

# Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy Rules

## Table of Contents

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Rules for Qatar Domains Registry Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy .....	4
1. Definitions .....	4
2. Communications .....	5
3. The Complaint .....	7
4. Notification of Complaint.....	8
5. The Response .....	9
6. Appointment of the Panel and Timing of Decision .....	10
7. Impartiality and Independence .....	11
8. Communication Between Parties and the Panel .....	11
9. Transmission of the File to the Panel.....	12
10. General Powers of the Panel.....	12
11. Language of Proceedings .....	12
12. Further Statements .....	12
13. In-Person Hearings.....	12
14. Default.....	12
15. Panel Decisions .....	13
16. Communication of Decision to Parties.....	13
17. Settlement or Other Grounds for Termination.....	14
18. Effect of Court Proceedings .....	14
19. Fees .....	14
20. Exclusion of Liability .....	14
21. Amendments.....	15

## Document Information

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### Document Contact

Contact the following for details related to this document:

Title	Internet Domain Section Head
Address	Communications Regulatory Authority, Doha – Qatar
Email	<a href="mailto:support@domains.qa">support@domains.qa</a>

### Document Status

The status of the document:

Version	1.0
Effective Date	12/1/2011
Status	Current
Issue Date	12/1/2011

## Rules for Qatar Domains Registry Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules")

Administrative proceedings for the resolution of disputes under the Qatar Domains Registry Dispute Resolution Policy shall be governed by these Rules and also the Supplemental Rules of the Provider administering the proceedings, as posted on its web site. To the extent that the Supplemental Rules of the Provider conflict with these Rules, these Rules supersede.

### 1. Definitions

The following words used in these Rules will have the meanings assigned to each of them below:

**"Complainant"** means the party initiating a complaint concerning a Domain Name Registration;

**"Mutual Jurisdiction"** means a court jurisdiction at the State of Qatar;

**"Administrative Panel"** or **"Panel"** means an administrative panel appointed by the Provider to decide a complaint concerning a Domain Name;

**"Panellist"** means an individual appointed by the Provider to be a member of a Panel;

**"Party"** means a Complainant or a Respondent;

**"Policy"** means the Qatar Domains Registry Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy that is incorporated by reference and made a part of the Registrant Agreement;

**"Provider"** means the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the URL of which is <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/>);

**"Registrar"** means the entity with which the Respondent has Registered a Domain Name that is the subject of a complaint, namely a Registrar Accredited by the Qatar Domains Registry;

**"Registrant Agreement"** means the agreement between a Registrar and a Registrant;

**"Registrant"** means the individual or organisation that is recorded in the Qatar Domains Registry's Domain Name Registry System as the person or entity that is entitled to use a specific Domain Name pursuant to a Domain Name Licence;

**"Respondent"** means the Registrant of a Domain Name against which a complaint is initiated;

“**Reverse Domain Name Hijacking**” means using the Policy in bad faith to attempt to deprive a Registrant of a Domain Name;

“**Supplemental Rules**” means the rules adopted by the Provider administering a proceeding to supplement these Rules. Supplemental Rules shall not be inconsistent with the Policy or these Rules and shall cover such topics as fees, word and page limits and guidelines, file size and format modalities, the means for communicating with the Provider and the Panel, and the form of cover sheets; and

“**Written Notice**” means hardcopy notification by the Provider to the Respondent of the commencement of an administrative proceeding under the Policy which shall inform the respondent that a complaint has been filed against it, and which shall state that the Provider has electronically transmitted the complaint including any annexes to the Respondent by the means specified herein. Written notice does not include a hardcopy of the complaint itself or of any annexes.

## 2. Communications

- a) When forwarding a complaint, including any annexes, to the Respondent, it shall be the Provider's responsibility to employ reasonably available means calculated to achieve actual notice to Respondent. Achieving actual notice, or employing the following measures to do so, shall discharge this responsibility:
  - (i) sending Written Notice of the complaint to all postal-mail and facsimile addresses:
    - A. shown in the Domain Name's Registration data in the WHOIS Service for the Registrant, the Technical Contact, and the Administrative Contact and
    - B. supplied by the Registrar to the Provider for the Registrant's Billing Contact; and
  - (ii) sending the complaint, including any annexes, in electronic form by email to:
    - A. the email addresses for those Technical, Administrative, and Billing Contacts;
    - B. postmaster@<the contested Domain Name>; and
    - C. if the Domain Name (or "www." followed by the Domain Name) resolves to an active web page (other than a generic page the Provider concludes is maintained by a Registrar or ISP for parking Domain Names Registered by multiple Domain Name holders), any email address shown or email links on that web page; and
  - (iii) sending the complaint, including any annexes, to any email address the Respondent has notified the Provider it prefers and, to the extent practicable, to all other email addresses provided to the Provider by Complainant under Section 3(b)(v).

- b) Except as provided in Section 2(a) and Section 3(b)(xii), any written communication to Complainant or Respondent provided for under these Rules shall be made electronically via the Internet (a record of its transmission being available), or by any reasonably requested preferred means stated by the Complainant or Respondent, respectively (see Sections 3(b)(iii) and 5(b)(iii)).
- c) Any communication to the Provider or the Panel shall be made by the means and in the manner (including, where applicable, the number of copies) stated in the Provider's Supplemental Rules.
- d) Communications shall be made in the language prescribed in Section 11.
- e) Either Party may update its contact details by notifying the Provider and the Registrar.
- f) Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, or decided by a Panel, all communications provided for under these Rules shall be deemed to have been made:
  - (i) if via the Internet, on the date that the communication was transmitted, provided that the date of transmission is verifiable; or, where applicable
  - (ii) if delivered by telecopy or facsimile transmission, on the date shown on the confirmation of transmission; or:
  - (iii) if by postal or courier service, on the date marked on the receipt.
- g) Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, all time periods calculated under these Rules to begin when a communication is made shall begin to run on the earliest date that the communication is deemed to have been made in accordance with Section 2(f).
- h) Any communication by
  - (i) a Panel to any Party shall be copied to the Provider and to the other Party;
  - (ii) the Provider to any Party shall be copied to the other Party; and
  - (iii) a Party shall be copied to the other Party, the Panel and the Provider, as the case may be.
- i) It shall be the responsibility of the sender to retain records of the fact and circumstances of sending, which shall be available for inspection by affected parties and for reporting purposes. This includes the Provider in sending Written Notice to the Respondent by post and/or facsimile under Section 2(a)(i).
- j) In the event a Party sending a communication receives notification of non-delivery of the communication, the Party shall promptly notify the Panel (or, if no Panel is yet appointed, the Provider) of the circumstances of the notification. Further

proceedings concerning the communication and any response shall be as directed by the Panel (or the Provider).

### 3. The Complaint

- a) Any person or entity may initiate an administrative proceeding by submitting a complaint in accordance with the Policy and these Rules to the Provider.
- b) The complaint including any annexes shall be submitted in electronic form and shall:
  - (i) Request that the complaint be submitted for decision in accordance with the Policy and these Rules;
  - (ii) Provide the name, postal and email addresses, and the telephone and telefax numbers of the Complainant and of any representative authorised to act for the Complainant in the administrative proceeding;
  - (iii) Specify a preferred method for communications directed to the Complainant in the administrative proceeding (including person to be contacted, medium, and address information) for each of (A) electronic-only material and (B) material including hard copy (where applicable);
  - (iv) Designate whether Complainant elects to have the dispute decided by a single-member or a three-member Panel and, in the event Complainant elects a three-member Panel, provide the names and contact details of three candidates to serve as one of the Panellists (these candidates may be drawn from the Provider's list of panellists);
  - (v) Provide the name of the Respondent (Domain Name holder) and all information (including any postal and email addresses and telephone and telefax numbers) known to Complainant Regarding how to contact Respondent or any representative of Respondent, including contact information based on pre-complaint dealings, in sufficient detail to allow the Provider to send the complaint as described in Section 2(a);
  - (vi) Specify the Domain Name(s) that is/are the subject of the complaint;
  - (vii) Identify the Registrar(s) with whom the Domain Name(s) is/are Registered at the time the complaint is filed;
  - (viii) Specify the trademark(s) or service mark(s) on which the complaint is based and, for each mark, describe the goods or services, if any, with which the mark is used (Complainant may also separately describe other goods and services with which it intends, at the time the complaint is submitted, to use the mark in the future.);
  - (ix) Describe, in accordance with the Policy, the grounds on which the complaint is made including, in particular,
    1. the manner in which the Domain Name(s) is/are identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights; and
    2. why the Respondent (the Registrant) should be considered as having no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Domain Name(s) that is/are the subject of the complaint; and

3. why the Domain Name(s) should be considered as having been Registered or being used in bad faith

(The description should, for elements (2) and (3), discuss any aspects of Sections 5(b) and 5(c) of the Policy that are applicable. The description shall comply with any word or page limit set forth in the Provider's Supplemental Rules.);

- (x) Specify, in accordance with the Policy, the remedies sought;
- (xi) Identify any other legal proceedings that have been commenced or terminated in connection with or relating to any of the Domain Name(s) that are the subject of the complaint;
- (xii) State that a copy of the complaint, including any annexes, together with the cover sheet as prescribed by the Provider's Supplemental Rules, has been sent or transmitted to the Respondent (Domain Name holder);
- (xiii) State that Complainant will submit, with respect to any challenges to a decision in the administrative proceeding cancelling or transferring the Domain Name, to the jurisdiction of the courts in the State of Qatar;
- (xiv) Conclude with the following statement followed by the signature (in any electronic format) of the Complainant or its authorised representative:

*"The Complainant agrees to abide by the Dispute Resolution Procedures and Rules.*

*The Complainant agrees that its claims and remedies concerning the Registration of the Domain Name, the dispute, or the dispute's resolution shall be solely against the Registrant of the Domain Name and waives all such claims and remedies against (a) the Provider and Panellists, except in the case of deliberate wrongdoing, (b) the Registrar(s), and (c) the < Qatar Domains Registry >, as well as their directors, officers, employees, and agents ."*

*"The Complainant certifies that the information contained in this Complaint is to the best of Complainant's knowledge complete and accurate, that this Complaint is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, and that the assertions in this Complaint are warranted under these Rules and under applicable law, as it now exists or as it may be extended by a good-faith and reasonable argument ."; and*

- (xv) Annex any documentary or other evidence, including a copy of the Policy applicable to the Domain Name(s) in dispute and any trademark or service mark Registration upon which the complaint relies, together with a schedule indexing such evidence.
- c) The complaint may relate to more than one Domain Name, provided that the Domain Names are Registered by the same Registrant.

#### 4. Notification of Complaint



- a) The Provider shall review the complaint for administrative compliance with the Policy and these Rules and, if in compliance, shall forward the complaint, including any annexes, electronically to the Respondent and shall send Written Notice of the complaint (together with the explanatory cover sheet prescribed by the Provider's Supplemental Rules) to the Respondent, in the manner prescribed by Section 2(a), within three (3) calendar days following receipt of the fees to be paid by the Complainant in accordance with Section 19 of these Rules.
- b) If the Provider finds the complaint to be administratively deficient, it shall promptly notify the Complainant and the Respondent of the nature of the deficiencies identified. The Complainant shall have five (5) calendar days within which to correct any such deficiencies, after which the administrative proceeding will be deemed withdrawn without prejudice to submission of a different complaint by Complainant.
- c) The date of commencement of the administrative proceeding shall be the date on which the Provider completes its responsibilities under Section 2(a) in connection with sending the complaint to the Respondent.
- d) The Provider shall immediately notify the Complainant, the Respondent, the concerned Registrar(s), and Qatar Domains Registry of the date of commencement of the administrative proceeding.

## 5. The Response

- a) Within twenty (20) days of the date of commencement of the administrative proceeding the Respondent shall submit a response to the Provider.
- b) The response, including any annexes, shall be submitted in electronic form and shall:
  - (i) Respond specifically to the statements and allegations contained in the complaint and include any and all bases for the Respondent (the Registrant) to retain Registration and use of the disputed Domain Name (This portion of the response shall comply with any word or page limit set forth in the Provider's Supplemental Rules.);
  - (ii) Provide the name, postal and email addresses, and the telephone and telefax numbers of the Respondent (the Registrant) and of any representative authorised to act for the Respondent in the administrative proceeding;
  - (iii) Specify a preferred method for communications directed to the Respondent in the administrative proceeding (including person to be contacted, medium, and address information) for each of (A) electronic-only material and (B) material including hard copy (where applicable);
  - (iv) If Complainant has elected a single-member panel in the complaint (see Section 3(b)(iv)), state whether Respondent elects instead to have the dispute decided by a three-member panel;

- (v) If either Complainant or Respondent elects a three-member Panel, provide the names and contact details of three candidates to serve as one of the Panellists (these candidates may be drawn from the Provider's list of panellists);
- (vi) Identify any other legal proceedings that have been commenced or terminated in connection with or relating to any of the Domain Name(s) that are the subject of the complaint;
- (vii) State that a copy of the response including any annexes has been sent or transmitted to the Complainant, in accordance with Section 2(b); and
- (viii) Conclude with the following statement followed by the signature (in any electronic format) of the Respondent or its authorized representative:

*"The Respondent certifies that the information contained in this Response is to the best of Respondent's knowledge complete and accurate, that this Response is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, and that the assertions in this Response are warranted under these Rules and under applicable law, as it now exists or as it may be extended by a good-faith and reasonable argument .";* and

- (ix) Annex any documentary or other evidence upon which the Respondent relies, together with a schedule indexing such documents.
- c) If Complainant has elected to have the dispute decided by a single-member Panel and Respondent elects a three-member Panel, Respondent shall be required to pay one-half of the applicable fee for a three-member Panel as set forth in the Provider's Supplemental Rules. This payment shall be made together with the submission of the response to the Provider. In the event that the required payment is not made, the dispute shall be decided by a single-member Panel.
- d) At the request of the Respondent, the Provider may, in exceptional cases, extend the period of time for the filing of the response. The period may also be extended by written stipulation between the Parties, provided the stipulation is approved by the Provider.
- e) If a Respondent does not submit a response, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, the Panel shall decide the dispute based upon the complaint.

## 6. Appointment of the Panel and Timing of Decision

- a) Each Provider shall maintain and publish a publicly available list of Panellists and their qualifications.
- b) If neither the Complainant nor the Respondent has elected a three-member Panel (Sections 3(b)(iv) and 5(b)(iv)), the Provider shall appoint, within five (5) calendar days following receipt of the response by the Provider, or the lapse of the time period for the submission thereof, a single Panellist from its list of Panellists. The fees for a single-member Panel shall be paid entirely by the Complainant.

- c) If either the Complainant or the Respondent elects to have the dispute decided by a three-member Panel, the Provider shall appoint three Panellists in accordance with the procedures identified in Section 6(e). The fees for a three-member Panel shall be paid in their entirety by the Complainant, except where the election for a three-member Panel was made by the Respondent, in which case the applicable fees shall be shared equally between the Parties.
- d) Unless it has already elected a three-member Panel, the Complainant shall submit to the Provider, within five (5) calendar days of communication of a response in which the Respondent elects a three-member Panel, the names and contact details of three candidates to serve as one of the Panellists. These candidates may be drawn from the Provider's list of panellists.
- e) In the event that either the Complainant or the Respondent elects a three-member Panel, the Provider shall endeavour to appoint one Panellist from the list of candidates provided by each of the Complainant and the Respondent. In the event the Provider is unable within five (5) calendar days to secure the appointment of a Panellist on its customary terms from either Party's list of candidates, the Provider shall make that appointment from its list of Panellists. The third Panellist shall be appointed by the Provider from a list of five candidates submitted by the Provider to the Parties, the Provider's selection from among the five being made in a manner that reasonably balances the preferences of both Parties, as they may specify to the Provider within five (5) calendar days of the Provider's submission of the five-candidate list to the Parties.
- f) Once the entire Panel is appointed, the Provider shall notify the Parties of the Panellists appointed and the date by which, absent exceptional circumstances, the Panel shall forward its decision on the complaint to the Provider.

#### **7. Impartiality and Independence**

A Panellist shall be impartial and independent and shall have, before accepting appointment, disclosed to the Provider any circumstances giving rise to justifiable doubt as to the Panellist's impartiality or independence. If, at any stage during the administrative proceeding, new circumstances arise that could give rise to justifiable doubt as to the impartiality or independence of the Panellist, that Panellist shall promptly disclose such circumstances to the Provider. In such event, the Provider shall have the discretion to appoint a substitute Panellist.

#### **8. Communication Between Parties and the Panel**

No Party or anyone acting on its behalf may have any unilateral communication with the Panel. All communications between a Party and the Panel or the Provider shall be made to a case administrator appointed by the Provider in the manner prescribed in the Provider's Supplemental Rules.

#### 9. Transmission of the File to the Panel

The Provider shall forward the file to the Panel as soon as the Panellist is appointed in the case of a Panel consisting of a single member, or as soon as the last Panellist is appointed in the case of a three-member Panel.

#### 10. General Powers of the Panel

- a) The Panel shall conduct the administrative proceeding in such manner as it considers appropriate in accordance with the Policy and these Rules.
- b) In all cases, the Panel shall ensure that the Parties are treated with equality and that each Party is given a fair opportunity to present its case.
- c) The Panel shall ensure that the administrative proceeding takes place with due expedition. It may, at the request of a Party or on its own motion, extend, in exceptional cases, a period of time fixed by these Rules or by the Panel.
- d) The Panel shall determine the admissibility, relevance, materiality and weight of the evidence.
- e) A Panel shall decide a request by a Party to consolidate multiple Domain Name disputes in accordance with the Policy and these Rules.

#### 11. Language of Proceedings

(a) Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, or specified otherwise in the Registration Agreement, the language of the administrative proceeding shall be English, subject to the authority of the Panel to determine otherwise, having regard to the circumstances of the administrative proceeding.

(b) The Panel may order that any documents submitted in languages other than the language of the administrative proceeding be accompanied by a translation in whole or in part into the language of the administrative proceeding.

#### 12. Further Statements

In addition to the complaint and the response, the Panel may request, in its sole discretion, further statements or documents from either of the Parties.

#### 13. In-Person Hearings

There shall be no in-person hearings (including hearings by teleconference, videoconference, and web conference), unless the Panel determines, in its sole discretion and as an exceptional matter, that such a hearing is necessary for deciding the complaint.

#### 14. Default

- a) In the event that a Party, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, does not comply with any of the time periods established by these Rules or the Panel, the Panel shall proceed to a decision on the complaint.
- b) If a Party, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, does not comply with any provision of, or requirement under, these Rules or any request from the Panel, the Panel shall draw such inferences therefrom as it considers appropriate.

#### 15. Panel Decisions

- a) A Panel shall decide a complaint on the basis of the statements and documents submitted and in accordance with the Policy, these Rules and any rules and principles of law that it deems applicable.
- b) In the absence of exceptional circumstances, the Panel shall forward its decision on the complaint to the Provider within fourteen (14) days of its appointment pursuant to Section 6.
- c) In the case of a three-member Panel, the Panel's decision shall be made by a majority.
- d) The Panel's decision shall be in writing, provide the reasons on which it is based, indicate the date on which it was rendered and identify the name(s) of the Panellist(s).
- e) Panel decisions and dissenting opinions shall normally comply with the guidelines as to length set forth in the Provider's Supplemental Rules. Any dissenting opinion shall accompany the majority decision. If the Panel concludes that the dispute is not within the scope of Section 5(a) of the Policy, it shall so state. If after considering the submissions the Panel finds that the complaint was brought in bad faith, for example in an attempt at Reverse Domain Name Hijacking or was brought primarily to harass the Domain Name holder, the Panel shall declare in its decision that the complaint was brought in bad faith and constitutes an abuse of the administrative proceeding.

#### 16. Communication of Decision to Parties

- a) Within three (3) calendar days after receiving the decision from the Panel, the Provider shall communicate the full text of the decision to each Party, the concerned Registrar(s), and the Qatar Domains Registry. The concerned Registrar(s) shall immediately communicate to each Party, the Provider, and the Qatar Domains Registry the date for the implementation of the decision in accordance with the Policy.
- b) Except if the Panel determines otherwise (see Section 5 (j) of the Policy), the Provider shall publish the full decision and the date of its implementation on a publicly accessible web site. In any event, the portion of any decision determining a complaint to have been brought in bad faith (see Section 15(e) of these Rules) shall be published.

### 17. Settlement or Other Grounds for Termination

- a) If, before the Panel's decision, the Parties agree on a settlement, the Panel shall terminate the administrative proceeding.
- b) If, before the Panel's decision is made, it becomes unnecessary or impossible to continue the administrative proceeding for any reason, the Panel shall terminate the administrative proceeding, unless a Party raises justifiable grounds for objection within a period of time to be determined by the Panel.

### 18. Effect of Court Proceedings

- a) In the event of any legal proceedings initiated prior to or during an administrative proceeding in respect of a Domain Name dispute that is the subject of the complaint, the Panel shall have the discretion to decide whether to suspend or terminate the administrative proceeding, or to proceed to a decision.
- b) In the event that a Party initiates any legal proceedings during the pendency of an administrative proceeding in respect of a Domain Name dispute that is the subject of the complaint, it shall promptly notify the Panel and the Provider. See Section 8 above.

### 19. Fees

- a) The Complainant shall pay to the Provider an initial fixed fee, in accordance with the Provider's Supplemental Rules, within the time and in the amount required. A Respondent electing under Section 5(b)(iv) to have the dispute decided by a three-member Panel, rather than the single-member Panel elected by the Complainant, shall pay the Provider one-half the fixed fee for a three-member Panel. See Section 5(c). In all other cases, the Complainant shall bear all of the Provider's fees, except as prescribed under Section 19(d). Upon appointment of the Panel, the Provider shall refund the appropriate portion, if any, of the initial fee to the Complainant, as specified in the Provider's Supplemental Rules.
- b) No action shall be taken by the Provider on a complaint until it has received from Complainant the initial fee in accordance with Section 19(a).
- c) If the Provider has not received the fee within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the complaint, the complaint shall be deemed withdrawn and the administrative proceeding terminated.
- d) In exceptional circumstances, for example in the event an in-person hearing is held, the Provider shall request the Parties for the payment of additional fees, which shall be established in agreement with the Parties and the Panel.

### 20. Exclusion of Liability

Except in the case of deliberate wrongdoing, neither the Provider nor a Panellist shall be liable to a Party for any act or omission in connection with any administrative proceeding under these Rules.

## 21. Amendments

The version of these Rules in effect at the time of the submission of the complaint to the Provider shall apply to the administrative proceeding commenced thereby. These Rules may be amended by Qatar Domains Registry. These Rules may not be amended under any circumstances without the express written approval of the Qatar Domains Registry.