



OBSMUN 2024

PROCEDURE GUIDE

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to OBSMUN! We're overjoyed to have you be a part of our conference and hope you will thoroughly enjoy it.

This procedure guide contains all the information you'll need to participate in the debate sessions that will take place during the conference. Please make sure you read it carefully before the first debate session.

There will be a procedure/clause workshop during the first day of the conference, where our chairs will be able to answer any questions you may have in relation to the content of this guide.

WHAT IS MUN?



MUN (Model United Nations) , is a simulation and academic competition in which students role-play as delegates from different countries to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. As a delegate, you'll be representing the interests and opinions of your assigned country (NOT YOUR OWN!!) As such, we encourage you to research the policies, positions, and interests of your assigned country, besides anything else you may find relevant to the issue being debated in the committee. You should also aim to work with other delegates to negotiate, draft, and pass resolutions on the topics being discussed in your committee.



BASIC PROCEDURE

COMMITTEE SESSIONS

There are 9 committee sessions in OBSMUN. In each session, you'll be debating one of the issues assigned to the committee. In MUN, debate works through clauses. These work like pieces of legislation, a proposition you make to a committee. Each clause is submitted by a country and can have multiple co-submitters. There will be some more information on how to write clauses, and how they should be formatted at the end of the guide.



SESSIONS PROCEDURE

The session begins with a roll call, in which delegates are asked to raise their placards to confirm their presence by stating "Present and Voting" out loud and physically raise their placards once their country has been called.

Afterwards, there could be some caucus time, in which delegates gather co-submitters for their clauses, so that they can be presented (A clause needs at least 3 co-submitters besides the main submitter/submitters). This caucus time will either be moderated, in which the chair will present a clause sent to committee, and ask for co-submitters, or unmoderated, in which delegates go around the committee room asking for co-submitters.

DEBATE

Then, the debate starts. The chair will ask for delegates to raise their placards to present a clause. If you wish to present a clause, please make sure you have sent it to your respective committee email. Once selected, the delegate who proposed the clause will have to read it to the committee and present a short speech on why other delegates should support it.

After that, the delegate will be asked whether he is open to Points Of Information, which are basically questions on the clause or the speech made by the delegate. If the delegate accepts, the chair will choose other delegates to ask questions.

Once the POIs are done, the delegate should give the floor back to the chair by saying: "The delegation of (Insert Country Here) yields the floor back to the chair."

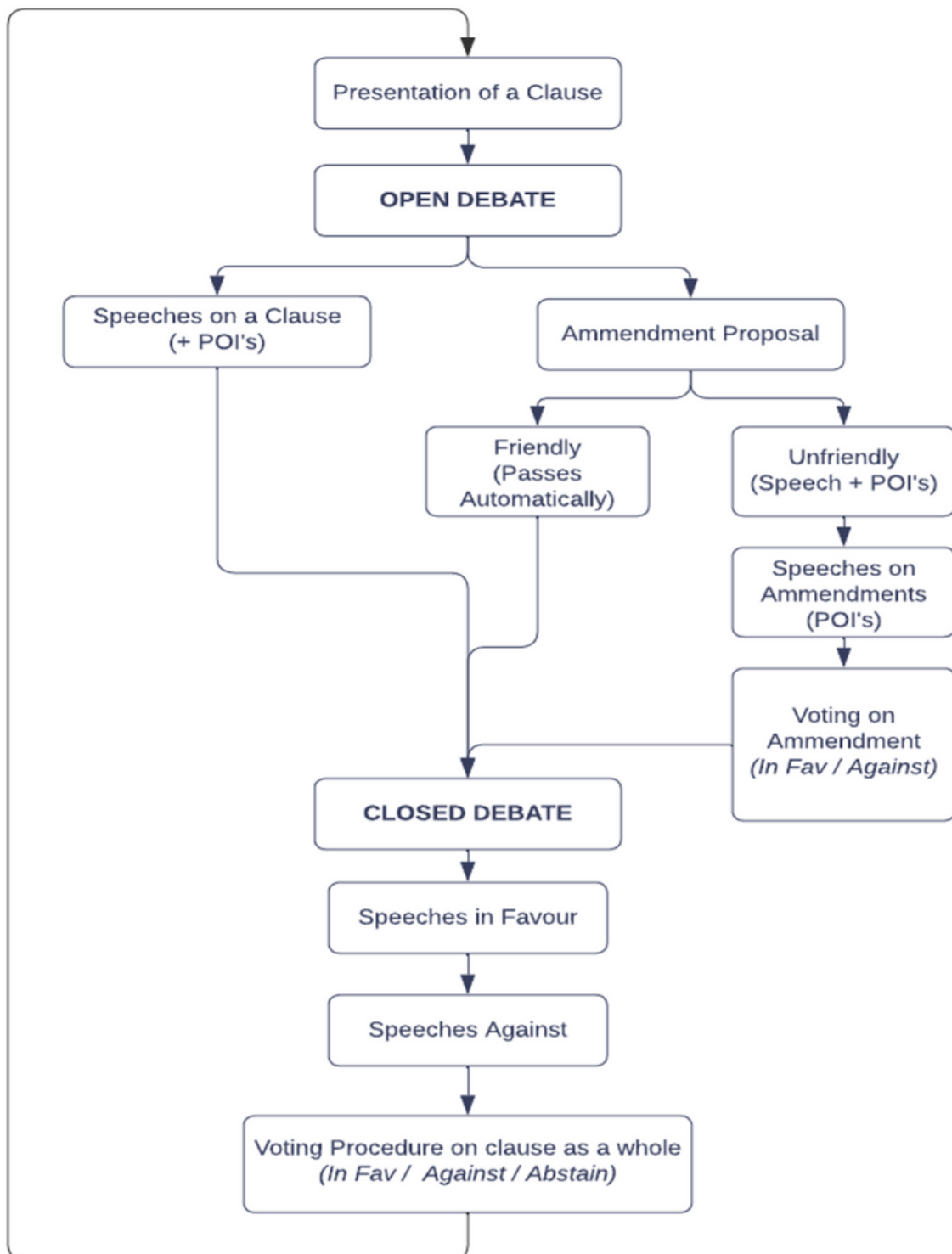
OPEN DEBATE

At this point, open debate begins, and therefore speeches (For, Against or supporting an abstention) and amendments (any changes a delegate wishes to make to a clause). The speeches follow the same structure as the initial speech.

Amendments work in a different way. Once an amendment is presented, the typist will add it to the clause, highlighted. The chair will then ask if anyone who submitted/co-submitted the clause objects the amendment. If they do, it will be debated, with speeches for and against, POIs and a vote at the end. If there are no objections, it'll pass as a "Friendly Amendment" and therefore will be added directly to the clause.

After some speeches, amendments, etc..., the house will move onto closed debate. This means that no amendments can be proposed and only speeches in favour and against can be made. This means the debate will be made on the clause in its final form

After that, we vote. At this point the chair will ask whether delegates will vote in favour, abstain or vote against the clause. Once the votes have been tallied up, the clause will either pass and be added to the resolution (a proposal containing all the clauses passed in the committee which is voted on at the end of the conference), or be rejected by the committee.



POINTS AND MOTIONS

In an MUN, delegates can raise points if they wish to inquire about something ongoing in the committee or raise motions to change something ongoing on the committee. To raise such a point, a delegate must raise their placard and state their point or motion out loud. Some of these can be raised at any point during the debate and take precedence over all other issues. Please be mindful when raising such a point or motion, they should not be raised while anyone but the chair has the floor. Please note that the main chair of the committee has the ultimate authority on whether to entertain any points and motions proposed by delegates. For motions, we recommend that delegates explicit their support by saying “Second” once the motion is presented. If you disagree with a motion, please say “objection” so the chair can take that into consideration when deciding on whether to entertain the motion. The following is a description of each point and motion entertained in OBSMUN. No other points or motions besides the ones listed below will be entertained.

Point of Information to the chair: A question addressed directly at the chair of the committee, which presents an enquiry regarding the contents of the debate and/or clauses (This can include a request to fact check anything another delegate has stated in the committee. We’ve limited the time allowed for a committee to halt debate and fact check a statement to 1 minute per Point of Information to the Chair).

Point of Information to the speaker (POI): A question addressed at the speaker following the presentation of a clause, amendment, or speech.

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry: A question addressed directly at the chair which enquires about an uncertainty regarding parliamentary procedure.

Point of Order: A question or remark addressed at the chair and/ or committee as a whole, which corrects any violations to standard procedure or questions the actions of other delegates

Motion to extend Points of Information: A proposal to extend the number of points of information addressed at the speaker

Motion to table a Clause/Resolution: A proposal to 'table' a clause, in which case the clause being presented would only be debated following the presentation of all other clauses. Often, to table the clause implies that it will not be debated at all during the conference, and henceforth shall not pass.

Motion to skip directly into voting procedures: A proposal to skip the process of debate on a clause or amendment and instead move into voting procedures.

Motion to divide the House: Proposal to proceed with the 'division of the house', a debate component in which voting procedures are repeated and delegates must either vote in favour or against a clause, with abstentions being out of order. Occurs when the result of a vote is very close between those who favour and those who find themselves against a clause.

Motion to pass without a vote: A motion to directly adopt a clause without requiring voting procedures; it requires a 'second' and no objections to pass.

Motion to a right of reply: A motion to obtain the right to respond to comments made by another delegation during formal debate; these generally occur after a speaker's response to a POI is offensive and/ or questions the integrity of another delegate's argument.

Motion to move into caucus time: A proposal to suspend formal debate and move into caucus time

Motion to extend debate time: A proposal to extend the number of opportunities provided to delegates to present their speeches and/ or amendments during debate on a particular clause.

PROCEDURE FOR CLAUSES



Before doing anything at all: Know the subject! Ensure you are well informed about the main aspects of the agenda topics: What is the issue? For how long has it persisted? Which countries/ regions does it affect? What social groups does it affect? What is its relevance to your country? What is its global relevance? And its Impact on other countries. Ensure you read the topic guides provided by the committee and read further into the topic from several different sources

We are an operative clause only conference, as such, any clauses proposed must start with one of the following operative verbs:

Urges	Calls Upon	Declares	Supports
Strongly Urges	Requests	Proclaims	Endorses
Encourages	Recommends	Affirms	Authorises
Strongly Encourages	Transmits	Emphasises	Congratulates

EXAMPLE FORMATTED CLAUSE

Committee: General Assembly

Issue: Addressing the issue of the EU dependence on Russian oil
Submitter: India

Co-Submitters: Indonesia, Angola, Hungary, Poland, Macedonia,
DR Congo, Egypt, USA, Venezuela,

1. *Proposes* member states incentivise the sale of fuels with a proportion of biofuels:

a. Encourages member states to set the proportion at a minimum of 75% Gasoline to 25% Biofuel:

i. Suggests member states enforce this proposal by fining those who do not comply, the specific details of this shall be decided within each member state, in accordance with their needs;

b. Suggests members states work towards phasing out high emission vehicles

i. Gradually increasing taxes on the sale of the aforementioned vehicles until 2030;

ii. Creating zones within cities where high-emission Vehicles cannot be used