

# Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

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## Rule 16. Pretrial Conferences; Scheduling; Management

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### (c) Attendance and Matters for Consideration at a Pretrial Conference.

(1) **Attendance.** A represented party must authorize at least one of its attorneys to make stipulations and admissions about all matters that can reasonably be anticipated for discussion at a pretrial conference. If appropriate, the court may require that a party or its representative be present or reasonably available by other means to consider possible settlement.

(2) **Matters for Consideration.** At any pretrial conference, the court may consider and take appropriate action on the following matters:

- (A) formulating and simplifying the issues, and eliminating frivolous claims or defenses;
- (B) amending the pleadings if necessary or desirable;
- (C) obtaining admissions and stipulations about facts and documents to avoid unnecessary proof, and ruling in advance on the admissibility of evidence;
- (D) avoiding unnecessary proof and cumulative evidence, and limiting the use of testimony under [Federal Rule of Evidence 702](#);
- (E) determining the appropriateness and timing of summary adjudication under [Rule 56](#);
- (F) controlling and scheduling discovery, including orders affecting disclosures and discovery under [Rule 26](#) and [Rules 29](#) through [37](#);
- (G) identifying witnesses and documents, scheduling the filing and exchange of any pretrial briefs, and setting dates for further conferences and for trial;
- (H) referring matters to a magistrate judge or a master;
- (I) settling the case and using special procedures to assist in resolving the dispute when authorized by statute or local rule;
- (J) determining the form and content of the pretrial order;
- (K) disposing of pending motions;
- (L) adopting special procedures for managing potentially difficult or protracted actions that may involve complex issues, multiple parties, difficult legal questions, or unusual proof problems;
- (M) ordering a separate trial under [Rule 42\(b\)](#) of a claim, counterclaim, crossclaim, third-party claim, or particular issue;
- (N) ordering the presentation of evidence early in the trial on a manageable issue that might, on the evidence, be the basis for a judgment as a matter of law under [Rule 50\(a\)](#) or a judgment on partial findings under [Rule 52\(c\)](#);
- (O) establishing a reasonable limit on the time allowed to present evidence; and
- (P) facilitating in other ways the just, speedy, and inexpensive disposition of the action.

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