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Workers' Party of Ireland

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Rules Governing the Procedure at the Ard Fheis

Standing Orders

1. Steering committee recommendations, accepted at the commencement of the Ard Fheis are part of standing orders. Steering Committee recommendations include the compositing of resolutions, alterations in wording, re-writing of resolutions and the placing of resolutions under heading 'similar resolutions received from'. This also applies to the classification of resolutions as amendment, substantive or addenda.

Once adopted by the Ard Fheis, it shall take a two thirds majority of the delegates present to suspend or raise standing orders.

All persons, other than delegates are admitted at the discretion of the Ard Fheis which is comprised of the delegates.

2. Members shall be admitted on presentation of their Party Card which must be fully paid up.

3. Delegates shall carry their Party card duly paid up and delegate cards at all times. Branch delegate status is conditional on relevant branches having been affiliated.

4. Only delegates may propose or second resolutions, amendments or addenda, and/or speak to resolutions, amendments or addenda.

5. Delegates must declare their name and delegate status.

6. All amendments or addenda must be submitted in writing and be signed by the proposer, seconder and state area which delegates represent. They must be submitted through the Steering Committee. An addendum once accepted by the proposers of the affected motion becomes part of that motion and conveys no separate right to speak.

7. The proposer of a resolution shall be allowed to speak for three minutes, and the seconder of a resolution for two minutes when proposing and/or seconding a resolution.

8. The proposer of a resolution shall be given two minutes to reply before the resolution is put to a vote.

9. Speakers to a resolution or an amendment shall be allowed to speak for three minutes.

10. The proposer and seconder of an amendment shall have three minutes to speak in proposing and seconding their amendment and the proposer shall have one minute to reply before the amendment is put to a vote.

11. On the motion being moved and seconded 'that the question be now put' the Chair shall have no option but to put the motion to a vote of the delegates. In the event of the motion being carried, the Chair, after allowing the proposer of the resolution (and amendment if any) under discussion, to reply as provided for in standing orders shall have no option but to put the resolution or amendment to a vote.

12. Where it is proposed to move the suspension of standing orders to allow for the discussion of an emergency motion, the motion and the request to raise standing orders must first be put to the Steering Committee, who shall consider the matter and make a recommendation. The recommendation of the Steering Committee if contested, shall be put to the Ard Fheis and voted on without debate.

13. The Chair at his/her discretion may insist on a list of speakers to a motion or amendment in advance and limit the number of speakers to this list seeking parity in order of speakers for those for and against the motion or amendment.
14 The Chair at his/her discretion may call on the chairperson or spokesperson of the relevant committee to summarise the debate before the Conference prior to the relevant sections under discussion being put to a vote.

15 Persons nominated for membership of the Ard Comhairle/Central Executive Committee shall not be eligible to act as tellers for the election of that body.

16 Persons standing for election to the position of Party President may not act as teller for that election.

Explanation of Terms Used at Conference

Substantive Motion
The main motion under discussion.

Addendum/a
Word or sentence which adds to the original motions.

Amendment
Word or sentence which replaces or alters the original motions.

Composite Motion
A grouping together of motions to form a substantive.

Re-written Composite
Where two or more motions are received similar in substance but different in wording 're-writes' are done to form a substantive resolution.

In some instances 're-writes' are done to cover a number of motions listing only the names of bodies submitting or carrying relevant sentences from the original.

Similar motions received from
This term means motions proposing the same matter are deemed to be covered by the motion on the Clar. In some instances, the preamble to motions is different from the motion that is deemed to cover it but what is important is, what is being proposed by the motion.

Procedure
Where amendments or addenda are accepted by the proposer of the substantive motion they become part of the motion and do not require to be proposed separately. The proposers of motions given the classification of addenda or amendment should consult the proposers of the relevant main resolution or the steering committee, prior to the particular session, in order to save time.

Proposers of motions not listed in the Clar but deemed covered by others, are not in anyway precluded from speaking to the main resolutions. It may be worthwhile for them to approach the proposers of motions listed and seek to second them or whatever.
Additional Rules

Additional Rules Governing the Procedure for debate on Party Programme and Constitution where these rules conflict with rules governing the other business of the Ard Fheis the following take precedence and once accepted at the opening of the Ard Fheis are standing orders:

1. The Programme will be taken in the following order as it appears in the documents. The full document will be formally proposed and seconded. The proposer and seconder will be given twenty minutes between them to propose and second the programme.
   - A Strategy for the 90s.
   - Fundamental Values
   - Democracy, Citizenship and the State
   - Principles of a Socialist Economic Policy
   - Class and Inequality in the Republic of Ireland
   - Global Politics
   - Constitution

2. Each section will be dealt with by voting before moving to a new one.

3. A maximum period of one hour will be allocated to each section. Once business is completed the Chair will move to a new section.

4. Amendments will be dealt with as they are reached. Once amendments have been accepted as Addendum they will become part of the document and will not necessitate proposal and seconding.

5. Amendments to a section which are not reached in the normal time allocated to that section will be formally moved and voted upon before voting on the section.

6. Excepting the Constitution, each section will require a simple majority for adoption by the delegates.

7. The Constitution will require a 2/3rd majority of the delegates present.

8. Amendments or addenda will only be accepted in writing to existing amendments.

9. All amendments or addenda must be submitted to the Steering Committee which will adjudicate on the matter.

10. The Proposer of an Amendment shall be allowed to speak for three minutes and the seconder of an amendment for two minutes when proposing or seconding an amendment.

11. The Proposer of an amendment will be allowed two minutes to reply before the Amendment is put to a vote.

12. Speakers to sections or amendments will be allowed to speak for three minutes.

13. On the motion being moved and seconded 'that the question be now put' the Chair shall have no option but to put the motion to a vote of the delegates. In the event of the motion being carried, the Chair, after allowing the Proposer of the section or amendment under discussion, two minutes as provided for in 11 above i.e. the right of reply, shall have no option but to put the section or amendment to a vote.

14. The Chair at his/her discretion may insist on a list of speakers to a section or amendment in advance and limit the number of speakers to this list seeking parity in order of speakers for those for and against the section or amendment.