

Rules for the consideration and awarding of the Kidson Medal of the Meteorological Society of New Zealand

Following consultation there are a number of principles that have guided the formation of these rules

1. The first principle is that all members are eligible for all the benefits of membership, regardless of their position in the organisation.
2. The second principle is that no-one will benefit over and above any other member by virtue of any position they hold in the organisation.
3. The third principle is that, where a potential conflict rises between points 1 and 2, all interests must be declared and a completely fair and disinterested process must be put in place.
4. In regards to point 3, transparency of process is very important so once rules have been agreed they should be openly available and easily accessible.

Rules:

A call for nominations for the Kidson medal shall be made by the Executive Committee of the Society every second year. If an award is not made in a year where nominations were called for, the Executive Committee may put out a call in the following year at the discretion of the President.

The President of the Society cannot be nominated, or nominate an individual for the Kidson medal while serving their two year term as President. The President takes on this responsibility as the only role on the Executive Committee with a two year limit of service.

A nominee is not required to be a member of the Society, but any nominator must be a member. Any member of the Society, except for the President, may make any number of nominations.

After the closing date for nominations the President will form a Sub-committee composed of the President and two other members of the Society. These members may or may not include members of the Executive Committee, but cannot include any member who made a nomination or was nominated.

The Sub-committee will undertake an initial review of all the nominations and corresponding papers. For all nominations considered to be of appropriate quality the Sub-committee will seek two international peer reviews for each nomination.

The Sub-committee will prepare a report for the Executive Committee stating their recommendation on whether to award a Kidson medal and the justification. Only one Kidson medal may be awarded in any year. The report will include discussion of all unsuccessful nominations. The recommendation should be based primarily on the result of the two international reviews received and based on the criteria published on the website and included in the call for nominations. A recommendation requires only a majority decision of the three person Sub-committee. The three members of the Sub-committee are expected to declare and record any conflicts of interest they might consider relevant as part of their report and recommendation to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will review the recommendation of the Sub-committee at a special meeting. Any member of the Executive Committee who made a nomination, or was nominated, will not participate in this meeting. The ratification of the recommendation by the Executive Committee is only intended as a check on correct process. It is not necessary that the committee be familiar with the scientific paper. They should read the report of the Sub-committee and consider the international reviews. A vote of the Executive Committee will be held to accept or reject the recommendation of the Sub-committee decided by majority. The Executive Committee cannot vote to award a medal to someone, when that is contradictory to the recommendation of the Sub-committee. In that situation the Executive Committee can instead require the President to convene a new Sub-committee to reconsider the recommendation. The new Sub-committee would proceed under the same rules already outlined.

It is not possible to consider all eventualities with these rules. The President has responsibility for the interpretation of the intention of these rules. The rules should be improved to reflect experience gained but can only be modified by a quorum of members at the Annual General Meeting and shall be publicly available on the Society's website at all times.