

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

STANDING ORDERS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

The standing orders for General Meetings of the Society are intended as a guide to good practice and will normally only need to be referred to in case of dispute.

1 Selection of Chairman

The Chairman of the Society shall preside at the meeting. In his or her absence, the Executive Committee shall choose another person to preside.

2 Minutes

At an Annual General Meeting the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any subsequent Extraordinary General Meeting shall be put to the meeting and approved as a correct record before matters arising out of the Minutes are considered by the meeting. The Minutes of General Meetings shall be circulated to members beforehand.

3 Reports

Any Executive Committee report shall be presented by a member of that Committee and its adoption shall be moved and seconded before it is discussed. The meeting may vote to refer back a report or any part of it, but may not amend it. If members regard an Executive Committee report unacceptable because of the need for minor corrections, it can be accepted subject to the identified amendments being made.

4 Motions and Amendments

Amendments to a properly proposed and seconded motion shall be proposed, discussed and voted upon in reverse order unless the Chairman advises that two or more amendments be amalgamated. The meeting may agree by simple majority that the amalgamated amendment be considered. When all amendments have been considered the amended motion shall be put to a vote.

5. Speeches

Every member shall address all his or her remarks to the Chair. The Chairman at his or her discretion may limit the number of times a member speaks on any proposition or amendment.

6. Right of Reply

The mover of the original motion has the right to speak once on each amendment to his or her motion. He or she also has the right to reply to the debate, but may not introduce any new matter. Once the motion as amended has been put from the Chair no further motion or discussion shall be allowed until the vote has been taken.

7 Points of Order or Information

Any member wishing to raise a point of order or information must first obtain the permission of the Chairman, and should do so immediately the alleged breach has occurred.

8 Withdrawal of Propositions

An original motion, an amendment, or an amended motion may be withdrawn with the agreement of the majority of the meeting. The proposal to withdraw it may be made by the original proposer, or another member.

9 Closing Debate

A member who has not previously spoken on a motion, seconded by another member who has not spoken on it, may seek closure to the debate by

- a. moving that the meeting proceed to next business. If such a motion is carried the debate will cease without a vote;.
- b. moving that the question be put straightaway. If such motion is carried the original motion shall be put to a vote with no further debate.

No speeches shall be allowed on a closure motion, and acceptance is at the discretion of the Chairman. If a closure motion is lost, the debate shall continue as if the closure motion had not been made and no further motion to close the debate may be moved until five minutes have elapsed.

10 Voting

Voting shall be by show of hands. The Chairman shall declare the results or rule that a count be taken by the tellers; a count by tellers can be called for by a minimum of five members. While a count is being taken no member may leave or enter the room except in emergency.

11 Chairman's Ruling

If the Chairman rises to call a member to order, or for any other reason connected with the proceedings, the member speaking at the time shall thereon cease to speak, and no other person shall speak until the Chairman confirms that the debate can continue. The ruling of the Chairman on any question under the Standing Orders, or on points of order or information, shall be final, unless challenged by the votes of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

12 Suspension of standing orders

The Chairman, at his or her discretion, may accept a motion for the suspension of one or more of the Standing Orders. The motion shall require the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at the time of voting.

APPROVED BY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON29th November. 2008

SIGNEDRoger Sturge..... CHAIRMAN