



CONVENTION RULES OF ORDER

EIGHTH NATIONAL COPE CONVENTION **June 5–7, 2025** **Fairmont Winnipeg Hotel, Winnipeg, MB**

1. The President or, in their absence or at their invitation, the Secretary-Treasurer shall preside over convention sessions. They shall call the convention to order at the prescribed time. In their absences, one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside.
2. Authorized convention committees submit resolutions to the delegates in the form of oral reports resulting in the adoption, modification, combination or rejection of the resolutions. Their reports are not subject to alteration by the delegates, except with the consent of the committee. The delegates may adopt, defeat or refer back any committee report for re-examination.
3. When a motion is proposed, the chairperson asks "*Is there any discussion?*". When the debate has come to an end, or if there is none, the motion is put to a vote.
4. The chairperson, in addition to answering questions, shall be permitted to speak at least once on each subject before the convention without relinquishing the chair.
5. The chairperson gives the floor, in turn, to the delegates who go up to either the pro or con microphones on an alternating basis. When given the floor, the delegate identifies themselves and their Local.
6. A person speaking on behalf of the committee may present the position of the committee with regard to a motion before the convention. A delegate may then speak on the resolution, in which case they may have a maximum of three (3) minutes.
7. No one may speak for a second time on the same topic until the other delegates who wish to speak for the first time have had the opportunity to do so.
8. When a motion to call the question is put, all debate is automatically cut off and the vote is called. If it is adopted by vote of the majority, the debated motion is immediately put to the vote. If it is defeated, debate on the motion being studied resumes.
9. Interruptions are prohibited when a person is speaking, unless it is to raise a violation of the Rules of Order.

10. In the event a person is called to order in this manner, debate is suspended until the chairperson has ruled on the presumed violation and has given the delegate the floor again.
11. In the event a person persists in violating the Rules of Order, the session chairperson withdraws their right to speak and submits their conduct to the judgment of the assembly. The person in question is then invited to explain their point of view and to withdraw while the assembly deliberates and rules on their case.
12. Two delegates may appeal the decision of the chair, one of whom may explain the nature of the challenge to the Convention. The chairperson shall relinquish the chair and may explain their ruling to the Convention. The substitute chairperson then asks the Convention: "*Does the Convention uphold the decision of the chair?*". The vote is final.
13. A delegate may not propose referral after having taken part in the debate.
14. A motion of referral is undebatable and is put to a vote. Nevertheless, a person on the committee may explain the committee's position prior to the vote.
15. No motion other than referral or the question is admissible during a debate. In the event such a motion is rejected, a second motion of the same nature may not be proposed unless it is justified by new facts.
16. Questions may be decided, in the estimation of the chair, based on the voting strength by a show of hands with the voting card or by a roll call vote. A roll call vote will be held if it is demanded by delegates representing one-tenth (1/10) of the total voting strength.
17. A motion to reconsider a resolution already adopted by the Convention may only be made by a delegate who has voted with the prevailing side on that resolution, on the condition that a motion to reconsider is supported by two-thirds vote of the voting strength of the assembly.
18. In all cases not provided for in these Rules of Order, *Bourinot* shall be the authority.
19. The Convention and all its activities shall be conducted in a respectful manner, free of harassment and all delegates and participants shall be bound by the policies annexed hereto.