

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

RULES REGULATING ADMISSION

OF

Representatives of the Newspapers and News Agencies

TO

PRESS GALLERY

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA SECRETARIAT, CHANDIGARH

December, 2022

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA SECRETARIAT

Rules regulating admission of Representatives of the Newspapers and News Agencies to the Press Gallery.

In exercise of the powers conferred by rule 113 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, the Speaker is pleased to make the following rules regulating admission of representatives of the newspapers and news agencies to the Press Gallery of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. The rules on the subject published under Notification No. FCB/Misc.-14-59/67, dated the 29th June, 1950, stand superseded.

1. The Speaker may be advised in regulating admission to the Press Gallery by a Press Gallery Committee.
2. The Press Gallery Committee shall consist of all the Press representatives who are issued Permanent cards for and allotted permanent seats in the Press Gallery of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, membership being renewed every year in the month of January.
3. A President, Vice-President and a Secretary shall be elected by the Members of the Press Gallery Committee every year from amongst themselves. The meeting for the purpose shall be held in the first fortnight of January.

[Provided that the President, Vice President or Secretary shall not hold office for more than two terms consecutively.]

4. Election shall be conducted by the Secretary, Punjab Vidhan Sabha.
5. All meetings of the Press Gallery Committee shall be held in the premises of the Vidhan Bhawan except study tour to other places in India.
6. Permanent press Gallery Cards may be issued by the Secretary, Vidhan Sabha to Press Representatives, on verification of applications received from the Editor/Manager of the Newspapers/News Agency, the cards may be signed by any other officer authorized in this behalf.
7. Permanent Press Gallery Cards may be issued to a Press Re-representative who-
 - (a) is a working Journalist, as defined in the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provision Act 1955;
 - (aa) is graduated and aged not more than 70 years.
 - (b) has covered the proceedings of the Parliament or a State Legislature, for at least five years.
 - (c) The representatives should be on the pay roll of the newspapers, news agencies/A.I.R (monthly pay slip may be supplied to the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat by way of proof).

“Provided that the Speaker may relax the condition relating to experience of coverage of Vidhan Sabha proceedings in case of genuine, bonafide journalist.

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1. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt. Notification No. PVS/PG(2)73/4, dated the 6th February, 1973 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 16th February 1973)
 2. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt: Notification No. CIO/PG/2019/29, dated the 27th June, 2019 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 27th June, 2019).
 3. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt. Notification No.1/CIO/PG/2022/55, dated the 26th December, 2022.

"Provided that the Speaker may relax any of the above conditions in case of genuine & bonafide journalist.

"Provided that only Web Channels and Satellite Channels approved by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India or Punjab Government" will be treated as "Electronic Media having Broadcasting Certificate, Licence to run channel or document of ITR". Doordarshan and All India Radio may be considered as electronic media.

"Provided that Representatives of Channels/ Web Channels approved by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India or Government of Punjab may be considered for allotment of a permanent seat."

"Provided that Representatives of News Agencies, approved by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India, may be considered for allotment of permanent seat"

8. Permanent Press Gallery Cards may be issued only to the Representatives of the morning Dailies of the Punjab, [Chandigarh] and Delhi "Which have minimum circulation of 50,000 Copies certified by Audit Bureau of Circulation or Registrar of Newspapers of India "and the representatives of the News Agencies, including the All- India Radio 2[and Doordarshan] subject to the conditions provided in Rule7.

"Provided that any Correspondent/ Representative, who is not accredited but has worked as Accredited News Correspondent for the last five years may be considered for membership/allotment" of permanent seat.

"Provided that the total number of members of press gallery committee shall not exceed thirty.

Provided that the number of representatives of electronic media shall not exceed thirty percent of the total seats of Press Gallery.

Provided further that not more than one representative of the news paper/news channel/electronic media will be issued permanent Press Gallery Card.

3[8-A. If any Correspondent/ Representative of a Newspaper/News agency, located at any place other than those referred to in rule 8, makes a request for a permanent Press Gallery Card, the

1. This word was inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt: Notification No. AIO/PG(2)/95/75, dated the 25th April, 1995 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 19th May, 1995).

2. These words were inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt: Notification No. AIO/PG(2)/95/75, dated the 25th April,1995 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 19th May, 1995).

3. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt: Notification No. AIO/PG(2)/95/75, dated the 25th April, 1995 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 19th May, 1995).

4. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt: Notification No. AIO/PG/1/2009/17, dated the 27th May, 2009 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 27th May, 2009).

5. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt: Notification No. CIO/PG/2019/29, dated the 27th June, 2019 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 27th June, 2019).

6. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt. Notification No.1/CIO/PG/2022/55, dated the 26th December, 2022.

Same shall, subject to the conditions provided in Rule 7, be considered by the Press Gallery Committee on merits keeping in view the circulation, importance and coverage given by such News-paper/ News agency/ Electronic media to the proceedings of the Vidhan Sabha and the State of Punjab during the preceding one year.]

“8-b The representative must be covering Punjab.”

“8-C In case a permanent representative changes his/her paper/agency, he/she should inform the Secretary, Punjab Vidhan Sabha and the President of the Press Gallery Committee within one month, failing which his/her membership would be cancelled and would not be restored for two years.”

“Provided further that not more than one representative of the new paper/news Channels/Electronic media will be issued permanent Press Gallery Card.

9 Secretary may also issue a pass to the Public Relation Directorate, during a Session.

10. Temporary Press Gallery Cards may be issued by the Secretary under orders of the Speaker on the recommendation in writing by any two members of the Press Gallery Committee for a period not exceeding one day to bonafide journalists who are on short visit to Chandigarh during the Session of the Vidhan Sabha.

[10-A. Temporary Press Gallery Cards may be issued by Secretary under orders of the Speaker on the recommendation in writing by the President and the Secretary of the Press Gallery Committee on the request of the Editor/ Manager of the Newspaper/ News Agency, for a period not exceeding the duration of a Session of the Vidhan Sabha, to Resident journalists of News papers/ News Agencies who do not fulfill the conditions prescribed in Rule 7(b) of the Rules.]

11. If more than one representative of a single Newspaper or News Agency desires to have Press Gallery Cards, application to that effect shall be made in writing to the Secretary Vidhan Sabha.

12. All Press Cards shall be shown to the Watch and Ward Assistant at the gate of the Press Gallery when required to do so.

13. Representatives of the Newspapers and News Agencies are allowed to carry newspapers and books of reference into the Press Gallery provided they do not take in bulky articles.

14. Representatives of the Newspapers and News Agencies are not permitted to take notes from any other. Gallery except the Press Gallery.

Making of sketches and taking of photographs are not premitted.

15. The Speaker may, in his discretion, cancel a Card for admission to the Press Gallery. Any misrepresentation of the Proceedings of Vidhan Sabha, advance publication of questions and answers, etc., and publication of any matter which is not intended for the public, may inter alia be considered sufficient ground for cancellation of a Card.

1. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt. Notification No.PG-1-64-66/80, dated 7th February, 1966 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the18th February,1966),

2. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt: Notification No. AIO/PG/1/2009/17, dated the 27th May, 2009 (Punjab Government Gazette, dated the 27th May, 2009).

3. Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt. Notification No.1/CIO/PG/2022/55,dated the 26th December, 2022.

16. Representatives of the Newspapers and News Agencies shall not be permitted to take sticks, umbrellas, attache case and hand-bags with them into the Gallery.
17. The Speaker, whenever he thinks fit, may order the withdrawal of Representatives of the Newspapers of News Agencies from any part of the House.
18. When the order is given to clear the Galleries, the Watch and Ward staff responsible will see that Representatives of the Newspapers and News Agencies immediately obey the orders. As soon as the Gallery is clear, the door will be locked by the Watch and Ward Officer.
19. In the event of any demonstration or disturbance on the part of any Press Representative in the Gallery, the Watch and Ward Assistant on duty will take the name of the Press Representative thus misconducting himself or herself, and if necessary, arrange for his or her removal from the Gallery. In either case the Speaker, through the Secretary, will at once be apprised of the action taken.
20. The Watch and Ward Officer shall remove, or cause to be removed, any Representative of the Newspaper or News Agency from any part of the House or of the Galleries appropriated to the members only, and also any Representative of the Newspaper or News Agency who, having been admitted into any other part of the House or of the Galleries, shall misconduct himself/herself or shall not withdraw when directed to do so.
21. No Representative of any Newspaper or News Agency shall be admitted to the Gallery when the House meets in secret Session.
22. No Representative of any Newspaper or News Agency whose name is included in the list of those who are excluded from the precincts, will be admitted to the Gallery.
23. The Speaker may, in his discretion, at any time, suspend any of these Rules in the Case of any particular meeting or meetings and substitute therefore any special rules which he may deem fit.
24. Admission Cards are not transferable and they shall in no circumstances be passed on to unauthorized persons. They are issued subject to the holder observing the conditions endorsed thereon.
25. The Press Gallery is meant only for the bonafide card holder both permanent/temporary.
26. Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be regulated by the Speaker in his discretion.
- [27. The quorum to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be, as near as may be, one-fourth of the total number of members, the fraction, if any, being ignored.]

1 Inserted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Sectt. Notification No. PG-1-64-66/80, dated the 7th February, 1966 (Punjab Government Gazette dated the 18th February, 1966).