

3 FUN WAYS TO LEARN AND TO REMEMBER THE 13 RANKING MOTIONS AND THEIR RULES

It is helpful to memorize the 13 Ranking Motions in the order of their rank and their rules

- as members to know when to make a particular motion and what to expect
- as the presiding officer to know if the motion is in order, if it is debatable, and what vote is required

When a motion is not in order, it is helpful if the presiding officer to explain why is not in order. Motions higher in rank take precedence over motions lower in rank. Motions lower in rank yield to motions higher in rank.

{ 1 } USE YOUR HANDS



As an adult, it is OK to use your hands to count or to enhance your memory. Start with both hands in a fist.

LEFT HAND:

Extend your thumb: Main motion – **there** is only one thumb - only one main motion can be considered at a time. If you hold your hand in front of you, the thumb is at the bottom – the main motion is at the bottom of the list because it is the first motion made.

Extend index finger: Postpone Indefinitely.

Extend middle finger: Amend.

Extend ring finger: Commit or Refer.

Extend pinky finger: Postpone Definitely

ALL OF THESE MOTIONS ARE DEBATABLE

RIGHT HAND:



All motions require a majority vote except the first two fingers on your right hand which require a 2/3 vote. Why? These 2 motions take away the right to debate.

Extend pinky finger: Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Extend ring finger: Previous Question

Extend middle finger: Lay on the Table

Extend index finger: Call for the Orders of the Day

Extend thumb: Raise a Question of Privilege



LEFT HAND:

Extend pink finger: Recess

Extend ring finger: Adjourn

Extend middle finger: Fix The Time To Which to Adjourn

{ 3 } LET'S RACE! HOW FAST CAN YOU RECITE THE 13 RANKING MOTIONS FROM LOWEST TO HIGHEST?

1ST – practice reading the motions listed above out loud

2nd – time yourself as you recite them

3rd – practice and time yourself again

{ 2 } USE COLOR OR CRAYONS

Use **green** to color the background of the motions that are debatable. Use **red** to color the background of the motions that require a 2/3 vote for adoption. If the background is **NOT GREEN** the motion is **NOT DEBATABLE**. If the background is **NOT RED** a majority vote is required for adoption.

Fix The Time to Which to Adjourn
Adjourn
Recess
Raise a Question of Privilege
Call for the Orders of the Day
Lay on the Table
Previous Question
Limit or Extend Limits of Debate
Postpone Definitely
Commit or Refer
Amend
Postpone Indefinitely
Main Motion

How many motions are debatable?

How many motions are not debatable?

How many motions require a 2/3 vote?

How many motions require a majority vote?

Which motions help dispose of the main motion (Subsidiary Motions)?

Which motions concern the meeting (Privileged Motions)?

