

# Convention Standing Rules

WSLC Virtual Convention, September 2020

## General

1. Delegates, alternates, and guests participating in an electronic meeting must provide their full names, union and local as they sign into the meeting. Those failing to do so may be barred or ejected from the meeting.
2. Delegates, alternates, and guests may join the meeting on any computer or smart device with an internet connection (via the Zoom app). Participants using desktop or laptop computers may use their computer microphones and speakers for audio connection, connect their audio through a smart device, or call in using a telephone.
3. Each delegate is responsible for their connection to the Internet and teleconference; no action will be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a delegate's individual connection prevented them from participating in the meeting, provided that at least a quorum was connected and adequately able to participate.
4. The chair may cause or direct the temporary disconnection or muting of a participant's connection if it is causing undue interference with the electronic meeting. The chair's decision to do so will be announced during the meeting and is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any delegate.

## Meetings

5. The Convention will convene at 5:00pm on Wednesday and Thursday and at 9:00am on Friday.

## Recognition

6. To seek recognition by the chair, a delegate will use the chat box and clearly express their intent (For/Against/Motion to.../Point of...)
7. Another delegate who claims preference in recognition will promptly raise (or raise again) their hand icon, and the chair will recognize the delegate for the limited purpose of determining whether that delegate is entitled to preference in recognition. If the chair fails to recognize the delegate, they may get the attention of the chair through the chat box.

## Chat Box

8. A delegate intending to make a main motion or offer an amendment, will, before or after being recognized, post the motion in writing to the chat box. The chair will display the motion on a shared screen for all participants to view.
9. Use of the chat box will be restricted to: posting the text of intended motions; recognition as stated in rules 6 and 7; and for nominations from the floor, upon recognition by the chair.

## Voting

10. Alternates and guests may be sent to a breakout room prior to voting.
11. Any vote will first be taken and calculated using the yes/no voting feature in Zoom. If a delegate calls for a *division of the assembly*, the chair will poll the participants using the Zoom polling feature.
12. Delegates calling in using a telephone will be recognized by name and unmuted by the chair to verbally cast their vote.

## Debate

13. On each debatable motion, a delegate's first speech is limited to three minutes, and a delegate's second speech is limited to two minutes.
14. The maker of a motion may have two minutes to close debate, unless debate has already been closed.
15. A motion to *lay on the table* is not allowed until two speakers favoring and two speakers opposing the motion have had an opportunity to speak.
16. A motion for the *previous question* (to close debate) is not allowed until at least two speakers favoring and two speakers opposing the motion have had an opportunity to speak.
17. Only delegates are allowed to speak on resolutions and motions unless permission for a non-delegate to speak is granted by unanimous consent.

## Constitutional Amendments

18. The proposed revision to the constitution will be considered before any amendments. The delegates will have the opportunity to amend the revision before voting to adopt the revision.
19. If the revision is adopted, no further amendments to the constitution will be allowed.
20. The committee on constitution is authorized to correct article, section, and list designations, headings, punctuation, and cross-references and to make other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the convention in connection with the revision or amendment of the constitution or COPE bylaws.

## Announcements

21. A requested announcement must be in writing and sent to the chair or secretary-treasurer.