YOUTH PARLIAMENT

OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

Rules of Procedure & Rules of Engagement

THEME

The Importance, Restoration and Effective Functioning of Student Unions in Pakistani Universities

Duration: 90 Minutes
Format: Parliamentary Debate and Policy Deliberation
Venue: Pak-China Friendship Centre

Session Overview

Theme: The Importance, Restoration and Effective Functioning of Student Unions in Pakistani Universities.

Duration	90 Minutes
Format	Parliamentary Debate and Policy Deliberation
Participants	Student Representatives from Various Universities
Venue	Pak-China Friendship Centre

1. Purpose and Objectives

The Youth Parliament aims to provide a representative platform for students from different universities to deliberate on the importance, restoration, and effective functioning of student unions in Pakistan.

Each participating student shall represent their respective university and contribute to the discussion by presenting the institutional perspective, identifying student-related challenges, and proposing practical solutions.

The objectives of this parliamentary session are:

1. To understand the historical, democratic, academic, and institutional importance of student unions.
2. To deliberate on the need for the restoration of student unions in Pakistani universities.
3. To examine how student unions can contribute to student representation, leadership development, and institutional accountability.
4. To explore practical models through which student unions can operate within individual universities.
5. To identify the challenges, opportunities, and institutional requirements associated with establishing effective student unions.
6. To formulate collective recommendations for strengthening student representation in higher education institutions.

2. Main Parliamentary Motion

The House shall deliberate upon the following motion:

> ***"This House believes that the restoration of student unions is essential for democratic representation, student empowerment, and institutional development in Pakistani universities."***

The debate shall revolve around the following questions:

- Why do universities need student unions?
- What is the historical and contemporary significance of student unions in Pakistan?

- Should student unions be restored in their traditional form, or should a reformed and modern model be introduced?
- How can student unions ensure meaningful representation of students?
- What role should student unions play in addressing academic, administrative, social, and extracurricular concerns?
- How can student unions function effectively within the specific administrative and institutional framework of each university?
- What safeguards are necessary to ensure that student unions remain democratic, peaceful, inclusive, and academically constructive?

3. Parliamentary Structure and Designations

The Youth Parliament shall operate under the following structure:

A. Speaker of the House

- The Speaker shall preside over the entire parliamentary session.
- The Speaker shall maintain order, impartiality, and discipline.
- The Speaker shall recognize speakers and regulate the proceedings.
- The Speaker shall ensure that every university representative receives a fair opportunity to participate.
- The Speaker shall have the authority to intervene in cases of procedural violations.

B. Deputy Speaker / Moderator

- The Deputy Speaker shall assist the Speaker in conducting proceedings.
- They shall maintain the speakers' list and monitor speaking time.
- They shall facilitate transitions between different parliamentary segments.

C. University Representatives (Delegates)

- Each participating student shall represent their respective university.
- Every delegate shall participate as a representative of their institution rather than merely as an individual debater.
- Delegates shall present their university's institutional challenges, student concerns, and proposed solutions.
- Each delegate shall be entitled to participate in the proceedings and vote on the final recommendations.

D. Secretariat

- The Secretariat shall manage attendance, documentation, timekeeping, and the preparation of the final resolution.
- The Secretariat shall record the key recommendations and decisions of the House.

4. General Rules of the House

1 Every delegate must represent their respective university throughout the proceedings.

2 All participants shall maintain parliamentary decorum, discipline, and mutual respect.

3 Delegates must address the Chair before delivering their arguments.

4 Personal attacks, derogatory remarks, and disrespectful language shall not be permitted.

5 Every argument must be relevant to the motion under discussion.

6 Delegates are encouraged to support their arguments with facts, institutional experiences, historical references, and logical reasoning.

7 Criticism of policies, institutional arrangements, and existing systems is permitted; personal criticism is not.

8 No delegate shall interrupt another speaker without permission from the Chair.

9 The Speaker shall have the authority to call a delegate to order.

10 All participants must respect the allocated speaking time.

11 Political party campaigning, personal publicity, and unrelated discussions shall not be allowed.

12 Delegates must prioritize constructive dialogue, practical solutions, and collective institutional interests.

5. Rules of Debate and Parliamentary Proceedings

Rule 1: Opening of the House

The Speaker shall formally open the session, introduce the parliamentary motion, explain the objectives, and announce the rules of procedure.

Rule 2: Opening Statements

Each university representative shall be given an opportunity to present their initial position on the motion.

Each delegate should briefly address:

- Their university's perspective on student unions.
- The importance or necessity of student representation.
- The major challenges faced by students in their institution.

Speaking Time: 60–90 seconds per delegate, depending on the total number of participants.

Rule 3: Formal Debate

Following the opening statements, the House shall enter the formal debate.

Delegates may:

- Support or oppose the motion.
- Present arguments concerning the restoration of student unions.
- Challenge existing perceptions and propose alternative models.
- Present examples from their own universities.
- Respond to arguments presented by other delegates.

The Speaker shall recognize delegates in an orderly manner.

Speaking Time: 60 seconds per intervention.

Rule 4: University-Specific Deliberation

This shall be one of the most important segments of the session.

Every delegate must address the practical application of student unions within their respective university.

Delegates shall discuss:

1. Why does their university need a student union?
2. What specific problems could a student union address?
3. What should be the organizational structure of a student union in their university?
4. How should student representatives be elected?
5. What should be the relationship between the student union, university administration, faculty, and students?
6. What measures should prevent political exploitation, violence, discrimination, and misuse of authority?

Delegates must move beyond general arguments and present realistic, institution-specific recommendations.

Rule 5: Moderated Discussion and Questions

The Speaker may invite questions, counterarguments, and responses from other delegates.

- Each question must be concise and relevant.
- The responding delegate shall be given up to 45 seconds.
- The Speaker may allow a brief follow-up question.
- Delegates must remain respectful during disagreements.

Rule 6: Open Caucus / Consultation

The Speaker may temporarily suspend the formal speakers' list and allow delegates to consult one another.

During this segment, delegates shall work towards identifying common ground and developing collective recommendations.

The discussion should focus on:

- A suitable model for student unions.
- Democratic and transparent electoral procedures.
- Accountability and institutional oversight.
- Student welfare and academic representation.
- A practical framework for implementation.

Rule 7: Drafting of the Parliamentary Resolution

Following the deliberations, the Secretariat shall present a draft resolution based on the recommendations of the delegates.

The resolution should include:

1. The House's position on the importance and restoration of student unions.
2. The proposed structure and democratic framework.
3. Recommendations for university-level implementation.
4. Safeguards for peaceful, transparent, and accountable functioning.
5. Recommendations for cooperation between students and university administrations.

Rule 8: Adoption of the Resolution

The Speaker shall present the draft resolution before the House.

Delegates may propose reasonable amendments.

Following the discussion, the resolution shall be put to a vote.

- Each university representative shall have one vote.
- The resolution shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes cast.
- The Speaker shall announce the outcome.
- The adopted resolution shall represent the collective recommendations of the Youth Parliament.

The resolution shall be considered a policy recommendation of the Youth Parliament and not a legally binding decision upon participating universities.

6. Rules of Conduct and Parliamentary Ethics

All delegates shall adhere to the following principles:

- **Respect:** Respect every participant's perspective, regardless of disagreement.
- **Representation:** Speak responsibly as a representative of your respective university.
- **Democracy:** Support freedom of expression, fair participation, and democratic decision-making.
- **Accountability:** Promote transparency and responsible student leadership.
- **Inclusivity:** Recognize the interests of all students without discrimination.
- **Non-Violence:** Reject violence, intimidation, harassment, and coercion.
- **Constructiveness:** Focus on realistic solutions rather than criticism alone.

7. Authority of the Speaker

The Speaker shall be the final authority on procedural matters during the session.

The Speaker may:

- Grant or withdraw speaking privileges in accordance with these rules.
- Interrupt irrelevant or repetitive arguments.
- Issue warnings for misconduct.
- Allow or reject procedural motions.
- Extend or reduce speaking time when necessary.
- Maintain the neutrality and integrity of the House.

The Speaker's procedural decisions shall be respected by all delegates.

8. Final Outcome and Deliverables

At the conclusion of the session, the Youth Parliament shall aim to produce:

1. An adopted Youth Parliament Resolution on the restoration and effective functioning of student unions.
2. A set of recommendations for university-level student union structures.
3. A collection of institution-specific proposals from participating universities.
4. A shared framework for democratic student representation and accountability.
5. A formal record of the deliberations and recommendations for future reference.

9. Proposed 90-Minute Session Schedule

Parliamentary Segment	Duration
Opening and Introduction by the Speaker	5 minutes
Briefing on Rules of Procedure	5 minutes
Opening Statements by University Delegates	15 minutes
Formal Parliamentary Debate	20 minutes
University-Specific Deliberations	15 minutes
Open Caucus and Consultation	10 minutes
Draft Resolution and Amendments	10 minutes
Voting, Closing Remarks and Conclusion	10 minutes
Total	**90 minutes**

Note: *The Secretariat may adjust individual speaking slots according to the number of participating universities while ensuring equal opportunities for all delegates.*

10. Guiding Principle

> ***"Student unions should not merely be platforms of student representation; they should serve as institutions of democratic learning, responsible leadership, constructive engagement, and collective problem-solving."***

The Youth Parliament is intended to encourage informed debate, democratic values, institutional cooperation, and a constructive vision for the future of student representation in Pakistan.