

Parliamentary Tips from the 2022 of the National FFA Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event

An educational resource developed by the judges and event officials.

1) The Stating of the Question by the Chair.

- a. Teams continue to say "It is properly moved and seconded....." This is NOT parliamentary language. Simply say "It is moved and seconded...." [RONR 4:15 (a)]
- b. It is not necessary to state the class of a motion, whether or not it is debatable, or what vote it requires. Demonstrate it properly, but don't waste precious time telling us that. If you make a mistake, it can cost you points, but you don't gain points for doing this. [RONR 4:15 (a-f)]
- c. State and put the question on amendments properly.

2) Demonstrating Required Motions.

- a. Event rules state that required motions must be demonstrated in the form indicated on card. [Handbook p. 4]. For example, if the motion to recess is made when no business is pending it is an incidental main motion, not a privileged motion. [RONR 10:6]. If the required motion is recess as a privileged motion it should be demonstrated in the privileged form.
- b. Event rules state that if Take from the Table, Rescind or Reconsider as a motion to be demonstrated, a scenario will be included on the event card. These motions shall not be used unless listed on the event card as a required motion. [Handbook p. 5]

3) State and put the question on amendments properly.

- a. Use the "AMP" method: It is moved to AMEND the motion by (restate amendment.) If adopted, the MOTION would read (motion as amended). The PENDING question is (restate amendment.) This is the language taught in RONR (12:34-37). All three of these steps should be used in both stating and putting the question.

4) Be logical in your demonstration and debate.

- a. Assume everyone debates in favor of the main motion, then someone moved refer, then everyone debates in favor of refer. There is no reason to refer the motion if everyone is already in favor of it. It makes no logical sense.
- b. As an example, when making the motion Suspend the Rules, be sure you know what rule is being suspended, where that rule can be found, and what the effect of the suspension is. It doesn't make logical sense to suspend a rule that isn't pertinent to the meeting at hand.

5) Form for taking a vote.

- a. Chair should not call for "same sign" on a rising vote. [RONR 4:38]

6) Be creative. But don't be creative.

- a. Creativity is highly encouraged with debate. Judges and team members stay more engaged when they aren't bored.
- b. However, RONR has specific examples of how to make each motion. Follow the examples provided by RONR.

7) Study the book. Understand how it is applied.

- a. RONR is our reference material. However, it isn't the ultimate authority in every situation. Organizational bylaws take precedence over the parliamentary authority.
- b. If presented a problem in the practicum with example bylaws, use those bylaws and use RONR to interpret the bylaws.

[Note: References are to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12th edition, the parliamentary authority of organization.]