



**MAKING
MEETINGS
RUN
SMOOTHLY**

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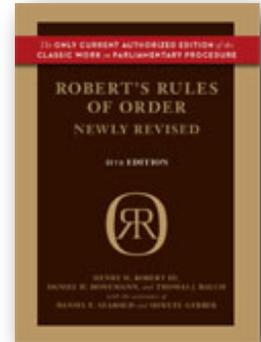
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Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order

What is Robert's Rules of Order and why do we have to follow it?

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR for short) is an extensive compilation of Rules of Order designed to facilitate the smooth and orderly transaction of business in deliberative assemblies.



RONR becomes binding on an organization when it is adopted as that organization's parliamentary authority. In this way, the organization has decided to follow RONR, and by including such a provision in the bylaws, the organization is bound to do so.

Doesn't RONR bog down meetings with excessive rules?

Often in meetings, members will feel like they're in the middle of the ocean, struggling to stay above the water. Then, when Robert's Rules is thrown at them, they're not sure if it's an anchor that's going to pull them under or if it's a flotation device that's going to keep them afloat.

Let's be clear. The purpose of Robert's Rules is to protect the rights of the members and allow for smooth, productive, and orderly meetings. It's a flotation device. Actually, it is the largest and most advanced flotation device available to organizations. It's designed to keep every member out of turbulent waters. It has been continually reworked and revised, since it first came out in 1876. Each new edition incorporates improvements taken from real-life experiences in countless meetings from organizations around the world.

When Henry Robert published the first edition, he was quickly swamped with letters, asking for clarifications. He incorporated these questions into the next edition, and this philosophy of improvement has been continued for over a century. This means the current edition contains the wisdom gained through the trial and error of over 130 years of practice in deliberative assemblies.

Robert's Rules is not a weapon to be wielded at members. It is an invaluable tool designed to generate smooth-running, efficient, fair meetings with the highest level of productivity.