

RULES FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

October 14-16, Atlanta, Georgia

QUORUMS

- A. Two-thirds of those delegates registered and present at the conference will constitute a quorum for plenary sessions.
- B. If the presence of a quorum is challenged by 20% of the delegates, the chair will direct that the quorum be counted.

VOTING PRIVILEGES

- A. In business plenary sessions each state shall have one vote. In deciding how the state will vote, only delegates, alternates when serving as delegates, and the members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee shall have voting privileges.
- ~~B.~~ In business plenary sessions a roll call by states shall be taken and each state chairman shall announce the vote of his state.
- C. Delegates, alternates, and members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee shall have voting privileges in state caucuses.
- D. Voting privileges may be transferred only to an alternate from the transferer's own delegation and only when the delegate is not in the session.
- ~~E.~~ If an equal number of votes is cast for and against any question, the chairman shall recess the session, and upon its resumption the motion or amendment shall be put at once to a vote without any discussion.

SPEAKING PRIVILEGES

- A. Speaking privileges shall include the right to raise parliamentary points and to address the conference sessions.
- B. Registered delegates shall have speaking privileges in all sessions.
- C. Alternates shall have speaking privileges in all sessions.
- D. Members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee shall have speaking privileges in all sessions.
- E. Official observers (those invited by the SNCC) shall have speaking privileges in all sessions.
- F. Resource personnel and other persons in attendance may be invited by a majority of the members present and voting to speak in business sessions.

## Rules (2)

### IV. OFFICERS OF THE SESSIONS

- A. The Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee shall be the permanent chairman of all plenary sessions.
- B. The Steering Committee of the Conference may nominate temporary presiding officers for plenary sessions, subject to the disapproval of a majority of the members of those sessions.
- C. In plenary sessions, the chairman shall be assisted by a secretary who shall act as recorder and aid the chairman in matters of agenda, control time and the identification of speakers.
- E. Parliamentarians for all plenary sessions shall be appointed by the presiding chairman, subject to the disapproval of the Steering Committee.

*Conference*

### V. PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

- A. Questions of Basic Policy of the movement shall require a 2/3 majority of the states' votes for adoption.
- B. All other matters shall require a simple majority.
- C. ~~The Conference Steering Committee shall decide those matters to be presented as Basic Policy questions.~~
- D. Questions of Basic Policy and other matters may originate in state caucuses and may be presented to the plenary sessions.  
\*(see insert E below)
- E. ~~The Conference Steering Committee shall set time limits for the main motion regarding policy items. Debate time may be extended by a two-thirds vote.~~
- F. No speaker shall have the floor at any one time for a period in excess of one-fourth of the total time allotted for debate, or two minutes, whichever is greater, on the issue at hand.
- G. If there is any objection to a motion to close debate before there have been at least two speakers for and two speakers against the motion before the body, the motion to close debate cannot be entertained.
- H. Debate must be limited to the immediately pending question, as stated by the presiding chairman. The chairman shall rule out of order any speakers failing to observe this and to adhere to the subject of discussion. When an amendment has been moved and seconded, no other primary amendment may be discussed until the amendment under consideration has been disposed of. It is, however, permissible for notice of further amendments to be given during discussion of the original amendment without discussion of these amendments.
- I. The following privileged motions shall be recognized, in order:
  1. Point of Order (must be heard at all times except during the act of voting and must deal with the conduct of the procedure of the meeting).
  2. Personal Privilege (must be heard at all times except during the act of voting or during a Point of Order and must deal with factors contributing to the physical discomfort of the session or with the clear misrepresentation or slander of an individual or group).

## Rules (3)

3. Parliamentary Inquiry (may be made while another has the floor, or may even interrupt a speech. It should not, however, be permitted to interrupt a speaker any more than is necessary to do justice to the inquirer)
  4. Query of the Speaker (may interrupt any process except the act of voting, Point of Order and Personal Privilege, must deal with matters of fact and not interpretation, and may be heard only the the discretion of the speaker being queried.)
  5. Point of Information (may interrupt any process except the act of voting, Point of Order, Personal Privilege, and the remarks of a speaker, and must be addressed to the chair or through the chair on matters of fact and not interpretation).
- J. It shall be in order to move a reconsideration of a question previously adopted, provided that such a motion is approved by a simple majority of a session present and voting. The motion for reconsideration must be proposed by a delegate who voted with the prevailing side in the previous vote on the matter. A resolution previously adopted may be rescinded by a majority vote of the members of a session present and voting, provided that the session has agreed to reconsider the resolution.
- K. During the discussion of a motion or an amendment, the following motions are in order and can be accepted in the following order of precedence.
1. Adjourn
  2. Fix time to recess ( simple majority)
  3. Recess (simple Majority)
  4. Lay on the table (simple majority)
  5. Previous question (two-thirds majority)
  6. Limit, extend debate (two-thirds vote)
  7. Postpone definitely (simple majority)
  8. Commit, refer (simple majority)
  9. Amend (simple majority)
  10. Postpone indefinitely (simple majority)
- L. Any ruling of the chair is subject to the approval or disapproval of the session through appealing the decision of the chair. On an appeal, two speakers will be heard against the ruling of the chair and two upholding the chair. The time limit for either side shall be three minutes, with no speaker taking up more than half of the time allotted. The chair shall have one minute to review his position before the vote is taken.

## VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Delegates, alternates and observers shall sit in plenary sessions with their states.
- B. After the adoption, by a majority, these rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a plenary session.
- C. The Steering Committee of the Conference shall be comprised of the members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

D. *The steering committee shall be called the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee*