

Statement on the RONR Education Framework for Executive Members

30 May 2026

The Office of the President (“the Office”) recognizes that per § 5.1.6. of the International Relations Students' Association (IRSA) *Constitution* bylaws, that Executive Members (EMs) must have working knowledge of and use *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (RONR). The Office also recognizes that IRSA's governance documents direct the use of RONR at Active Member Meetings, but not Auxiliary Member Meetings or Executive Member Meetings, while encouraging the use of RONR at all Association meetings. Finally, the Office recognizes that the IRSA *Constitution* bylaws direct the President to run weekly Executive Councils while training all EMs on RONR (§ 5.1.8.6. and § 5.1.8.7.)

Accordingly, the Office will implement a framework to educate EMs on RONR and apply it at Executive Councils. RONR directs conduct at meetings to grant all participants an equal voice while allowing for efficient decision-making that respects the meeting's agenda. RONR is the most widely used parliamentary procedure across North America, including at all levels of the Canadian government.

Through educating all EMs on RONR, the Office fulfills its mandate for RONR-education; grants EMs the ability to fulfill their mandate for RONR-knowledge/use; ensures EMs have professional parliamentary procedure skills to use past their time in IRSA; aligns IRSA with a gold-standard of governance unique to it out of 350+ AMS Clubs; and empowers EMs to speak up in RONR-mandated meetings such as IRSA General Meetings and AMS/AUS Council Meetings. Through this, the Office fulfills its commitment to flattening EM hierarchy by preventing the President from gatekeeping advocacy behind RONR knowledge. The Office will implement an educational framework which consists of:

- (1) Asynchronous learning materials including videos and summaries;
- (2) Synchronous practice of RONR in Executive Councils, where, as Chair, the President will guide the use of RONR through impromptu education; and
- (3) Evaluative measures where the Presidents will cease use of RONR in cases where it disrupts Executive Councils, results in undue harm to the EMs, or inhibits EMs' mandates.

