

.GH Registry Domain Name Policy

Version 1.0

Status: Implemented

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the .GH registry rules for the registration and use of domain names within the .GH domain and its sub-domains. The Policy as amended from time to time forms part of the Registrant Agreement and is part of the contract of registration. All documents related to the .GH registry are published on its [Webpage](#) which serves as the authoritative source of all documents.

1. Definitions

1.1 <example.sld.gh> is a domain name ("Domain Name"). A Domain Name is made up of several levels of domains. In the Domain Name <example.sld.gh> the <.gh> is called the top or first level domain, the <.sld> is the second level domain and <example> is the third level domain.

1.2 In the Domain Name <fourth.example.sld.gh> the domain <fourth> is called a fourth level domain and <.example> is a third level domain, <.sld> is a second level domain and <.gh> is a top-level domain.

1.3 In this Policy the terms top level domain ("TLD"), second level domain ("2LD") and third level domain ("3LD") and fourth level domain ("4LD") will be used accordingly.

1.4 The 2LD is a sub-domain of the TLD. The 3LD is a sub-domain of the 2LD. The 4LD is a subdomain of the 3LD.

1.5 The registry may auction or sell at a premium, limited domains on the 2LD and/or 3LD.

1.6 When an application for registration of a Domain Name is submitted by you, or on your behalf, you are an applicant. If your application is successful, your Domain Name will be registered by us, and you will be the registrant.

2. Restrictions on Domain Names

2.1 If the 2LD, 3LD or 4LD in your application does not meet the requirements in this section then your application cannot be accepted.

2.2 The 2LD, 3LD or 4LD may only contain the following thirty-seven characters ("Characters") or a combination thereof:

- the twenty-six unaccented Roman letters (i.e., a-z inclusive);
- the ten western digits (i.e., 0-9 inclusive); and
- hyphens.

2.3 The first or last Characters of a 2LD, 3LD or 4LD must not be a hyphen.

2.4 The domain name must not consist of ONLY numeric characters.

2.5 .GH Registry does not offer Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) for now and so domain names that start with the characters "xn--" (i.e., "xn" followed by two dashes) may not be registered.

2.6 A Second or Third Level or Fourth Level Domain must not be one Character long or two characters long. For example, an application to register 1.2LD.gh or ab.2LD.gh would be rejected. Except offered by auction at the second or third level. For example, abcd.a.gh can be permitted.

2.7 For the SLDs (com.gh, org.gh, net.gh, biz.gh, idi.gh, mil.gh, edu.gh, and .gov.gh) a Third Level Domain must not consist of only two letters. For example, an application to register ie.2LD.gh or a.2LD.gh would be rejected. Again, as above an exception is allowed when offered by auction. Also, .GH Registry would not offer for auction any two-letter acronym which is a validly registered trademark in Ghana..

2.8 For the 2LDs (com.gh, org.gh, net.gh, biz.gh, idi.gh, mil.gh, edu.gh, and .gov.gh) a 3LD may not be identical to any existing 2LD, or any SLD under .gh the creation of which has formally been announced. For example, an application to register org.com.gh or net.com.gh would be rejected.

2.9 Irrespective of the above, .GH registry shall reserve the right to maintain the list of domains that SHALL NOT be available for registration or will be withdrawn if registered already.

Offensive Names: This list shall contain words as determined by .GH registry to be offensive first to the Ghanaian community and then to the global community. ALL requests for domains under this list would be rejected.

Restricted Names: This shall be a list of domains that may give a wrong impression if used. This could pertain to military, government or other related words. ALL applications for these domains would be rejected.

GeoNames: This list shall contain words as determined by .GH registry as geographical and placenames.

Premium Names: These are domains with generic words ONLY but command premium value. These domains would be made available to registrants through a competitive bidding and auction process.

Existing Ghanaian Trademarks: These are domains which contain words which violate any existing trademark registered in Ghana unless the consent of the trademark owner has been obtained.

<https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/9180>

<https://www.wipo.int/branddb/en/>

<https://rgd.gov.gh/Industrial%20Property.html>

<https://protect.tm/en/tm/search-trademark-in-ghana>

3. Domain Name Registration and Renewal

3.1 All domain name registration and renewal must follow the .GH registry domain name [Lifecycle Policy](#).(Example to be replaced)

3.2 Domain names can be registered for up to 10 years.

3.3 For each domain name, there must be a Technical Contact(Tech-C), Administrative Contact(Admin-C) and Billing Contact(Bill-C.) The Admin-C or its legal representative must be resident in Ghana.

3.4 Domain name registrant and the Admin-C legal entities must be duly registered in Ghana.

3.5 Valid company registration documents are required as part of the domain application process. Except for registration in .idi.gh where national identification is required.

3.6 While not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged that DNS servers for domains registered under .gh be hosted in Ghana. This supports the growth of Ghana's Digital Infrastructure. DNS servers are expected to be all time authoritative for the zone.

3.7 All domain names should be registered through an accredited registrar.

3.8 Registered .gh domains are encouraged to become active within six (6) months of registration.

3.9 It is the responsibility of the registrant to ensure that the name does not infringe on any trademark or intellectual property rights.

3.10 Case of dispute regarding domain name should follow the .GH registry domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (**[Link to the policy](#)**).

3.11 Domains are generally registered under the following 2LDs:

- .com.gh – Commercial entities (e.g., company.com.gh, etc)
- .edu.gh – Educational institutions (e.g., [school.edu.gh](#), etc) *Closed
- .org.gh – Organizations (e.g., organisation.org.gh, etc)
- .net.gh – Commercial or Network entities (e.g., [network.net.gh](#), etc)
- .biz.gh – Business (e.g. [business.biz.gh](#), etc)
- .idi.gh - Individual (e.g. [yourname.idi.gh](#), etc)

.mil.gh – Military (e.g. [military.mil.gh](#), etc) *Closed

.gov.gh – Government (e.g. [government.gov.gh](#), etc) *Closed

3.12 There are a few other 2LD. These legacy names are valid registrations.

3.13 For closed 2LD, applicants should demonstrate membership in these communities, corporations or institutions.

3.13 For information regarding the registration of **special, restricted, and reserved** domain names, please contact an [accredited registrar](#)