

Western Model United Nations

Conference Policies



MANDATE

The Western Model United Nations Society strives to foster interest amongst students in the areas of politics, international relations, public speaking, humanitarian efforts, negotiation and diplomacy. Western Model UN is committed to providing structured forums to facilitate constructive discourse through Model UN conferences and other events, and actively encourages a diversity of viewpoints.

SCOPE

These conference policies govern all conferences hosted by Western Model United Nations and apply to Western Model UN club members and non-members alike. The policies enter force during conference sign-in and cease force upon the conclusion of closing ceremonies.

SECRETARIAT

The secretariat holds exclusive operational authority over all conferences hosted by the Western Model United Nations Society. They are responsible for overseeing, interpreting, and implementing the conference's policies. The secretariat is composed of the Secretaries-General and their Under-Secretaries. A member of the secretariat may address any committee at any time. The ruling of a secretariat member of any rule or regulation herein is final and overrides any other ruling or appeal.

AWARDS

Conferences hosted by the Western Model United Nations Society are forums for discussion, not competition. Nonetheless, the secretariat recognizes the importance of acknowledging exceptional delegates who have distinguished themselves during committee sessions by their eloquence, depth of knowledge, and substantial contributions to the committee. To this end, the secretariat has authorized chairs to give 3 awards per committee, to delegates who have demonstrated an aptitude and passion for their role and the activity. Chairs will make award decisions based on the Western Model UN Society's 'Delegate Performance Rubric' found on our website.

FAITHFUL REPRESENTATION OF DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS AND ROLES

Delegates should be fully aware of the foreign policy or diplomatic positions taken by their state or character; without it, they cannot accurately represent their role and the assembly's stimulation will suffer as a result. Should the dais and other delegates feel as though they have seriously deviated from their foreign policy or diplomatic positions, they will be held accountable.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Western Model UN has a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination on grounds including, but not limited to, race, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Although faithful representation and unique viewpoints are actively encouraged, delegates are advised to err on the side of caution when debating or discussing potentially offensive subjects. Personal attacks based on prohibited ground(s), the usage of slurs, or any form of discriminatory harassment within or outside the committee setting is grounds for conference expulsion and possible escalation. *Faithful representation is not an acceptable justification for discriminatory behaviour.*

DRESS

To preserve the decorum of the Assembly, all delegates are required to dress in western business attire or in the tasteful and appropriate national dress of their country. Delegates who fail to comply will be denied admittance into committee. Western Model UN endorses a gender-neutral dress code and leaves it to the discretion of the individual to choose how they would like within the confines of western business attire.

DECORUM

It is imperative that delegates preserve the decorum of the assembly throughout the entire duration of the conference. A quiet, focused committee is more fulfilling to those involved, and much more likely to accomplish the established goals. To help maintain decorum, delegates are asked to remain in their assigned seats for the duration of the Assembly, and to be respectful of other delegates and staff during debate. Delegates found repeatedly and materially disrupting decorum may be removed from committee.

RESPECT

Delegates, staff, and staff advisors must always all be respectful to one another. The Secretariat exercises a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, discrimination, and/or violence. Should you witness or experience any form of harassment or violence (i.e. verbal, written, sexual, physical), even in committee notes, please reach out to a staff member who will escalate the matter to the secretariat as necessary.

INTOXICATION

Intoxication during a committee session not only disrupts decorum but threatens the well-being and safety of all delegates and staff. Any delegate who is suspected by the secretariat or Dais of being under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or drugs during committee will be expelled from the conference.

BADGES

Delegates, staff, and staff advisors must always wear their badge. If a badge is lost, please inform the chair of your committee, or alert another member of staff.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken at every committee session. Attendance lists will be made available to staff advisors and head delegates by request, and absences may bar delegates from award eligibility. It is imperative that all delegates be in attendance during the entire course of the conference.

STAFF

The secretariat maintains complete confidence in its staff. Should any problems arise in committee, please let a member of the dais know. In the unlikely event that you should have a concern regarding a member of the conference staff, please inform the chair of the committee you are in. If the chair chooses, they may inform the Secretariat of your complaint, after which you will have the opportunity to discuss your concerns with the Secretariat member.

IT POLICY

Please note that neither Western Model United Nations nor Western University is responsible for any loss, theft or damage to personal computers. By default, the use of laptops or personal electronic devices is only permitted outside the committee room, or during an unmoderated caucus. The technical specifications of a committee room or the nature of a specific committee may warrant a deviation from this policy. If this is the case, the IT policy of the committee will be clearly explained by the Dais.

PLAGIARISM AND PRE-WRITTEN MATERIALS

Model United Nations is a forum for original and equitable debate. All position papers are expected to be properly cited, and pre-written resolutions are not allowed in committee. The Dais has the right to confiscate or block any materials they suspect have been written prior to the first committee session.

PUNISHMENT

The Secretariat holds the exclusive and incontestable power to issue conference suspensions or expulsions to delegates who violate Western Model United Nations' conference policies. Committee-level disciplinary decisions may be delegated to the Dais. Should organizational-level disciplinary action or higher be required, it will be overseen by the club President in conjunction with the Secretaries-General.

