

NEW ENGLAND LAW | BOSTON STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

RULES OF ORDER

Article I – Rules

Rule 1.1 Robert’s Rules of Order Manual

When these rules are silent on any issue or procedure, the General Assembly shall refer only to the newest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

Rule 1.2 Adoption or Repeal of Amendments

A standing rule of the General Assembly shall be added or repealed by a favorable two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present and voting.

Article II – Order of Business

Rule 2.1 Order of Business

The agenda for the General Assembly shall follow the following format

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Induction of new General Assembly Members
- D. Roll Call
- E. Officer Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Day Vice-President
 - c. Evening Vice-President
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. ABA Representative
 - f. Chief Justice
- F. New Business
- G. Old Business
- H. Announcements
- I. Adjournment

Rule 2.2 Consideration of Legislation

All legislation shall be considered in numerical order.

Rule 2.3 Adjournment in Interest of Time

Any legislation left on the agenda at the time of adjournment in the interest of time shall be considered during the new business portion at the following meeting.

Rule 2.4 Time Limits

- A. The time limit for officer reports shall be two (2) minutes per speaker.
- B. The time limit for announcements shall be two (2) minutes per announcement.

Article III – Legislation

Rule 3.1 Legislation Types

Legislation that may be presented to the General Assembly must be in the following form:

- A. RESOLUTION – shall be a non-binding statement of the General Assembly that shall include but not be limited to:
 - 1. Recommending action or representing opinion of the General Assembly;
 - 2. Public censure for Student Bar Association officials;
 - 3. Approval of student groups

Rule 3.2 Numbering Legislation

All legislation shall be numbered according to the order in which it was filed with the Administrative Assistant.

Rule 3.3 Consideration of Legislation

Legislation shall be considered using the following procedure:

- A. Legislation shall be considered in the order in which it appears in the agenda. Any motion to propose legislation that is absent from the agenda may be entertained only if:
 - 1. The Chair consents to amend the agenda and allow the motion due to extenuating circumstances; or
 - 2. A motion to consider the legislation is made before the General Assembly and carries by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- B. The author(s) of the legislation shall have five (5) minutes, to be tied by the Chief Justice to present the legislation to the General Assembly.
- C. The Chief Justice shall then entertain a five (5) minute period for questions to be brought forth by members of the General Assembly

1. Each General Assembly member posing a question shall have thirty (30) seconds to do so
- D. The Chief Justice shall then entertain a five (5) minute period for debate of the legislation
 1. Each General Assembly member wishing to debate will be recognized by the Chief Justice on a first-come-first serve basis
 2. Each General Assembly member recognized for debate shall have thirty (30) seconds to do so
 3. Amendments to legislation may be brought forth during this period and deemed friendly or hostile by the movant(s)
- E. The Chair shall then call for a vote of the General Assembly on the legislation

Rule 3.4 Amending Legislation

- A. The budget shall not be amended on the floor and may only be passed in its entirety or rejected by the General Assembly
- B. Amendments to legislation may be brought forth on the floor during the debate period of legislation consideration and deemed friendly or hostile by the author(s) of the legislation
- C. A friendly amendment is automatically adopted into the legislation
- D. A hostile amendment shall be debated and voted upon under the following guidelines:
 1. The first recognized for debate on the hostile amendment shall be the author of the amendment;
 2. The second recognized for debate shall be the author or movant of legislation being amended;
 3. There shall be a time limit of two (2) minutes to debate the amendment on the floor; and
 4. Each General Assembly member recognized to debate shall have no more than thirty (30) seconds to do so prior to a vote on the amendment.

Rule 3.5 Withdrawal

Any legislation being considered by the General Assembly may be withdrawn by its author(s) at any time prior to voting. In so case shall legislation be withdrawn once voting has commenced.

Rule 3.6 Reconsideration

- A. Upon final consideration of legislation, should the legislation fail to pass, only a General Assembly member who has either abstained from or voted against the legislation, may make a motion in a subsequent meeting to reconsider the legislation.
- B. The motion to reconsider must be seconded by a General Assembly member who has either abstained from or voted against the legislation in question.
- C. No legislation shall be reconsidered more than once per semester.

Rule 3.7 Author's Rights

Any author of legislation has the right to vote for, against, or abstain from the legislation the member is presenting.

Article IV – Quorum and Decorum

Rule 4.1 Quorum

- A. As per the Constitution, a quorum of the General Assembly shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the voting membership in good standing, excluding vacancies, and is required to transact business.
- B. Any member of the General Assembly may request a quorum call to assess whether or not quorum is present.
- C. Upon a quorum call, the Chief Justice shall take a count of the members present and announce for the record the number of members present and voting and the total number needed for quorum to be satisfied.

Rule 4.2 Decorous Language

All members of the General Assembly shall employ only decorous language while in session.

Rule 4.3 Speaking on the Floor

- A. No member of the General Assembly or the Gallery shall be permitted to speak out of turn.
- B. Members of the General Assembly shall be recognized by the Chairperson by raising his/her hand and proceeding with the motion, debate, or question he/she is presenting.
- C. Members of the General Assembly are permitted to state the following without being recognized by the Chairperson:
 - 1. Point of Information
 - 2. Point of Clarification
 - 3. Point of Order
 - 4. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

Rule 4.4 Right to Yield the Floor

Any member of the General Assembly shall have the right to yield his/her time to any person in the room who is not a voting member.

Article V – Motions

Rule 5.1 Making Motions

Any member of the General Assembly shall be allowed to make any motion during meetings so long as the motion is not dilatory.

Rule 5.2 Motion Types

- A. Motions requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote
 1. To suspend the General Assembly Rules of Order
 2. To call the previous question
 3. To limit or extend the times for debate or questions
- B. All other motions shall require a simple majority vote of the members present and voting.

Article VI – Voting

Rule 6.1 Voting Records

Votes must be recorded on final passage of all legislation, all motions and objections, all quorum calls, and all roll calls.

Rule 6.2 Putting the Question

- A. When the time comes for the question to be disposed, the Chief Justice shall read the question aloud for the General Assembly so that all members are clear on the impending vote.
- C. All members of the General Assembly shall raise his/her hand when casting a vote.
- D. The Chairperson shall announce the vote after it has been counted.

6.3 Abstentions

- A. Any member of the General Assembly has the right to abstain on any legislation or motion presented to the body.

- B. In order to determine if the required number of votes has been reached to pass legislation or a motion, abstentions shall not be counted towards the total number of votes on the question.

6.4 Voting Types

The General Assembly shall have the power to vote as follows:

- A. By a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any duly constituted meeting of the General Assembly, the General Assembly may
 1. Impeach any member of the General Assembly
 2. Amend by resolution any rule in the General Assembly Rules of Order or Student Bar Association Bylaws
 3. Add or repeal any standing rule of the General Assembly
 4. Bring forth legislation that is not listed on the agenda
 5. Approve an Executive Order once the constitutionality of which has been called into order

- B. By a simple majority of the members present and voting at any duly constituted meeting of the General Assembly, the General Assembly may
 1. Recommend action or express opinion on behalf of the student body through resolution; and,
 2. Approve the Student Bar Association budget.

Article VII – Minutes

Rule 7.1 Content of Minutes

- A. The minutes shall contain all proceedings of that meeting of the General Assembly with accuracy and detail.

Rule 7.2 Adoption of Minutes

- A. The minutes from the previous meeting shall be adopted at the beginning of the following meeting of the General Assembly.
- B. Any member of the General Assembly may make a motion to amend the minutes shall be allowed to correct any error therein. Corrections to the minutes shall be automatically incorporated into the minutes unless otherwise objected to by any other member of the Assembly.