



**THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF REMOTE MEETINGS OF
THE STATES OF DELIBERATION**

JANUARY 2021

A. Remote Meetings of the States of Deliberation

- (1) The States' Assembly & Constitution Committee, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 3A(3) of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948 as modified by the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021 (as amended by the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021), hereby resolve that the following shall be the Rules of Procedure governing remote meetings of the States of Deliberation.

B. The Rules of Procedure for remote meetings of the States of Deliberation

- (2) [The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees](#) apply subject to the modifications set out in the following paragraphs.
- (3) The following Rules apply as amended, substituted or as otherwise indicated:
 - **Rule 3: Submission of items to the States**
 - (5) On receipt of an original proposition submitted for consideration by the States the Greffier shall cause it to be published within one working day on the States' website, or as soon as possible thereafter, and in such other form as he or she may determine. The Greffier shall also notify all Members that the item is on the website and send it to them by **electronic means** ~~by the method which the Member has chosen~~. The Greffier shall simultaneously transmit the item to the Presiding Officer and the Policy & Resources Committee **by electronic means** ~~and shall also cause a notice of its title to be posted on the noticeboard in the Royal Court building~~.
 - **Rule 16: Elections**
 - (3) Where, in any election by the States, the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies:
 - (a) voting shall be carried out by ~~secret~~ **electronic ballot, via an e-mail to the Greffier;**
 - **Rule 17: Rules of debate**
 - (5) When a Member wishes to be called to speak in the course of ordinary debate the Member shall ~~stand in his or her place~~ **notify the Presiding Officer via electronic communications or telecommunications** and wait to be called to speak by the Presiding Officer. ~~A Member who is not standing shall not be called to speak, except in the circumstances described in paragraph (7).~~
- (11) A Member may interrupt another Member who is addressing a Meeting only:
 - (a) on a point of order; or
 - (b) on a point of correction, in respect of an inaccurate or misleading statement made by that other Member;

and shall do so ~~standing and calling~~ **by notifying the Presiding Officer via electronic communications or telecommunications stating, "Point of Order" or "Point of**

Correction”, as the case may be, and waiting to be invited to speak further by the Presiding Officer.

(15) A Member who has a direct or special interest in the subject matter of a proposition submitted to a Meeting at which he or she is present, or who is aware that his or her spouse, co-habiting partner, infant child or any company in which he or she has a controlling interest on his or her, or their, behalf has such an interest, shall, without prejudice to the requirements of Rule 29:

- (a) before he or she speaks on the proposition; or
- (b) if he or she does not speak, before a vote is taken on the proposition, **by confirming this to the Greffier via electronic communications or telecommunications. The Greffier must inform the Presiding Officer of any interests so declared and the Presiding Officer will invite Members to disclose these interests immediately prior to the vote.**

- **Rule 24: Secondary propositions - amendments, sursis, etc.**

- (1) Any Member who intends to lay before the States a secondary proposition shall submit it to the Greffier **at least 24 hours prior to commencement of the Meeting** and it must state the names of the proposer and seconder, and it can include a brief explanatory note. A supporting report may be attached to the secondary proposition at the time of submission. As soon as possible thereafter, the Greffier shall cause it to be published on the States’ website ~~and in such other form as he or she shall determine~~ and shall circulate it simultaneously to the Presiding Officer and all Members of the States **by electronic means. If the secondary proposition was submitted to the Greffier by 15.00 on the day preceding the seventh clear day before the Meeting (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays), the Greffier shall circulate it in the way the Member has requested. If the secondary proposition was submitted between that time and the day of the Meeting the Greffier shall circulate it by electronic means. The Greffier shall provide a paper copy of each secondary proposition, whenever it may have been submitted to him or her, at the start of each Meeting or as soon as practicable if he or she receives it during the Meeting.**

The following paragraph is inserted immediately after section 24(2):-

- (2A) **A Member who proposes to move an amendment or sursis to an urgent proposition shall submit it to the Greffier and it must state the names of the proposer and seconder, and it can include a brief explanatory note. A supporting report may be attached to the secondary proposition at the time of submission. As soon as possible thereafter, the Greffier shall cause it to be published on the States’ website and shall circulate it simultaneously to the Presiding Officer and all Members of the States electronically. The provisions of Rule 24(1) and 24(2) shall not apply in respect of any amendment laid under the provisions of this paragraph.**
- (4) Immediately after an amendment or sursis has been proposed and formally seconded (i.e. before any speech by its seconder or further debate) any Member may request the

Presiding Officer to invite Members who support debate on the amendment or sursis to **indicate this via electronic communications or telecommunications**~~stand in their places~~; neither the Member making that request nor any other may address the Meeting about it; and if fewer than seven Members **indicate such support via electronic communications or telecommunications**~~when so invited~~ the amendment or sursis shall not be debated, and no vote thereon shall be taken.

- (6) An amendment which goes further than the original proposition shall not, on that account, be ruled out of order, but a motion **submitted by electronic means** that the amendment be not debated and no vote be taken thereon may be laid only immediately after the amendment has been proposed and formally seconded (i.e. before any speech by its seconder or further debate) and shall have effect if supported by a majority of the Members voting on the motion.

- **Rule 26: Closure and voting**

- (2) A Member may vote only **by means of electronic communication or telecommunications**~~from his or her seat in the States' Chamber~~ (except where the Member has been issued with a certificate by the Presiding Officer to vote by proxy). In presidential elections where there are two or more candidates, a Member may vote by means **of electronic communications or telecommunications**~~only from a seat in the States' Chamber. Immediately before announcing his or her vote in a division (appel nominal), a Member must switch on his or her microphone and switch it off again immediately after he or she has voted.~~

- (4) The following Rules shall not apply:

- **Rule 5: Seating arrangements**

The Presiding Officer shall determine the seating arrangements in the States' Chamber. Before doing so he or she shall consult the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee on the matter.

- **Rule 7: Opening of Meetings, etc.**

- (1) If His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor decides to attend a Meeting, the Sheriff shall escort him into the States' Chamber and announce him.

- **Rule 8: Order**

- (2) While the States are in session Members shall not have any communication with a person in the public gallery.

- (3) The Presiding Officer shall be assisted in the preservation of order by the Sheriff and the Sergeant.

- (7) If on any occasion the Presiding Officer considers that the conduct of a Member is grossly disorderly or offensive he or she shall forthwith put the following proposition in relation to the said Member, namely –

“That (naming the said Member) be suspended from the service of the States”, and no debate on or amendment to any such proposition shall be permitted. If the proposition is carried, the Member suspended shall be directed forthwith by the Presiding Officer to withdraw from the Meeting and leave the precincts of the States’ Chamber, and any such suspension shall continue to have effect until the close of the business of the Meeting on the day on which such suspension was imposed.

- **Rule 17: Rules of debate**

(12) A Member who wishes to make an interjection relevant to the point being made by the Member speaking may do so if the Member speaking agrees to give way. The Member speaking should at all times be aware that another Member may wish to interject. The Member speaking may, in his or her discretion, refuse to give way. A Member wishing to make the interjection shall so signify by standing and remaining silent until the Member speaking either gives way or refuses to give way. When a request to give way has been refused the Member standing shall resume his or her seat immediately.

(14) Where a Member is speaking in accordance with paragraphs (11) or (12), the Member who had been speaking until the interruption or interjection shall resume his seat and shall not stand again until the Member making the interruption or interjection has resumed his seat.

- **Rule 26: Closure and voting**

(1) A Member who has not already spoken in the debate, otherwise than in pursuance of Rule 17(3), (11) or (12), may at any time (but without interrupting another Member who is addressing the Meeting) request the Presiding Officer to close a debate on any matter (including an amendment or a sursis). Neither the Member making that request nor any other may address the Meeting about it. Members who would be entitled to speak and who would intend to speak should the debate continue shall be invited by the Presiding Officer to stand in their places, and thereafter the Presiding Officer shall ask the Member making the request to close the debate whether he or she still so requests, and if he or she does still so request the Presiding Officer shall put the said request to the vote and if the majority of the Members voting support it then (except that the President, Policy & Resources Committee shall be entitled to comment on any financial implications, if he or she has not already done so, and subject to Rules 17(2), 24(7) or 28(3)), the debate shall be closed, and (subject to Rule 27) the matter shall be put to the vote.