

**2025**

## **ACCREDITED DELEGATE INFORMATION**

**(Note: These rules are subject to change and will be voted on by the Delegates at the International Convention prior to any formal business to be conducted)**

### **General Provisions:**

- A. The convention will be composed of accredited delegates.
- B. A delegate is a Member of an Optimist Club in good standing who has registered at the convention and been certified by the Credentials Committee. "Good standing" means the delegate's Club is not in arrears in payment of dues or other financial obligations to Optimist International and the Club's District.
- C. The adoption of the convention rules shall be by a majority of the votes cast by accredited delegates. Subsequently, the convention rules may be amended, suspended or rescinded by two-thirds of the votes cast by accredited delegates.
- D. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases not covered by the Optimist International Bylaws or these Convention Rules.

### **Responsibilities of a Delegate:**

- A. Accredited delegates have the privilege and honor of representing their Club at this Optimist International Convention. This voting privilege is also a solemn duty.
- B. It is the responsibility of each accredited delegate to attend all business sessions of the convention, participate fully by listening, debating the issues within the framework of the convention rules and voting on issues.
- C. The direction of Optimist International for the coming years depends in large part on the measures decided by the delegates to this convention. A failure to meet this responsibility is a failure to represent your constituency.

### **Parliamentary Pointers:**

- A. Subsidiary motions are motions that pertain to the main motion while it is pending.
- B. Most incidental motions arise out of another question that is pending and must be decided before the question out of which they arise is decided.
- C. Before a motion is stated by the chair it may be withdrawn or modified by the maker. After it is stated by the chair it may be withdrawn by majority vote of the assembly and is frequently settled by unanimous consent.
- D. Hasty action may be corrected by use of the motion to reconsider. This motion may be made only by a delegate who voted on the prevailing side. It must be made on the day the vote to be reconsidered was taken or the following day.
- E. To stop debate and force the vote a delegate should obtain the floor and say "I move the previous question." This requires a delegate to second and a two-thirds affirmative vote.
- F. A tie vote on a motion means the motion fails. A tie vote on an appeal sustains the decision of the chair.

- G. If in doubt about any item of business under discussion a delegate may rise to a point of information or parliamentary inquiry. A delegate, without waiting for recognition, may rise and say "Chairperson, I rise for information" or "Chairperson, I rise to a parliamentary inquiry." The Chair will ask the delegate to state their point.
- H. If in doubt about the results of a voice vote as announced by the Chair, a delegate may call for a demonstrated vote. Without waiting for recognition a delegate may rise immediately after the vote is announced and say "Chairperson, I call for a division" or simply call out "Division!" The Chair will initiate a show of voting cards, the results of which can be verified by everyone in attendance. If the results are still in doubt the Chair will initiate a ballot vote.

## CONVENTION RULES

### 1. Voting and Accreditation of Delegates:

- A. Each Optimist Club in good standing with Optimist International shall be entitled to one vote for each 10 members or major fraction thereof based on the membership recorded in the International Office on April 30 immediately prior to the Convention. Clubs organized after this date and prior to the first day of Convention shall be entitled to one vote for each 10 or major fraction of 10 charter members recorded in the International Office.
- B. To be eligible to vote at the Convention delegates must have been accredited. To be accredited a delegate must have registered and paid the registration fee for this Convention, represent a Club in good standing (i.e., all obligations to Optimist International and District paid) and have registered at the Credentials Desk prior to the business sessions.
- C. The number of accredited delegates and votes cast may equal but not exceed the voting strength. Delegates will be accredited by the Credentials Committee.
- D. The Credentials Committee shall report at the first Convention session, at each session thereafter and at such other times as directed by the Chair. The Credentials Committee report will include only those Clubs with properly accredited delegates and may be amended as necessary between business sessions.
- E. An individual holding membership in more than one Optimist Club may be a delegate for each Club provided that individual has complied with the required registration procedure and paid the required registration fee for each Club.
- F. A delegate who is unable to obtain credentials within the normal hours of registration specified in the official convention program may obtain such credentials within a one-hour period preceding the beginning of each business session. **The Credentials Desk will be open (TBD - DATES and HOURS)** Each individual delegate who wishes to participate in the voting must register with the Credentials Desk and obtain appropriate credentials. Credentials will not be available for distribution during a business session. In the event of loss the Credentials Committee may issue duplicate credentials during the times specified.

## **2. Motions and Debate:**

- A. Any convention registrant who is a member of an Optimist Club may speak on any question provided they address the Chair in the prescribed manner, are recognized by the Chair and state their name and Club affiliation.
- B. Only accredited delegates may make or second motions.
- C. No motions will be entertained by the Chair unless seconded and no motion shall be debated until the Chair has restated it. A motion will be placed in writing when so directed by the Chair.
- D. Debate on a given motion will be limited to two minutes per speaker with a limit of 10 speakers, five for each side of an issue. No one may speak a second time on a given motion at the same sitting.
- E. Debate may be limited, extended or ended by a two-thirds vote.
- F. The decision of the Chair is final on all procedural matters. A decision of the Chair may be reversed only upon failure of a vote to sustain the ruling of the Chair.

## **3. Voting:**

- A. The vote on any question before the Convention will be taken immediately following completion of debate, except that votes on questions related to the Resolutions/Governance Committees will be taken at the time specified in the official convention program.
- B. Once voting commences it will not be interrupted except for a restatement of the questions by the Chair.
- C. At the discretion of the Chair a question will be decided by a voice, hand, rising, roll call or ballot vote. To facilitate voting the Chair may require the use of hand-held placards as a substitute for voice, hand or rising votes.
- D. A ballot vote may be ordered by a majority vote of the delegates. For each ballot vote:
  - 1) The Chair will announce the composition and chairperson of a committee of tellers to count the ballots and thereafter declare a recess for at least 15 minutes to permit Clubs to caucus for marking and depositing of ballots.
  - 2) Delegates will caucus as Clubs, decide on the distribution of votes to which the Club is entitled and designate one delegate to mark the ballot reflecting the result of the caucus. A Club entitled to more than one vote may split its votes, except that only whole votes may be cast. Only one ballot per Club reflecting all votes to which the Club is entitled may be cast.
  - 3) At least four ballot boxes with a teller assigned to each box will be available in the business session meeting room for depositing of ballots.
  - 4) At the completion of balloting the committee of tellers will remove the ballot boxes to a designated place, count the votes and tabulate the results. The teller committee chairperson will report the results in writing to the Chair. All ballots will be destroyed immediately after the results of the balloting have been announced by the Chair.
  - 5) A ballot vote once cast may not be changed.

#### **4. Resolutions:**

- A. Only resolutions presented by the Governance/Resolutions Committee will be considered by the Convention. Resolutions declined by the Governance/Resolutions Committee and not presented to the Convention are referred to the President-Designate and Executive Director for consideration.
- B. Rules for debate on resolutions will be as directed by the Chair, generally following those prescribed for questions.
- C. Resolutions will be adopted by majority vote. Resolutions approved by the convention delegates are referred to the International Board of Directors for consideration.
- D. All actions taken on delegate approved resolutions will be communicated to the delegates at the following Convention.

#### **5. Campaigning Protocol:**

- A. Campaigning may take place between any sessions of the International Convention and in the designated candidate campaign area (if provided). No campaigning may take place during any scheduled session sponsored by Optimist International (general sessions, training sessions, breakouts, etc.).
- B. Candidates who serve as Vice Presidents, Officers, Trainers, Board Members; on Optimist International Committees or who are speaking or appearing in front of delegates at any official Optimist function (including but not limited to general sessions, training sessions, workshops and meals) may do so but may not campaign in any way during such a presentation. They shall not wear campaign buttons, stickers or other campaign material and shall refrain from campaigning at such events.
- C. All persons campaigning shall ensure that their campaign/support people are aware of all the requirements of Optimist International Policies and that they will be strictly adhered to before and during the Convention.
- D. As stated by Optimist International Policy and signed by all candidates, literature or material soliciting support of or offering candidates for International or District Office is permissible providing such is in good taste and is of a size small enough to be placed at tables or in the hands of delegates. However, nothing may be fastened to walls or other locations of like nature. Activities regarding any candidacy for International or District Office shall be conducted in a responsible manner consistent with the importance and dignity of the office. Candidates shall limit or cause to be limited all expenditures made by themselves and/or on their behalf to a maximum of \$5000 in cost in promoting their candidacy.