



## Group Decision Tip

*E-mailed every two weeks to help groups make good decisions*

### Okay to change plans and rules

**In principle**, an amateur may follow the script perfectly, but a professional knows when to change the script or even leave it entirely depending on the energy of the audience. A novice may know all the rules, but a veteran knows the exceptions. It is good to have scripts, plans and rules, but experience warns against unwavering allegiance to them.

**Practical Tip:** Keep always in mind that plans and rules are never an end in themselves but are rather just means to an end. Plans and rules are there to keep us on track toward long term goals, but if we get off track we need to change plans and rules accordingly.

If a meeting agenda is not achieving the meeting objectives, change it. If an annual work plan is not resulting in the right amount or quality of work getting done, change it. If a law is not having the desired affect, change it.

If you find that a plan or rule is not working for your group, don't make an independent decision to ignore it. Rather, work within established group processes to change it.

Achieving long term ends requires ever-changing means.

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