

Naming Policy

This Naming Policy sets forth the rules and guidelines concerning the availability of any domain name registered in this TLD. Here are the most current version of this Naming Policy and related material, including lists of Reserved Names, Blocked Names, and [names that are blocked by ICANN](#). Certain other reserved and blocked names are provided exclusively to accredited Registrars.

This Naming Policy is part of the Registry Policies, which form a cohesive framework and must be read in conjunction with one another, as well as with other applicable agreements, policies, laws, and regulations which, taken together, represent the entirety the obligations and responsibilities with regard to any domain name registration.

Actual or attempted registration of a domain name in contravention of this Naming Policy may result in a Registrant being forbidden from registering domain names and/or the suspension or revocation of such Registrant's right to continue to be recognized as the Registrant of the non-compliant domain name or any other domain name. Suspension or revocation may, as determined in the Registry's sole discretion, with the cooperation of the sponsoring Registrar, apply to one or more of the Registrant's domain names.

The Registry reserves the right to modify or update this Naming Policy at any time and from time to time, and any such modifications or updates shall be posted on the Registry website. Once posted, such modified or updated Naming Policy shall apply to all Registrants.

1. Reserved Names. Reserved names may be reserved by ICANN or the Registry.

a. Reserved Names:

i. ICANN Reserved Names:

A. [IGO/NGO Names](#)

B. Country Codes

ii. Names Reserved by the Registry:

A. Some domain names are reserved by the Registry for use in its operations.

- b. In the event that a Registrant has mistakenly been allowed to register a Reserved Name, the Registry will, in its sole discretion, with the cooperation of the sponsoring Registrar, cancel or transfer such domain name. Any fees paid by the Registrar to the Registry will be refunded but the Registrant and the Registrar shall have no further recourse under the Registry Policies or otherwise.
- c. In the event that a Registrant has fraudulently obtained the registration of a Reserved Name, the Registry reserves the right to cancel or transfer such domain name registration as provided for in, and take such further action as authorized by, the Registry Policies.
- d. Registrants are not allowed to register a domain name that might be considered confusingly similar to a reserved name, In the event that Registry determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, that a domain name is confusingly similar to a reserved name, the Registry reserves the right to cancel or transfer such domain name registration as provided for in, and take such further action as authorized by, the Registry Policies.

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- e. Registrants are not allowed to register a domain name that, (x) consists of any name or title of any City of Boston department or commission, any City of Boston facility, any official City of Boston sponsored event, or any functions, duties, or services provided by the City of Boston to its residents, or (y) misrepresents or falsely implies an association with, or sponsorship or endorsement by, a City of Boston department or commission, a City of Boston facility, an official City of Boston sponsored event, or the carrying out by the Registrant of any functions, duties, or services provided by the City of Boston to its residents. In the event that a Registrant has registered a domain name that Registry determines, in its sole discretion, falls into any category set forth in the immediately preceding sentence, the Registry reserves the right, in cooperation with the sponsoring Registrar, to cancel or transfer such domain name registration as provided for in, and take such further action against Registrant as authorized by, these Registry Policies.
2. Blocked Names. The Registry reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to block certain names and terms from registration. The Registry may also block certain Domain Names in accordance with applicable law or ICANN Consensus Policies.
- a. In the event the Registry has mistakenly allowed the registration of a Blocked Name, the Registry may, after refunding fees to the Registrar, transfer the name back to the blocked list.
3. Infringing Domain Names. Registrants are not allowed to register domain names which include terms that infringe upon intellectual property or other rights. More extensive discussions of infringement and the rights and responsibilities of both the rights holder and the alleged infringer can be found at ICANN's discussion of the [UDRP](#), [URS](#), and the [TMCH claims service](#).
- a. Terms that may infringe upon the rights of others include, but are not limited to:
 - i. company names, brand names, or product names;
 - ii. sport team and association names;
 - iii. terms that may mislead the public as to a connection with or the source of goods or services, or the true identity of a person.
 - iv. names that falsely misrepresent themselves as a government entity, associated with the government, or approved by the government
 - b. Registration or use of a domain name may be infringing if:
 - i. the domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a personal name, company, business, or other legal or trade name, or to a trade or service mark in which a third party has uncontested rights, including without limitation in circumstances which:
 - 1) the registration or use is likely to deceive or confuse others in relation to the source of goods or services provided under or in relation to, or in respect of similar goods or closely-related services of a registered trademark; or
 - 2) the registration or use deceives or confuses others in relation to the source of goods or services in respect of which an unregistered trademark or service mark has become a distinctive identifier of the goods or services of a third-party

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complainant and in which the third-party complainant has established a legal right;
or

- 3) the registration or use trades on or passes off a domain name or a website or other content or services access through a resolution of a domain name as being the same as or endorsed by, authorized by, associated with, or affiliated with the established business, name, or reputation of another; or
 - 4) the registration or use constitutes intentionally misleading or deceptive conduct in breach of the Registry Policies, applicable laws, or ICANN Consensus Policies;
or
 - 5) the domain name has been registered or used in bad faith, which includes, without limitation, the following:
 - A. the Registrant has registered or used the domain name primarily for the purpose of unlawfully disrupting the business or activities of another person or entity; or
 - B. by registering or using the domain name, the Registrant has intentionally created a likelihood of confusion with respect to the third party complainant's intellectual property rights or rights of publicity and as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of website(s), email, or other online locations or services of a product or service available on or through resolution of the domain name.
 - c. The Registry does not reserve or block domain name registrations for terms, or confusingly similar terms, that might infringe upon intellectual property or other rights. It is the responsibility of the Registrant to determine, prior to registering a domain name, whether or not a term might infringe the intellectual property or other rights of an entity or individual. The Registrant is solely liable in the event that the Registrants' use of a domain name constitutes an infringement or other violation of a third party's intellectual property or other rights.
 - d. In the event that any party disputes a Registrant's legal right to register and/or use a domain name that allegedly infringes the rights of another or that allegedly infringing material is displayed on a website that is resolved via the domain name, the Registrant shall act in accordance with and agrees to be bound by ICANN's policies, including the UDRP and URS, and by the Registry Policies, as applicable.
 - e. In the event that a Registrant has registered a domain name that infringes the rights of another, the Registry reserves the right, in cooperation with the sponsoring Registrar, to cancel or transfer such domain name registration as provided for in, and take such further action against Registrant as authorized by, these Registry Policies.
4. Other Naming Policies.
- a. Prospective Registrants are not permitted to submit an application for a domain name if they have previously submitted an application for registration for the same domain name where:
 - i. they are relying on the same eligibility criteria for each domain name applications; and

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- ii. the character string has previously been rejected by the Registry;
 - b. Registrants who repeatedly try to register Reserved Names, Blocked Names, or domain names that infringe the rights of others may be banned from further registration of domain names and may have any domain names registered to them revoked or cancelled, as provided for in the Registry Policies.
5. Boston Community Domains Policies. Boston Community Domains are Domain Names available only to certain qualifying entities, and are subject to certain restrictions.
- a. Qualified Applicants and Registrants. Only a Boston Community Organization may apply for and register Boston Community Domains. A Boston Community Organization is defined as a: (i) City of Boston governmental entities; or (ii) non-profit organizations categorized under Sections 501(c) 3, 4, 8-10, 13, and 19 of the United States Internal Revenue Code that provide services or support to residents within Boston or are located within Boston and provide services outside of Boston.
 - b. Limitations on Type of Boston Community Domain(s). A Boston Community Domain may only be comprised of legal names, d/b/a's, or trade names generally associated with a Boston Community Organization applicant. Boston Community Domains may not include names that are generic or of general interest in nature, e.g., related to sports, news, or for-profit commerce.
 - c. Application for and Registration of Boston Community Domain(s). Boston Community Domains are to be applied for and registered with the Boston Community Registrar.
 - d. Verification of Boston Community Organizations. Applicants for Boston Community Domains may be required to submit documentary proof to Boston Community Registrar to verify that they meet the criteria established by the Registry to qualify as a Boston Community Organization. Any verification requirements will be set by the Registry, at its sole discretion, and may be amended by the Registry from time to time. The acceptance of any verification as valid proof of an Applicants standing as a Boston Community Organization is at the sole discretion or the Registry.
 - e. In accordance with rules established by ICANN, any trademark owner that has registered a trademark with the Trademark Clearinghouse and applies during the Sunrise Period to register such trademark as a domain name will receive priority over any Boston Community Organization that applies for registration of an identical domain name during the Sunrise and Boston Community Periods.