

Extracted from Roberts Rules for Dummies 4th Edition

Chapter 12 page 275

Knowing when not to use “Reconsider”

As you see in this section, a motion to reconsider a vote is a motion limited in both the time it can be made and the person who can make it. But even when the motion to *Reconsider* isn't in order, there's no reason you can't revisit a motion, adopted or not, at your next (or any future) meeting.

Renewing a motion

Robert's Rules refers to this procedure as “renewing” a motion. According to the General, any member can offer again a motion that failed in an earlier session. In fact, if a motion is made at any meeting and doesn't get a

second, it can even be renewed at that very same meeting.

Rescinding or amending something previously adopted

This procedure has its own section in this chapter (“[Rescinding or Amending Something Previously Adopted](#)”), but I mention it here because it's the way you deal with undoing or changing something you've already done (usually at a previous meeting).

Avoiding reconsideration when it's not in order

The motion to *Reconsider* is out of order when the motion to which it's applied can be *renewed* or when the desired result can be achieved with some other, less complicated parliamentary motion.

It's also out of order if it's applied to a negative vote on some motion that would at the time be out of order because it conflicts with something already adopted, or would conflict with any other motion that is pending or temporarily disposed of and still under the assembly's control.

Of course, if a motion has been adopted and any part of the motion's provisions has been executed, it's too late to reconsider the vote.



REMEMBER The point of all these rules about reconsidering (and renewing and rescinding and amending something previously adopted) is that the group has an orderly way available to take a second look at almost anything, as long as you use the right procedure.