

Briefing Paper: Procedural Motions

Procedural motions differ from policy motions in that they are about conference procedure.

If a procedural motion is called, always refer to the Constitution's Conference Standing Orders, Item 7, for full details on the motion. For some procedural motions, chairs can refuse to take them if they are vexatious, and only after consultation with the Policy Committee.

Find below a summary of key procedural motions:

1. No confidence in the chair (Chair cannot refuse)

Aim: To change the chair

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing

Requirements to Pass: Super Majority (66%)

2. Overrule the decision of the chair (Chair cannot refuse)

Aim: To change one singular decision of the chair (eg a decision on who speaks)

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing

Requirements to Pass: Simple Majority (50%)

3. Suspend Standing Orders (Chair can refuse)

Aim: To change a specific Conference Standing Order (Chair can refuse)

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing. Must be a specific Standing Order

Requirements to Pass: Super Majority (66%)

4. Move to next business (Chair can refuse)

Aim: To conclude the debate immediately with no vote, and move on.

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing

Requirements to Pass: Super Majority (66%)

5. Move Straight to a vote (Chair can refuse)

Aim: To end the debate immediately, and move to a vote on the motion

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing

Requirements to Pass: Super Majority (66%)

6. Refer a motion back (to the executive or a committee) (Chair can refuse)

Aim: To end a debate, and have the motion referred to a target, for them to work on the motion

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing. Must state who is receiving the referral back.

Requirements to Pass: Simple Majority (50%)

7. Request a counted vote (Chair cannot refuse)

Aim: Request a vote to be held physically

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing. Immediately before or after a vote

Requirements to Pass: No majority needed.

8. Vote in parts (Chair can refuse)

Aim: To take votes on specific lines of the motion

Requirements to Submit: **Submit in writing**

Requirements to Pass: Simple Majority (50%)

9. Secret Ballot (Chair cannot refuse)

Aim: To conduct a secretly balloted vote

Requirements to Submit: Submit in writing. Details of the vote must be specified

Requirements to Pass: Simple Majority (50%)

10. Chair's Ruling (Chair can refuse)

Aim: For the chair to make a ruling on a relevant point

Requirements to Submit: No requirements

Requirements to Pass: Subject to Chair/Events Officer/Policy Officer consultation