

CBDM Rules of Order

1 Introduction of topic

- Topics shall be presented as issues for discussion.
- The topic now belongs to the body.

2 Test for interest

- Topic must be prioritized for discussion.

3 Discuss Topic

- Focus on the issue that needs to be solved.
- The body achieves a thorough and common understanding of the issue.

4 Brainstorm solutions

- Ideas are presented and developed into proposals.

5 Clarify Proposal

- The Facilitator restates the proposal for clarity and the minutes.

6 Test for consensus

- 100% proceed with implementation.
- Less than 100% proceed to next step.

7 Hear Dissent

- Dissenters present their viewpoints.
- Body discusses the dissent, seeking understanding and solutions.
- Small group discussion, or a break may be necessary.

8 Test for consensus

- 100% proceed with implementation.
- Less than 100% proceed to next step.

9 Delay - Consult - Inform

- If possible delay the decision to the next meeting or later.
- Refer to the groups for consideration of the topic (not just the proposal)
- Form a workgroup.
- Seek more information.

10 Test for consensus

- 90% support shall be considered consensus
- 11% or greater BLOCK, consensus will not have been achieved.

Degrees of Dissent:

Assent with Reservations

"I think this may be a mistake, but I can live with it."

Going along with the group so that we can move forward, but not fully on board - not stopping what the group wants to do.

Stand Aside

"I personally cannot do this, but I will not stop others from doing this"

Basically taking yourself out of the equation - You do not agree, but will allow the group to move forward. (A sizable number of stand asides may indicate that support for a proposal is too weak.)

The content of the dissent is noted in the minutes.

Block

"I cannot support this or allow the group to support this, it is against our principles."

Blocking is a rare and extreme form of dissent taken only if you honestly believe that one of the Traditions or Concepts is directly violated by a proposal, or that some fundamental moral position would be violated.

A participant who blocks must be able to articulate which and how a tradition, concept, policy or spiritual principle fundamental to NA is being violated.

A block must be based on a generally recognized principle, not a personal preference. Before a concern is considered to be a "valid" block, the group must have accepted the validity of the concern, and a reasonable attempt must have been made to resolve it.

Consider:

Blocking a proposal is a last resort and only done in rare and extreme cases

Can I put aside my personal opinion to allow the rest of the group to move forward?

Am I able to pass on making a point, when someone else has already made it?

Straw Polls are for information to assess where the body is at. They are not votes.

How It Flows

