

roberts rules of order cheat sheet 2021

Roberts Rules of Order Cheat Sheet 2021 is an essential guide for anyone involved in parliamentary procedure, whether you're a seasoned member of a committee or a newcomer to meetings. Understanding these rules can significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of meetings, making it easier to discuss and decide on important issues. Developed by Henry Martyn Robert in the late 19th century, these rules provide a standardized method for conducting meetings that encourages fairness and organization. This cheat sheet will cover the essential elements of Roberts Rules of Order, including key terms, motions, and procedures, to help you navigate meetings like a pro.

Understanding the Basics of Roberts Rules of Order

Roberts Rules of Order is a manual for parliamentary procedure that outlines how meetings should be conducted. It is widely used in various organizations, including non-profits, schools, and government bodies. The primary goals of these rules are to:

1. Facilitate orderly discussion.
2. Protect the rights of all members.
3. Ensure that decisions are made democratically.

Key Terms

Before diving into the motions and procedures, it's essential to familiarize yourself with some key terms used in Roberts Rules of Order:

- Quorum: The minimum number of members required to be present for the meeting to be valid.
- Motion: A proposal put forward for discussion and decision.
- Debate: The discussion of a motion where members express their opinions.
- Amendment: A change proposed to a motion under discussion.
- Vote: The formal expression of opinion or choice by members.

Types of Motions

Motions are the backbone of Roberts Rules of Order. They are proposals put forward by members for discussion. Here are the primary types of motions:

Main Motions

Main motions are used to introduce new business. They can be made by any member and require a second to be discussed. For example:

- "I move that we allocate funds for the community project."

Subsidiary Motions

These motions modify or affect the main motion. They are considered after the main motion has been introduced. Some common subsidiary motions include:

- Amend: To modify the wording of a motion.
- Refer to Committee: To send the motion to a committee for further study.
- Postpone: To delay consideration of the motion until a later time.

Privileged Motions

Privileged motions are urgent matters that need immediate attention, regardless of what is currently being discussed. Examples include:

- Adjourn: To end the meeting.
- Recess: To take a break during the meeting.

Incidental Motions

These motions arise out of the business being conducted and must be considered immediately. They include:

- Point of Order: To call attention to a breach of rules.
- Appeal: To challenge the decision of the chair.

Making a Motion

To make a motion effectively, follow these steps:

1. Obtain the Floor: Wait for the current speaker to finish before addressing the chair.
2. State Your Motion: Clearly articulate your motion using the phrase "I move that..." followed by the proposal.
3. Seek a Second: Another member must second your motion to proceed.
4. Debate the Motion: Members can discuss the motion, bringing up pros and cons.
5. Vote: After discussion, the chair will call for a vote.

Amendments to Motions

Amendments allow members to modify a motion to better reflect their intentions. Here's how to propose an amendment:

1. Obtain the Floor: As with a main motion, wait for the current speaker to finish.
2. State Your Amendment: Use the phrase "I move to amend the motion by..." followed by the specific changes.
3. Second the Amendment: Another member must second the amendment.
4. Debate and Vote: The amendment is debated and voted on before returning to the main motion.

Voting Procedures

Voting is a critical component of Roberts Rules of Order. Here are the primary voting methods:

Types of Voting

1. Voice Vote: Members respond verbally to express their approval or disapproval.
2. Show of Hands: Members raise their hands for a clearer count.
3. Ballot Vote: Members submit written votes for confidentiality.
4. Roll Call Vote: Each member's name is called, and they respond with their vote.

Determining the Outcome

- Simple Majority: More than half of the votes cast (excluding abstentions) is required for most motions.
- Two-thirds Majority: Required for motions that limit debate or change rules.

Basic Meeting Procedures

To ensure that meetings run smoothly, adhere to the following procedures:

1. Call to Order: The chair opens the meeting at the scheduled time.
2. Approval of Minutes: Review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reports: Hear reports from officers and committees.
4. Old Business: Address any unfinished business from previous meetings.
5. New Business: Introduce new matters for discussion.
6. Adjournment: The chair formally ends the meeting.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Navigating Roberts Rules of Order can be challenging. Here are some common mistakes to avoid:

- Failing to Obtain the Floor: Always wait for your turn to speak.
- Ignoring Quorum Requirements: Ensure a quorum is present before making decisions.
- Not Seconding Motions: Always seek a second for motions to proceed with discussions.
- Confusing Types of Motions: Understand the differences between main, subsidiary, privileged, and incidental motions.

Conclusion

Understanding the Roberts Rules of Order Cheat Sheet 2021 is vital for anyone involved in meetings or parliamentary discussions. These rules provide a framework for conducting meetings in an organized and fair manner, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected. By familiarizing yourself with key terms, types of motions, voting procedures, and basic meeting processes, you can contribute to more productive and efficient meetings. Remember, the goal is to foster a collaborative environment where decisions are made democratically, benefiting all members involved.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Robert's Rules of Order?

Robert's Rules of Order is a widely used manual of parliamentary procedure that provides guidelines for conducting meetings and making decisions as a group.

What is a cheat sheet for Robert's Rules of Order?

A cheat sheet for Robert's Rules of Order summarizes key concepts, procedures, motions, and voting methods to help users quickly reference rules during meetings.

Why is the 2021 version of Robert's Rules of Order important?

The 2021 version includes updated procedures and clarifications that reflect modern practices in parliamentary procedure, making it relevant for contemporary organizations.

What are the main types of motions in Robert's Rules of Order?

The main types of motions include Main Motions, Subsidiary Motions, Privileged Motions, Incidental Motions, and Motions that Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly.

How can I use a cheat sheet effectively during meetings?

You can use a cheat sheet by keeping it accessible during meetings, allowing for quick references to motions, voting procedures, and rules to ensure smooth and orderly conduct.

What is the purpose of a quorum in Robert's Rules?

A quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present for the meeting to conduct business legally, ensuring that decisions represent a majority of the group.

Where can I find a reliable Robert's Rules of Order cheat sheet for 2021?

Reliable cheat sheets can be found on official parliamentary websites, educational resources, or in printed materials from reputable publishers that specialize in parliamentary procedure.

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