

Policies and Procedures for Standards Development for the
Computer/Simulation Interoperability (C/SI)
Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization (SISO)
Standards Activity Committee (SAC)

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Standards Activity Committee (SAC)
Policies and Procedures for Standards Development

1.0 Introduction

1.0.1 Role of Standards Development

In today's market, standards development plays a critical role in product development and market share. In the IEEE, the responsibility for how a standard originates and evolves is managed by a Sponsor. It is essential in the management of a standard's development to avoid any actions by the Sponsor or the participants that result in a violation of procedures.

Adherence to these Policies and Procedures is an essential asset in determining the applicability of IEEE's indemnification policy.

1.0.2 Modification to these Procedures

The official policies of this Sponsor are those that have been accepted by the IEEE-SA Standards Board based on the recommendation of the Audit Committee (AudCom), and are available online on the IEEE-SA Standards Board AudCom website. No other copy shall be designated as the official copy. Any changes that the Sponsor desires to make to the procedures shall not be valid until revised policies have been recommended for acceptance by AudCom and accepted by the IEEE-SA Standards Board.

1.0.3 Hierarchy

Participants engaged in the development of standards shall comply with applicable federal, state, and international laws. In addition, for standards matters, the latest versions of several documents take precedence over this document, in the following order:

New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law
IEEE Certificate of Incorporation
IEEE Constitution
IEEE Bylaws
IEEE Policies
IEEE Board of Directors Resolutions

IEEE Standards Association Operations Manual

IEEE-SA Board of Governors Resolutions

IEEE-SA Standards Board Bylaws

IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual

IEEE-SA Standards Board Resolutions

Policies and Procedures of this Sponsor

Anything the Sponsor creates is hierarchically inferior to the documents and resolutions that are listed above its Policies and Procedures. The Policies and Procedures of the Sponsor are hierarchically superior to other documents of the Sponsor. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR)* is the recommended guide on questions of parliamentary procedure not addressed in these procedures.

1.0.4 Fundamental Principles of Standards Development

These Policies and Procedures outline the orderly transaction of standards activities of Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization (*SISO*) *Standards Activity Committee (SAC)*. Herein after referred to as “the Sponsor.” For the development of standards, openness and due process shall be applied, which means that any person with a direct and material interest who meets the requirements of these Policies and Procedures has a right to participate by:

- a) Expressing a position and its basis
- b) Having that position considered, and
- c) Appealing if adversely affected.

Due process allows for equity and fair play. In addition, due process requires openness and balance (i.e., the standards development process should strive to have a balance of interests and not to be dominated by any single interest category). However, for the IEEE Standards Sponsor ballot, there shall be a balance of interests without dominance by any single interest category.

1.1 IEEE Sponsor Scope

Sponsor's scope is to sponsor development of standards that enable simulation interoperability.

1.2 Organization of the Sponsor

The Sponsor shall consist of officers (see Clause 3), and other members.

2.0 Responsibilities of the Sponsor

The Sponsor shall be responsible for at least the following:

- a) Developing proposed IEEE standards and ensuring that they are within the scope of the Sponsor.
- b) Initiating and overseeing ballots of proposed IEEE standards within its scope, including:
 - 1) Approving Project Authorization Requests (PARs) from a subgroup or the Sponsor.
 - 2) Submitting a proposed PAR to the IEEE-SA Standards Board for consideration. Following approval of the PAR, the Sponsor shall submit necessary requests for extension, modification, or withdrawal of the PAR as required by the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual*.
 - 3) Submitting draft standards from a subgroup or the Sponsor to the IEEE-SA for Sponsor ballot.
- c) Maintaining the standards developed by the Sponsor in accordance with the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual*.
- d) Acting on other matters requiring Sponsor effort as provided in these procedures.
- e) Cooperating with other appropriate standards development organizations.
- f) Protecting against actions taken in the name of the Sponsor without proper Sponsor authorization.
- g) Limiting distribution of the membership roster to appropriate parties.
- h) Communicating with the IEEE-SA Standards Board on specific Sponsor activities as needed.
- i) Handling appeals as described in Clause 9.

2.1 Sponsorship

The *Sponsor* is responsible for the development and coordination of standards project(s) including their maintenance after their approval as standard(s) by the IEEE-SA Standards Board. Specifically, the *Sponsor* is responsible for those IEEE-SA Standards Board approved project(s) for which *Sponsor* has been identified or assigned as either the sole sponsor or a joint sponsor. The development and maintenance of standards shall be accomplished as defined within the clauses of these Policies and Procedures.

2.1.1 Joint Sponsor Responsibility/Accountability

Not applicable.

3.0 Officers

There shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary. A person may simultaneously hold the positions of Treasurer and another office, other than Chair.

The Chair and Vice Chair shall be members of any grade of the IEEE, except Student grade, or IEEE Society affiliates, and also members of the IEEE-SA (*IEEE-SA Standards Board Bylaws* 5.2.1). The officers shall organize the Sponsor; oversee the Sponsor's compliance with these Policies and Procedures; and submit proposed documents approved by the Sponsor (with supporting documentation) for appropriate review and approval by the IEEE-SA Standards Board. Officers shall read the training material available through [IEEE Standards Development Online](#).

3.1 Election or appointment of officers

Officers shall be elected in accordance with the procedures of *the entity that established this Sponsor*. The procedures are as follows:

There shall be an annual vote of the Sponsor to elect the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Membership in SISO is open to anyone with a material interest in simulation interoperability. All members are eligible to run for SISO SAC. All SISO SAC members are eligible to self-nominate to serve in an officer role.

The SISO Executive Committee (EXCOM) designates an Election Committee consisting of three to seven members to oversee annual elections. Nominations to run for SISO SAC are self-nominations. When the self-nomination period closes, the Election Committee posts a final summary of candidates for SISO SAC. Voting is accomplished by completing an electronic ballot. The web-based ballot processing system automatically records all votes allowing an audit by the Election Committee of all voting transactions. The individuals with the most votes fill the allotted number of vacancies. Ten at-large SISO SAC members are elected to 2-year terms. The term of office for a SISO SAC member expires at the end of a Fall Simulation Interoperability Workshop.

Within 30 days after election results are announced, SISO SAC elects officers. SISO SAC members eligible for office and eligible to vote for officers are those that will serve on the committee following the Fall Simulation Interoperability Workshop. The Chair and Vice Chair must be different individuals, but one may serve as Secretary if the committee so votes. The

Treasurer of the SISO, Inc. Board of Directors fills the Treasurer role. The results of SISO SAC officer elections are confirmed by the SISO EXCOM.

The term of office for each officer shall be *one year*

3.2 Temporary Appointments to Vacancies

If an office other than the Chair becomes vacant for any reason (such as resignation, removal, lack of nomination at an election), a temporary appointment shall be made by the Chair for the remainder of the term of office.

3.3 Removal of Officers

An officer (other than the Chair) may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Sponsor. Grounds for removal shall be included in any motion to remove an officer. The officer suggested for removal shall be given an opportunity to make a rebuttal prior to the vote on the motion for removal.

3.4 Responsibilities of Officers

Elected and appointed officers of the Sponsor have a fiduciary duty to the IEEE when acting in their officer role and thus are required (a) to act in the best interest of the IEEE, its members and the general public and not on behalf of any individual, entity or interest group, (b) to comply with all applicable policies and procedures, and (c) to see that members of the Sponsor and participants of subgroups to the Sponsor conduct themselves in accordance with the applicable policies and procedures.

The officers of the Sponsor shall manage the day-to-day work of the Sponsor. The officers are responsible for implementing the decisions of the Sponsor and managing the activities that result from those decisions.

3.4.1 Chair

The responsibilities of the Chair shall include:

- a) Leading the activity according to all of the relevant policies and procedures.
- b) Forming study groups, as necessary.
- c) Being objective.

- d) Entertaining motions, but not making motions.
- e) Not biasing discussions.
- f) Delegating necessary functions.
- g) Ensuring that all parties have the opportunity to express their views.
- h) Setting goals and deadlines and adhering to them.
- i) Being knowledgeable in IEEE standards processes and parliamentary procedures and ensuring that the processes and procedures are followed.
- j) Seeking consensus of the Sponsor as a means of resolving issues.
- k) Prioritizing work to best serve the Sponsor and its goals.
- l) Complying with the Chair's responsibility with respect to the IEEE-SA Intellectual Property Policies, including but not limited to the IEEE-SA Patent Policy (see *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual* 6.3.2, <http://standards.ieee.org/board/pat/index.html>) and IEEE-SA Copyright Policy (see *IEEE-SA Standards Board Bylaws* 7, <http://standards.ieee.org/guides/bylaws/sect6-7.html#7>).
- m) Submitting approved Sponsor P&P to the IEEE-SA Standards Board Audit Committee (AudCom – see <http://standards.ieee.org/board/aud/index.html>).
- n) Ensuring that each Working Group has a set of P&P approved by the Sponsor. The Chair will provide the Working Group P&Ps to AudCom upon request.
- o) Ensuring the submission of an annual financial report(s) for the operation of the Sponsor and all of its standards development committees (e.g., Working Groups, task groups).
- p) Being familiar with training materials available through [IEEE Standards Development Online](#).

3.4.2 Vice Chair

The responsibilities of the Vice Chair(s) shall include:

- a) Carrying out the Chair's duties if the Chair is temporarily unable to do so or chooses to recuse himself or herself (i.e., to give a technical opinion) or carrying out those duties specifically delegated by the Chair to the Vice Chair.
- b) Being knowledgeable in IEEE standards processes and parliamentary procedures and assisting the Chair in ensuring that the processes and procedures are followed.
- c) Being familiar with training materials available through [IEEE Standards Development Online](#).

3.4.3 Secretary

The responsibilities of the Secretary include:

- a) Scheduling meetings in coordination with the Chair and distributing a meeting notice at least 30 calendar days before the meeting.

- b) Distributing the agenda at least 14 calendar days before the meeting—notification of the potential for action shall be included on any distributed agendas for meetings.
- c) Recording minutes of each meeting according to Clause 6.5 and IEEE guidelines (see <http://standards.ieee.org/develop/policies/stdslaw.pdf>), and publishing them within 60 calendar days of the end of the meeting.
- d) Creating and maintaining the participant roster and submitting it to the IEEE Standards Association annually.
- e) Being responsible for the management and distribution of Sponsor documentation.
- f) Maintaining lists of unresolved issues, action items, and assignments.
- g) Recording attendance of all attendees.
- h) Maintaining a current list of the names of the voting members and distributing it to the members upon request.
- i) Forwarding all changes to the roster of voting members to the Chair.
- j) Being familiar with training materials available through [IEEE Standards Development Online](#).

3.4.4 Treasurer

Treasurer shall:

- a) Maintain a budget.
- b) Control all funds, including any into and out of the Committee's bank account.
- c) Follow IEEE policies concerning standards meetings and finances.
- d) Ensure that the Sponsor adheres to the [IEEE Finance Operations Manual](#).
- e) Be familiar with training materials available through [IEEE Standards Development Online](#).

4.0 Membership

4.1 Voting membership

Each voting member is expected to attend meetings as defined in this clause. SISO membership is open to anyone with a material interest in simulation interoperability. All SISO members vote in annual elections. SISO SAC comprises eleven at-large elected members. Ten members are elected to fill at-large positions and one member is an elected at-large member serving as the Vice-Chair of the SISO Conference Committee. With the approval of the other elected SISO SAC members, the Chair may recommend up to four additional SISO members to serve for a period of one-year. All recommendations are approved by SISO EXCOM. All voting members shall maintain their SISO membership throughout their terms. All SISO SAC members are voting members. All SISO SAC members are expected to participate in all SISO SAC meetings. Individual voting members who are unable to participate in a face-to-face meeting or a meeting

via teleconference are expected to cast eVotes in advance of the meeting in accordance with the SISO SAC procedure established for that purpose. All voting members are expected to cast votes when electronic voting is necessary. Attendance at a meeting via teleconferencing and/or electronic means (e.g., Internet conferencing) may count towards the attendance requirements.

4.1.1 Application

Not applicable.

4.2 Review of Membership

The Chair shall review the voting membership list at least once annually. Voting members are expected to fulfill the obligations of active participation as defined in Clause 4.1. When a voting member is found in habitual default of these obligations, the Chair shall consider the matter for appropriate action which may include termination of membership.

4.3 Membership Roster

A current and accurate Sponsor roster shall be maintained. Due to privacy concerns, the roster shall not be distributed except to the IEEE-SA Board of Governors, IEEE-SA Standards Board, and IEEE-SA staff unless all Sponsor members have submitted their written approval for such distribution. The roster shall include the following:

- a) Title of the Sponsor and its designation.
- b) Scope of the Sponsor.
- c) Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.
- d) Members and participants: for all, name, e-mail address, affiliation and membership status (e.g., participant, voting member, etc.).

4.4 Membership Public List

A current and accurate Sponsor membership list shall be maintained. The membership list may be posted on the Sponsor web site and may be publically distributed. The membership list shall be limited to the following:

- a) Title of the Committee and its designation
- b) Scope of the Committee
- c) Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

- d) Members: (for all) -- name

5.0 Subgroups Created by the Sponsor

5.1 Administrative Subgroups

When one or more subgroups is formed to expedite the administrative work of the Sponsor (e.g., SAC Special Working Groups), its formation (and later disbandment) requires a majority vote of the Sponsor as defined in Subclause 7.1.

5.2 Working Groups – Individual Method

Standards Working Groups are responsible for the definitive content of one or more documents and for responding to views and objections thereon. Such Working Groups shall maintain a membership roster and shall comply with the provisions for preparing standards.

If a Working Group being formed has individual-based membership, the Sponsor shall ensure that the individual standards Working Group adopts procedures consistent with the IEEE-SA Baseline Policies and Procedures for IEEE Standards Working Groups – Individual Method. In addition, the Sponsor shall review proposed amendments from its Working Groups to the Working Group Policies and Procedures to ensure that they are not in conflict with the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual* or with each other.

The Sponsor Chair shall appoint the initial Chair of a new Working Group. Membership shall be granted automatically to those participants attending the first meeting of a newly chartered Working Group upon their request. After the first meeting, members are subject to the requirements in Clause 4.0 of the Working Group Policies and Procedures.

5.3 Working Groups – Entity Method

Standards Working Groups are responsible for the definitive content of one or more documents and for responding to views and objections thereon. Such Working Groups shall maintain a membership roster and shall comply with the provisions for preparing standards.

If a Working Group being formed has entity-based membership, the Sponsor shall ensure that the entity standards Working Group adopts procedures consistent with the IEEE-SA Baseline Policies and Procedures for IEEE Standards Working Groups – Entity Method. In addition, the Sponsor shall review proposed amendments from its Working Groups to the Working Group

Policies and Procedures to ensure that they are not in conflict with the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual* or with each other.

The Sponsor Chair shall appoint the initial Chair of a new Working Group. Membership shall be granted automatically to those entities attending the first meeting of a newly chartered working Group upon their request provided they fulfill the requirements of Subclause 5.2.1 of the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Bylaws*.

5.4 Standards Study Groups

When a Sponsor is presented with a proposal concerning a standards development project, the Sponsor may form a Standards Study Group to examine the proposal to determine if there is a need for a standard to be developed. The life of a Standards Study Group is limited to 6 months. If the proposal merits formation of a project, the Study Group will draft a PAR for consideration by the Sponsor. The formation and disbandment of a Study Group, prior to approval of the PAR or prior to the 6 month time limit, requires approval by a *majority* vote of the Sponsor.

Groups shall refer to the approved Study Group guidelines on how a Standards Study Group shall conduct business and the criteria it shall apply to consideration of a proposal. Guidelines are located at: <http://standards.ieee.org/develop/corpchan/studygrp.pdf>.

A Study Group is disbanded upon approval of the PAR by the IEEE-SA Standards Board.

5.5 Other Subgroups

The formation and disbandment of other subgroups (e.g., subcommittees, ad hocs, and writing groups) requires approval by a *majority* vote of the Sponsor. The Chair of a subgroup shall be appointed by the Chair of the Sponsor or decided by nomination and election. The scope and duties delegated to the subgroup shall be approved at the time the subgroup is formed, and subsequent changes in scope or duties shall also require approval by a *majority* vote of the Sponsor. The scope, duties, and membership of all subgroups shall be reviewed annually by the Sponsor. The charge to the subgroup shall clearly state which of the following complementary activities is appropriate:

- 1) The subgroup is responsible for the definitive content of one or more documents and for responding to views and objections thereon. Such subgroups shall maintain a membership roster and shall comply with the provisions for preparing standard(s).
- 2) The subgroup is responsible for assisting the Sponsor (e.g., drafting all or a portion of a document, drafting responses to comments, drafting public statements on standards, or other purely advisory functions).

The Sponsor shall outline within the charter of the subgroup all expectations with respect to how the subgroup shall function, including scope of work, deliverables, membership, voting in the subgroup, and parliamentary procedures for approval to move any deliverables to the Sponsor for action. The Sponsor or Sponsor chair (as applicable) may remove an officer of any subgroup.

6.0 Meetings

Sponsor meetings may be conducted either exclusively in-person or in-person with one or more participants contributing via electronic means, or exclusively via electronic means. Sponsor meetings shall be held, as decided by the Sponsor Chair, or by petition of *a majority* or more voting members, to conduct business such as making assignments, receiving reports of work, progressing draft standards, resolving differences among subgroups, and considering views and objections from any source. A meeting notice shall be distributed to all members at least *30* days in advance of the meeting. A non-detailed meeting agenda shall be distributed to all members at least *14* days in advance of the meeting. Notification of the potential for action shall be included on any distributed agendas for meetings.

Note that all IEEE Standards development meetings are open to anyone who has a material interest and wishes to attend, however some meetings may occur in Executive Session (see Clause 6.3).

6.1 Quorum

A quorum shall be identified before the initiation of Sponsor business at a meeting, but if a quorum is not present, actions may be taken subject to confirmation by letter or electronic ballot, as detailed in Clause 7.4. When the voting membership is less than 50 voting members, a quorum shall be defined as a majority of the current total voting membership. When the voting membership is 50 or more voting members, a quorum shall be defined as *10%* of the current total voting membership or 26, whichever is greater. Voting members who recuse themselves shall not be counted in the equation to determine whether a quorum exists.

6.2 Conduct

Meeting attendees shall demonstrate respect and courtesy toward each other and shall allow each participant a fair and equal opportunity to contribute to the meeting, in accordance with the [IEEE Code of Ethics](#).

All Working Group participants shall act in accordance with all IEEE Standards policies and procedures.

6.3 Executive Session

Meetings to discuss personnel or sensitive business matters (e.g., the negotiation of contracts), or for other appropriate non-public matters (e.g., the receipt of legal advice), may be conducted in Executive Session.

6.4 Meeting Fees

Not applicable.

6.5 Minutes

The minutes shall record the essentials in concise format, including the following:

- a) Name of group
- b) Date and location of meeting
- c) Officer presiding, including the name of the secretary who wrote the minutes
- d) Attendance, including affiliation
- e) Call to order, Chair's remarks
- f) Approval of minutes of previous meeting
- g) Approval of agenda
- h) Technical topics
 - 1) Brief summary of discussions and conclusions
 - 2) Motions, including the names of mover and seconder.
- i) Items reported out of executive session
- j) Next meeting--date and location

Copies of handouts and subcommittee reports may be included in the minutes or made available as separate items.

7.0 Vote

7.1 Approval of an Action

Approval of an action requires approval by a majority (or two-thirds) vote as specified below in 7.1.1 (majority), and 7.1.2 (two-thirds). The “majority, two-thirds vote” is defined as one of the following:

- a) At a meeting (including teleconferences) where quorum has been established, a vote carried by majority (or two-thirds) approval of the votes cast (i.e., Approve or Do Not Approve votes, excluding abstentions) by the voting members in attendance.
- b) By electronic means (including email), a vote carried by majority (or two-thirds) of the votes cast (i.e., Approve or Do Not Approve votes, excluding abstentions), provided a majority of all the voting members of the Sponsor responded.

7.1.1 Actions Requiring Approval by a Majority Vote

The following actions require approval by a majority vote:

- a) Formation or modification of a subgroup, including its procedures, scope, and duties
- b) Disbandment of subgroups
- c) Approval of minutes
- d) Delegation to a subgroup for] Authorization for submittal of a PAR, modification of a PAR, withdrawal of a PAR, or Sponsor balloting

7.1.2 Actions Requiring Approval by a Two-thirds Vote

The following actions require approval by a two-thirds vote:

- a) Adoption of new or revised Sponsor procedures,* interest categories, or revisions thereof
- b) Approval of public statements
- c) Approval of change of the Sponsor scope*
- d) Approval of termination of the Sponsor*
- e) Removal of an officer except the Chair

* Following Sponsor approval, items a, c, and d require notice to the IEEE-SA Standards Board.

7.2 Sponsor Approvals

7.2.1 Moving a Draft Standard to Sponsor ballot

The Sponsor must approve moving a draft standard to Sponsor ballot. The Sponsor may delegate this approval authority to a subgroup; in such instances, approval shall be limited to conducting a procedural review.

7.2.2 Change in Scope of a Standards Project

The Sponsor must approve any substantive change in the scope of a standard or project. The Sponsor may delegate this approval authority to a subgroup. Requested changes shall be reviewed to ensure that the standards project remains within the scope of the Sponsor and shall also be reviewed to determine if the standards project requires a modified PAR.

7.3 Proxy Voting

Not applicable.

7.4 Voting Between Meetings

At the discretion of the Chair, the Sponsor shall be allowed to conduct voting between meetings by the use of a letter or electronic ballot. If such actions are to be taken, they shall follow the rules of [IEEE Bylaw I-300.4\(4\)](#).

8.0 Communications

All correspondence on behalf of the Sponsor shall contain identification of the Sponsor as the source of the correspondence.

8.1 Formal Internal Communication

If correspondence between subgroups involves issues or decisions (that is, non-routine matters) affecting other subgroups, copies shall be sent to all affected subgroup Chairs and the Sponsor officers.

8.2 External Communication

Inquiries relating to the Sponsor shall be directed to the Chair, and members shall so inform individuals who raise such questions. All replies to inquiries shall be made through the Chair.

8.3 Public Statements for Standards

All Sponsor public communications shall comply with the policies of the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual*.

Individuals making public statements that have not been approved by the Sponsor shall state that they are speaking as individuals, and their views do not necessarily represent the views of the Sponsor, IEEE-SA, or IEEE (see *IEEE-SA Standards Board Bylaws* [5.2.1.6](#)).

8.3.1 Sponsor Public Statements

Sponsor public statements shall not be released without prior approval as per Clause 7.1.2 of these procedures.

8.3.2 Subgroup Public Statements

Subgroup public statements shall not be released without prior approval of the subgroup. Such public statements also require approval of the Sponsor.

Subgroup public statements shall be identified in the first paragraph of the public statement as being specifically the position of the subgroup, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Sponsor, IEEE-SA, or IEEE. These statements shall be issued by the subgroup Chair and shall include the Sponsor Chair in the distribution. Such statements shall not bear the IEEE, the IEEE-SA, or the Sponsor logos.

8.3.3 Public Statements to be Issued by other Entities

If the Sponsor wishes to go to another IEEE entity (as defined in Section [15](#) of the IEEE Policies) to have that entity offer a public statement on a standards matter, they shall do so only after agreement from the IEEE-SA Standards Board and approval from the IEEE-SA Board of Governors. Upon Sponsor approval, proposed public statements that need to be issued by other IEEE entities shall be forwarded to the IEEE-SA Standards Board Secretary for further action.

8.4 Informal Communications

Informal communications shall not imply that they are a formal position of the IEEE, the IEEE-SA, or the Sponsor.

8.5 Standards Publicity

The Sponsor is encouraged to prepare press releases and other forms of publicity to promote their activities. Please see Clause 5.1.4 of the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual* for further instructions.

9.0 Appeals

Technical discussions and decisions occur within the Sponsor subgroup (e.g., Working Group). Any person dissatisfied with a technical decision shall follow the approved procedures for providing technical input to the subgroup that made the decision, including but not limited to making a technical comment during the applicable comment submission and/or balloting period.

The *Sponsor* recognizes the right of appeal on procedural grounds. Procedural concerns within a Sponsor subgroup shall be first presented to the subgroup or Working Group for resolution. If the procedural concern is not resolved after presentation to the subgroup for resolution, the complaint regarding any procedural action or inaction on the part of the *Sponsor*, or a *Sponsor's* subgroup, shall be presented to the *Sponsor* for resolution. If the party bringing the complaint determines that the *Sponsor's* proposed resolution is unacceptable, such party can file a procedural appeal with the Sponsor.

Appeals to the Sponsor shall be addressed as follows:

The appellant shall file a written appeal to the Sponsor Chair within 30 days of the event (action or inaction). The written appeal shall state the nature of the issue, including any adverse effects; the clause(s) of the procedures that are at issue; summarize previous attempts to resolve the issue with the subgroup or Working Group that is responsible for the standard including the outcome/decision of each attempt; and propose specific remedies that would satisfy the appellant's concerns. The appellant shall provide any supplemental information necessary to support the claims made in the appeal.

Upon receiving a written appeal, the Sponsor Chair shall form an Appeal Committee consisting of at least five members of the Sponsor, none of whom were directly involved in the matter in dispute, and who will not be materially or directly affected by any decisions made concerning the dispute and shall appoint a chair. The chair of the Appeal Committee shall be an officer of the Sponsor, if possible. The Appeal Committee shall review the written appeal and decide, within 45 days of the submission of the written appeal, whether or not to recommend to the Sponsor that an Appeal Panel be formed to consider the appeal. The Appeal Committee may try to resolve the issue with informal discussions with the concerned parties prior to making a decision about an

Appeal Panel. The Appeal Committee may decline to recommend an Appeal Panel if (i) the appeal deals with ethical issues, (ii) the appeal deals with technical issues, or (iii) the appellant has not attempted to first resolve the issue informally with the subgroup or Working Group that is responsible for the standard. If the Appeal Committee declines to recommend an Appeal Panel based on these criteria, the Appeal Committee shall provide a written communication to the *Sponsor* Chair and the appellant outlining the reason for its decision.

If the Appeal Committee determines that the appeal submission is acceptable, the *Sponsor* Chair shall form an Appeal Panel consisting of an Appeal Panel Chair and two other members, none of whom were directly involved in the matter in dispute, and who will not be materially or directly affected by any decisions made concerning the dispute. The Appeal Panel must have at least two members that are acceptable to both the appellant and the appellee.

The Appeal Panel shall hear the appeal during a time convenient to all parties (with at least two weeks' notice to all concerned parties), and, if possible, prior to the next regular meeting of the Sponsor. The appeal may be conducted in person or by telephone conference. Failure of the appellant to participate in the hearing (barring unforeseen technical difficulties) shall constitute a withdrawal of the appeal.

A written decision shall be rendered by the Appeal Panel within 30 days of hearing the appeal and communicated to the parties concerned, including the Chair of the Appeal Committee and the Sponsor Chair.

Details of the Sponsor's appeals process. The general operating principle of fairness requires every member of SISO to have the right to appeal the actions of the SISO committees, panels, groups or their leadership. These appeals may be made at any time during the process of executing the activities of SISO. Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been, or could reasonably be expected to be, adversely affected by the action, or by the lack of action in any part of the SISO processes, shall have the right to appeal provided:

- a. That technically based appeals, or technical elements of appeals, shall be resolved at the level of the cognizant product or study group; and
- b. That claims based solely on ethical considerations shall only be considered under the IEEE Code of Ethics.
- c. That the action being appealed occurred within 30 days of the submission of the appeal.

If there is an issue of concern, all efforts to resolve the issue with the parties involved should be made before resorting to the appeals process. The appropriate SISO organizational element shall fully explain the appeals process and possible outcomes to all involved parties so that they can make an informed decision to whether or not an appeal is the best or only path to resolution of their concern(s). If the appeals process must be invoked, the party making the appeal should clearly state these items in writing:

- d. Decision or action being appealed.

- e. Why the decision or action is in question.
- f. What effect the decision has had on the appellant.
- g. What the appellant believes can be done to correct the matter.

The first level of appeal within SISO is the SISO Appeals Board. The SISO Appeals Board consists of the Vice Chair of the EXCOM (Appeals Board Chair), the Vice Chair of the CC, and the Vice Chair of the SAC. If any member of the Appeals Board is a party of an appeal, the EXCOM Chair shall appoint another member of the respective committee to serve on the Appeals Board for the specific appeal.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Appeals Board will determine if the appeal meets the criteria of this section. If the appeal meets the criteria, the Appeals Board will determine the facts of the appeal and determine if the decision or action violates the SISO policies and procedures or its subordinate administrative documents. The Appeals Board may, if it determines it necessary, request an interpretation of the SISO administrative document from the EXCOM Chair. Once the determination is made by the Appeals Board, the Appeals Board Chair will provide the appellant and the party(ies) whose actions are being appealed a written Appeals Board Determination that includes the findings and directed resolution.

Either party in the appeal may choose to elevate the appeal to the second level of appeal. The decision to elevate an appeal to a higher level must be made in writing to the Appeals Board Chair within 15 working days from the date of the Appeals Board Determination. The notification of a decision to elevate the appeal should clearly state why the Appeals Board Determination is in question.

The second level of appeal within SISO is either to SAC (for appeals related to IEEE activities) or the EXCOM (for all other appeals). Upon receipt of a notification of a decision to elevate an appeal, the Appeals Board Chair will provide the appropriate SISO Committee Chair with a copy of the original appeal, a copy of the Appeals Board Determination, and a copy of the notification of the decision to elevate the decision.

The committee hearing the second level of appeal shall review the information and make a determination if the Appeals Board Determination was in error. The SAC shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible SAC members to overturn the Appeals Board Determination. The SAC Vice Chair is not eligible to vote on an elevated appeal. The EXCOM shall require an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the eligible EXCOM members to overturn the Appeals Board Determination. The EXCOM Vice Chair is not eligible to vote on an elevated appeal.

If the Appeals Board Determination is overturned, the SISO Committee hearing the second level of appeal shall identify an alternate resolution and the SISO Committee Chair will provide the appellant and the party(ies) whose actions are being appealed a written determination of the appeal and the directed resolution.

The SAC shall be the final SISO level of appeal for groups developing and supporting IEEE Standards. Additional appeals shall be to the IEEE Standards Association Standards Board.

The EXCOM shall be the final SISO level of appeals for all other appeals.

No announcement of the determination and resolution of any appeal shall be made outside the parties of the appeal until the SISO appeals process is complete.

Sponsor procedural appeals shall be conducted as follows:

The number of participating (i.e., speaking) representatives for each of the parties to the appeal is limited to a maximum of three (3). Other individuals may attend the hearing, but will not be permitted to address, or be addressed by, the Sponsor's Appeal Panel or either of the parties to the appeal at any time (including during the question and answer period). No recordings or verbatim transcriptions of the hearing are allowed, except by the IEEE-SA at its sole discretion.

The Sponsor Appeal Panel may call an Executive Session before, during the course of, or following an appeal hearing to consider its action on a specific appeal.

No party to an appeal may communicate with any member of the Sponsor Appeal Panel regarding the appeal while the matter is pending (i.e., from the time of filing of the appeal brief to finalization of the Sponsor Appeal Panel decision).

The appellant has the burden of demonstrating adverse effects, improper action(s) or inaction, and the efficacy of the requested remedial action. Each party may adduce other pertinent arguments, and members of the Sponsor Appeal Panel may address questions to individuals. The Sponsor Appeal Panel shall only consider documentation included in the appeal brief and reply brief, unless

- a) Significant new evidence has come to light; and
- b) Such evidence reasonably was not available to the appellant or appellee, as appropriate, at the time of filing; and
- c) Such evidence was provided by the appellant or appellee, as appropriate, to the other parties as soon as it became available.

Prior to the hearing, the members of the Sponsor Appeal Panel may convene to review the ground rules before the participants appear.

If, after completion of the Sponsor's appeals process, the party bringing the complaint determines that the Sponsor's Appeals Panel decision is unacceptable, such party can file a procedural appeal with the IEEE-SA Standards Board as described in Clause 5.8 of the *IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual*.