

.GH Registry Domain Name Life Cycle

Version 1.0

Status: Implemented

Introduction

Most .GH domain names can be registered for a period of 1-10 years. This article explains the domain name lifecycle from registration to deletion. This rule, stated below, does not apply to gov.gh and mil.gh domain names.

1. Domain name is Registered or Renewed

Domain names can be registered or renewed for a period of 1-10 years as long as the period does not cut across the maximum allowed period from the registration or renewal date.

2. Domain name expires, Beginning of Renewal Grace Period

Once the domain name expires, it enters the "Renewal Grace Period (RGP)" of **60 days** within which it is available to the Registrant. During the first 30 days of the Renewal Grace Period, the domain owner through a Registrar, can renew their domain names at any time without penalty. However, a Registrar cannot transfer the domain name to another Registrar, unless it is renewed.

3. Suspension Period, End of Renewal Grace Period

From **30 days to 60 days** after expiry, the domain name enters the Suspension Period; the same conditions stated above apply. During this period, the domain name is no longer available and all services associated with the domain name (e.g., website, emails, etc.) will automatically not be available. The Registrant will only need to contact the Registrar for renewal.

4. **Sixty (60) days after expiration**

Sixty days after the domain name expires, the DNS server of the domain name is no longer available & all services associated with the domain name (e.g., website, emails) will automatically not be available. The domain goes into Redemption Period Status.

5. End of Renewal Grace Period, Beginning of Redemption Period

At the end of the Renewal Grace Period, the domain name goes into Redemption Period status for **28 days**. During the "Redemption Period" the domain owner can still redeem their domain name through the Registrar with a domain restoration fee.

6. Redemption Period Ends, Queued for Deletion

88 days after expiration, the Redemption Period ends. The domain name will be placed in a "Pending Delete" status at the registry for up to 14 days. During this time, it is not possible for the Registrar to redeem, recover or renew the domain name. The only way to retrieve the domain is to make a request to the Registry through the Registrar.

7. Domain name is Deleted, Made available for Registration

After the 14 days Pending Delete period, the domain name will be released by the Registry. At this point, the domain will be available to the general public for registration on "First come First served basis".



Figure 1: This Diagram is for Registrar/Registrant without administrative intervention

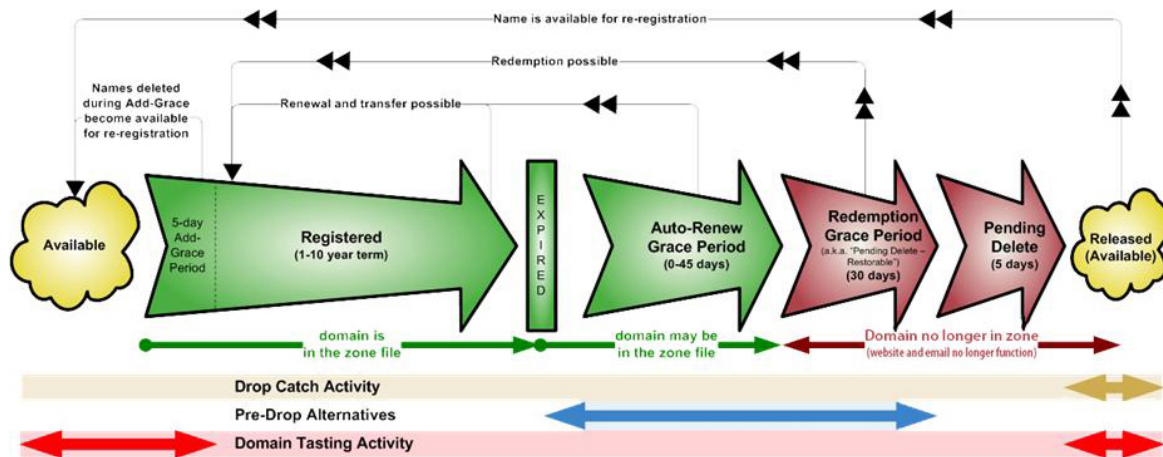


Figure 2: Life Cycle of a Typical gTLD Domain Name (Source: icann.org)

.GH Registry Domain Name Life Cycle Policy

Version: 1.0

Status: Draft

Effective Date: (To be assigned)

Issued By: .GH Registry

1 Purpose

This policy defines the official lifecycle stages of .GH domain names, including registration, renewal, expiration, suspension, redemption, deletion, and re-release. It establishes standardized operational timelines and procedures for registrars and registrants.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all standard .GH domain names registered under the .GH Registry.

Exclusions: This policy does not apply to the following second-level domains, they are governed by separate administrative policies:

- gov.gh
- mil.gh

3 Registration Term Limits

3.1 Domain names under the .GH Registry may be registered or renewed for a period of one (1) to ten (10) years.

3.2 The total registration term must not exceed the maximum allowable period from the original registration or renewal date.

4 Domain Name Lifecycle Stages

Domain name under .GH lifecycle is represented by figure1. The duration of each stage follows those of gTLD ¹represented at figure 2.



Figure 1: Domain name lifecycle

4.1 Available Status

4.1.1 A domain name in the Available state is not registered and is open for public registration.

¹ <https://www.icann.org/en/contracted-parties/accredited-registrars/resources/gtld-lifecycle>

4.1.2 Domain registration is processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

4.1.3 Upon successful registration, the domain transitions to the Active state.

4.2 *Active Status (Registered / Renewed)*

4.2.1 A domain name enters the Active state upon successful registration or renewal.

4.2.2 During this stage:

- The domain is fully operational
- DNS services are active
- Website and email services function normally
- Registrants may renew the domain at any time

4.2.3 Renewal during the Active stage extends the registration period and maintains the domain in Active status.

4.3 *Expired Status*

4.3.1 A domain name enters the Expired state immediately after the registration period ends without renewal.

4.3.2 At this stage:

- Ownership remains associated with the registrant
- The domain is no longer considered active
- The domain automatically transitions into the Renewal Grace Period

4.4 *Auto-Renewed Grace Period (RGP)*

4.4.1 The Renewal Grace Period begins immediately after expiration and lasts for ***forty-five (45) days***.

4.4.2 First Phase: Renewal Window (0–30 Days)

- Registrants may renew the domain without penalty
- Registrars are prohibited from transferring the domain unless renewal is completed

4.4.3 Second Phase: Suspension Period (30–45 Days)

- Domain services are suspended
- Websites and email services become unavailable
- The domain remains eligible for renewal only through the registrar

4.5 *Redemption Period*

4.5.1 Upon completion of the Renewal Grace Period, the domain enters the Redemption Period for ***thirty (30) days***.

4.5.2 During this period:

- DNS services remain disabled

- The domain does not resolve
- Registrants may restore ownership by paying a restoration fee through their registrar

4.6 Pending Delete Status

4.6.1 After a total of *seventy-five (75) days* from expiration, the domain enters Pending Delete status.

4.6.2 During Pending Delete:

- Renewal is not permitted
- Restoration is not permitted
- Registrar intervention is not allowed
- The domain is queued for permanent deletion by the registry

4.6.3 The Pending Delete period lasts for up to five (5) days.

4.7 Domain Release (Return to Available)

4.7.1 After the Pending Delete period ends, the domain is permanently deleted from the registry database.

4.7.2 The domain is returned to the Available pool and becomes open for public registration.

4.7.3 Registration is processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

5 Compliance Requirements

5.1 All accredited registrars must comply with this lifecycle policy when managing .GH domain registrations.

5.2 Registrants are responsible for maintaining valid contact information and renewing domain names before expiration deadlines.

6 Policy Review and Updates

6.1 The .GH Registry reserves the right to modify this policy when necessary.

6.2 Updates shall be communicated to registrars and published on official registry platforms.

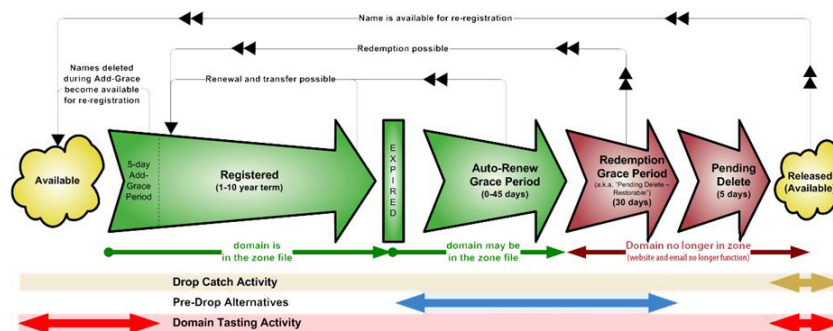


Figure 2: Life Cycle of a .GH Domain Name