



Parliamentary Pointers: Suspending the Rules

It is sometimes possible to Suspend the Rules, as long as those rules are not Bylaws, and as long as the suspension is not in conflict with local, state, or national laws.

A motion to suspend the rules can be made when the assembly wants to do something at a meeting that is in conflict with its Standing Rules, the Parliamentary Authority (usually *Robert's Rules of Order*) or Special Rules of Order. A two-thirds vote is usually needed to adopt the motion. An example might be if an agenda has been adopted, and two or more members want to bring up a subject that is out of order with that agenda.

If the motion to Suspend the Rules is adopted, the chair should "immediately recognize the member who moved the suspension of the rules" so that she can make the motion she wants to make.

The Bylaws can never be suspended, no matter how many members are in favor. Fundamental rules of parliamentary law, such as one member, one vote, can never be suspended. Rules protecting absentees can never be suspended, and that includes doing business when no quorum is present.

Since a Salon's Standing Rules can be changed at any meeting when a quorum is present, the Standing Rules can be suspended by a majority vote.

If the suspension is non-controversial, the presiding officer may ask if there is any objection and if there is no objection, the motion to suspend can be adopted by unanimous consent. Suspension of the rules ends at the end of the meeting or the session.

In Fun and Fellowship,

Lila Speckels National L'Avocate

34465 249th St

Chamberlain, SD 57325-6326 speckelslj@midstatesd.net

Phone: 605-234-5338 home 605-730-0548