

Current Wording

2.4(d) Board Rules

~~All Board meetings shall be conducted in the spirit of modified Robert's Rules of Order. However, the Chairman of the meeting may deviate as necessary.~~

Suggested Wording:

Orderly meetings will be conducted using parliamentary procedure and utilizing Robert's Rules of Order simplified per the following guide to conduct meetings fairly and efficiently.

Motions

- All motions must be seconded, and are adopted by a majority vote unless otherwise noted.
- All motions may be debated.
- Each motion presented for consideration is entitled to full and free debate with each Board member being given fair and equal time for discussion.
- Every member has rights equal to every other member and shall fully participate in the meetings.

Points

- Point of Order: When a Board member believes that the rules of the Board are being violated, he/she can make a Point of Order (or raise a question of order) thereby calling upon the chair for a ruling and an enforcement of the rules.
- Point of Information: a request for information on a specific question, either about process or about the content of the motion.

Amendments

- An amendment is a motion to change, to add words to, or to omit words from, a pending motion.

Table

- A motion to table is to set aside temporarily without setting a time for resuming its consideration but with the provision that the motion can be taken up again whenever the majority decides.

Abstaining

- A Board member must abstain (refrain from voting) when he/she has a conflict of interest. A Township Board member has a conflict of interest when he or she, individually, has a direct personal financial interest in the matter before the Board.
- If a Board member or commission member has a conflict of interest, he or she shall recuse him or herself. The person must remove him or herself from participating in any discussions, hearings deliberations and information gathering regarding that decision.
- A Township Board cannot force a member to abstain. Where there is no conflict of interest, a Board Member has a duty to vote.

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Complain about noise, room temp., etc.	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Decides
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move that we table it"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The above listed motions and points are listed in established order of precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below, but you may introduce another that is listed above it.

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Object to procedure or personal affront	"Point of order"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Ask for vote by actual count to verify voice vote	"I call for a division of the house"	Must be done before new motion	No	No	No	None unless someone objects
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question"	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take up matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	Yes	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	Yes	Yes	Only if original motion was debatable	No	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	"I appeal the Chair's decision"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of preference; any of them may be introduced at any time except when meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed from the first chart (Motion to Adjourn, Recess or Point of Privilege).