ACB 2023 Standing Rules

Adopted by the ACB Board of Directors, 2023

1. At the outset of debate on any issue before the convention, there shall be a five (5) minute period devoted exclusively to questions and other points of clarification about the issue being debated. Speakers shall be limited to one minute, and a speaker shall be limited to asking about their point of clarification and shall not discuss the merits of the issue.
2. Debate on the merits of the issue shall begin at the conclusion of the five-minute period for points of clarification, each debatable issue before the convention shall be limited to approximately twenty (20) minutes with a two-minute time limit per speaker, alternating between affirmative and opposing speakers, unless a majority of the members agree to extend debate for an additional period of time. Speakers shall not be recognized for purposes of seeking points of clarification. Each member is respectfully urged to speak directly to the issue before the assembly and avoid unnecessary and time-consuming dialogue. No member will be recognized a second time to debate until all who wish to debate have been recognized.

Motions to close debate will not be recognized by the chair during the first debate period. After the first debate period, properly moved motions such as “I call for the question” or “I move the previous question” will be handled by the chair and voted on by the assembly. The chair shall close debate when no one seeks the floor, or when there has been one more speaker on one side of the issue than the other and no speaker on the side of the issue with the lesser number of speakers seeks the floor.

1. At the beginning of the first 20-minute debate period, the chair shall define for the body what constitutes a point of order (or other parliamentary inquiry) and shall signify how a member can be recognized for the purpose of making a point of order (or other parliamentary inquiry). Any time in which a point of order is being considered shall not be deducted from the debate period.
2. The parliamentarian will act as timekeeper.
3. Recognition to speak will be given to those members who properly address the chair either using the “raise hand” feature of the Zoom internet meeting client program or while standing at a microphone in the convention hall and giving their names and affiliation.
4. Changes to the published convention program may be proposed to the membership as deemed necessary by the presiding officer or his/her appointee. The presiding officer will explain the reason for such change and inform the assembly of their right to question the recommended modification. After this explanation, if twenty-five (25) or more members object to the proposed change by raising their hands using the Zoom meeting client, or, if in the convention hall, by raising their hands or standing, the change will then require debate and a majority vote to modify the convention program.
5. Nominating and seconding speeches shall be limited to five minutes per candidate with the speaking time allocated according to the candidate's wishes. A person nominated for an office more than once shall be limited to one minute.
6. When no candidate for office receives a majority vote, the election shall be between the top two candidates. Affiliate votes will be reported in whole or half numbers. In all uncontested elections as verified after three calls for additional nominations, the chair may declare the candidate elected by acclamation. “Write in” candidacies are not permitted.

7.

A. Once a voice vote has been taken on a resolution or an amendment thereto, in accordance with Section C of Article III of the American Council of the Blind Constitution, and the chair has announced the result of that vote, the chair shall ask whether anyone voting in the minority objects to the vote, except that, if less than twenty-five (25) members have voted in the minority, the chair may immediately determine that no record vote is required. If at least twenty-five (25) members voting in the minority using the “raise hand” feature of the Zoom internet meeting client program object to the result, then a record vote on the resolution shall be required.

B. After debate has ceased on a resolution and it is subsequently determined that a record vote is required, no further amendments may be proposed.