

621—7.5 (20) Binding arbitration.

7.5(1) *Request for arbitration.* If the dispute remains unresolved ten days after the effective date of the appointment of the mediator, either party to the impasse may request the board to arrange for binding arbitration.

7.5(2) *Form and contents of request.* The request for arbitration shall be in writing and shall include the name, address and signature of the requesting party and the capacity in which acting.

7.5(3) *Service of request.* The requesting party shall serve a copy of the request for arbitration upon the opposing party by ordinary mail.

7.5(4) *Exchange of final offers.* Within four days of the board's receipt of the request for arbitration, each party shall serve its final offer on each of the impasse items to the other party to the impasse. Final offers shall not be amended. A party shall not submit a final offer for arbitration which has not been offered to the other party in the course of negotiations.

7.5(5) *Selection of arbitrator.* Upon the filing of a timely request for arbitration, the board shall serve a list of five arbitrators upon the parties. Within five days of service of the list, the parties shall select their arbitrator from the list in the manner specified in Iowa Code section 20.22(4) as amended by 2010 Iowa Acts, House File 2485, section 26.

7.5(6) *Date and conduct of hearings.* Impasse items are deemed submitted to binding arbitration on the date of the commencement of the arbitration hearing, regardless of its duration. In disputes where the public employer is a community college, or where all or a portion of the public employees in the bargaining unit are teachers licensed under Iowa Code chapter 272 and the public employer is a school district or area education agency, the submission of impasse items to binding arbitration shall occur not later than May 13 of the year when the resulting collective bargaining agreement is to become effective.

Arbitration hearings shall be open to the public and shall be recorded either by mechanized means or by a certified shorthand reporter. The arbitration hearing shall be limited to those factors listed in Iowa Code section 20.22(9) and such other relevant factors as may enable the arbitrator to select the most reasonable offer, in the arbitrator's judgment, of the final offers submitted by the parties on each impasse item. Arbitrators appointed pursuant to impasse procedures agreed upon by the parties shall likewise consider the factors listed in Iowa Code section 20.22(9).

7.5(7) *Continued bargaining.* The parties may continue to bargain on the impasse items before the arbitrator until the arbitrator's selections are made. Should the parties reach agreement on an impasse item following its submission to arbitration, they shall immediately report their agreement to the arbitrator. The agreed upon term shall be incorporated into the parties' collective bargaining agreement, and the arbitrator shall no longer consider the final offers of the parties on that impasse item.

7.5(8) *Report of the arbitrator.* Within 15 days after the arbitration hearing, the arbitrator shall issue a written award specifying and explaining the arbitrator's selections and serve each party and the board with a copy by ordinary mail.

7.5(9) *Dismissal of arbitrator.* In the event of a failure of the arbitrator to issue an award within 15 days after the arbitration hearing, the arbitrator shall notify the board and the parties of this failure. Either party may thereafter request a new arbitrator. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the procedures in subrules 7.5(1) to 7.5(5) shall apply; provided, however, that the parties may submit new final offers. No arbitrator shall issue a partial award except by mutual consent of the parties.

7.5(10) *Costs of arbitration.* The arbitrator shall submit to the parties a written statement of fees and expenses with a copy sent to the board. The parties shall share the costs of arbitration equally.