

American Pharmacists Association
House of Delegates
Rules of Procedure
Updated 2018

The following information reflects the final language adopted by the 2018 APhA House of Delegates.

Rule 1 Delegates and Voting

At the first session of a meeting of the House of Delegates, the Secretary shall report the number of accredited delegates who shall then compose the House of Delegates. Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote. No delegate shall act as proxy of another delegate nor as delegate for more than one (1) association or organization. A member registered as an alternate may, upon proper clearance by the Credentials Committee, be transferred from alternate to delegate at any time during the continuance of business meetings.

Rule 2 Delegate Identification

Each delegate is required to wear a delegate ribbon attached to the convention name badge while seated in a session of the House of Delegates.

Rule 3 Consideration of Committee Reports

The House shall receive and consider the recommendations of each Association Policy Committee on each whole number section of a Policy Committee report during the first session of the APhA House of Delegates at each Association Annual Meeting. The Committee chair will recommend adoption of policy statements and preside over the debate. Action on the report will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order (current edition).

Debate in the first session of the House will be time limited. If the Speaker, the Committee chair or any delegates feel additional debate on the policy statement is warranted, the item may be carried over to an open hearing at which the Policy Reference Committee will preside. The remaining items requiring action will be brought back to the final session of the House of Delegates for action. The Policy Reference Committee may recommend adoption, referral, rejection or amendments to the original Policy Committee report. Action requires a majority vote.

Rule 4 New Business

Items of New Business are due to the Speaker of the House no later than 30 days before the start of the first House of Delegates session.

An urgent item can be considered, without a suspension of the House rules, if presented to the Speaker, with necessary background information, at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the first session of the House. Urgent items are defined as matters, which due to the nature of their content must be considered by the House outside of the normal policy processes. The House leadership (Speaker, Speaker-elect [when present], and Secretary) will evaluate submitted urgent items based on the timely and impactful nature of the presented item and determine if the urgent item is to be approved as new business. The House shall then be informed during the first House session of any approved urgent items to be considered by the House. Approved urgent items shall be included with other new business items and discussed during the New Business Open Hearing. Appropriate action will then be recommended by the New Business Review Committee in the same manner as other new business items and acted upon during the second House session. Urgent items denied consideration by House Officers may still be addressed by the House with a suspension of House rules at the House Session where New Business will be acted upon.

Delegates wishing to amend existing APhA policy on topics not covered within the Policy Committee or Policy Review Committee agenda may submit proposed policy statements through the New Business Review Process. Re-statements of existing policy are discouraged.

The New Business Review Committee's report to the House of Delegates shall include one of the following

recommended actions for each New Business Item considered:

- (a) Adoption of the New Business Item
- (b) Rejection of the New Business Item
- (c) Referral of the New Business Item
- (d) Adoption of the New Business Item as amended by the committee
- (e) No action

The New Business Review Committee's recommendations will be addressed by the House of Delegates in the following order:

1. New Items submitted by the Policy Review Committee
2. General New Business Items
3. Urgent New Business Items

If the New Business Review Committee recommends no action on a New Business Item, the Speaker of the House shall place the New Business item before the House of Delegates for consideration and action. Each whole-numbered statement within the New Business Item shall be considered separately. Consideration of the New Business Item in its entirety requires suspension of House rules.

Rule 5 Privilege of the Floor

Only delegates may introduce business on the floor of the House of Delegates. Any individual that is duly recognized by the Speaker and/or the House may have the privilege of the floor in order to address the delegates during a session of the House of Delegates. Any individual may present testimony during an open hearing.

Rule 6 Nomination and Election of Speaker-elect

The House of Delegates Committee on Nominations shall consist of five delegates including the Chairman and shall be appointed by the Immediate Past (non-incumbent) Speaker of the House of Delegates, and that Committee shall meet preceding the first session of the House of Delegates at the Association Annual Meeting to select candidates for the office of Speaker-elect of the House of Delegates.

Elections for Speaker-elect will occur every even-numbered year. Only two candidates for the office of Speaker-elect of the House of Delegates shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations, and this report shall be presented at the first session of the House of Delegates. No member of the Committee on Nominations shall be nominated by that Committee. All candidates examined by the Committee shall be notified of the results as soon as possible after the nominees have been selected by the Committee on Nominations.

Nominations may then be made from the floor at the first session of the House of Delegates by any delegate immediately following the presentation of the Report of the Committee on Nominations. Candidates nominated from the floor must submit biographical data to the Secretary of the House not less than 24 hours prior to the start of the final session of the House of Delegates in order to qualify as a candidate.

All candidates must be an APhA Member as defined in Article III, Section 2, of the APhA Bylaws, and a seated delegate in the House of Delegates. Candidates will be introduced at the first session of the House of Delegates and permitted to speak to the House for no more than two (2) minutes. Candidates will then be permitted to address the House for a maximum of three (3) minutes at the second session prior to voting on the candidates by the House. Candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order on the ballot regardless of whether they were slated by the Committee on Nominations or nominated from the floor of the House. A majority vote of delegates present and voting is required for election. If no majority is obtained on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be cast for the two candidates who received the largest vote on the first ballot. If electronic voting mechanisms are available, then the election shall be conducted utilizing the technology, with the results not publicly displayed.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Speaker, the vacancy process detailed in Article VI, Section 5, of the

APhA Bylaws shall be followed.

Rule 7 Amendments to Resolutions

All amendments to Policy Committee recommendations or New Business Resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary on a form provided to Delegates. There are no secondary amendments or “friendly” amendments. The Speaker will rule any Delegates out of order who express a desire to make a secondary amendment or “friendly” amendment.

Rule 8 Amendments to House of Delegates Rules

Every proposed amendment of these rules shall be submitted in writing and will require a two-third vote for passage. A motion to suspend the rules shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of delegates present and voting.

Rule 9 Rules of Order

The procedures of the House of Delegates shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order provided they are consistent with the APhA Bylaws and the House of Delegates Rules of Procedure.

Rule 10 Policy Review Committee

The House shall receive and consider the recommendations of the House Policy Review Committee to archive, rescind, retain, or amend existing policy at each Annual Meeting of the Association. A singular motion to archive, rescind, retain, or amend, all such existing policy, with limited debate, shall be in order. Items identified by the Policy Review Committee as needing amendment shall be reviewed by the Committee and Speaker of the House to determine that the amendment does not change the intent of the original policy and included in a separate section of the Policy Review Committee report provided to Delegates at the Annual Meeting. Any substantive amendments or those that change the intent of the original policy should be submitted by the Policy Review Committee to the New Business Review Committee for consideration. The Policy Review Committee shall meet annually and review any policy that has not been reviewed or revised in the past 4 years and policy related to statements adopted in the previous House session.

The Speaker may engage the Policy Review Committee to review contemporary issues, where appropriate.

Rule 11 Grammar/Punctuation Corrections

The House shall allow the APhA Speaker and staff to the APhA House make to grammar and punctuation corrections to adopted House policy immediately after the conclusion of the House session. To ensure that these corrections do not inadvertently change the meaning of the adopted policy statement, the current sitting APhA House Rules Review Committee will review and approve the corrected statements.

Rule 12 Policy Reference Committee

The House of Delegates Policy Reference Committee shall consist of the chair of the Policy Committee, two members of the Policy Committee, and three or four new members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The Policy Reference Committee will hear comments during the First Session of the House of Delegates and the Open Hearing of the Policy Committee at the APhA Annual Meeting and issue the Final Report of the House of Delegates.