

#offtopia law guide

This document is merely a summary of the most important laws helpful for everyday activity.

1 Terminology

- **law:** A passed proposal. A proposal requires three contiguous votes by unique non-bot members of the channel to be passed.

Laws need not effect active behavior on the channel, and can be passed because of Rule of Funny.

- **malcompliance:** The act of complying in the worst possible manner. Or, as the Finnish define it, “following the letter of the law while pissing on the spirit”.

Examples:

“Hey could you test sortix?” “test -f sortix.iso # Yep. It’s a file.”

“Hey, can you give me some water?” “You mean aqua?” “...sure.” *gives aqua fortis*

- **filibuster:** Anything that is sent on the channel, and can stop a law from being passed, is known as a filibuster. This is line in with the literal meaning, “obstructs progress in a legislative assembly”.
- **proposal:** Anything that can filibuster can be a proposal.
- **new ancient law:** A law that has always been true, but was only recently discovered and legislated.
- **lawrememberer:** The person responsible for maintaining the lawlist, currently ‘nortti’.
- **lawspeaker:** The person who interprets and clarifies the law, currently ‘nortti’.
- **triminority:** The three required to pass a law. Can be used to refer to an actual group, or a hypothetical group.
- **triumvirate:** People who are more active with channel work, and have additional rights with ChanServ. Currently consists of ‘FireFly’, ‘heddwch’, ‘meowrobot’, ‘nortti’, ‘puckipedia’, ‘shikhin’, ‘sortie’, ‘vehk’, and ‘ybden’.
- **vote:** Anything described under ‘Voting.Syntaxen’.

2 Voting

2.1 Basics

At every moment, there is an active proposal and a vote count.

If a vote that doesn’t refer to the current active proposal is cast, the active proposal changes to the new proposal, and the vote count resets to 0. A filibuster sets the active proposal to itself and resets the vote count to 0.

A vote increments the vote count by 1 after change of proposal (if required).

When the vote count reaches 3, the active proposal becomes a law.

2.2 Syntaxen

There are several different kinds of syntaxes for voting on laws. They're all based on the original syntax of `:D`, with various modifications.

- `:D`

The most basic form. Votes for the current active proposal.

- `:D~N`

Votes N proposals back. Is 0-indexed, so `:D~0` is equivalent to `:D`.

- `:D^ :D^^ :D^^^ ...`

Equivalent to `:D~N`, where N is the number of '^'s.

- `:D~mathematical expression`

If the mathematical expression, or its modulus, is a non-negative integer, say N, then it is equivalent to `:D~N`. Otherwise, it is an invalid vote.

- `:D~kick`

Refers to last kick. Can only be used right after a kick, or a kick followed by a join by the kicked person.

- `nick: :D, nick: :D~N, nick: :D^, nick: :D~mathematical expression`

Same as without the `nick:` prefix, but instead refer to the relevant proposal made by 'nick'. `nick,` can be used instead of `nick: .`

2.3 What counts as a filibuster/proposal?

- Filibustering messages *are* proposals, *unless* they're sent by bots to explain something in the previous message (e.g. title bot, automatic translation) *or* they begin with `nolog:` or `[nolog]`.
- Bot messages sent as a response to direct command (e.g. program evaluation, non-automatic translation) *are* proposals.
- Bot messages that are generally to be ignored in the legislative process (e.g. title bot, automatic translation) *are* proposals *if* intended to disrupt.
- Notices are treated like messages (except they can't be used to vote).
- Nick changes *are not* proposals, *unless* they are a direct response to something in channel *or* are disruptive.
- Kicks and mode changes *are* proposals.
- Joins *are not* proposals, *unless* it is a first join *or* intended to disrupt.
- Parts and quits *are not* proposals, *unless* intended to disrupt.
- Special behaviour: valid votes with `:D:` or `D:` substituted for `:D` can *not* act as proposals. These messages still filibuster.

3 Behaving

- <https://gitlab.com/sortie/mmmm/blob/master/mmmm.txt> (MMMM). A collection of rules and guidelines that evolved from horrors that won't be mentioned here; currently in helpful form. By new ancient law, MMMM is lawful.
- Calling women subhuman; making racist, homophobic, or transphobic comments; calling people with disabilities leeches and subhuman; telling people with mental illnesses to kill themselves; or other comparable acts are to be prohibited by punishment of ban, except in cases of clear sarcasm.
- Mark NSFW content. Linked NSFW content should be marked, preferably with `NSFW` or `[NSFW]`.
- Do not kick idlers.
Idlers are defined as people whose last activity has been 5 minutes ago (where activity implies messages or nick changes as a response to something in the channel), or who have marked themselves away (e.g. by `bb1`).
- Avoid funkicking. 'Funkicking' is where you kick someone just for fun, or for some insignificant reason. Exception to this is if the person you're 'funkicking' does not mind the fun kick.

4 Logs

- There is a public log that logs the last hundred lines of the channel, except those that begin with `begin` with `nolog:` or `[nolog]`.
- Publishing channel logs otherwise without explicit agreement from the channel is prohibited.
- The gopher server serving the public logs is allowed to collect IPs, requested paths, and user agents of connecting users; these are not retained for over a month except in cases of abuse.

5 Additional stuff

- In cases where there is disagreement on whether something passed, the lawrememberer's point of view is used.
- The person who opens the vote on a proposal must provide the law to lawrememberer, if requested to do so.
- Zero-width spaces in votes are to be ignored.
- It is a good custom to vote on one's own proposal last.