

Secretchronicles Project Voting Rules

Version from 2015-08-15, last changed with vote results of the 3rd vote from 2016-04-09 (Decl. of Res. from 2016-04-09), in force starting 2016-04-09.

August 15, 2015

Preamble

This document outlines the modus, rules, and majority requirements for any votes taken in the course of the development of the Secretchronicles project. It is intended to minimise possible conflicts due to disagreements on the voting procedure by being a definitive description approved by the TSC development team as a whole.

I. The Team

§ 1 Team member

Team member is for the sake of this document who is listed publically as a member of the “Secretchronicles” GitHub organisation.

§ 2 Acquisition of Membership

(1) The team decides by vote whether any person should be granted team membership by adding him to the GitHub organisation. Before this vote can be called for, the person in question has to either

1. have five commits included into the main development branch of the game, or
2. have been nominated by an existing team member.

(2) The vote requires that two thirds of the team members voting are in favour of adding the new person to the team.

(3) In case of Nr. 1 above, as an exception to § 5, the person with this amount of commits included is also allowed to place the vote request on the project lead.

§ 3 End of Membership

(1) There are three ways by which a person can be removed from the team:

1. The person can request removal formally by approaching the project lead accordingly, or

2. if the person does not show any activity for a year, he will be removed. The minimal activity required is one forum/tracker post (advancing TSC discussions) or commit in source control per year. When two weeks are remaining before a person reaches the one year mark for inactivity, the project lead will send an email to the inactive person asking about their involvement. If they do not make a posting or commit, or if they do not respond, they will be removed from the team.

3. The team reserves the right to remove any person at any time, for any reason, through a vote. This requires a two thirds majority of those voting, and the candidate for removal is not allowed to participate in the vote. The team is expected to try to follow fair criteria for such removals and consider changing the rules if repeated removals occur.

(2) Upon removal a person will be removed from the GitHub organization. They can be readed at any time by meeting the criteria for a regular team addition.

§ 4 General Rule of Consent

All decisions are to be made in consent of all team members. Only if it is impossible to reach a consent even by means of compromises, a voting shall be held.

II. Voting process

§ 5 Announcement of Vote

(1) Any team member (proponent) can request the project lead to organise a vote on a subject the member deems impossible to decide on in consent. The project lead then announces the upcoming vote sufficiently early so that every team member has time to prepare, at least two weeks in advance (Announcement of Vote).

(2) The announcement must include:

1. The proponent,
2. The vote subject,
3. The vote options, and

4. The beginning and ending dates of the voting period.

(3) If the project lead is unavailable, the assistant lead guides the process instead.

§ 5a IRC Voting Announcement

(1) For votings held in IRC — as an exception to § 5(2)(Nr.3) — it is sufficient to announce all available voting options in IRC prior to taking the votes.

(2) If at least three team members are available in IRC and are not just idling, it is possible to waive the two-week preparation interval and vote immediately. The waiver requires all non-idling team members in the chatroom to agree on it.

(3) Any team member can challenge a voting made under the conditions of (2) above until two weeks after the declaration of results have passed by approaching the project lead accordingly. If the voting is challenged, it is treated the same way as if it failed (§ 12).

§ 6 Open Vote

The default open vote happens openly on any of the project's communication channels, e. g. in IRC or on the tracker. Each team member votes by stating the option he wants to vote for.

§ 7 Covert Vote

(1) After the Announcement of Vote has been published, any one team member can request a covert vote. The request must be honoured by public announcement.

(2) In the covert vote each member votes by means of a technical procedure that ensures nobody can find out later who voted on which option.

§ 8 Technical details

The technical details of the open and covert vote are worked out by the project lead and announced prior to each vote.

§ 9 Call for Votes

(1) When the voting period has started, the project lead publishes this fact in all communication channels where the original Announcement of Vote was posted (Call for Votes).

(2) The Call for Votes must repeat the termination date of the voting period.

(3) Any votes made before the Call for Votes has been published are invalid.

§ 10 Results

Unless otherwise demanded by this document, the option that receives the simple majority (i. e. most votes) is the winner

option. It is a binding decision that determines how to proceed in the given topic and prevents any further vote on the topic given all circumstances equal.

§ 11 Second Vote

If no single option receives the most votes, a second vote is held with the set of options reduced to those options that received the most votes. The preceeding clauses are in force accordingly.

§ 12 Failed vote

(1) A vote is failed if nobody participates, no single option receives the most votes in the second vote, the proponent revokes the voting suggestion, or the winning option does not receive the majority required.

(2) A failed vote has no binding effects; the same subject might be voted over again.

§ 13 Declaration of Results

After the vote is over, the project lead announces the result, if any.

III. Complaints

§ 14 Right to Complain

Until 14 days since the declaration of results have passed, each team member has the right to request a check as to whether the voting procedure outlined by this document was followed properly.

§ 15 Procedure

(1) The team member directs his complaint to the project lead or to the project assistant lead (examiner) and has to state why he thinks this document has been violated. The project lead and the assistant lead may not decide about their own complaints; if they're both involved, a person is randomly chosen from a set of noninvolved volunteers.

(2) The examiner has to forward it to the team member being complained about without further comment, and has to ask him for a statement on the issue within a reasonable time-frame. This statement, and any further replies, must be made available to all parties involved.

(3) If the examiner deems it necessary, he can request a live chat in IRC in which all parties participate prior to a decision.

§ 16 Decision

(1) The examiner has to decide within reasonable time, but at most within two months after the complaint was filed.

(2) The decision needs to contain the reasons for why or why not the complaint is valid.

§ 17 Effect

A successful complaint results in the vote being failed as per § 12. The examiner should state this effect in his decision.

§ 18 Ne bis in idem

The same vote may only be complained about once. If multiple persons complain about the same vote, the examiner has to merge all complaints into one and decide on all of them together.

IV. Final clauses

§ 19 Archive

All votes, their results, and their associated complaints and their results, are for reference archived publically by the project lead.

§ 20 Changes

Changes to this document require a vote whose winning option passes with at least two thirds of all existing team members being in favour of it.

§ 21 First Date of Force

This document is in force from the next day after it was accepted by at least two thirds of the current team members¹.

¹This document was accepted by the team with vote results from 2015-10-08.