rule 9: Smoking. If smoking is allowed in the place where the Business Meeting is held, the Presiding Officer shall divide the room into smoking and non-smoking sections at the beginning of each meeting.

Rule 10: Question Time. During the Site-Selection Meeting, fifteen (15) minutes of program time shall be allocated to each future seated Worldcon committee. During the first five (5) minutes, each committee may make such presentations as they wish. The remaining time shall be allocated for questions to be asked about that committee's Worldcon. Questions may be submitted in writing at any previous meeting. Questions submitted in writing shall have priority over other questions if the person who submitted the question is present and still wishes to ask the question. No person may ask a second question as long as any person wishes to ask a first question. Questions are limited to fifteen (15) seconds and responses to two (2) minutes. If time permits at the Site-Selection Meeting, committees bidding for the right to host any Worldcon whose selection will take place in the next calendar year shall be allocated five (5) minutes of program time to make such presentations as they wish. The time limits in this rule may be modified by majority vote.

Rule 11: Mark Protection Committee; Nominations. Nominations for election to the Mark Protection Committee shall be allowed from the floor at each Preliminary Business Meeting. To be listed on the ballot, each nominee must submit to the Secretary of the Business Meeting the nominee's consent to nomination and the nominee's current region of residence. A nominee shall be ineligible if the nominee could not be elected due to the regional residence restrictions. The deadline for submitting such consent to nomination shall be set by the Secretary.

Rule 12: Mark Protection Committee; Elections. Elections to the Mark Protection Committee shall be a special order of business at a designated Main Business Meeting. Voting shall be by written preferential ballot with write-in votes allowed. Votes for write-in candidates who do not submit written consent to nomination and region of residence to the Presiding Officer before the close of balloting shall be ignored. The ballot shall list each nominee's name and region of residence. The first seat filled shall be by normal preferential ballot procedures. After a seat is filled, votes for the elected member and for any nominee who is now ineligible due to regional residence restrictions shall be eliminated before conducting the next ballot. This procedure shall continue until all seats are filled. Should there be any partial-term vacancies on the committee, the partial-term seat(s) shall be filled after the full-term seats have been filled.

Rule 13: Mark Protection Committee; Regional Residency Requirements. In interpreting the regional residence requirements for Mark Protection Committee nominations and elections, members of the committee shall represent their region of residence at the time of their election for their entire term.

Rule 14: Debate Time Limits; Main Motions. Debate on all motions of less than fifty (50) words shall be limited to six (6) minutes. Debate on all other motions shall be limited to twenty (20) minutes. If a question is divided, these time limits shall apply to each portion of the divided question. Debate time shall be allotted equally to each side of a question. Time spent on points of order or other neutral matters arising from a motion shall be divided equally and charged to each side. The Business Meeting may, by majority vote, set the initial debate time limits for any motion to any positive whole number of minutes.

Rule 15: Debate Time Limits; Amendments. Debate on all amendments to main motions shall be limited to five (5) minutes, allotted equally to each side. Time spent on debate of an amendment shall be charged against the time for the main motion.

Rule 16: Debate Time Limits; Motions Allowed After Expiration. Motions that adhere to the main motion shall not be out of order because of the expiration of debate time, but shall be undebatable.

Rule 17: Debate Time Limits; Minimum Substantive Debate If the debate time expires before either or both sides of the question have had an opportunity for substantive debate, any side that has not had such opportunity shall have two (2) minutes to be used solely for the purpose of substantive debate.

Rule 18: Carrying Business Forward. Motions other than Constitutional amendments awaiting ratification may be carried forward from one year to the next only by being postponed definitely or by being referred to a committee.

Rule 19: Dilatory Actions; Misuse of Inquiries. The sole purpose of a point of information or parliamentary inquiry is to ask the Presiding Officer for an opinion of the effect of a motion or for guidance as to the correct procedure to follow. The Presiding Officer shall treat as dilatory any attempts to circumvent the rules of debate under the guise of points of information, parliamentary inquiries, or other queries and requests.

Rule 20: Committees. All committees are authorized to organize themselves in any lawful manner and to adopt rules for the conduct of their business, which may include conducting balloting by mail and limiting debate, subject to any contrary provisions of the Constitution, the Standing Rules, or instructions given to the committee by the Business Meeting.

Rule 21: Official Papers; Indicating Revisions. The Business Meeting staff shall clearly indicate all changes (including deletions) from the previous year's version when they provide the Constitution and Standing Rules for publication prior to the following Worldcon. However, the failure to indicate such changes shall not affect the validity of the documents.

Rule 22: Official Papers; Corrections. Any correction of fact to the Minutes or to the Constitution or Standing Rules as published should be brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Business Meeting in question and of the next available Business Meeting as soon as they are discovered.

Rule 23: Numbers, Titles, References, and Technical Corrections Numbers and titles of the various parts of the Constitution and Standing Rules are for the sake of easy reference only. They do not form a substantive part of these documents nor of any motion to amend these documents. The Business Meeting Secretary shall incorporate into these documents

appropriate changes as required by newly adopted amendments. When making any such adjustments required by this section, the Business Meeting Secretary shall change article and section numbers, titles, and internal cross-references as necessary to maintain a consistent, parallel structure, which shall not be altered unless the Business Meeting explicitly so directs. The Business Meeting Secretary may change punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and other wording in the Constitution and Standing Rules only insofar as such changes clarify the meaning and enhance consistency, and only insofar as such changes do not modify the substantive meaning of the documents.

Rule 24: Continuing Resolutions. Resolutions of continuing effect (continuing resolutions) may be repealed or amended by majority vote of subsequent Business Meetings without notice, and shall be automatically repealed or amended by applicable amendments to the Constitution or Standing Rules or by conflicting resolutions passed by subsequent Business Meetings.

Rule 25: Nonstandard Parliamentary Authority. If a Worldcon Committee adopts for the governance of the Business Meeting a parliamentary authority other than that specified in the Constitution, the Committee must in timely fashion publish information about how to obtain copies of the authority in question.

Rule 26: Postpone Indefinitely. The motion to Postpone Indefinitely shall not be allowed.

Rule 27: Amend; Secondary Amendments. Secondary amendments (amendments to amendments) are not allowed except when the primary amendment is to substitute.

Rules 28: Previous Question. A person speaking to a motion may not immediately offer a motion to close debate. The motion for the Previous Question (also known as the motion to close debate, to call the question, and to vote now) shall not be in order when there is less than one minute of debate time remaining, nor when either or both sides of the debate have yet to speak to a question. Before voting on the motion for the Previous Question, the Presiding Officer shall, without debate, ask for a show of hands of those persons who still wish to speak to the matter under consideration.

Rule 29: Lay on the Table. The motion to Lay on the Table shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for adoption.

Rule 30: Adjournment. The incidental main motion to adjourn *sine die* shall not be in order until all Special and General Orders have been discharged.

Rules 31: Counted Vote. The Presiding Officer shall take a counted vote upon the request of ten percent (10%) of those members attending the meeting.

Rule 32: Suspension of Rules. Rules protecting the rights of absentees, including this rule, may not be suspended.

Rule 33: Standing Rules. Standing Rules for the Governance of the Business Meeting and related activities may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at any Business Meeting. Amendments to Standing Rules shall take effect at the close of the Worldcon where they are adopted.

The above copy of the Standing Rules for the Governance of the WSFS Business Meeting is hereby Certified to be True, Correct, and Complete:

Donald E. Eastlake III, Chairman
George P. Flynn, Secretary
1996 WSFS Business Meeting

"World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", "NASFiC" and "Hugo Award" are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society. You can contact the WSFS Mark Protection Committee at [<mpc@wsfs.org>](mailto:mpc@wsfs.org).

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