

## Special 57th National Council Session DRAFT Standing Rules

### 1. Credentials

A council may designate an alternate delegate to participate on behalf of a delegate only when the delegate has permanently left the National Council Session, and only when the steps on page 25 are followed. If the steps on page 25 are not followed, that delegate position is forfeited.

### 2. Quorum

- a. The presence of a quorum shall be confirmed by referring to responses to a voting poll that asks each delegate to confirm their presence and identify their council and whether they are a delegate, past president, National Board member, or National Board Development Committee member.
- b. The presence of a quorum shall be confirmed following each recess.

### 3. Debate

#### a. General Rules

- i. All motions placed before the National Council Members for discussion shall be displayed through the electronic meeting platform such that all National Council Members may view them.
- ii. National Council Members shall seek recognition to speak by joining a virtual queue using their own, individual credentials and indicating their intent to (i) speak in favor of or in opposition to the motion on the floor, (ii) make a motion that can interrupt, or (iii) make a suggestion to fill a blank.
- iii. National Council Members recognized to speak must first self-identify by saying their name and council, USA Girl Scouts Overseas, or position.

#### b. Rules for Motions with a Blank

When a motion includes a blank, the National Council shall use the following process to receive and debate suggestions for filling the blank:

#### **Phase 1 – Making Suggestions with Supporting Rationale**

1. The presiding officer shall first invite suggestions to fill the blank. National Council Members may not debate the motion or any suggestion until suggestions are closed. However, a National Council Member making a suggestion shall have up to two minutes following self-identification to speak in favor of that suggestion.
2. Suggestions shall be closed when (a) no speakers are seeking recognition to make a suggestion, or (b) a motion to close suggestions is adopted.
3. A National Council Member may not move to close suggestions until at least four suggestions have been made. A National Council Member may not move the Previous Question (i.e., close debate) or move to limit debate while suggestions are being made.
4. A motion to close suggestions shall require at least two-thirds of the votes cast for adoption.

5. Any dollar amount included in a suggestion must be a multiple of five (e.g., a suggestion of \$95 is in order, but a suggestion of \$97 is not in order).
6. The following groups are each limited to one suggestion: (1) the past presidents, (2) the National Board and National Board Development Committee, and (3) each council.

### **Phase 2 – Debating Suggestions**

1. When suggestions are closed, the presiding officer shall invite debate on the suggestions.
  2. Each National Council Member may speak one time and following self-identification, for up to two minutes. A National Council Member who made a suggestion and spoke in favor of it during Phase 1 may not speak a second time during Phase 2.
  3. The following groups are each limited to a total of two speeches during Phase 2: (1) the past presidents, (2) the National Board and National Board Development Committee and (3) each council.
  4. A National Council Member may not move the Previous Question (i.e., close debate) during Phase 2 until the number of National Council Members who have spoken in debate is at least twice the number of suggestions made.
  5. A National Council Member moving the Previous Question (i.e., close debate) must do so immediately after self-identification and may not make comments in debate.
- c. Rules for Motions without a Blank, including Motions in which a Blank has been Filled
- i. Each National Council Member may speak two times on each motion, and following self-identification, for up to two minutes each time.
  - ii. The following groups are each limited to four speeches on the same side of a motion: (1) the past presidents, (2) the National Board and National Board Development Committee and (3) each council. If no National Council Member is seeking recognition to speak on one side of a motion, debate will be closed, and a vote will be taken.
  - iii. A National Council Member may not move the Previous Question (i.e., close debate) on a motion until at least four National Council Members have spoken in debate on the motion. A National Council Member moving the Previous Question must do so immediately after self-identification and may not make comments in debate.

### **4. Amendments**

- a. Before being introduced on the floor, amendments to proposals must be submitted in writing on the electronic form provided by GSUSA.
- b. No amendment to a proposal may be introduced until at least four National Council Members have spoken in debate on the proposal.
- c. Amendments to correct grammar, spelling, or punctuation are out of order. The GSUSA CEO and National Board Chair may make any such necessary changes.

### **5. Voting**

- a. All votes shall be taken electronically and shall be anonymous.
- b. Each National Council Member who votes shall vote using their own, individual credentials.

- c. All suggestions to fill a blank shall be voted on simultaneously, and the suggestion that receives a majority of the votes cast shall fill the blank.
  - i. If no suggestion receives a majority of the votes cast, the suggestions receiving fewer than one-fifth- of the votes cast shall be eliminated, and another vote shall be taken.
  - ii. If no suggestion receives at least one-fifth of the votes cast, the suggestion receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated, and another vote shall be taken.
  - iii. If all suggestions receive at least one-fifth of the votes cast, another vote shall be taken that includes all of the suggestions. If all suggestions receive at least one-fifth of the votes cast after three rounds of voting, the suggestion receiving the fewest number of votes shall be eliminated, and another vote shall be taken.
  - iv. After a majority supporting a suggestion is known by vote, the suggestion will be then inserted into the motion and addressed by the National Council.

**6. Minutes**

The National Board of Directors is the 2024 Special National Council Session Minutes Approval Committee, authorized to approve and distribute the minutes of the 2024 Special National Council Session.

**7. Comfort and Technology Questions**

Questions and remarks related to delegate comfort or technology shall be addressed to designated staff, not the presiding officer.

**8. Recording**

No National Council Member shall use any device to record any part of the National Council Session except as authorized by the GSUSA National Board.

**9. Business Procedures**

Everyone attending the National Council Session shall follow the procedures on pages 25-26 of the Workbook.