

GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has issued advice to the ICANN Board of Directors regarding New gTLD applications. Please see Section IV, Annex I, and Annex II of the [GAC Beijing Communiqué](#) for the full list of advice on individual strings, categories of strings, and strings that may warrant further GAC consideration.

Respondents should use this form to ensure their responses are appropriately tracked and routed to the ICANN Board for their consideration. Complete this form and submit it as an attachment to the ICANN Customer Service Center via your [CSC Portal](#) with the Subject, “[Application ID] Response to GAC Advice” (for example “1-111-11111 Response to GAC Advice”). All GAC Advice Responses must be received no later than 23:59:59 UTC on 10-May-2013.

Respondent:

Applicant Name	SportAccord
Application ID	1-1012-71460
Applied for TLD (string)	SPORT

Response:

SPORTACCORD input in response to Beijing GAC advice

Even though the .sport TLD application is not directly mentioned in the GAC Advice, SportAccord would like to make the following statements with regard to the principles contained in the GAC Communiqué in relation to SportAccord’s .sport TLD application and from the perspective of the Sport community. SportAccord is the umbrella organisation for both Olympic and non-Olympic international sports federations as well as organisers of international sporting events.

A. Safeguards for the .sport TLD

The .sport TLD shares some of the specific characteristics of number of the categories mentioned by GAC. For instance, the .sport TLD

- is related to health and wellbeing;
- is specifically relevant in the education of children and youth;
- is in many cases an organized activity with sectoral and professional rules based on public interest principles.

This is why our application contains all the necessary safeguards to address GAC concerns, and these safeguards will be carried to .sport TLD Policies, Agreements and Dispute Resolution Procedures, as described below.

A.1. Registration policies

Registration in the .sport will be restricted to members of the Sport community, subject to the additional requirements that the registrant's role in the Sport community, as well as the registrant's use of the registered domain name, must be:

- (i) generally accepted as legitimate; and
- (ii) beneficial to the cause and the values of Sport; and
- (iii) commensurate with the role and importance of the registered domain name; and
- (iv) in good faith at the time of registration and thereafter.

A.2. Enforcement Mechanisms

We would like to specifically draw attention more to the enforcement mechanisms devised by SportAccord to maintain the quality of the TLD namespace and its compliance with the rules, and mitigate possible abuses.

In this regard, the following mechanism are particularly relevant and already clearly set forth in SportAccord's Application for the .sport TLD:

- 1 Rapid Takedown Policy for cases of general malicious conduct (Q28.1)
- 2 Rapid Takedown Policy for cases of phishing, with drastically shortened response times (Q28.2)
- 3 Single Point of Contact in case of complaints of abusive or non-compliant behavior by the Registry (Q28.3)
- 4 Admin Contact as Single Point of Contact in case of complaints of abusive or non-compliant behavior by the Registrant (Q20.e.1)
- 5 Ex-Officio Random Checks of the usage of registered Domain Names (Q29.2.1)
- 6 Complaints System (Q29.2.2)

All these mechanisms are in addition of the validation procedures established at registration time. We firmly believe that in conjunction with our registration policies and ICANN-mandated policies SportAccord adequately addresses all the safeguards outlined by GAC both for those applicable to all new gTLDs as well as the additional safeguards advised for certain categories of new gTLDs.

B. Community Applications

As applicant of .sport TLD on behalf of the Sport Community SportAccord would like to express its support to the GAC's position, as stated in Point IV.e of the Beijing GAC Communiqué:

"(...) that in those cases where a community, which is clearly impacted by a set of new gTLD applications in contention, has expressed a collective and clear opinion on those applications, such opinion should be duly taken into account, together with all other relevant information."

C. Singular/plural string confusion (.sport/.sports)

SportAccord joins the GAC's expression of concern about a TLD representing the plural form of a word while another TLD represents the singular form of the same word.

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SportAccord filed a string confusion objection because an extremely high likelihood of confusion exists between “.sports” and “.sport”.

SportAccord was able to take action to prevent confusion between .sport/sports only because it is the applicant for the .sport TLD. The other applicants for .sport/sports did not file a string confusion objection.

This points to a serious flaw in the ICANN gTLD program. Even though string confusion is highly detrimental to members of the affected communities, a TLD registry lacking community accountability may find it profitable. The ICANN gTLD program should not rely on the self-interest of TLD operators alone to avoid TLD string confusion.

D. Community-related Needs to Protect the .sport Namespace

In addition to the concerns identified by the GAC, the .sport TLD is subject to a number of public policy objectives of specific importance to the Sport community.

The Sport community has a long-standing commitment to these goals, for example:

- Measures against illegal betting
- Measures against doping
- Measures against violence and hooliganism
- Measures against racism, discrimination and bullying

Achievements and progress in this respect would be jeopardized if the .sport TLD were to be operated without adequate community-based accountability and prudential policies.