

# Common Parliamentary Procedure Questions

## **“How many times can members talk during a discussion?”**

Members, with the exception of the presiding officer, may speak an unlimited number of times during a discussion. Limits on number of turns and/or the time limit of discussion may be set by any member making a motion before a discussion begins.

## **“What can the president do?”**

The president, as the presiding officer, must focus on running the meeting, as opposed to being an active participant. Presiding officers acknowledge members to speak, act as judge on point of orders, count the vote, and ensure the meeting is efficient and follows parliamentary procedure. The president does not get a vote unless a tie occurs. If the president has an agenda, or something they would like to get across to the members, they may have another member act on their behalf. In more extreme cases, the president may give the vice president control over the meeting. The vice president would then have complete control over the meeting as the presiding officer, and the president would then act as a normal member. **In this case, the vice president does not have to yield control of the meeting back to the president, it is at their discretion.**

## **“How can an advisor add additional information to the meeting?”**

Members may ask an advisor any question at any time during a meeting by calling a point of information. Advisors are not bound the guidelines of parli pro and may interject at any time for any reason.

## **“What do I do if I am confused or have questions?”**

If a member is confused at any time during a meeting, they may call a point of information and refer their question to the parliamentarian.

## **“How will I know if I am following parli pro?”**

The parliamentarian will be following the meeting closely to ensure it follows parliamentary procedure. In the event of an error, the parliamentarian may call a point of order to put the meeting back on track and correct the error. Calling a point of order is not just the parliamentarian’s job, any member may do it. If you believe parli pro was violated, do not hesitate to call a point of order.