



National Weather Association

Standing Rules

National Weather Association Standing Rule Definition

NWA standing rules are procedures that are not covered in the Bylaws, but are each a general policy or way of operating. Standing rules may be adopted or changed without previous notice to the membership by a two-thirds vote or, with previous notice, by a majority vote of the NWA Council.

Standing rules adopted:

Memorial Policy Standing Rule

Adopted by the NWA Council on October 19, 2011

The passing of Jim Moore and Rod Scofield in 2006, two respected and admired members of the National Weather Association, prompted the NWA Council to develop and implement a Memorial Policy to guide the organization's response to the death of a member. This Memorial Policy recognizes current or past members with a record of exceptional service to the National Weather Association, so determined by: 1) length of membership and active participation, particularly as a member of the Council, 2) receipt of one or more of the NWA's annual awards, or 3) as a founding member of the organization. The policy also considers members of exceptionally high standing within the larger meteorological community. The following sequence of actions will be accomplished:

- a. The NWA Executive Director will inform the President of the death of a member as soon as possible.
 - b. The President and Executive Director on behalf of the Council will determine if the recognition criteria are fulfilled. The member's biography accompanied by a picture will then be prepared and published in an upcoming Newsletter. The President and Executive Director will also determine whether a refund of dues is appropriate.
 - c. The NWA President will, with the consent of a majority of the Council, send a letter of sympathy on behalf of the NWA Council, and a charitable donation in the amount of \$250 from NWA funds to an organization as directed by the family. A tribute (of equal or lesser value) made in memory of the deceased member may be deemed appropriate if the death was accompanied by extraordinary circumstances.
 - d. The President and Executive Director with the consent of the Council may approve travel costs from NWA funds for a representative of the NWA to attend a memorial service and/or the recognition of a special honor on behalf of the membership.
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Contributions to Recovery and Relief Efforts Standing Rule

Adopted by the NWA Council on October 19, 2011

The National Weather Association was formed to support and promote excellence in operational meteorology and related activities. One of the goals of operational meteorology is to save lives through the issuance of forecasts and warnings. The Association recognizes that, even with the best possible forecasts and warnings, weather-related disasters may occur, with substantial loss of life and damages. On occasion, the Association may decide to contribute funds to recovery and relief efforts.

1. Guidelines:

- Weather-related disaster (*e.g.*, tropical cyclone, tornado outbreak, major flood or widespread flash flooding; winter storm) affecting the United States and/or its territories.
- Disaster should result in property damage in excess of \$1 billion; more than 100 fatalities; and/or more than 1,000 injuries.
- When practicable, dollar for dollar matching donations with NWA corporate and individual members should be used.

Note: These guidelines should be considered when making a decision to donate.

2. Decision Authority:

- Executive Director, President, or Executive Committee* initiates a proposal to be brought before the Council for a vote.
- Donations up to \$250 only require approval by the Executive Committee. Donations more than \$250 must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

3. Recipient Organization(s):

Must be a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, selected by the Executive Committee. Priority will be given to those organizations with a low (<25%) percentage of administrative and fundraising expenses.

4. Donation Amount:

- Total donations in any fiscal year not to exceed the number of dues paying members (regular and student) x \$1.00 (*i.e.*, 2,600 members x \$1.00 = \$2,600 donation limit).

**The NWA Executive Committee consists of the President, President-elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Director (non-voting member).*

Background Material for Recovery and Relief Contributions Standing Rule

Billion Dollar Weather Disasters:

NCDC: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/billionz.html>

Information Please: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0882823.html>

IRS Exemption Requirements - Section 501(c) (3) Organizations

To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3), and none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual. In addition, it may not be an action organization, *i.e.*, it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

Organizations described in section 501(c)(3) are commonly referred to as charitable organizations. Organizations described in section 501(c)(3), other than testing for public safety organizations, are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions in accordance with Code section 170. The organization must not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests, and no part of a section 501(c)(3) organization's net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. If the organization engages in an excess benefit transaction with a person having substantial influence over the organization, an excise tax may be imposed on the person and any organization managers agreeing to the transaction. Section 501(c)(3) organizations are restricted in how much political and legislative (lobbying) activities they may conduct.

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/charitable/article/0,,id=96099,00.html>

Administrative and Fundraising Expenses

5 CFR 950.203 Code of Federal Regulations

Solicitation of Federal Civilian and Uniformed Service Personnel for Contributions to Private Voluntary Organizations - Public accountability standards.

“(i) If an organization's administrative and fundraising expenses exceed 25 percent of its total support and revenue, it must certify that its actual expenses for administration and fundraising are reasonable under all the circumstances presented. It must provide an explanation with its application and also include a formal plan to reduce these expenses below 25 percent.”

<http://cfr.vlex.com/vid/950-203-public-accountability-standards-19603085>

“Administrative and fundraising expenses in excess of 35% is considered high by many in the philanthropic community.”

Combined Federal Campaign FAQ #8: <http://www.opm.gov/cfc/html/qfd.asp>

For further information on the NWA Standing Rules, please contact the NWA Executive Director at exdir@nwas.org or 919-845-1546

See also NWA Bylaws at <http://www.nwas.org/bylaws.php>
and NWA Advocacy Program at <http://www.nwas.org/advocacy/index.php>

Return to the NWA homepage at <http://www.nwas.org>

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