

LABOR

# Labor Arbitration Rules

(Including Expedited Labor Arbitration Rules)



AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION®

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# Labor Arbitration Rules

## (Including Expedited Labor Arbitration Rules)



### Introduction

Every year, labor and management enter into thousands of collective bargaining agreements. Virtually all of these agreements provide for arbitration of unresolved grievances. For decades, the American Arbitration Association® (AAA) has been a leading administrator of labor-management disputes.

The American Arbitration Association is a public-service, not-for-profit organization offering a broad range of dispute resolution services to business executives, attorneys, individuals, trade associations, unions, management, consumers, families, communities, and all levels of government. Services are available through AAA headquarters in New York City and through offices located in major cities throughout the United States. Hearings may be held at locations convenient for the parties and are not limited to cities with AAA offices. In addition, the AAA serves as a center for education and training, issues specialized publications, and conducts research on all forms of out-of-court dispute settlement.

Arbitration is a tool of industrial relations. Like other tools, it has limitations as well as advantages. In the hands of an expert, it produces useful results. When abused or made to do things for which it was never intended, the outcome can be disappointing. For these reasons, all participants in the process — union officials, employers, personnel executives, attorneys, and the arbitrators themselves — have an equal stake in orderly, efficient, and constructive arbitration procedures. The AAA's Labor Arbitration Rules provide a time-tested method for efficient, fair, and economical resolution of labor-management disputes. By referring to them in a collective bargaining agreement, the parties can take advantage of these benefits.

The parties can provide for arbitration of future disputes by inserting the following clause into their contracts:

*Any dispute, claim, or grievance arising from or relating to the interpretation or application of this agreement shall be submitted to arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Labor Arbitration Rules. The parties further agree to accept the arbitrator's award as final and binding on them.*

For relatively uncomplicated grievances, parties who use the labor arbitration services of the American Arbitration Association may agree to use expedited procedures that provide a prompt and inexpensive method for resolving disputes. This option responds to a concern about rising costs and delays in processing grievance arbitration cases. The AAA's Expedited Labor Arbitration Procedures, by eliminating or streamlining certain steps, are intended to resolve cases within a month of the appointment of the arbitrator. The procedures are in the following pages.

## Labor Arbitration Rules

### 1. Agreement of Parties

The parties shall be deemed to have made these rules a part of their arbitration agreement whenever, in a collective bargaining agreement or submission, they have provided for arbitration by the American Arbitration Association (hereinafter the AAA) or under its rules. These rules and any amendment of them shall apply in the form in effect at the time the administrative requirements are met for a demand for arbitration or submission agreement received by the AAA. The parties, by written agreement, may vary the procedures set forth in these rules.

### 2. AAA and Delegation of Duties

When parties agree to arbitrate under these rules or when they provide for arbitration by the AAA and an arbitration is initiated under these rules, they thereby authorize the AAA to administer the arbitration. The authority and duties of the AAA are prescribed in the agreement of the parties and in these rules, and may be carried out through such of the AAA's representatives as it may direct. The AAA may, in its discretion, assign the administration of an arbitration to any of its offices.

### 3. Jurisdiction

- a. The arbitrator shall have the power to rule on his or her own jurisdiction, including any objections with respect to the existence, scope, or validity of the arbitration agreement.
- b. The arbitrator shall have the power to determine the existence or validity of a contract of which an arbitration clause forms a part. Such an arbitration clause shall be treated as an agreement independent of the other terms of the contract. A decision by the arbitrator that the contract is null and void shall not for that reason alone render invalid the arbitration clause.
- c. A party must object to the jurisdiction of the arbitrator or to the arbitrability of a claim or counterclaim no later than the filing of the answering statement to the claim or counterclaim that gives rise to the objection. The arbitrator may rule on such objections as a preliminary matter or as part of the final award.

### 4. Panel of Neutral Labor Arbitrators

The AAA shall establish and maintain a National Roster of Labor Arbitrators and shall appoint arbitrators as provided in these rules.



## 5. Initiation under an Arbitration Clause in a Collective Bargaining Agreement

Arbitration under an arbitration clause in a collective bargaining agreement under these rules may be initiated by either party in the following manner:

- a. by giving written notice to the other party of its intention to arbitrate (demand), which notice shall contain a statement setting forth the nature of the dispute, the names and addresses of all other parties, including phone number and email address, the remedy sought, and the hearing locale requested.
- b. by filing at any regional office of the AAA a copy of the notice, together with a copy of the collective bargaining agreement or other relevant documents that relate to the dispute, including the arbitration provisions, together with the appropriate filing fee as provided in the schedule included with the rules. After the arbitrator is appointed, no new or different claim may be submitted except with the consent of the arbitrator and all other parties.

## 6. Answer

The party upon whom the demand for arbitration is made may file an answering statement with the AAA within 10 days after notice from the AAA, simultaneously sending a copy to the other party. If no answer is filed within the stated time, it will be treated as a denial of the claim. Failure to file an answer shall not operate to delay the arbitration.

## 7. Initiation under a Submission

Parties to any collective bargaining agreement may initiate an arbitration under these rules by filing at any regional office of the AAA a copy of a written agreement to arbitrate under these rules (submission), signed by the parties and setting forth the nature of the dispute, the names and addresses of all other parties, including phone number and email address, the remedy sought and the hearing locale requested.

## 8. Fixing of Locale

The parties may mutually agree on the geographic region (locale) where the arbitration is to be held. If the locale is not designated in the collective bargaining agreement or submission, and if the parties disagree as to the locale, the AAA may initially determine the place of arbitration, subject to the power of the arbitrator(s), after their appointment, to make a final determination on the locale. All such determinations shall be made having regard for the contentions of the parties and the circumstances of the arbitration.

## 9. Qualifications of Arbitrator

Any neutral arbitrator appointed pursuant to Section 10, 11, or 12, or selected by mutual agreement of the parties or their appointees, shall be subject to disqualification for the reasons specified in Section 15. If the parties specifically agree in writing, the arbitrator shall not be subject to disqualification for those reasons. Unless the parties agree otherwise, an arbitrator selected unilaterally by one party is a party-appointed arbitrator and is not subject to disqualification pursuant to Section 15.

The term “arbitrator” in these rules refers to the arbitration panel, whether composed of one or more arbitrators and whether the arbitrators are neutral or party appointed.

## 10. Appointment from National Roster

If the parties have not appointed an arbitrator and have not provided any other method of appointment, the arbitrator shall be appointed in the following manner: immediately after the filing of the demand or submission, the AAA shall submit simultaneously to each party an identical list of names of persons chosen from the National Roster of Labor Arbitrators. The Parties are encouraged to agree to an arbitrator from the submitted list and to advise the AAA of their agreement. If the parties are unable to agree upon an arbitrator, each party shall have 10 days from the transmittal date in which to strike names objected to, number the remaining names to indicate the order of preference, and return the list to the AAA.

If a party does not return the list within the time specified, all persons named therein shall be deemed acceptable.

From among the persons who have been approved on both lists, and in accordance with the designated order of mutual preference, the AAA shall invite the acceptance of an arbitrator to serve. If the parties fail to agree upon any of the persons named, or if acceptable arbitrators are unable to act, or if for any other reason the appointment cannot be made from the submitted lists, the AAA shall have the power to make the appointment from among other members of the National Roster without the submission of any additional list.

## 11. Direct Appointment by Parties

If the agreement of the parties names an arbitrator or specifies a method of appointing an arbitrator, that designation or method shall be followed. The notice of appointment, with the name and address of the arbitrator, shall be filed with the AAA by the appointing party. Upon the request of any appointing party, the AAA shall submit a list of members of the National Roster from which the party may, if it so desires, make the appointment.

If the agreement specifies a period of time within which an arbitrator shall be appointed and any party fails to make an appointment within that period, the AAA may make the appointment.

If no period of time is specified in the agreement, the AAA shall notify the parties to make the appointment and if within 10 days thereafter such arbitrator has not been so appointed, the AAA shall make the appointment.

## 12. Appointment of Neutral Arbitrator by Party-Appointed Arbitrators

If the parties have appointed their arbitrators or if either or both of them have been appointed as provided in Section 11, and have authorized those arbitrators to appoint a neutral arbitrator within a specified time and no appointment is made within that time or any agreed extension thereof, the AAA may appoint a neutral arbitrator who shall act as chairperson.

If no period of time is specified for appointment of the neutral arbitrator and the parties do not make the appointment within 10 days from the date of the appointment of the last party-appointed arbitrator, the AAA shall appoint a neutral arbitrator who shall act as chairperson.

If the parties have agreed that the arbitrators shall appoint the neutral arbitrator from the National Roster, the AAA shall furnish to the party-appointed arbitrators, in the manner prescribed in Section 10, a list selected from the National Roster, and the appointment of the neutral arbitrator shall be made as prescribed in that section.

## 13. Number of Arbitrators

If the arbitration agreement does not specify the number of arbitrators, the dispute shall be heard and determined by one arbitrator, unless the parties otherwise agree.

## 14. Notice to Arbitrator of Appointment

Notice of the appointment of the neutral arbitrator shall be sent to the arbitrator by the AAA and the signed acceptance of the arbitrator shall be filed with the AAA prior to the opening of the first hearing.

## 15. Disclosure and Challenge Procedure

Any person appointed or to be appointed as an arbitrator shall disclose to the AAA any circumstance likely to give rise to justifiable doubt as to the arbitrator's impartiality or independence, including any bias or any financial or personal interest in the result of the arbitration. Such obligation shall remain in effect throughout the arbitration. Upon receipt of this information from the arbitrator or another source, the AAA shall communicate the information to the parties and, if it deems it appropriate to do so, to the arbitrator. Upon objection of a party to the continued service of a neutral arbitrator, the AAA, after consultation with the parties and the arbitrator, shall determine whether the arbitrator should be disqualified and shall inform the parties of its decision, which shall be conclusive.

## 16. Vacancies

If for any reason an arbitrator is unable to perform the duties of the office, the AAA may, on proof satisfactory to it, declare the office vacant. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the applicable provisions of these rules, and the matter shall be reheard by the new arbitrator unless the parties agree upon an alternative arrangement.

## 17. Date, Time, and Place of Hearing

The parties shall respond to requests for hearing dates in a timely manner, be cooperative in scheduling the earliest practicable date, and adhere to established deadlines and hearing schedules. Upon the request of either party or the AAA, the arbitrator shall have the authority to convene a scheduling conference call and/or issue a Notice of Hearing setting the date, time and place for each hearing.

The parties will receive a formal written Notice of Hearing detailing the arrangements agreed to by the parties or ordered by the arbitrator at least five days in advance of the hearing date, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

## 18. Representation

Any party may be represented by counsel or other authorized representative.

## 19. Stenographic Record

Any party desiring a stenographic record shall make arrangements directly with a stenographer and shall notify the other parties of such arrangements in advance of the hearing. The requesting party or parties shall pay the cost of the record. If the transcript is agreed by the parties to be or, in appropriate cases, determined by the arbitrator to be the official record of the proceeding, it must be made available to the arbitrator and to the other party for inspection, at a time and place determined by the arbitrator even if one party does not agree to pay for the transcript.

## 20. Interpreters

Any party wishing an interpreter shall make all arrangements directly with the interpreter and shall assume the costs of the service.

## 21. Attendance at Hearing

The arbitrator and the AAA shall maintain the privacy of the hearing unless the law provides to the contrary. Any person having a direct interest in the arbitration is entitled to attend hearings. The arbitrator shall otherwise have the power to require the exclusion of any witness, other than a party, during the testimony of other witnesses. It shall be discretionary with the arbitrator to determine the propriety of the attendance of any other person other than a party and its representatives.

## 22. Postponements

The arbitrator may postpone any hearing upon agreement of the parties, upon request of a party for good cause shown, or upon the arbitrator's own initiative.

## 23. Oaths

Before proceeding with the first hearing, each arbitrator may take an oath of office and, if required by law, shall do so. The arbitrator may require witnesses to testify under oath administered by any duly qualified person and, if required by law or requested by either party, shall do so.

## 24. Majority Decision

When the panel consists of more than one arbitrator, unless required by law or by the arbitration agreement, a majority of the arbitrators must make all decisions.

## 25. Order of Proceedings

A hearing shall be opened by the filing of the oath of the arbitrator, where required; by the recording of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the presence of the arbitrator, the parties, and counsel, if any; and by the receipt by the arbitrator of the demand and answer, if any, or the submission.

Exhibits may, when offered by either party, be received in evidence by the arbitrator. The names and addresses of all witnesses and exhibits in the order received shall be made a part of the record.

The arbitrator may vary the normal procedure under which the initiating party first presents its claim, but in any case shall afford full and equal opportunity to all parties for the presentation of relevant proofs.

The arbitrator, exercising his or her discretion, shall conduct the proceedings with a view to expediting the resolution of the dispute and may direct the order of proof, bifurcate proceedings and direct the parties to focus their presentations on issues the decision on which could dispose of all or part of the case.

## 26. Arbitration in the Absence of a Party or Representative

Unless the law provides to the contrary, the arbitration may proceed in the absence of any party or representative who, after due notice, fails to be present or fails to obtain a postponement. An award shall not be made solely on the default of a party. The arbitrator shall require the other party to submit such evidence as may be required for the making of an award.

## 27. Evidence and Filing of Documents

The parties may offer such evidence as is relevant and material to the dispute, and shall produce such evidence as the arbitrator may deem necessary to an understanding and determination of the dispute. An arbitrator or other person authorized by law to subpoena witnesses and documents may do so independently or upon the request of any party. The arbitrator shall determine the admissibility, the relevance, and materiality of the evidence offered and may exclude evidence deemed by the arbitrator to be cumulative or irrelevant and conformity to legal rules of evidence shall not be necessary. All evidence shall be taken in the presence of all of the arbitrators and all of the parties, except where any of the parties is absent, in default, or has waived the right to be present.

All documents that are not filed with the arbitrator at the hearing, but arranged at the hearing or subsequently by agreement of the parties to be submitted, shall be filed with the AAA for transmission to the arbitrator or transmitted to the arbitrator directly if the parties agree. All parties shall be afforded the opportunity to examine such documents.

Documents may be filed by regular or electronic mail or telephone facsimile, and will be deemed timely if postmarked or otherwise transmitted to the arbitrator or the AAA on or before the due date.

### 28. Evidence by Affidavit

The arbitrator may receive and consider the evidence of witnesses by affidavit, giving it only such weight as the arbitrator deems proper after consideration of any objection made to its admission.

### 29. Inspection

Whenever the arbitrator deems it necessary, he or she may make an inspection in connection with the subject matter of the dispute after notice to the parties, who may, if they so desire, be present at the inspection.

### 30. Closing of Hearing

The arbitrator shall inquire of all parties whether they have any further proof to offer or witnesses to be heard. Upon receiving negative replies or if satisfied that the record is complete, the arbitrator shall declare the hearing closed.

If briefs or other documents are to be filed, the hearing shall be declared closed as of the final date set by the arbitrator for the receipt of briefs. If documents are to be filed as provided in Section 27 and the date for their receipt is later than the date set for the receipt of briefs, the later date shall be the date of closing the hearing. The time limit within which the arbitrator is required to make an award shall commence to run, in the absence of another agreement by the parties, upon the closing of the hearings.

### 31. Reopening of Hearing

The hearing may be reopened on the arbitrator's initiative, or upon application of a party, at any time before the award is made. If reopening of the hearing would prevent the making of the award within the specific time agreed upon by the

parties in the contract out of which the controversy has arisen, the matter may not be reopened unless the parties agree on an extension of time. When no specific date is fixed in the contract, the arbitrator may reopen the hearings and shall have 30 days from the closing of the reopened hearing within which to make an award.

### 32. Waiver of Oral Hearing

The parties may provide, by written agreement, for the waiver of oral hearing. If the parties are unable to agree as to the procedure, the AAA shall specify a fair and equitable procedure.

### 33. Waiver of Rules

Any party who proceeds with the arbitration after knowledge that any provision or requirement of these rules has not been complied with and who fails to state an objection thereto in writing shall be deemed to have waived the right to object.

### 34. Extensions of Time

The parties may modify any period of time by mutual agreement. The AAA or the arbitrator may for good cause extend any period of time established by these rules, except the time for making the award. The AAA shall notify the parties of any such extension.

### 35. Serving of Notice

Any papers, notices, or process necessary or proper for the initiation or continuation of an arbitration under these rules, for any court action in connection therewith, or for the entry of judgment on any award made under these rules, may be served on a party by mail addressed to the party or its representative at the last known address or by personal service, in or outside the state where the arbitration is to be held, provided that reasonable opportunity to be heard with regard to the dispute is or has been granted to the party. The AAA, the arbitrator and the parties may also use overnight delivery or electronic facsimile transmission, or other written forms of electronic communication to give the notices required by these rules.

Unless otherwise instructed by the AAA or by the arbitrator, any documents submitted by any party to the AAA or to the arbitrator shall simultaneously be provided to the other party or parties to the arbitration.



### 36. Time of Award

The award shall be rendered promptly by the arbitrator and, unless otherwise agreed by the parties or specified by law, no later than 30 days from the date of closing the hearing or, if oral hearings have been waived, the award shall be rendered no later than 30 days from the date of transmitting the final statements and proofs to the arbitrator.

### 37. Form of Award

The award shall be in writing and shall be signed (electronic signature acceptable) either by the neutral arbitrator or by a concurring majority if there is more than one arbitrator. The parties shall advise the AAA whenever they do not require the arbitrator to accompany the award with an opinion.

### 38. Award Upon Settlement

If the parties settle their dispute during the course of the arbitration and if the parties so request, the arbitrator may set forth the terms of the settlement in a "consent award".

### 39. Delivery of Award to Parties

Parties shall accept as legal delivery of the award the placing of the award or a true copy thereof in the mail, addressed to the party at its last known address or to its representative; personal or electronic service of the award; or the filing of the award in any other manner that is permitted by law.

### 40. Modification of Award

Within 20 days after the transmittal of an award, any party, upon notice to the other parties, may request the arbitrator, through the AAA, to correct any clerical, typographical, technical, or computational errors in the award. The arbitrator is not empowered to redetermine the merits of any claim already decided. The other parties shall be given 10 days to respond to the request. The arbitrator shall dispose of the request within 20 days after transmittal by the AAA to the arbitrator of the request and any response thereto. If applicable law requires a different procedural time frame, that procedure shall be followed.

#### 41. Release of Documents for Judicial Proceedings

The AAA shall, upon the written request of a party, furnish to such party, at its expense, certified copies of documents contained in the arbitration case file in the AAA's possession that may be required in judicial proceedings relating to the arbitration.

#### 42. Judicial Proceedings and Exclusion of Liability

- a. Neither the AAA nor any arbitrator in a proceeding under these rules is a necessary or proper party in judicial proceedings relating to the arbitration.
- b. Parties to an arbitration under these rules shall be deemed to have consented that neither the AAA nor any arbitrator shall be liable to any party in any action for damages or injunctive relief for any act or omission in connection with any arbitration conducted under these rules.

#### 43. Administrative Fees

As a not-for-profit organization, the AAA shall prescribe an administrative fee schedule to compensate it for the cost of providing administrative services. The schedule in effect at the time of filing shall be applicable.

#### 44. Expenses

The expenses of witnesses for either side shall be paid by the party producing such witnesses. Expenses of the arbitration, other than the cost of the stenographic record, including required traveling and other expenses of the arbitrator and of AAA representatives and the expenses of any witness or the cost of any proof produced at the direct request of the arbitrator, shall be borne equally by the parties, unless they agree otherwise, or unless the arbitrator, in the award, assesses such expenses or any part thereof against any specified party or parties.

#### 45. Suspension for Non-Payment

If administrative charges have not been paid in full, the AAA may so inform the parties in order that one of them may advance the required payment. If such payments are not made, the AAA may suspend or terminate the proceedings.

#### 46. Communication with Arbitrator

There shall be no direct communication between the parties and a neutral arbitrator on substantive matters relating to the case other than at oral hearings, unless the parties and the arbitrator agree otherwise. Any other oral or written communication from the parties to the arbitrator shall be directed to the AAA for transmittal to the arbitrator.

This rule does not prohibit communications on non-substantive matters such as travel arrangements and driving directions, nor does it prohibit direct communications in special circumstances (such as emergency delays) when the AAA is unavailable.

#### 47. Interpretation and Application of Rules

The arbitrator shall interpret and apply these rules insofar as they relate to the arbitrator's powers and duties. When there is more than one arbitrator and a difference arises among them concerning the meaning or application of any such rule, it shall be decided by a majority vote. If that is not possible, the arbitrator or either party may refer the question to the AAA for final decision. All other rules shall be interpreted and applied by the AAA.

## Administrative Fees

### Full Service Administrative Fee

The initial administrative fee is \$275 for each party, due and payable at the time of filing. No refund of the initial fee is made when a matter is withdrawn or settled after the filing of the demand for arbitration or submission.

### Arbitrator Compensation

Unless mutually agreed otherwise, the arbitrator's compensation shall be borne equally by the parties, in accordance with the fee structure disclosed in the arbitrator's biographical profile submitted to the parties.

### Hearing Room Rental

Hearing rooms are available on a rental basis at AAA offices. Please check with your Case Management Center or local AAA office for specific availability and rates.

### Postponement Fees

A fee of \$150 is payable by a party causing a postponement of any scheduled hearing that is subsequently rescheduled by the AAA.

## Expedited Labor Arbitration Procedures

In response to the concern of parties over rising costs and delays in grievance arbitration, the American Arbitration Association has established expedited procedures under which cases are scheduled promptly and awards rendered no later than seven days after the hearings. In return for giving up certain features of traditional labor arbitration, such as transcripts, briefs, and extensive opinions, the parties using these simplified procedures can obtain quick decisions and realize certain cost savings.

Leading labor arbitrators have indicated a willingness to offer their services under these procedures, and the Association makes every effort to assign the best possible arbitrators with early available hearing dates. Since the establishment of these procedures, an ever increasing number of parties have taken advantage of them.

### E1. Agreement of Parties

The Streamlined Labor Arbitration Rules, or the Expedited Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association, in the form obtaining when the arbitration is initiated, shall apply whenever the parties have agreed to arbitrate under them.

These procedures shall be applied as set forth below, in addition to any other portion of the Labor Arbitration Rules not in conflict with these expedited procedures.

### E2. Appointment of Neutral Arbitrator

The AAA shall appoint a single neutral arbitrator from its National Roster of Labor Arbitrators, who shall hear and determine the case promptly.

### E3. Qualifications of Neutral Arbitrator

Any person appointed or to be appointed as an arbitrator shall disclose to the AAA any circumstance likely to give rise to justifiable doubt as to the arbitrator's impartiality or independence, including any bias or any financial or personal interest in the result of the arbitration. The prospective arbitrator shall also disclose any circumstance likely to prevent a prompt hearing. The disclosure obligations in this section shall remain in effect throughout the arbitration. Upon

receipt of such information, the AAA shall determine whether the arbitrator should be disqualified and shall inform the parties of its decision, which shall be conclusive.

#### E4. Vacancies

The AAA is authorized to substitute another arbitrator if a vacancy occurs or if an appointed arbitrator is unable to serve promptly.

#### E5. Date, Time, and Place of Hearing

The arbitrator shall fix the date, time, and place of the hearing, notice of which must be given at least 24 hours in advance. Such notice may be given orally, electronically or by facsimile.

#### E6. No Stenographic Record

There shall be no stenographic record of the proceedings.

#### E7. Proceedings

The hearing shall be conducted by the arbitrator in whatever manner will most expeditiously permit full presentation of the evidence and arguments of the parties. The arbitrator shall make an appropriate minute of the proceedings. Normally, the hearing shall be completed within one day. In unusual circumstances and for good cause shown, the arbitrator may schedule an additional hearing to be held within seven days.

#### E8. Post-hearing Briefs

There shall be no post-hearing briefs.

#### E9. Time of Award

The award shall be rendered promptly by the arbitrator and, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, no later than seven days from the date of the closing of the hearing.

#### E10. Form of Award

The award shall be in writing and shall be signed by the arbitrator. If the arbitrator determines that an opinion is necessary, it shall be in summary form.

## Administrative Fees

### Expedited Administrative Fee

The initial administrative fee is \$150 for each party, due and payable at the time of filing. No refund of the initial fee is made when a matter is withdrawn or settled after the filing of the demand for arbitration or submission.

An additional fee of \$25.00 for each party shall apply if a list of arbitrators is requested.

### Arbitrator Compensation

Unless mutually agreed otherwise, the arbitrator's compensation shall be borne equally by the parties, in accordance with the fee structure disclosed in the arbitrator's biographical profile submitted to the parties.

### Hearing Room Rental

Hearing rooms are available on a rental basis at AAA offices. Please check with your Case Management Center or local AAA office for specific availability and rates.

### Postponement Fees

A fee of \$150 is payable by a party causing a postponement of any scheduled hearing that is subsequently rescheduled by the AAA.

## Optional Labor Services

Parties who use the labor arbitration services of the American Arbitration Association may mutually agree to use any of the Optional Labor Services, as opposed to the process being managed under the standard Labor Rules.

These options respond to a concern about rising costs and delays in processing grievance-arbitration cases and were designed to give the parties more economical considerations to resolve their dispute. Any issue not specifically identified under these Optional Labor Services will default to the Labor Rules.

### O1. List Only Service

Parties can contact the AAA and request one list of no more than 15 names. Within 48 hours of receipt of the joint request, the AAA will submit the list of names and then the AAA closes its file. The administrative fee for a list only is \$75 per party.

### O2. List with Appointment

Parties can contact the AAA and request one list of no more than 15 names. Within 48 hours of receipt of the joint request, the AAA will submit a list with a return date of 10 days, for review and appointment of the arbitrator based on the parties' mutual selection. The AAA will notify the parties of the selection of the arbitrator. The administrative fee for list with appointment is \$100 per party.

### O3. Rapid Resolve Procedure

For relatively uncomplicated grievances, this procedure provides a prompt and inexpensive method for resolving labor disputes. Under this procedure, the parties have the option of filing up to three grievances in one demand. The same Arbitrator will hear all grievances within a single day of hearing being set aside. The written award will be rendered within 48 hours and is limited to a one-paragraph decision on each grievance, unless the Arbitrator determines otherwise. The total cost is \$750.00 per party, which includes the AAA's Administrative Fee and the Fee of the Arbitrator.

### O4. Documents Only Procedure

Under this procedure, the parties may agree to waive in-person hearings and resolve the dispute through the submission of documents. This is a simple



process for the resolution of grievances where a face-to-face hearing is not necessary. The Arbitrator determines the time frame for the submission of written evidence, the record is closed and the award is issued within 14 days. A telephonic conference is optional. The total cost is \$650.00 per party, which includes the AAA's Administrative Fee and the Fee of the Arbitrator.

### O5. Emergency Scheduling Procedure

This procedure allows the parties the opportunity to schedule hearing dates very quickly. Under this procedure, the parties will have the ability to file a demand and receive a limited list of experienced neutrals who have confirmed they are available for a hearing on a specific date within a 14-day time period. By agreement of the parties, a grievance can be scheduled within 24 hours of filing a demand. The procedures can be utilized on existing cases filed with the AAA. There are no additional costs for using these procedures (*regular fees apply*).

### O6. Administration of Permanent Panels

For parties who are engaged in an ad-hoc or non-administered arbitration system, the AAA can assist the parties with the management of their Permanent Panels. The AAA can identify new panel members, assist in rotating the panel members off their roster, or assist in appointing the arbitrator from their roster. The cost varies depending on the services provided.

### O7. Grievance Mediation Services

When negotiations are at an impasse, the AAA's Grievance Mediation Services can provide an informal, effective and confidential means of reaching settlement. These procedures can assist unions and management to define and clarify issues, understand differences, identify interests and explore solutions to reach mutually satisfactory agreements that preserve important relationships. Mediation is very cost-effective when compared to other dispute resolution options. At the AAA, there is no cost to search the AAA's roster of labor neutrals to identify an appropriate mediator for the case at hand. The total cost is \$150.00 per party plus the fee of the Mediator.

## O8. Customized Services

The AAA's role in the dispute resolution process is to administer cases from filing to closing. Additional AAA services include assistance in the design and development of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems for corporations, unions, government agencies, law firms and courts. By agreement of the parties, they can customize the administration of their case, which can include limitations, identification of an alternative method for the appointment of the arbitrator, a specific process for the scheduling of the hearing, or to simply define the specific services needed on their case. Ultimately, the AAA aims to move cases through the arbitration process in a fair and impartial manner that is agreed upon by the parties.

For more information about any of these services, please contact **1.888.774.6904**, or send an email to **labormediation@adr.org**.

Rules, forms, procedures, and guides, as well as information about applying for a fee reduction or deferral, are subject to periodic change and updating. To ensure that you have the most current information, see our website at **www.adr.org**.



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