



SMUS MODEL
UNITED NATIONS

HCC Rules of Procedure

General Rules

Scope and Application

These rules of procedure are applicable to the Historical Crisis Committee (HCC) at St. Michaels University School Model United Nations 2026 during all scheduled sessions.. No other rules of procedure apply.

Delegate Conduct

Delegates shall be courteous and respectful to all staff and other delegates. Moreover, as high-ranking officials, delegates are expected to play their roles accordingly. This includes using appropriate diplomatic language, abstaining from profanity and other inappropriate behaviour, and respecting the privacy and property of others. English will be the official and only working language of the conference. Delegates may not use affected accents during committee. National costumes are not permitted; delegates must wear Western business attire during all committee sessions.

The Chair will immediately call to order delegates who do not abide by this rule. Delegates who feel that they are not being treated respectfully are encouraged to discuss their concerns with their Director or a member of the Secretariat.

Delegates are expected to be present at the beginning of every scheduled committee session, at which point roll call will be taken. Delegates who will not be present for part or all of a committee session should inform their Committee Staff and teacher sponsor verbally or by email.

Electronic Aids

Delegates are not permitted to use any electronic devices or internet resources at all during committee sessions.

Committee Rules & Format

General Powers of the Committee Staff

The Committee Staff, also known as the Dais, comprises the Director, Chair, and Crisis Staff, as appointed by the Secretariat. The Director is the final authority on these Rules of Procedure and may suspend, amend, or adapt them at any time. The Director may propose the adoption of any procedural motion, given no significant objection, and may also interrupt the flow of debate to address the committee, show a presentation, or bring in a guest speaker or expert witness. The Director may also advise delegates on possible courses of action and debate. Each committee session will be announced, opened and closed by the Chair. Further, the Chair will direct the flow of debate, grant the right to speak, ask questions, announce decisions, rule on points of order, and ensure and enforce adherence to these rules. Lastly, the Chair may rule any motion dilatory and therefore out of order.

Specific Powers of the Committee Staff

The Dais acts as the governing body in the session. It holds a substantive veto and must approve all decisions, decrees, administrative rules, and regulations issued by the committee. Upon approval, all decisions are binding, including actions of a military nature. The Dais is also able to work new events into the crisis that will further the crisis progression as they see fit.

Role of Delegates

Delegates assume the responsibilities of their assigned characters but should contribute to debate in all policy areas. Delegates retain advisory privileges with regards to the progress of the crisis—that is, while the Dais may retain ultimate decision-making authority, it is the responsibility of the delegates to craft, propose, and vote upon directives.

Flow of Debate

In HCC, there is no set agenda. The Committee is expected to respond to the multitude of issues raised throughout the conference as corollaries of its own actions and other simulated events, so it is generally granted the freedom to deal with issues as it sees fit.

The default format of debate is a **continuous moderated caucus**. This constitutes a limit on speaking time of one minute per speaker, unless amended under the Director's discretion. Although discussion continues unabated from speaker to speaker without a limit for the amount of speeches made, the Chair may institute and enforce a de facto limit should the lack thereof prove to be an impediment to the efficacy of the committee. Speeches must be pertinent to the issues currently facing the committee; delegates whose remarks are not relevant may be called to order.

Points & Motions

Unmoderated Caucus

A Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus suspends the moderated caucus and the custodial responsibility of the committee from the Chair. The motion must include a time limit, is not debatable, and can be used to address issues more privately. An approved unmoderated caucus may be terminated prior to its expiration at the discretion of the Chair.

Point of Personal Privilege

A Point of Personal Privilege may be exercised if a delegate experiences personal discomfort or danger which impairs their ability to participate in the proceedings. A Point of Personal Privilege may only interrupt a speaker if the delegate is in dire discomfort or danger, or cannot hear the speaker.

Point of Order

A Point of Order may be made to indicate an instance of improper procedure. The Chair will rule on the Point of Order in a manner that best facilitates debate at their discretion; the Chair's ruling is not subject to appeal. A delegate rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter currently under discussion. A Point of Order may not interrupt a speaker. Additionally, the Chair has the right to address a delegate directly if proper procedure is not being followed.

Point of Inquiry

A Point of Inquiry permits delegates to ask questions concerning the Rules of Procedure, crisis updates, or for general clarification on a pertinent subject. A Point of Inquiry may not interrupt a speaker. Delegates with lengthier queries or queries specific to their position should not rise to this point, but should rather approach the Committee Staff during an unmoderated caucus or send a note.

Right of Reply

Rights of reply will not be entertained at SMUSMUN 2025 unless there is egregious personal insult to a delegate or their Kingdom/Empire

Directives

Directives are actionable items presented by the committee to the Chair which replace Resolution Papers found in regular committees. Directives, which can vary in length from a few lines to several sentences, are expressions of the committee's will. All directives submitted to the Dais must indicate whether the directive is public or private. Keep in mind that directives have to be realistic given consideration to the committee and delegation capacity.

Public Directives vs. Private Directives

Public directives are read aloud and voted upon by the committee. Sponsors want to see the directive passed, while signatories may simply want to see the directive debated. The aims of these directives are to dictate major decisions that involve the co-operation of multiple delegates and address issues that impact the majority of the committee. Many of the types of directives listed further below are characteristic of public directive content. Typically, the results of such actions will be presented to the committee if approved.

Private directives are processed internally by the Committee Dais to be worked into the crisis arc and will not be shared publicly with the committee unless otherwise specified. These directives do not require multiple Sponsors or Signatories and can be written by a single individual. The aim of private directives typically cover issues that a delegate may have a unique relation to or are best kept away from the watchful eyes of the rest of the committee. Certain examples may include private investigations, security, or resource production. Please be mindful that too many private directives can overwhelm the Dais team; if multiple delegates have similar private directives, consider merging them together.

Approval and Presentation

Public directives will be read aloud by the Dais and voted on by the committee to be approved. Committee consensus should be the goal; therefore, only points that pertain to information that has been debated by at least five speakers immediately prior to the time of its proposal will be entertained. However, multiple public directives on the same topic may be proposed to the Chair.

The Chair will offer the opportunity to present public directives after every fifth speaker. A delegate must wait to be recognized by the Chair before presenting their directive. Extremely short directives (up to two lines) may be presented orally at the discretion of the Chair. Public directives require three signatures to be considered. Generally, public directives will also require two sponsors, though this is up to the discretion of the Dais.

Public directives are approved by a simple majority vote, barring any veto from the Dais (see Committee Rules and Format), except for those involving nuclear weapons or ultimatums, which must be passed by consensus.

Private directives are passed at the discretion of the Dais team. Implementation and informing the committee of directive results rests at the discretion of the director or upon inquiry. Presentable information will be shared on a regular basis through crisis updates in the form of slideshows, which the Director is responsible for creating, and will typically note the current situation and issues to address. Guest speakers, Q&A's, and other relevant elements may occasionally be attached to crisis updates.

Directive Format and Sample

Directives are mostly formatted the same for private and public directives. They must all include a title, an indication of the type of directive (private or public), delegate signature(s), and actionable content. The only difference between the two types is the requirement of two Sponsors and Signatories at minimum for public directives. See the following outlines for examples.

Operation Southbound

Public

Sponsors: Otto von Bismarck, Albrecht von Bernstorff, August von der Heydt

Signatories: Peter II, Frederick Francis II, Robert von der Goltz

Reply to Austrian aggression towards Italy with a swift and clear ultimatum; cease troop buildup along the alpine borders or Prussia and its allies will intervene. The integrity of rightful Italian territory must be upheld! In preparation for potential rejection, begin moving troops from Hesse, Hanover, Mecklenburg, and Prussia by rail towards the Austrian border along the Bavarian, Saxon, and Prussian border. Increase troop readiness and maintain vigilance.

Operation Sabotage

Private

Sponsors: Hermann Wagener

Secretly begin sowing seeds of discontent about the potential with Austria amongst German citizens through the Kreuzzeitung newspaper. Slowly but surely emphasize the importance of a shared brotherhood between the two peoples and the importance of peace, not war. Start with articles questioning, then later criticizing, the recently excessive mobilization efforts by the state and its drain on the people.



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