



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – 23 SEPTEMBER 2025 SUPPLEMENTARY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

A Member's Point of Order and member's queries on Club Position on Race, Religion and Gender.

A member proposes a Motion to be placed before the House that Resolution One be rescinded in its entirety and no vote be taken following its rescission on the basis that it involves discussing matters relating to race, religion, and gender and such discussions may lead to disharmony among members.

ABOUT THE POINT OF ORDER

Q1: What is a Point of Order and why has it been raised?

A: A Point of Order is a procedural mechanism that allows members to bring to the Chairperson's attention any alleged breach of rules, constitution, or legal requirements during a meeting.

Q2: How will the Chairperson handle this Point of Order?

A: The Chairperson must rule on the Point of Order before proceeding with Resolution 1. This involves examining whether the resolution actually violates Singapore's racial and religious harmony laws or club constitution, rather than accepting a blanket prohibition on all discussions involving race, religion, or gender.

SINGAPORE'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Q3: Does Singapore law prohibit all discussions on race, religion, and gender?

A: No. Singapore law does not create a blanket prohibition on discussing race, religion, and gender. The legal framework prohibits:

- Deliberate incitement of enmity or hostility between groups.
- Actions that wound religious or racial feelings with intent to cause disharmony.
- Activities that disturb public tranquility.
- Content that promotes hatred between communities.

Respectful, good-faith discussions within legal bounds are permitted.

Q4: What laws govern racial and religious harmony in Singapore?

A: Key legislation includes:

- (1) **Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act (MRHA)**: Prohibits acts causing enmity between religious groups.
- (2) **Maintenance of Racial Harmony Act 2025¹**: Consolidates race-related offences and provides for restraining orders. Section 8 of the Maintenance of Racial Harmony Act empowers the Minister to make restraining orders against persons who commit acts, is committing, is likely to commit or has attempted to commit:
 - a) Acts that cause feelings of enmity, hatred, ill-will or hostility between different races; or
 - b) Acts that incite, instigate or encourage such an act.
- (3) **Penal Code Sections 298 and 298A**: Criminalise acts promoting disharmony between religious or racial groups.
- (4) **Constitution Article 12**: Guarantees equality and prohibits discrimination in specific contexts.

Q5: Do these laws apply to private club meetings?

A: These laws primarily target public expressions that threaten national harmony. Private club discussions are subject to different standards, focusing on whether discussions:

- Are conducted respectfully and in good faith.
- Deliberately attempt to incite hostility.
- Disturb public tranquility or harm inter-community relations.

CLUB'S POSITION AND SINGAPORE'S MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE

Q6: What is the Club's position on discussing race, religion, and gender?

A: The Club recognises Singapore's multicultural heritage and the legitimate role of cultural discussions within appropriate bounds. The Club supports:

- Respectful dialogue that promotes understanding
- Discussions conducted within Singapore's legal framework
- Maintenance of harmony while preserving legitimate governance rights
- Compliance with racial and religious harmony laws while avoiding blanket prohibitions

Q7: How does Singapore's multicultural model relate to this issue?

A: Singapore explicitly celebrates diversity through its "overlapping circles" approach, which:

- Preserves distinct ethnic and cultural identities
- Builds common ground between communities
- Officially recognises over 300 race-based organisations and clubs
- Supports cultural heritage while maintaining social harmony

Examples include the Singapore Indian Association, Ceylon Sports Club, Singapore Khalsa Association, and Singapore Chinese Recreation Club - all officially recognised parts of Singapore's heritage.

¹ passed on 4 Feb 2025 but has not come into effect as yet. The law's commencement date will be appointed by the Minister and announced by notification in the Government Gazette.

Q8: Can non-Singaporeans participate in such discussions relating to Singapore's unique multi-cultural racial religious social matrix?

A: Yes, if they are lawful members of the Club. There is no law specifically barring non-Singaporeans from participating in internal club discussions on these topics, **provided**:

- They are recognised members under the club constitution.
- Discussions remain respectful and within legal bounds.
- Participation does not constitute foreign interference in national policies.
- All legal requirements regarding racial and religious harmony are observed.

GUIDANCE FOR RESPECTFUL DISCUSSION

Q9: How can members discuss sensitive topics appropriately?

A: Members should:

- Focus on factual information and policy implications.
- Use respectful, non-inflammatory language.
- Acknowledge Singapore's multicultural heritage.
- Seek common ground and mutual understanding.
- Avoid statements that could wound feelings or promote division.

Q10: What language or approaches should be avoided?

A: Members should avoid:

- Statements that deliberately wound religious or racial feelings.
- Language intended to incite enmity between groups.
- Personal attacks or questioning others' motives.
- Inflammatory rhetoric or provocative statements.
- Blanket generalisations about any community.

CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Q11: Will meeting proceedings be recorded?

A: Meeting minutes will record the chairperson's ruling on the Point of Order and any substantive discussions on Resolution 1, in accordance with standard meeting procedures and club requirements.

This FAQ is prepared to assist members in understanding the procedural and legal context surrounding the Point of Order and Resolution 1. All members are encouraged to participate constructively in the democratic process while maintaining respect for Singapore's multicultural heritage and legal framework.

**Singapore Cricket Club
23 September 2025**