

SIG Guidelines Review Draft Recommendations

Introduction

The SIG Guidelines Working Group has agreed to adopt a principles-first approach when sharing its Draft Recommendations with the SIGs. This approach focuses consultation on the underlying principles and intended outcomes of the proposed changes, enabling the community to provide meaningful feedback on the direction of the recommendations before detailed drafting is undertaken. The Draft Recommendations table should therefore be considered as a statement of the issues identified and the principles for addressing them, rather than as final SIG Guidelines text or implementation details.

Feedback received will then be incorporated into the SIG Guidelines Consensus Call Draft proposal, which is scheduled for publication four weeks prior to the commencement of APNIC 62.

We welcome the SIG community to assess whether the proposed principles and recommended direction appropriately address the identified issues.

#	Issue	Issue Description	Recommended Principles
1	Term Limits	There are currently no limits on the number of terms a Chair or Co-Chair may serve, which could impact opportunities for broader community participation in leadership roles.	Introduce term limits for Chairs and Co-Chairs. The WG proposes limiting service to four terms (8 years) in total across all SIGs. For current and past SIG chairs who will run for re-election and has served the maximum 4 terms already, they will be allowed one more term for continuity of the SIGs up until 2027 SIGs elections. Current or past SIG chairs who has served less than the maximum 4 terms will not get the additional term. Terms of less than one year would not count towards this limit, including Acting chair positions.

2	SIG Charter Governance	The current SIG Guidelines treats a SIG Charter primarily as a description of purpose and activities rather than the governing instrument of a SIG.	Strengthen Charter requirements so that a Charter clearly defines purpose, scope and objectives.
3	SIG Formation and Charter Endorsement	The current SIG formation process uses permissive language throughout, making mandatory and optional steps difficult to distinguish.	Clarify mandatory and optional steps to create a clear and transparent SIG formation process such as the preliminary BoF needs to prepare a SIG charter as a mandatory step. WG requests feedback from SIGs on what should be mandatory and optional steps.
4	SIG Dissolution Process	The current Guidelines on SIG dissolution process relies on subjective criteria and provides limited procedural safeguards or community involvement.	Introduce objective criteria, notice requirements, opportunities for remediation, publication of reasons, appeal rights, and alignment with the SIG formation framework. WG requests SIGs feedback on terms or criteria for SIG Dissolution.
5	Chair Responsibilities	Several listed responsibilities appear specific to the Policy SIG rather than applying across all SIGs.	Move SIG-specific responsibilities into relevant SIG Charters and retain only common responsibilities within the Guidelines.
6	Initial Co-Chair Vacancy	The current Guidelines election model could leave a newly formed SIG operating without a Co-Chair for its first year.	Consider electing both positions simultaneously, with an initial one-year Co-Chair term to preserve staggered elections.
7	Eligibility Criteria	Election eligibility provisions contain ambiguities regarding nominee eligibility pathways.	Clarify nominee eligibility requirements and ensure alignment with voter eligibility and related APNIC governance documents.
8	Chair and Co-Chair Removal Process	The EC has authority to remove elected SIG leaders, but the process lacks procedural fairness safeguards and clear performance criteria.	Introduce notice requirements, response opportunities, written reasons, appeal rights, and greater involvement of the SIG community.

9	Working Group Governance	The Guidelines do not clearly define WG creation authority, accountability arrangements, or leadership appointment mechanisms.	Establish a clearer framework for WG formation, operation, leadership, reporting, and closure.
10	BoF Alignment with SIG Formation Process	Existing BoF provisions may become inconsistent depending on the final SIG formation process proposed by the WG.	Review and update BoF provisions after the SIG formation model is finalised (Mandatory step for Charter in SIG Formation to be added if accepted).
11	Code of Conduct Application	The current Guidelines do not explicitly state that the Community Code of Conduct applies to Chairs and Co-Chairs in the performance of their duties.	Clarify that the Code of Conduct applies to all SIG activities, including leadership responsibilities, and align related enforcement mechanisms.
12	Appeals Process	The current Guidelines does not have an appeals process mechanism.	Define a formal appeals process within the Guidelines or remove the reference if no appeals framework is intended for SIG dissolution and Chair or co-chair removal process. WG requests feedback from the SIGs on whether an appeals process is required.