STANDING RULES

for the Governance of the World Science Fiction Society Business Meeting, as of September 1, 2026

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Group 1: Meetings

Rule 1.1: Meeting and Session.

The Annual Meeting of the World Science Fiction Society shall consist of one or more Preliminary Business Meetings and one or more Main Business Meetings. The first meeting shall be designated as a Preliminary Business Meeting. All meetings ~~at~~ held by a Worldcon (preliminary, main, or otherwise) shall be considered a single "session" as defined in the Parliamentary Authority (see Section 5.1 of the WSFS Constitution), regardless of whether such gatherings are called "meetings" or "sessions."

Rule 1.2: Preliminary Business Meeting(s).

The Preliminary Business Meeting may not directly reject, pass, 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 pending ratification beyond the last Preliminary Business Meeting. The Preliminary Business Meeting may not amend a Constitutional amendment pending ratification. 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 1.3: 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 1.4: Smoking.

Regardless of whether smoking is allowed in the place where the Business Meeting is held, the Business Meeting shall be a non-smoking environment. The Presiding Officer shall notify participants of the nearest smoking area(s) outside of the location of the Business Meeting at the beginning of each meeting.

Rule 1.5: Recording of Sessions.

The Presiding Officer may arrange for the recording of meetings in any medium and for the distribution of such recordings. Individual members may also record meetings at their own discretion, subject to the will of the assembly as authorized by Rule 5.10.

Rule 1.6: Bilingual Debate.

The official language of the Business Meeting is English. The Business Meeting may conduct bilingual discussions and debate in both English and the official language of the current Worldcon committee's country, provided that simultaneous interpretation and related equipment are available.

Group 2: New Business

Rule 2.1: No Award.

In the event that the total number of valid ballots cast for a specific category (excluding those cast for No Award in First Place) is fewer than ten per cent (10%) of the total number of final Award ballots received in two years out of three

successive years, an amendment effecting the removal of that category from the list of enumerated Hugo Award categories shall be automatically placed on the agenda for the next Worldcon's Business Meeting.

Rule 2.2: 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 Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution, 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 2.3: 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 2.4: Short Title.

Any item of new business considered by the Business Meeting shall contain a short title.

Rule 2.5: Discussion Items.

Any committee report to the Business Meeting, including Business Meeting, WSFS, and Worldcon committee reports, may include a motion that a topic be discussed by the Business Meeting to provide feedback to the committee. Such discussion may include non-binding straw polls. If not specified in the motion, the default discussion time is 6 minutes, and the discussion item is scheduled as an item of New Business.

Group 3: Debate Time Limits

Rule 3.1: Main Motions.

The Presiding Officer shall designate the default debate time for main motions. If an objection is raised to this default time, the Business Meeting shall vote on it without debate. If that designated time is defeated, the Business Meeting shall, by majority vote, set the initial debate time limit for any motion to any positive even number of minutes up to 30.

Rule 3.2: Allotment of Time.

If a question is divided, the time limits applicable to the question before it was divided 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.

Rule 3.3: 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 3.4: 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 3.5: Minimum Substantive Debate.

If the debate time expires before either or both sides of the ~~question~~ main motion have had an opportunity for substantive debate, any side that has not had such an opportunity shall have two (2) minutes to be used solely for the purpose of substantive debate.

Group 4: Official Papers

Rule 4.1: 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 4.2: 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 4.3: 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 meaning and enhance consistency, and only insofar as such changes do not modify the substantive meaning of the documents.

Rule 4.4: Availability of BM Materials.

All WSFS Committee Reports, Worldcon Annual Financial Reports, and New Business submitted to the Business Meeting before the deadline established in Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution, as well as a list of any committees that failed to submit a report by the deadline, shall be made generally available to WSFS members (e.g. via publication on the host Worldcon's web site) by no later than ten (10) days after the deadline for new business set in Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution.

Group 5: Variations of Rules

Rule 5.1: 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 5.2: Constitutional and Standing Rule Amendments.

Motions to Amend the Constitution, to Ratify a Constitutional Amendment, and to Amend the Standing Rules shall be considered ordinary main motions, except as otherwise provided in the Standing Rules or Constitution. An object to consideration shall not be in order against ratification of a constitutional amendment.

Rule 5.3: Postpone Indefinitely.

The motion to Postpone Indefinitely shall be allowed at the Preliminary Business Meeting and the first time a main motion is brought before a Main Business Meeting. This motion shall have four (4) minutes of debate time and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for adoption.

Rule 5.4: Amend; Ratification Amendments.

Motions to amend a constitutional amendment awaiting ratification must be submitted in advance by the deadline in Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution. This rule can be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Rule 5.5: Amend; Secondary Amendments.

Secondary amendments (amendments to amendments) are not allowed except when the primary amendment is to substitute.

Rule 5.6: 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 "close debate," "call the question," and "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 5.7: Lay on the Table.

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

Rule 5.8: Adjournment.

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

Rule 5.9: Suspension of Rules.

Rules protecting the rights of absentees, including this rule, may not be suspended.

Rule 5.10: Start/Stop Recording.

If the meeting is being recorded, a motion to Stop Recording or to Start Recording is a privileged motion and shall be handled in the same way as a motion to Enter or Leave Executive Session.

Rule 5.11: Objection to Consideration.

An Objection to Consideration shall require a three-fourths (3/4) vote to kill a motion without debate.

Rule 5.12: Committee of the Whole.

The Committee of the Whole shall have the right by a two-thirds (2/3) vote to amend its duration without seeking permission from the Business Meeting by way of a motion to extend debate.

Rule 5.13: Investigation Committee.

The formation of an investigation committee shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Group 6: Mark Protection Committee Elections

Rule 6.1: 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. The deadline for submitting such consent to nomination shall be set by the Secretary.

Rule 6.2: 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 to the Presiding Officer before the close of balloting shall be ignored. The ballot shall list each nominee's name. The first seat filled shall be by normal preferential ballot procedures as defined in Section 6.4 of the WSFS Constitution. There shall be no run-off candidate. After a seat is filled, votes for the elected member shall be eliminated before conducting the next ballot. This procedure shall continue until all seats are filled. In the event of a first-place tie for any seat, the tie shall be broken unless all tied candidates can be elected simultaneously. 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.

Group 7: Miscellaneous

Rule 7.1: 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 7.2: 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 7.3: Counted Vote.

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

Rule 7.4: 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 7.5: 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 7.6: 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.

7.6.1: Proposers on Committees.

When any item is referred to a special committee whose membership is not elected or limited in number, no fewer than two proposing members of said item shall be appointed to the committee unless fewer than two proposing members are willing to serve. The maker of the original motion shall be given first right of refusal for such positions.

7.6.2: Committee Reports.

Committee reports submitted to the Business Meeting shall include an account of the items of business referred to the committee, if applicable, and the disposition thereof.

Rule 7.7: Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee.

The Business Meeting shall appoint a Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee. The Committee shall: (1) Maintain the list of Rulings and Resolutions of Continuing Effect (2) Codify the Customs and Usages of WSFS and of the Business Meeting.

Rule 7.8: Worldcon Runners Guide Editorial Committee.

The Business Meeting shall appoint a Worldcon Runners Guide Editorial Committee. The Committee shall maintain the Worldcon Runners Guide, which shall contain a compilation of the best practices in use among those who run Worldcons.

The above copy of the World Science Fiction Society's Standing Rules is hereby Certified to be True, Correct, and Complete.

Jesi Lipp, Presiding Officer
Ira Alexandre, Secretary
2026 Business Meeting