

Inclement Weather Policy

The Kansas Scholastic Press Association Executive Board is committed to on-site competition. Likewise, we desire to serve the best interests of our member schools and their students. Therefore, we designed this policy in response to the membership's requests regarding events of exclusion from contest due to inclement weather. In the event that inclement weather prohibits travel to the contest site, the following shall take effect:

Procedures

1. The adviser shall notify the contest director immediately:

Kansas State University

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Wichita State University

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University of Kansas

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Lawrence, KS
785-864-0605
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2. The adviser shall also notify the KSPA central office immediately:

Kansas Scholastic Press Association

William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications
Stauffer-Flint Hall
1435 Jayhawk Blvd.
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045-7575
Phone: 785-864-0605
E-mail: staff@kspaonline.org

3. The KSPA central office will send contest materials (identical to those used for on-site competitors) to the adviser via email, and off-site competitions should be conducted in the same manner and with the same spirit of intent as on-site contests.

4. The adviser assumes responsibility for printing and duplicating contest materials sent from KSPA.

5. The adviser will organize a time and location for students to complete contest entries under proctor monitoring. The time allotted for off-site competition shall not exceed that of the on-site participants.

6. The adviser will mail the entries to the contest director. Entries must be **received** within one week of the on-site contest *without exception*. To be precise, entries must be **received by March 1** for schools registered for the Feb. 23 contest. Likewise, entries must be **received by March 2** for schools registered for the Feb. 24 contest. By whatever means necessary, ensure your materials are **received** by these dates.

7. **Carry-in category entries must be postmarked on the date of on-site competition without exception.**

8. The contest director will deliver all entries to the judges to be scored with (and in the same manner as) the on-site entries.

Limitations:

This policy was designed for the purpose of allowing all pre-registered competitors fair and equitable access to contests and shall only come into effect when travel to the contest site is prohibited by safety concerns related to weather. No instance of travel restriction other than weather-related safety concerns qualifies for use of this plan.

Expectations

It is assumed that all schools participating in contest under this plan will do so with integrity so as to maintain the validity of KSPA contests. As such, off-site entries must be accompanied by the following documentation.

1. Travel Restriction Verification

This form must be signed and dated by a school official (administrator, transportation director, etc.) to corroborate that travel to the contest site was prohibited by inclement weather.

2. Integrity of Contest Verification

The adviser or other school official who proctors the off-site contest should sign and date this form to verify that the conditions of competition were such that students received no unjust advantage from technology, print resources, instructors/advisers, fellow competitors, or any other sources to which the on-site competitors did not also have fair access according to contest rules.

Delay of Judging

In order to enact this plan, all participants, both on-site and off-site, must realize that judging will be delayed. In the past, results were available the day of competition because judges were on-site the date of competition.

On-site, same-day judging will be impossible beginning with the 2012 regional contest. Judging will have to be scheduled several days after the contest date to ensure that all entries, including those received by the contest director from off-site, can be judged fairly. **KSPA will post results no later than March 9.**

According to the membership feedback, we believe this delay in judging is worthwhile if it ensures that all registered competitors have equal access to the contest, and we thank you for your patience.

Judging Criteria

As has been KSPA policy in all past contests, all judging will take place on-site in the same university that houses the department of journalism or student media that coordinates the contest. Entries will not be sent to other sites.

All entries in each category will be judged by a team that will work together to rank and comment on all entries. The contest coordinator will supervise each judging team and will be available to answer all questions.

Judging teams will consist of journalism professors, professional journalists, former journalism advisers and others who have expertise in the area they are judging.

Integrity of Contest Verification

This form is to verify that students participating in individual contests have followed the same rules as students participating in on-site competitions. This form also serves to verify that the work submitted by the students in each category is solely the work of the individual competitors. Students participating in the contest have not received unjust advantage from technology, print resources, instructors/advisers, fellow competitors or any other sources to which on-site competitors did not have access.

Name of Contest Proctor

Date

Signature of proctor or member of administration

School Name

Travel Restriction Verification

This form is to verify that inclement weather prohibited _____
High School/school district from traveling to the regional contest site.

Printed name of school / district official

Date

Title of school / district official

Signature of school / district official