

## Rules of Procedure for Crisis

### Scope

The rules of procedure outlined below are offered as a framework for both delegates and conference staff. These rules are not perfect, nor absolute. In the event of confusion or conflict of information in this guide, ultimate discretion is given to the dais for their respective committee.

### Plagiarism

McKennaMUN XI has a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism of any kind. This includes plagiarism in position papers, working papers, and draft resolutions. McKennaMUN also has a strict policy against the prewriting of clauses. If it is discovered a delegate has prewritten clauses, they will be disqualified from awards.

### Electronics

Electronic devices including laptops, cell phones, and tablets may not be used in committee rooms during formal debate, during moderated caucuses or unmoderated caucuses. Conference staff may be using electronics to keep track of speeches, time, and notes on committee.

### Decorum

Delegates and conference staff must present themselves with respect and decorum throughout the entirety of the conference. This includes appropriate dress, restraint from interrupting other delegates, and interacting in a courteous manner. Conference staff and Secretariat reserve the right to penalize or disqualify delegates who do not adhere to decorous manners.

In accordance with the sensitivity statement, behavior deemed unacceptable will result in disqualification from the conference.

### Working Outside Committee

Delegates in all committees are *not* permitted to work outside committee. The writing of working papers and draft resolutions and meetings to make alliances and cooperate must all be conducted during committee time. This is to ensure that delegates are able to put in the same amount of

time into committee, and that all delegates are able to take the time they need to take care for themselves outside of committee.

### **Crisis Committee Structure:**

Crisis represents a faster-paced, dynamic version of Model United Nations, in which delegates represent individuals responding to issues in real time as they develop. Rather than debating long-term issues with international implications, delegates will instead make up regional bodies with individual powers and mandates and seek to solve the issues of their topic using their designated powers.

### **Parliamentary Procedure:**

While the procedure in Crisis is similar to that of General Assembly, there are a few notable differences. All motions and points acceptable in McKennaMUN crisis committees can be found below:

- Motion to Open Debate: Before any discussion can occur, a motion to open debate must pass by a simple majority, and a quorum must be present.
- Moderated Caucus: This sets up a designated space and time for delegates to speak in turn decided by the chair, and articulate their points with individual speeches. Delegates can make this motion by stating a total time, individual speaking time, and topic for the moderated caucus. This passes by simple majority. The individual speaking time must break up the total speaking time evenly.
  - Ex: "I move for a 6 minute moderated caucus with 45 second speaking times on the topic of rebel disarmament."
- Unmoderated Caucus: This designates a period of time in which delegates can freely move about the room and discuss and write about issues. This typically takes place after a moderated caucus in which opinions have been stated and when delegates are ready to begin writing directives to solve the issue. Only a total time need to be given for this motion, no topic.
  - Ex: "I move for a ten minute unmoderated caucus."
- Introduce Directives: Once directives have been submitted to the dias, delegates can motion to introduce those directives and have them read aloud. Directives must be introduced before they can be voted on.

- Ex: “I move to introduce directives currently on the dias.”
- Enter Voting Bloc: If directives have already been introduced, delegates can motion to enter voting bloc on these directives. Unique to crisis, delegates can designate a number of speakers for and against that directive, and state the individual speaking time for those speeches. This will allow delegates one final chance to argue in favor of or against the directives before voting. The number of pro and con speeches must be equal. Delegates can designate as many or as few speakers as they want. Directives will be voted on in the order introduced.
  - Ex: “I move to enter voting bloc on the directives, with two speakers for and two speakers against, each with thirty second speaking time.
- Motion to Divide the Question: After for and against speeches but before voting on the directives, delegates can motion to divide the question on a clause of a directive. This separates out a portion of the directive during voting. This motion requires a two-thirds majority. If it passes, the section designated by the division of the question will be voted on separately. This means the main directive can pass without this separated portion, or the separated portion can pass without the main directive. In its simplest form, it is a way of splitting up a directive, or removing unpopular portions.
  - Ex: “I move to divide the question on clause 3, subclause a.”
- Motion to suspend debate: Each committee session will close with this motion.
- Motion to adjourn: The final committee session will close with this motion, officially ending the debate.
- Point of Personal Privilege: This entails all requests that are not related to debate, and can include requests to use the restroom, change the temperature, move seats, etc.
  - Ex: “Point of personal privilege, could we turn up the air conditioning?”
- Point of Parliamentary Procedure: If a delegate is concerned that the dias has acted out of order concerning rules of procedure, delegates can make this point to request that the issue be fixed. Delegates are encouraged to make this point if they are concerned, and will not be penalized for fixing incorrect parliamentary procedure.
  - Ex: “Point of parliamentary procedure, we cannot entertain a motion to enter voting bloc before directives have been introduced.”
- Point of Inquiry: If a delegate has a question about rules of procedure, they can ask using this point.

- Ex: “Point of inquiry, do I need to set a topic if I motion for an unmoderated caucus?”
- Point of Clarification: If a delegate has a question about the material facts of the crisis committee, they can ask using this point. Typically, time will be given after each crisis update for asking questions. The dias will decide if a point of clarification is valid, or if time has already been given for answering such a question.
  - Ex: “Point of clarification, how many soldiers do we currently have at our disposal?”
- Right of Reply: If a delegate is personally attacked in the speech of another delegate, they may request a right of reply speech in order to address the attack. Note: right of reply is only reserved when a delegate is attacked on a personal level, not if their policy or character ideologies are attacked. Right of replies should rarely occur.
  - Ex: “Point, the previous speaker said my shoes are ugly. Right of reply?”
- Motion for a Suspension of the Rules: If delegates are interested in developing a motion that is out of typical rules of procedure, whether that be merging two motions, conducting a trial, censuring a delegate, etc., these will be considered a suspension of the rules, and will typically require a two-thirds majority to pass.
  - Ex: “Motion for a suspension of the rules to put Delegate A on trial for treason.”

## **A Few Important Distinctions between General Assembly and Crisis:**

Speakers List: There will be no speakers list in crisis committees. Instead, the chair will immediately take motions for moderated caucuses to discuss issues.

Directives: Rather than writing a single resolution on an overarching topic, delegates will write shorter, substantive documents designed to take immediate action. Directives leverage the power of the committee. Directives will take the following structure:

Title: Prohibition Commission

Sponsors: Joseph D. Leeson, Lyle B. Chapman

Signatories: Paul W. Robsky, Jim Seeley, Mike King

1. Build a set of five fake distilleries in the warehouse region of Chicago

- a. The distilleries will be made in five warehouses purchased using funds from an LLC funded by the Bureau
- b. The distilleries will be used as a base of operations for spying on nearby illegal alcohol operations and will be staffed by five agents each
2. Set up an investigation of the Chicago post office
  - a. Have two agents go to each post office pretending to be interested in purchasing alcohol to search for contraband
3. Develop a new system of background checks that will require proof of the following for all Bureau of Prohibition agents:
  - a. Birth Certificates
  - b. Social Security Numbers
  - c. Statements from previous employers

Note that as opposed to resolution, directives are shorter and take direct action. Operative clauses and preambles are not present. Sponsors are those who contribute significantly to the writing of the paper. Signatories are those who are interested in seeing the topics debated. A sponsor maximum and signatory minimum will be provided in committee that each directive will need to be within before submission. Directives are voted upon by committee, and if passed by simple majority, will affect the world that the crisis committee is occurring in. Responses to directives will typically come in the form of “crisis updates.”

Crisis Notes: Crisis notes are one of the more abstract portions of crisis, and may be difficult for first-time delegates to understand. Each delegate will have an opportunity to write notes to characters outside of the room in order to improve their own personal standing and influence what is happening in committee. An example of a crisis note written from the perspective of President Richard Nixon:

*Dear Spiro Agnew,*

*As my vice president, I need your immediate assistance. The next presidential election is growing near, and my anxiety is mounting. We had better take some drastic actions or risk losing to the Democrats. Install two wiretapping devices inside the phones of Robert Spencer Oliver and Larry O'Brien. Have four of our bribed former secret service members go to the Watergate hotel.*

*Have one of them buy a hotel room across the way under a pseudonym and watch for approaching police. The other three members will purchase a hotel room adjacent to the conference room on the sixth floor. Have them drill a hole in the wall to place a secret listening device into the wall. With all of this, we will be able to spy on the Democrats during their next meeting in the hotel and get a leg-up on their election campaign!*

*Warm regards,  
President Richard Nixon*

Crisis notes consist of a variety of pieces as shown above. Delegates can write to individuals outside of committee that their character would reasonably be able to contact, and can request them to do certain actions. In response, delegates will receive answers from backroom staff indicating how successful their efforts were and may be included in a crisis update if their efforts were substantial. The point of crisis notes to accomplish a character's individual goals in the committee. These may or may not align with the goals of the whole committee, but it is up to each delegate to decide what their character is interested in doing, and develop creative plans using their resources to accomplish this.

Dynamic updates: "Crisis updates" will be conducted by crisis staff informing the delegates about real-time updates in their situation. Just as the committee takes action, their opponents and allies will be taking action as well, and crisis updates will give the committee an idea of what is happening in the world around them. Directives are designed to respond to these updates in a cyclical fashion.

### **Helpful Key Terms:**

1. Directives: The crisis version of resolution, directives are written by the committee for the purpose of taking action as a whole, in this case as the Bureau of Prohibition. Directives are written with direct instructions on what to do, and will be interpreted by crisis staff as the Bureau's response to crisis updates. Directives must have sponsors and signatories and must be passed by committee with a simple majority.

2. Sponsors: The delegates primarily responsible for writing a directive. Typically only one or two delegates will sponsor a directive, but a larger, more collaborative directive may have more.
3. Signatories: Delegates who didn't necessarily write or even agree with a directive, but believe it has merit to be debated and voted upon. Typically directives will need a signatory minimum to show that the ideas contained are considered serious enough to be discussed by the committee.
4. Crisis notes: Notes sent by delegates as their character to members outside of the committee for the purpose of pursuing their own agenda. Delegates should use the powers outlined in their character's description as inspiration for crisis notes, and should have a goal in line with what their character is interested in.
5. Frontroom: What is happening in the room where the committee is occurring. This includes moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, voting bloc, crisis updates, etc.
6. Backroom: Everything going on that the delegates cannot see. This includes staff responding to their notes, the action of outside-of-committee characters, etc.
7. Crisis/backroom staff: The members of the McKennaMUN staff answering your notes, performing crisis updates, and generally pulling the strings of committee.

Any questions? Clarifications? Totally confused? Please route all questions to [jmorganstein25@students.claremontmckenna.edu](mailto:jmorganstein25@students.claremontmckenna.edu), and we will get back to you as soon as possible.