Ohio PTA 2021 Proposed Convention Rules

The Convention delegate body approves the special rules governing the conduct of business that are not otherwise provided in the Bylaws or in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised. The order of precedence of authority is:

1. Bylaws of the Ohio PTA Board of Directors;
2. Convention Rules; and

As this year’s Convention will be held virtually, additional rules have been formulated to address the special requirements to conduct business.

The following are the Proposed Convention Rules:

1. Each attendee is responsible for their electronic connection, no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss, or poor quality, or an attendee’s individual connection prevented him or her from participating in the meeting or workshop.
2. Admission to the Convention shall be limited to persons who are registered delegates provided with links to Meeting and Workshop Sessions, and staff and other guests with specific session roles.
3. Quorum: According to the Ohio PTA Bylaws, Article XV, Ohio PTA Convention, Section 6: “Seventy-five voting members registered for convention, representing at least five districts, shall constitute a quorum.” The presence of a quorum shall be verified through the Credentials Report which shall be presented at each General Session of the Convention.
4. All participating attendees should mute themselves unless speaking.
5. The chair may direct the disconnection or muting of an attendee’s connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting.
6. Individual attendees shall not record any session or workshop. All General Sessions (business meetings) will be recorded to assist with the taking of minutes. The recording will be deleted after the minutes have been approved according to the Ohio PTA Standing Rules, after review and corrections are made by a committee appointed by the Chair.
7. Only delegates and those authorized by the Chair or the delegate body may address the Convention.
Ohio PTA 2021 Proposed Convention Rules

8. To seek recognition by the chair, a member will type in the chat box the purpose for which recognition is being sought or the intention to speak for or against the pending motion. Prior to addressing the convention body, the delegate should clearly state their name, city, and name of the PTA unit or council they represent. Requests for information and Parliamentary inquiries shall be given priority recognition in the chat box.

9. Delegates are to submit all requests for motions in the chat box (MOVE in the Chat Box).

10. A motion will be assumed to have a second unless a member challenges the presence of a second using the chat feature. (CHALLENGE in the Chat Box) Once debate has begun on a question, the presence of a challenge may no longer be made.

11. A delegate will speak no more than two minutes at any one time on any question under debate. A delegate will speak no more than twice on the same question. A delegate cannot speak for the second time until all delegates seeking recognition have had the opportunity to speak for the first time.

12. Members wishing to make the interrupting motions, Point of Order and Appeal from the Decision of the Chair may unmute their microphones for that purpose. No other motions will be allowed to interrupt.

13. A timekeeper will verbally interrupt a delegate when that member has exhausted their individual debate time limit, or when the time limit for the overall debate on a motion has been reached.

14. Only registered accredited delegates representing a local PTA Unit or Council and members of the Ohio PTA Board of Directors may vote.

15. Votes shall be taken by unanimous consent or the polling feature of the meeting service, unless a different method is ordered by the Board or required by the rules. The chair’s announcement of the voting result shall include the number of members voting on each side of the question and the number, if any, who explicitly respond to acknowledge their presence without casting a vote. Business may also be conducted by unanimous consent, i.e., “if there is no objection”.

16. Attendees who cannot use the polling feature will not be able to cast anonymous votes but may waive the anonymity of the vote and announce their vote.
17. The Chat Box is to be used only for Ohio PTA business as follows:
   a. All motions are to be entered in the Chat Box preceded by the word “MOVE”
   b. Those wishing to speak in favor of a motion will preface their comment by the word “PRO”
   c. Those wishing to speak against a motion will preface their comment by the word “CON”
   d. Only announcements that relate to the business of the Convention or the welfare of the participants shall be made during sessions

19. The Convention shall act on any Bylaws amendments recommended by the Board of Directors, previous notice provided. Adoption of proposed Bylaws amendments requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

20. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

   Ohio PTA Bylaws, Article VII, Nominations and Elections, Section 3. “The officers, except President, the Directors, and District Advisors shall be elected by ballot at the annual convention in odd numbered years by the voting body. A majority vote shall elect. When there is only one candidate for an office, the election may be held by voice vote.”

   To facilitate a secure and transparent election, the Board of Directors has authorized the use of a secure online voting platform, Election Buddy, to facilitate the election of the 2021/23 Board of Directors. Ballots will be electronically mailed to all verified delegates registered for the annual convention by Friday, June 4, 2021. Electronic voting will open on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 9 a.m. and will close on June 11, 2021, at 9 p.m. Election results will be announced at General Session II, Saturday, June 12, 2021.

21. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: An emergency resolution may be brought before the convention provided that:
   1. The necessity for the emergency resolution has occurred after the resolution deadline.
Ohio PTA 2021 Proposed Convention Rules

2. The emergency resolution is in harmony with the PTA Purposes and Basic Policies, and is accompanied by documented background information.

3. The emergency resolution is presented to the presiding officer prior to the first general meeting of the convention. All criteria having been met, the resolution chairman will introduce it for consideration.

4. A two-thirds affirmative vote of delegates present and voting must be obtained before the emergency resolution will be considered.