

Formulating a motion for Fans' Parliament

This is not an attempt to teach grandmothers to suck eggs, merely an attempt to avoid certain problems which have complicated debate in past years. Motions to Fans' Parliament are the means by which Federation policies are defined or refined and both affiliates and individual members are encouraged to submit proposals on matters which they feel are absent from our current campaigns and representation to the authorities, or on matters on which existing policy needs to be refined.

Validity of Motions

To be accepted for debate, motions must have both a proposer and seconder, both of whom will be invited to the rostrum to speak on the matter. Proposals from clubs and individuals not already represented on National Council are particularly welcome. Ideally, to show our country-wide constituency, proposer and seconder should be from different Divisions but proposals from within the same Division or from an affiliate and seconded by an individual member from within that same affiliate will be equally acceptable.

Wording of Motions

1. Motions will normally commence (though see 4 below) with the words :
"Federation proposes" "Federation recommends ...", "Federation rejects",
"Federation notes" or similar wording appropriate to what follows. In each case "Fans' Parliament" is an equally acceptable alternative to "Federation".
2. The motion should continue to express, in the simplest form possible, what it is seeking to achieve.
3. Where a motion commences with the words "Federation (or Fans' Parliament) notes" there should follow a summary of the situation it is seeking to address. Having set that out, the motion should then continue to propose what remedial or follow-up action is required of Federation to change that situation.
4. Whilst some background to what is being proposed is sometimes necessary it should be set out as briefly as possible. The place to go into detail about the current situation, and why it is considered unacceptable, is at the rostrum in proposing the motion. Any background included should precede the main thrust of the motion which should then follow as proposed in 1 above.
5. Motions should ideally only request a single action, or define a single policy. Unless they are inextricably linked or mutually consequential, multiple actions/policies in the same motion risk rejection of the whole because the "electorate" may wish to vote "For" one part and "Against" others.

Timescale

The sooner items for debate are submitted centrally the better so that they can be publicised to the whole membership. Affiliate delegates to Fans' Parliament should

ideally have ample opportunity to consult within their own club on matters on which they are subsequently going to vote.

Early submission also provides the Agenda Committee the chance to consult with members where motions with a similar aim have been independently submitted, with a view either to modify their emphasis to make them distinct from each other or, alternatively, to composite them into a wording acceptable to both parties.

Where events in football occur after the declared deadline for the acceptance of motions onto the agenda, provision exists within the Bye-Laws for an emergency motion to be added for debate on the day of Fans' Parliament.