

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
45TH Annual National Convention
San Jose, CA
July 9-12, 2014

STANDING RULES – 2014
As Amended and Approved on July 10, 2014

Rules of Procedure

1. The meeting of this convention shall be conducted pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of JACL and the rules of procedure (a.k.a.: Standing Rules) adopted by the National Council.
2. The parliamentary authority which shall govern in all cases not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, or Standing Rules adopted by the National Council shall be *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 10th Edition, October 2000*.
 - a. Advisory: RULES THAT CANNOT BE SUSPENDED – Rules contained in the Bylaws (or Constitution) cannot be suspended – no matter how large the vote in favor of doing so or how inconvenient the rule in question may be – unless the particular rule specifically provides for its own suspension, or unless the rule properly is in the nature of a rule of order as described in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 10th Edition, page 17, lines 22-24. Rules that embody *fundamental principles of parliamentary law*, such as the rule that allows only one question to be considered at a time, cannot be suspended. Rules *protecting absentees or a basic right of the individual member* cannot be suspended, even by unanimous consent or an actual unanimous vote. See generally, RONR (10th ed.), p.254, l. 28-p.256, l. 11.
3. Any dispute regarding parliamentary procedure shall be decided by the Presiding Officer in consultation with the Parliamentarian. Parliamentary questions decided by the Presiding Officer are final, subject to appeal.
4. There shall be no smoking during the meetings of the National Council. Ten-minute breaks shall occur during every 90 minutes of the meeting and smoking is allowed outside of the building.

National Council

5. The National Council shall consist of two official delegates from each of the chartered Chapters in good standing and the District Youth/Representative from each District. JACL Constitution, Art. VII, § 1; JACL Bylaws, Art. II, §§ 2-3.
6. The quorum necessary to conduct business shall be a simple majority of the chartered Chapters in good standing and the District Youth/Student Representatives, provided that the quorum represents the majority present at

roll call, irrespective of whether some may have departed. RONR (10th ed.), p. 335, l. 7-11.

7. Any dispute regarding the qualifications of chapters or delegates shall be decided by the Credentials Committee, whose determination shall be final, subject only to appeal to an Elections Committee (consisting of the National Credentials Chairperson, the Nominations Chairperson, and the Parliamentarian) and to the National Council.
8. Official delegates having to leave a National Council session may designate an active member to proxy with no additional fees, provided Convention fees have been paid by the leaving delegate, and that the proxy is another official delegate or alternate delegate. Such proxies shall be in writing, signed by the Chapter President or delegate and dated, and shall include whatever restriction and instructions the chapter deems necessary and proper under the circumstances, and provided that the chapters represented by proxy shall have paid the minimum National Convention Proxy fee. No active member shall hold more than three (3) proxies. The proxy holder as having accepted the restrictions and instructions on the proxy shall sign the proxy. JACL Bylaws, Art. V, § 4.

Floor Debate

9. All speakers must be recognized by the President or by the chair before obtaining the floor.
10. For purposes of debate, the chair shall recognize *only* members of the National Council, i.e., official delegates or, in their physical absence, alternate delegates or proxies.
11. For purposes of debate, members of the National Board and National Council or any member of the organization in good standing may speak on each motion, provided, however, that if the speaker is not a member of the National Council or National Board, the speaker shall first secure the approval and sponsorship of an official delegate before seeking recognition from the chair. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any past National President shall be permitted to speak on any motion pending before the National Council.
12. For purposes of debate, the chair shall recognize members of the National Council or the National Board or other recognized speakers, alternately between proponents and opponents of each motion.
13. With the exception of seconding a motion or for those parliamentary exceptions stated within the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, a delegate may only speak from the floor at a designated microphone and only after he or she is recognized by the presiding Chair. Any other speaking is out of order.

14. Once a motion is stated, seconded, and presented for debate by the presiding Chair, the maker of the motion will have the first opportunity to speak.
15. Debate must be confined to the merits of the pending question. Speakers are to address their remarks to the presiding chair, maintain a courteous tone, and should avoid voicing any personal notes in the debate. A speaker may not attack or make any allusions to the motives of members.
16. After a motion has been resolved, any objection thereto is waived.

Floor Debate – Time Limits

17. For purposes of debate, members of the National Council or National Board may speak no longer than **FIVE MINUTES** on each motion, unless an extension is granted by vote of the National Council. Such permission can be given by unanimous consent or by means of a motion to *Extend the Limits of Debate*, which requires two-thirds vote without debate. If a member yields the floor before speaking his full five minutes, the remaining time is waived. If a speaker yields to another member for a question (i.e., *Point of Information*), the time consumed by the question is charged to the speaker. RONR (10th ed.), p. 375, l.20-p. 376, l. 18 (as modified by these Standing Rules).
18. Presentation and debate of each Resolution and Amendment will be limited to **20**
 - a. **MINUTES** maximum unless a subsidiary motion to *Limit or Extend Limits of Debate* are adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Council. RONR (10th ed.), p. 378, l. 21 – 379, l. 21.
19. The maker of a motion to *Limit or Extend Limits of Debate*, must specify the number of minutes they would like the debated limited or extended. This motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and requires a two-thirds vote from the National Council to pass. RONR (10th ed.) p. 183, l. 17 – p. 185, l. 25.
20. Presentation of matters not included in the Order of Business, adopted by the National Council or National Board, shall be subject to time limitations as the National Council shall determine.

Resolutions

21. Resolutions rejected by the Resolutions Committee may be placed on the floor on the approval of a simple majority of the National Council present provided that all submission requirements for resolutions have been satisfied other than deadline dates.
22. Resolutions recommended by the Resolutions Committee for placement on the

Consent Calendar shall be removed from the Consent Calendar upon written petition to the Chair by any five (5) delegates from five (5) different chapters. Resolutions removed from the Consent Calendar by petition shall be considered in the same manner as all other Resolutions.

Constitution and Bylaws

23. Bylaw Amendments rejected by the Constitution and Bylaws ~~Resolutions~~ Committee may be placed on the floor on the approval of a simple majority of the National Council present provided that all submission requirements for Bylaw Amendments have been satisfied other than deadline dates. A two-thirds majority of the Chapters present at the National Council meeting roll call as revised shall be necessary to amend the bylaws. JACL Bylaws, Art. XII, § 4. Voting requirements based on the number present at roll call that abstention votes have the same effect as a negative vote. RONR (10th ed.), p. 390, l. 13-24.
24. Constitutional Amendments rejected by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee may be placed on the floor on the approval of two-thirds of the National Council provided that all submission requirements for Constitutional Amendments have been satisfied other than deadline dates. A three-fourths majority of the Chapters present at the National Council meeting roll call as revised shall be necessary to amend the Constitution. JACL Bylaws, Art. XII, § 3. Voting requirements based on the number present at roll call that abstention votes have the same effect as a negative vote. RONR (10th ed.), p. 390, l. 13-24.

Amendments

25. Amendments to Resolutions or Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws that are made during the National Council session and that are in excess of five (5) words must be submitted in writing with duplicate originals or by compact disk or USB flash drive to the Chair of the Resolutions or Amendments committee and to the National staff.

Elections

26. Each Chapter and District Youth/Student Representative certified by the Credentials Committee shall receive a ballot for the election of the National Officers. Ballots will be collected by roll call to establish the number of chapters present. Majority vote of the National Council present at roll call shall determine the outcome of the election. If no candidate has a majority of the votes of the National Council after the first ballot, as may happen if there are more than two nominees, the balloting will be repeated for that office as many times as necessary to obtain a majority vote for a single candidate. The same is true where two candidates tie for a majority vote for an office. When repeated balloting for an office is necessary, the names of all nominees are kept on the ballot. The nominee receiving the lowest number of votes is never removed from

the next ballot unless that nominee withdraws. RONR (10th ed.), p. 426, l. 27 – p. 427, l.31.

If the National Council fails to elect the authorized number of Board Members, a vacancy in the National Board shall be deemed to exist. In such an occurrence, the President shall appoint active members of the organization to all vacancies among the elective officers of the Board, such appointments to be approved by the National Board. Appointees shall serve until the next election. If the vacancy is in the Office of the President, the order of succession will be as follows: Vice President of General Operations, Vice President of Public Affairs, Vice President for Planning and Development, Vice President for One Thousand Club, Membership and Services, and Secretary/Treasurer. The successor President shall appoint an active member to fill the vacancy resulting from the succession, subject to JACL Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3, subdivision c., paragraph (1). Any vacancy not filled by the Board may be elected by an election by written consent of a majority of the chapters. JACL Bylaws, Art. VI, §3.

27. The National Youth/Student Council Chairperson and Representative will be elected by the National Youth/Student Council having one vote for each district and one vote for the National Council.
28. The National Youth/Student Representative shall be elected by the National Youth/Student Council with its one vote and one collective National Council vote. The collective National Council vote shall be determined by simple majority of votes by chapters present at the national convention. JACL Constitution, Art.X, Sec.3.