Procedure:

In order to maintain decorum, most Model UN committees use parliamentary procedure derived from Robert's Rules of Order. However most crisis committees forgo the formality of parliamentary procedure so as to ensure smoother operation. In addition, recently the United Nations has spearheaded efforts to introduce new Model UN rules of procedure that are more closely aligned with those used by the actual UN. Since there is no governing body for MUNs, each conference differs in the rules of procedure. The following rules of procedure apply to general MUNs but may not apply to every MUN:

MUNs are run by a group of administrators known as the dais. A dais is headed by a Secretary-General. Each committee usually has a chair (also known as moderator), a member of the dais that enforces the rules of procedure. A delegate may request the committee as a whole to perform a particular action; this is known as a motion. Documents aiming to address the issue of the committee are known as resolutions and are voted for ratification.

MUN committees can be divided into three general sessions: formal debate, moderated caucus, and immoderate caucus. In a formal debate, the staff maintains a list of speakers and the delegates follow the order written on the 'speaker list'. Speakers may be added to the speaker list by raising their placards or sending a note to the chair. During this time, delegates talk to the entire committee. They make speeches, answer questions, and debate on resolutions and amendments. If there are no other motions, the committee goes back to formal debate by default. There is usually a time limit. In a moderated caucus, the committee goes into a recess and the rules of procedure are suspended. Anyone may speak if recognized by the chair. A vote on a motion is necessary to go into a moderated caucus. There is a comparatively shorter time limit per speech. In an immoderate caucus, the delegates informally meet with other delegates and the staff for discussions.[18][20]

Resolutions are the basis of all debate. They are considered the final results of conversations, writings, and negotiations. Resolutions must go through a draft, approval by the dais, and consequent debate and modification.

Committees:

The number of possible committees in Model UN is very large, limited only by the creativity and vision of conference organizers. In spite of differences in type and topic, most all committees share a few common characteristics. An example of this would be a dais (also known as a committee staff), which facilitates the smooth running of a committee. A dais is headed by a chair and/or director who presides over the committee, maintaining decorum, ensuring delegates follow the established procedures in committee, and guiding delegates through the resolution or directive-writing process. Another example of a common characteristic would be note passing, which allows delegates to discreetly communicate with one another and the dais during debate. Committees in Model United Nations can be divided into a variety of categories, based on

how they are run (traditional committees and crisis committees),

when they occur (historical, contemporary, and futuristic committees),

whether or not they are based on the real world (realistic and fantastical committees),

who the principal actors are (countries, country subdivisions, organizations, or individuals),

their powers (executive, legislative, judicial, etc.), and

their area of focus (political, economic, social, etc.)

their size (large, medium, small, etc.)

Committees at Model UN conferences can simulate a variety of bodies. From the more commonly simulated six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Security Council, to corporate executive boards and national cabinets, Model UN committees reflect the diversity of the delegates who participate in them.[citation needed]

General Assembly committees (such as DISEC, SPECPOL, and ECOFIN)

Other UN bodies (such as the Security Council, the ICJ, and ECOSOC)

Regional bodies (such as organs of NATO, the OAS, or the EU)

Model United Nations committees may be modern, historical, futuristic, or fantastical.

A special committee that does not have a parallel in the actual United Nations which deals with a crisis is known as a 'Crisis Committee.' In this committee, a crisis is given to a team of students and the teams must come up with solutions. The Crisis Committee focuses on a single historical event. The event may be fictional or non-fictional.

How to prepare:

JHMUN prides itself on having a well-trained volunteer staff, superior resources, and assistance to delegates

before and during each conference, the quality of these conferences is largely contingent

on the preparation of the delegates.

The key to being a successful JHMUN delegation is thorough preparation. There are six

steps that should be taken before the Conference. It is our suggestion that the six main

areas of study be addressed in the following order, as each area is progressively more

in-depth than the one listed before:

• Research the structure and history of the United Nations

• Research your assigned Member State or non-governmental organization

• Research your committee

• Research your role in the committee

• Research the agenda topics beyond what is written in the background guides

• Prepare a position paper outlining your Member State’s policies towards the

agenda topics

Resources:

Both background guides and Updates should be only viewed as a stepping-stone to

begin research. Individual research is indispensable. We recommend extensive use of

academic books, scholarly journals, newspaper articles, and official documents or other

literature provided by bodies associated with the United Nations. Access to many UN

documents and resolutions is available on the UN treaty database ( or via college or law

school libraries or on the internet.