

# Ten Common Parliamentary Errors and Deductions in the 2021 Preliminary Round of the National FFA Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event (#SuperBowlLDE)



*An educational resource developed by the preliminary round event officials and curated by Dr. Daniel D. Foster, CP, PRP, 2021 Event Superintendent (@FosterDanielD)*

- 1) Demonstration of the motion Suspend the Rules.
  - a. When making the incidental motion to Suspend the Rules, the particular rule to be suspended should not be mentioned, but rather, the specific purpose for the suspension should be stated. What are you trying to do? The suspension is only for that specifically stated purpose. **[24:4]**
  - b. Suspension of rules outside the context of the current meeting are not allowed. **[25:3]**
- 2) Demonstration of the motion Lay on the Table.
  - a. When moving the subsidiary motion Lay on the Table, it is the responsibility of the member and the chair to ensure that the motion is being made with legitimate intent to not kill the motion, but rather set it aside for more urgent business. **[17:3(5)]**
- 3) Demonstration of the motion Postpone Definitely.
  - a. When moving the subsidiary motion Postpone Definitely, it is necessary to indicate the time to which you are postponing the item. **[14:20]**
- 4) Demonstration of the motion Refer.
  - a. When moving the subsidiary motion Commit or Refer, there are necessary details that must be included, such as type of committee, selection methods, and instructions to the committee. **[13:10]**
- 5) Demonstration of the motion to Amend.
  - a. There is correct language for the members to use when presenting the amendment such as *strike, insert, strike, and insert*. **[12:8]**
  - b. Add is only permitted if inserting words at the end of a sentence or adding a paragraph. **[12:8]**
- 6) Processing of Amendments by the Chair.
  - a. The chair is asked to compete three steps when putting the question on the amendment to the assembly: (1) *Repeat the amendment*; (2) *Read the motion as it would stand if amended*; (3) *make clear that amendment is pending* **[12:36]**.
- 7) The Chair's Language – Presenting the motion
  - a. When stating the question to the assembly, several chairs are saying “properly moved and seconded”. Would you consider it as a chair if it was improperly done? **[4:15 (a)]**
- 8) The Chair's Language – Calling for Amendments on non-debatable motion
  - a. Our parliamentary authority does not call upon us to repeat a request for amendments (i.e., Amend, Amend, Amend) three times. A simple, “Are there any amendments?” will suffice.
- 9) The Chair's Language – Statement of the Vote.
  - a. When announcing the result of a vote, the chair is asked to utilize terms “adopted” and “lost” (not failed). **[4:43]**
  - b. When a motion requires a 2/3, the chair is asked to state the number of the vote and the result as such, “There are 51 in the affirmative and 23 in the negative. There are two-thirds in the affirmative and the motion is adopted. **[4:49 (c)]**
  - c. It is inappropriate to ask for “Same Sign”. Does it make sense for someone to say “Aye” when they are opposed? **[4:49 (a)]**
  - d. Avoid asking those opposed to say “Nay” – horses Neigh, go with No **[4:37]**
- 10) Team Effect Concerns:
  - a. Team effect can be impacted a great deal by logical demonstration. Many teams have frequent situations where the vote is 1 in favor and 4 opposed on secondary motions (Previous Question, Lay on the Table, Suspend the Rules, etc.) where there was no debate. Yet, someone seconded the motion. While there is no rule that the seconder must support the motion, there also does not appear to be logical reasons for this to happen. In this instance, it could be viewed as dilatory to raise a division of assembly. If a demonstration is not logical/efficient, it can be detrimental to team effect.

[Note: All references are to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12<sup>th</sup> edition, the parliamentary authority of organization.]