

**RULES FOR ACCREDITATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR OF
PRESS REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTING NEWSPAPERS OR PRESS
AGENCIES, 1994
(Amended, 2008)**

1. These rules shall apply to the accreditation of the representatives of newspapers, press agencies or news media at the State Headquarters and District Headquarters of the Government of Manipur.
2. The State Press Accreditation Committee shall be constituted as follows:-
 - (a) The Secretary to the Government of Manipur in-charge of Information & Public Relations Department as Chairman.
 - (b) One representative from each recognised Unions/Associations of Journalists as Members to be nominated by the Government.
 - (c) Two Members to be nominated by the Government from amongst the prominent personalities who have devoted to the cause to mass Media and Communication.
 - (d) The Director, Information & Public Relations, Manipur as Convenor.
3. The terms of the nominated Members shall be for a period of 2 (two) years which may be extended in special circumstances for a period not exceeding 6 (six) months at a time.
4. The Committee shall meet at least once in three months but may meet more frequently, if required by the Director or any Member of the Committee.
5. One-third of the total number of Members shall constitute the quorum for a meeting of the Committee.
6. Clear seven days' notice shall be given for convening a meeting of the Committee, but in case of emergency, with the consent of the Chairman, or on the requisition of any three Members, an emergency meeting may be called at a shorter notice of not less than 24 hours.
7. The Committee shall advise the Government on the suitability of a person to be granted accreditation for which purpose details of the applicant, in the prescribed form, shall be placed before the Committee by the Convenor, and where possible such particulars as may be available shall be circulated to the Members along with the notice calling the meeting for the said purpose. The Committee may however be asked to consider even those applications about which prior intimation may not have been circulated by the Convenor stating the reasons for doing so at the meeting in each case.
8. Membership of the nominated Members should be honorary and no remuneration will be paid on this account.
9. The Committee may ordinarily meet in the Office of the Director of Information & Public Relations or at any such place as may be nominated by the Chairman for the convenience of the Members.
10. The Press Representatives shall include the representatives of wire services, non-wire services, audio and audio-visual networks dealing with news of public interest or comments on news of public interest. They shall include Editors, Correspondents, Cameramen (Still and Video), Cartoonists, Cartographers, Sports Journalists, Science Journalist, Media Critics and such other categories as may be recommended from time to time by the State Press Accreditation Committee.

11. The Press Representative should fulfil the following conditions for accreditations:-
 - (a) His residence should be at the State Headquarters or District headquarters in the State of Manipur during the period of accreditation.
 - (b) He should be a working journalist and employed whole time as a correspondent or Press Representative.
 - (c) At the time of application, he/she should have spent 10(ten) consecutive years in the profession of journalism or should be a person of sufficient experience and standing to be able to discharge his duties in a competent and responsible manner and
 - (d) He shall be a holder of press identity card issued by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur.
12. Normally a newspaper or news agency shall be entitled to one accreditation and in no case it should exceed two.
13. The number of press representatives who may be granted accreditation shall be kept within reasonable limits as may be determined by the Committee after taking into account the service of Press representatives from time to time.
14. A press card will be issued to each accredited press representative, Admission to special functions including press conference, however, will be governed by invitation.
15. In emergent circumstances accreditation on a provisional/temporary basis may be granted by Director, Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur till the next meeting of the Committee if the applicant fulfils all the qualifications laid down for grant of accreditation.
16. Accreditation does not confer any official status on the correspondent, Government merely recognises that he represents the newspaper or the agency which employs him. He should not have letter heads and visiting cards with the words “Accredited to the Government of Manipur” etc.
17. When an accredited representative ceases to represent the newspaper or the agency on behalf of which he is accredited, the fact should be brought to the notice of the Director, Information and Public Relations, Manipur by the Editor or Head of the Organisation concerned within 15 days, failing which facilities accorded to the newspaper/agency may, without following the procedure prescribed in Rule 19, be withdrawn by the Director, Information and Public Relations and action communicated to the Press Accreditation Committee for information.
18. The list of accredited representatives will be subject to review preferably every six months by the Director, Information and Public Relations in consultation with the Press Accreditation Committee in the light of demands for accreditation from various sections of the press and the facilities availed of by those already accredited.
19. A representative will be liable to disaccreditation if:-
 - (a) He uses for non-journalistic purposes information and facilities accorded to him as an accredited representative, publishes official secrets the inviolability of which is accepted by general understanding and the case is accepted by the Press Accreditation Committee after hearing the representative concerned.
 - (b) In the course of his duties, he behave in an undignified or unprofessional manner.
 - (c) He ignores or violates the condition on which information and facilities are provided by the Government or acts contrary to any provision of these rules. Provided that if the newspaper is responsible, and not the representative, for the wilful publication of false, malafide and incorrect report or abuse of confidence, the newspaper concerned will be liable to disaccreditation.

- (d) He publishes/produces baseless, motivated, malicious, scurrilous and objectionable materials.
 - (e) He indulges in publishing/producing antinational, antisocial and others seditious materials or matters likely to incite communal disharmony or affect or offend socially accepted norms of public decency and morals.
20. Action under rules 19 above will be taken by the Director, Information and Public Relations in consultation with Press Accreditation Committee after the matter has been reported to the Editor of the Newspaper or News Agency concerned.
21. In emergent cases Government of Manipur will be free to take any action warranted by circumstances in matters relating to accreditation and disaccreditation.
22. These rules shall come into effect from the date of its publication in the Manipur Gazette in supersession of earlier orders on the subject.