

SDNP .mw ccTLD REGISTRY FEES POLICY

Version 1.6 Effective 31 October 2025

1. Purpose

The Malawi .mw ccTLD is operated by SDNP on a 3R registry model using EPP. To register a domain the registrant must use a registrar as accredited by SDNP. The list of such registrars is available at <http://www.nic.mw>

The purpose of this document is to set out policy, rules, guidelines and rates on fees charged by SDNP for registering, certifying and renewing of .mw domains, registrars and related infrastructure, entities, services and operations that are needed for running the Malawi .mw country code top level domain (.mw ccTLD).

The fees for these services are listed here below.

SDNP reserves the right to revise these fees from time to time.

2. Scope

Fees for domain registration and renewal stated in this document apply to all domains registered with or renewed at the .mw registry by any person or entity satisfying the eligibility requirements as stated in the SDNP .mw Domain Registration policy.

While SDNP maintains an open policy as stated on eligibility in the SDNP .mw Domain Registration policy, SDNP reserves the right to categorize any domains as premium or for auction. SDNP will produce and provide specific guideline for processing

domains that have been classified as such and the same rules will apply to anyone eligible in an open manner.

3. Registrars

SDNP continues to invite, recruit and accredit registrars.

Any new or aspiring registrar will need to lodge a formal application to become a registrar on the .mw Registry. SDNP will charge fees to receive, process and accredit registrars on the .mw Registry as listed here in this policy. SDNP requires that registrar accreditation be renewed once every year at a fee.

Registrars are required to maintain a positive deposit balance at SDNP of a value that would be adequate to renew at least 5 domain names.

4. Fees Currency

In order to more properly, more efficiently and more stably serve the Malawian and global Internet community based on its open eligibility criteria for registering domain names on the .mw upgraded 3R registry, SDNP will maintain the basic currency for fees payable to be in US dollars.

The exchange rate will continue to be based on the ruling UN Treasury rate on a month to month basis.

SDNP will continue to maintain both a Malawi Kwacha and a dollar or other designated foreign currency account as a minimum.

Payments must be made inclusive of all bank charges.

5. Fees Taxes

All fees listed here are inclusive of value added tax (VAT).

6. Method of payment

Payments to SDNP for domain name operations on the .mw ccTLD must be made by any method approved in Malawi by the Reserve Bank of Malawi.

SDNP recommends that all payments should be deposited directly into its SDNP bank accounts at the National Bank of Malawi, Chichiri Branch, Blantyre, Malawi or at any branch of National Bank of Malawi with account numbers and bank details as shown on SDNP invoices or website.

For those outside Malawi or with bank accounts foreign to Malawi, SDNP recommends that payments be made by bank wire transfer using SWIFT details on SDNP invoices or website.

As payment systems in Malawi evolve under the oversight of Reserve Bank of Malawi, it is expected that online payment will become available for making payments to SDNP. However, online credit card payments and such other online payment methods are not yet available on the Malawi payment system. The Registry website will maintain updates on available methods for paying for domains registration services.

7. Price list

The fees shown in the following price list apply to all .mw domain registrars inside and outside Malawi SDNP that register and manage domains directly on the .mw registry.

As the transition from the old 2R registry model to the current 3R registry model is finalized, SDNP continues to operate a registrar platform which is being used to manage existing domains from the 2R system where SDNP was the only registrar using this to transfer these domains to multiple registrars in the 3R registry model.

The policy at SDNP is that SDNP will operate only the .mw registry and NOT be a registrar at the same time. SDNP is hence urging registrants to transfer their domains from SDNP transition registrar to an accredited .mw registrar.

At the end of the transition SDNP intends to only run the registry. All requests to register new domains or renew existing domains will be handled by registrars after the transition process and registrants will not be allowed nor able to submit domain registration requests directly to SDNP.

The aim at SDNP is to complete this transition by the end of 2019.

If any person, organization or registrant is thinking of or planning to register a .mw domain name or will be a holder or registrant of a .mw domain name, he or she will need to check with a registrar to find out what fees the registrar will charge for registering and renewing a .mw domain name.

The following rates are the charges at the .mw registry as charged by SDNP. All services are prepaid.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Charge (USD)</u>
1 Registering a new .mw domain	40, for first one year on all .mw zones
2 Activating a new domain	0, once off - <i>reduced from \$10 to \$0 effective 2019-12-01</i>
3 Renewal of domain name	40, covers one year on all .mw zones
4 Registrar accreditation application fee	50, once off - <i>effective 2025-10-31</i>
5 Registrar accreditation certification fee	150, once off, first year, to produce certificate - <i>effective 2025-10-31</i> - <i>registrars can operate without certificate</i>
6 Registrar technical connection ability and service test	50, once off
7 Registrar accreditation renewal	50, per year - <i>effective 2025-10-31</i> - <i>\$0 for <u>active</u> local registrar based in Malawi with five or more new domains created in 12 months</i>

8	Registrar deposit, to cover prepaid EPP transactions	Recommended minimum to cover renewal of 5 domains.
9	Registrar transfer	25, per domain
10	Registrant transfer	25, per domain
11	Bulk registrar transfer	15, per domain with minimum of 5 domains
12	Registry lock	50, per domain - effective 2025-11-31
13	Bulk transfer on full registrar take over	0, - free if new registrar is fully taking over another registrar that has lost accreditation
14	Primary or secondary DNS server on SDNP domain name service	5, per domain per month per DNS server paid once a year billed to registrant as in WHOIS, aim here is to encourage wider diversity of DNS service providers, not all lumped at SDNP

8. Default

An event of default as defined in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement will be declared by SDNP on the Registrar if the Registrar deposit consistently remains at zero or below for a period of three months or more and stated consequences may follow such a declaration as agreed.