1. Application Queuing

Once all applications have been published by ICANN org they will be processed on an ongoing basis, based on assigned priority numbers. Priority numbers will be used to determine the general order in which the application proceeds through the successive stages of the application life-cycle. The priority number of an application will remain constant throughout all stages of the application life-cycle and cannot be changed, transferred to other applicants or between applications in an applicant portfolio. Please see 1.1.4 for a limited number of conditions that may temporarily affect processing order. ICANN org also reserves the right to adjust the order of processing for operational reasons.

Specific rules apply to the prioritization of applications for Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). Please see 1.1.2 and 1.1.4 for more information.

1.1 Priority Order of Application Processing

Application processing priority will be established through a live Prioritization Draw ("the Draw") conducted by ICANN org. Each application entered into the Draw will be assigned a manually drawn priority number. Priority numbers will be used to order the release of the initial evaluation results, execute Registry Agreements and to schedule pre-delegation testing for all new gTLD applications.

Participation in the Draw is optional. Please see 1.1.3 for more information about applicants who choose not to participate in the Draw.

1.1.1 The Prioritization Draw

The Draw will be scheduled as soon as practicable following the end of the gTLD application submission period and after the completion of the Administrative Completeness Check [link when available]. Applicants must designate themselves, a company representative, another person identified on the application, or a third-party proxy to purchase a paper ticket in person for each application they wish to be entered into the Draw. Tickets cannot be purchased online. If Applicants cannot purchase a Draw ticket in person, or are unable to arrange for a representative to purchase a ticket, then ICANN will provide an "ICANN-identified Proxy List" with the names and contact information of individuals who have agreed to provide proxy services.

Only those Applicants who purchase a ticket will be able to participate in the Draw, with one ticket only permitted to be purchased per gTLD application. In the case of multiple

gTLD applications submitted by a single Applicant, each application requires a separate ticket.

Please note that although tickets must be purchased in person, Applicants are not required to physically attend the live Draw in order to take part. Full details of the Draw, including the date, location, ticket prices and purchasing arrangements, including the list of ICANN-Identified proxy representatives, will be announced by ICANN following the end of the gTLD application submission period.
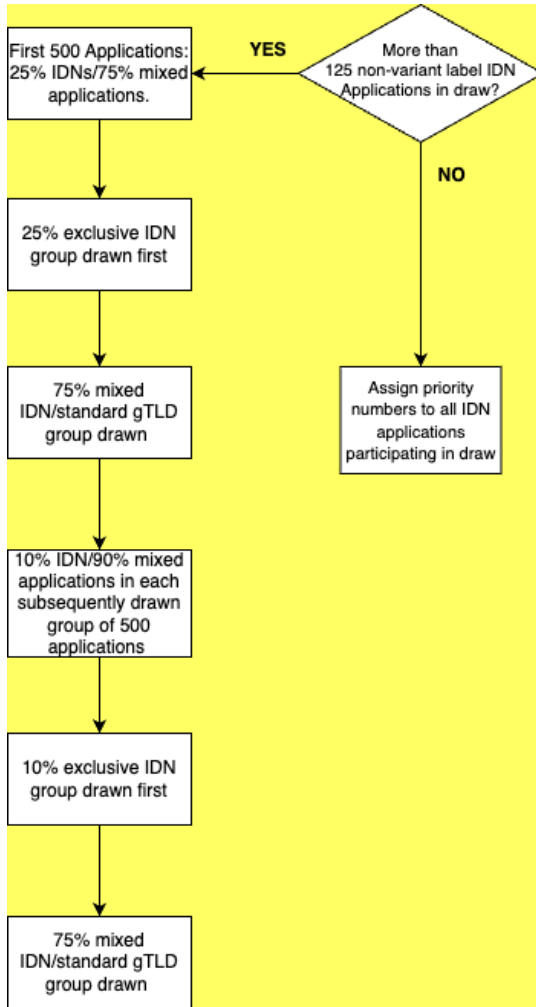
1.1.2 Prioritization of IDN applications

Applications entered into the Draw will be randomly drawn in groups of 500 applications until all applications have received a priority number. Applications for IDNs will be given priority in the Draw ahead of other applications. An exception applies to applications for allocatable variant labels of IDN gTLDs from the 2012 round. For more details, please see section 1.1.4.

IDN applications will be prioritized in the Draw according to the following rules:

- **If there are fewer than 125 IDN applications electing to participate in the Draw:**
    - *All IDN applications will be drawn first* and assigned priority numbers before any non-IDN applications.

- **If there are 125 or more IDN applications electing to participate in the Draw**:
    - *25% (125) of the first group of 500 applications will be IDN applications* selected at random as part of the Draw. The selected IDN applications will then be drawn first and receive priority numbers.
    - *The remaining 75% (375) applications in the first group to receive priority numbers will comprise both IDN and non-IDN applications*, randomly selected from the remaining pool of applications taking part in the Draw. These applications will be drawn and prioritized at random.

- **For each subsequent group of 500 applications electing to participate in the Draw:**
    - *The first 10% of each group will be IDN applications* selected at random, drawn first and prioritized, continuing until no IDN applications remain.
    - *The remaining applications in each group will be randomly selected from the pool of remaining IDN and non-IDN applications*, drawn and prioritized at random.

Fig. 1.1 Treatment of IDN Applications in the Prioritization Draw

```
┌──────────────────┐    YES    ◇ More than          ◇
│ First 500 Apps:  │◄──────────  125 non-variant label IDN
│ 25% IDNs/75% mixed│           Applications in draw?
│ applications.    │               ◇
└────────┬─────────┘                │ NO
         ▼                          ▼
┌──────────────────┐      ┌──────────────────┐
│ 25% exclusive IDN│      │ Assign priority  │
│ group drawn first│      │ numbers to all IDN│
└────────┬─────────┘      │ applications     │
         ▼                │ participating in draw│
┌──────────────────┐      └──────────────────┘
│ 75% mixed        │
│ IDN/standard gTLD│
│ group drawn      │
└────────┬─────────┘
         ▼
┌──────────────────┐
│ 10% IDN/90% mixed│
│ applications in each│
│ subsequently drawn│
│ group of 500     │
│ applications     │
└────────┬─────────┘
         ▼
┌──────────────────┐
│ 10% exclusive IDN│
│ group drawn first│
└────────┬─────────┘
         ▼
┌──────────────────┐
│ 75% mixed        │
│ IDN/standard gTLD│
│ group drawn      │
└──────────────────┘
```

1.1.3 Applications not included in the Prioritization Draw

Applicants who do not elect to take part in the Draw will receive a priority number for their gTLD applications after all applications in the Draw have been prioritized. For example, if the final priority number allocated via the Draw was 1000, the lowest priority number an application that was not entered into the Draw will be able to receive is 1001.

ICANN org will provide further information on how priority numbers will be allocated to applications that did not take part in the Draw following the end of the gTLD application submission period. ICANN org will consider how to prioritize applicants for IDN gTLDs as part of this process.

1.1.4 Exceptions to Processing according to Priority Number

As an exception for the immediate next application round, applications for allocatable variant labels of IDN gTLDs from the 2012 round will be processed ahead of all other new gTLD applicants, including the IDN applicants that elect to participate in the Draw. Due to the small number of expected applications in this category, these applications will be processed separately and will not receive a priority number.

There are also a number of temporary conditions which might cause applications not to be processed in priority order for each step of the Program, including, but not limited to:

- an active ICANN Accountability Mechanism, and
- processing holds due to application change requests.

The examples provided are non-exhaustive and there could be other temporary conditions that might cause applications not to be processed in priority order. ICANN org will pause the processing of an application subject to one of these conditions. To avoid delays and ensure that processing continues to the greatest extent possible for all applications, ICANN org will then proceed to process the next application in the priority order. Once ICANN org determines that the paused application has been cleared from any of these conditions, it will resume processing per its assigned priority position.

ICANN org will aim to maintain priority order across the applications currently being processed at each application stage, operational capacity and other application-related issues permitting. For example, if an application proceeding to the delegation stage has a priority number of 100, and the other applications currently at that processing stage possess priority numbers 50, 150, and 200, then the application with a priority number of 100 would ordinarily be processed after application priority number 50 but ahead of application number 150.