

STANDING ORDER B2: THE FORMS OF THE HOUSE

(a) All remarks not to speakers should be addressed to the Chair.

(b) No Member should refer to another Member by their name, but as "The Honourable Member" or "The Honourable Member from - College"; or, in the case of Officers or Ex-Officers, as "The Honourable -".

(c) If the Chair interrupts proceedings with their bell, all Members, except the one speaking at the despatch box, should resume their seats.

(d) There are three legitimate forms of interruption - Procedural Motions, points of order, and points of information.

(i) Points of order and points of information are introduced with the phrase "on a point of order" or "on a point of information" respectively. No other language should be used, including phrases such as "On that point" which is unclear.

(ii) Procedural Motions must be moved in accordance with the Rules.

(iii) Points of order must refer to the order of the debate, and should be introduced to draw the Chair's attention to an abuse of or failure to abide by the Rules or Standing Orders e.g. interjections from the gallery, or slanderous remarks from the speaker which the Member wishes to be withdrawn. Such points take automatic precedence in the proceedings.

(iv) Points of information must be literally points of information, and not just expressions of opinion. A Member wishing to raise such a point should rise in their seat, and wait until the speaker at the despatch box gives way. If the speaker does not wish to give way, the Member must resume their seat. Theoretically no two Members may be on their feet at once. Shouted interruptions are not allowed, although cries of "order" are permitted to draw the speaker's attention to a Member wishing to raise a point of information, whom they may not have seen. The speaker is never under any obligation to give way to interruptions.

(e) Booing or hissing a speaker is both a grave and a pointless discourtesy, and an abuse of the Forms of the House. Interrupting a speaker is a discourtesy, and repeated interruptions are an abuse of the forms of the House. Cries of "order" may be used to draw attention to abuses of the Forms of the House which the Chair may not have seen.

(f) Paper Speakers will be told in advance the time allocated to them, and should observe this with the aid of warning from the Secretary.

(g) Members should always appreciate that visiting speakers are entitled to a quiet hearing, but in the interests of debate guest speakers are always open to challenge on points of information. Members are reminded that speakers who come down are usually very busy people who come as a favour to the Society and are hence entitled to the courtesy which one would normally extend to a guest in one's home.

(h) Members are reminded that they should not bring food or drink into, nor should they communicate with mobile phones or smoke in the Chamber at any time.

(i) On all points of procedure the Returning Officer or an Ex-Returning Officer may advise the Chair if necessary.

(j) Interpretation of the Forms of the House rests with the Chair while they act as Chair.