

Fringes Guide

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Background on Fringes

Fringes is a unique part of I'MUN which was introduced 4 years ago and has been one of the most enjoyable and successful aspects of the conference. In addition to our extraordinary topics, the unparalleled idea of Fringes is introduced through the outstanding dynamic of our Fringe Committees. These committees allow for the delegates to experience an MUN unlike any other. Moving away from the conventional style of debate, Fringe Committees are usually quite small, include directives rather than resolutions, involve informal debate, and focus on several crises instead of one large topic. The delegates are also given more power and freedom with what actions they are able to take. To exemplify, delegates have the ability to start wars, carry out airstrikes and drone attacks, impose sanctions, create embargos, and much more, requiring the delegates to be creative, original, and think carefully about each and every decision. The delegates will be put on the spot and are required to think extremely quickly in order to swiftly respond to any crisis at hand. Fringes are what make I'MUN stand out and make it a very fruitful and beneficial conference, giving the delegates a chance to enjoy a completely new experience.

Directives

Directives are similar to clauses in that they involve a course of action for solving a particular issue. The main difference is that directives are written when responding to a crisis rather than a large topic. Therefore, directives tend to be shorter than clauses. Moreover, directives can be written individually or in groups. Additionally, directives are not required to be nearly as formal as a clause. Another extremely important aspect of a directive is that the delegate must have the actual portfolio powers to carry out a task. For instance, a Minister of Defense can deploy troops while a Minister of Finance can fund a project. Any directive outside the portfolio powers of a delegate must be rejected by the backroom unless the delegate has formed an alliance with another delegate who is capable of carrying out that specific action (i.e. The Minister of Defense partners with the Minister of Finance in order to fund an organization).

Essentially, the main idea of a directive is that it must fully encompass a delegate's desired course of action. The delegate(s) must clearly state the who, what, when, where, why, and how, of the course of action mentioned. If this is not the case, the backroom will inform the delegate

that the directive is unclear/incomplete. In a Fringe Committee, directives are written and delivered directly to the backroom (usually via email). The directives are then discussed, considered, and approved or rejected by the backroom. The backroom is then responsible for producing appropriate consequences and outcomes for the directive, if approved.

Example Directive:

“After gaining President Joe Biden’s approval, 2,000 US troops will be moved to the border of Kabul. As Afghanistan’s Minister of Defense, I will facilitate this action. This will be conducted at 12:00 a.m. on May 2, 2021 and the purpose of this is to prevent the Taliban from entering the capital and to protect important Afghani figures (such as the President).”

This directive contains the who, what, when, where, why, and how, though it still contains several loopholes. A better version of this directive would be:

“After gaining President Joe Biden’s approval, 2,000 US troops will be moved to the border of Kabul. As Afghanistan’s Minister of Defense, I will facilitate this action. This will be conducted at 12:00 a.m. on May 2, 2021 and the purpose of this is to prevent the Taliban from entering the capital and to protect important Afghani figures (such as the President). The Minister of National Security will also be contacted in order to ensure roads are clear at this time, and that all surveillance cameras are turned off. Moreover, all lights in the area will be shut off to prevent anyone from seeing what is happening. Prior to deployment, troops will be isolated and will not be informed of their mission to ensure that no information is leaked prior to 12:00 a.m.”

Although both of the above directives may be approved, the first one is more likely to produce a negative outcome. For instance, for the first directive, the consequence may be: “The Minister of Defense attempted to execute the President at 12:00 a.m. last night. However, the plan failed as the President's security saw the intruders and executed them on the spot.”

The above outcome clearly shows that the plan failed, and the entire committee is now aware that the Minister of Defense attempted to kill the President. This could be troublesome for the delegate representing the Minister of Defense and some alliances could be destroyed. Therefore, it is very important to write strong, thought-out directives.

For the second directive, the outcome could be: “The President was successfully executed last night around 12:00 a.m.. It is unknown who carried out the execution.”

For the above outcome, the Minister of Defense’s plan was successful. Also, it is unknown who killed the President. So, the delegate now has the choice to keep that information hidden or to expose it to the rest of the committee. Clearly, this delegate’s directive led to a successful outcome and the delegate now has a lot of freedom with their next move.

Front Room

The front room is the main room of the committee, and consists of the President, Chair, as well as all delegates. Consider this the stage of the stimulation. It is where directives are written, alliances are formed, and debates are held.

Back Room

The back room is where the crisis is directed. There will be a crisis team of usually 2-3 people who remain in the backroom for the majority of the conference. The main job of those in the backroom is to steer the debate through approving and rejecting directives, as well as through creating the outcomes of approved directives. In order for a directive to be passed, it goes through the back room. The back room decides the outcome of the certain action that was taken. If a covert operation, for example, was attempted, it is up to the crisis team to decide if it succeeded, or if the agents were taken hostage, or other outcomes.

The back room also contributes to moderating the realism of the committee. For example, an assassination attempt on a military general amidst loyal troops will obviously fail.

In some instances, delegates may need to meet with a character who is not present in the committee. Anyone, be they a person, national organization, foreign state or international body who is not represented by a delegate is instead run by the crisis staff. So, if any delegate must meet with a figure not present in the committee, they must contact the backroom via email.

Finally, members of the backroom may offer advice to a delegate who is struggling to write good directives/come up with a plan. Any delegate facing this situation can email the backroom and meet outside of the committee.

Communication between the delegates and the backroom

Delegates will be constantly sending directives to the backroom, as well as asking the backroom for assistance. Communication between the delegates and the backroom occurs throughout the entire conference. This is done through an email of which the credentials will be provided on the first day of the conference (each delegate will be given a username and password in the first session of the conference). No delegate is to use their personal email addresses during the conference.

Approving and Rejecting Directives

All directives will be either approved or rejected, and this will be determined by the backroom. Directives can be created individually or in groups. The most important thing about writing directives is that they align with your portfolio powers, and that they answer the who, what, when, where, why, and how questions.

If a directive is approved, the backroom will determine the outcome of the directive. This outcome will then be announced to the entire committee. If any information is needed to be kept private, it is the delegate's responsibility to inform the backroom of this.

If any issues arise between the delegate and backroom, or a delegate has any other problems regarding the committee or a fellow delegate, the delegate should discuss with the President and/or Head of Fringes.

Portfolio Powers

Each delegate will have a number of portfolio powers that they can use. For example, the director of intelligence will be able to:

- Spread false information
- Access communication lines
- Access information about other delegates
- Hack other nations
- Gather information about people, deployed forces, places
- Conduct espionage
- Control agents and double agents (probably will be used more in JCC)
- Assassinations and any other kind of black op

The finance minister, for example, won't be able to do any of this. However, he may have access to the funds to hire a person with these capabilities.

Each delegate will be informed of their portfolio powers and must write all their directives based on them. Portfolio powers will encourage alliances with other delegates to increase power.

Individual Agendas

At the start of the conference, each delegate is briefed of their personal background and agenda. This is **not** disclosed to any other delegate. Disclosing the information to another delegate could be extremely detrimental.

Therefore, each, or most of the delegates will be pushing a certain personal agenda, as well as debate for the betterment of their country/organization. These at many times will be subtly conflicting. Best delegates are chosen on how they carry out both their personal and country's interest, using their portfolio powers.

These agendas can be discovered by other delegates during the conference. Most delegates will suspect others also have secret agendas, but they will have no grounds to accuse. However, an espionage mission, or a fault in debate, can reveal much about other delegates.

These personal agendas can contain information that allows a delegate extra, unknown, portfolio powers. An example is a cabinet member who is also the head of a crime syndicate.

All actions a delegate takes must be in line with their portfolio powers. Again, actions are taken through the use of directive (which can be written individually or in a group). If a delegate, or group of delegates, attempts to carry out an action that is not in line with their portfolio powers, the backroom will most likely either reject the directive, or a negative outcome will be produced.

Remember: if you do not have the portfolio powers to carry out a certain task, consider forming an alliance with someone who does.

What delegates can and can't do

They can:

- Take individual action within their portfolio powers.
- Make formal agreements. Delegates are encouraged to document everything. A formal agreement entails all participants to sign a paper, detailing the terms of the agreement, which must be sent to the crisis team. Formal agreements between delegates do not have to be disclosed to the whole committee. Delegates can be taken out of the committee into a different room to conduct the agreement upon request (contact the backroom). If agreements are not sent to the crisis team they will not be taken into action or consideration.
- Make informal agreements. These are not recommended and make delegates susceptible to betrayal. They can be used to test certain relationships.
- Submit official directives to the whole committee and vote on them.
- Bribe other delegates if that is within their powers.
- Backstab other delegates.
- Ask the crisis team for help or advice.

Can't:

- Do something out of their portfolio powers, if they are not aided by another delegate who can.