

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria



How to get stake from the Foundation

Validators who are approved to participate in the Solana Foundation Delegation Program are eligible to receive a delegation from a pool of tokens held by the Solana Foundation. In order to receive this delegation, each eligible validator must meet certain criteria, which are polled regularly.

A validator must meet the Testnet Participation Criteria and all of the Residual Criteria to receive a “residual” delegation from the Solana Foundation. If any of the criteria are no longer met, the delegation will be removed until the validator meets all the criteria, at which point the delegation will be re-applied.

If a validator meets all criteria to receive the residual delegation and also meets all of the Stake Matching Criteria, the validator will receive a matching delegation equal to the stake they have outside the delegation program. The size of the bonus delegation is dynamic, as the Foundation’s Delegation Program attempts to continually rebalance and distribute all tokens within the program to those validators who have earned a delegation. As changes to stake delegations require a transition period on Solana, there is often a delay between a validator becoming eligible for a certain level of delegation from the Foundation and those stake tokens becoming active. This delay is often 1-2 epochs, or up to 4 days.

Validators must meet all requirements to receive stake

RESIDUAL REQUIREMENT	RESULT
Vote credits	At least 97% of the cluster average vote credits
Maximum commission	5%
Maximum Jito MEV commission	10%
Solana release	≥ 4.1.0-rc.1
Frankendancer release	≥ 0.1004.0-rc.40101
ASN/company concentration requirement	25% or less
Data center concentration	15% or less
Total stake	1,000,000 SOL or less
Testnet criteria	Baseline in 5 of last 10 Testnet epochs
Metric reporting on Mainnet Beta	Reported in 8 of the last 10 epochs
Metric reporting on Testnet	Reported in 8 of the last 10 epochs
Responsiveness	Within 24H

Validators must meet all of the residual requirements in addition to the matching requirements to receive matching stake

STAKE MATCHING REQUIREMENT	RESULT
5 epoch average skip rate	Must not exceed 5% + cluster average skip rate

Validators must be running the specified versions at the beginning of the specified epoch. The required versions are subject to change, so be sure to check this schedule regularly.

Required software versions may also be fetched from the [required versions API](#).

EPOCH	AGAVE MIN.	AGAVE MAX.	FIREDANCER MIN.	FIREDANCER MAX.
1004	4.1.0-rc.1	-	0.1004.0-rc.40101	-
1005	4.1.0-rc.1	-	0.1004.0-rc.40101	-
1006	4.1.0-rc.1	-	0.1004.0-rc.40101	-
1007	4.1.0-rc.1	-	0.1004.0-rc.40101	-

Validators must meet all requirements to receive stake

BASELINE REQUIREMENT	RESULT
Vote credits	At least 85% of the cluster average vote credits
Maximum commission	100%
Solana release	≥ 4.2.0-beta.0
Frankendancer release	≥ 0.1005.40100
ASN/company concentration requirement	100% or less
Data center concentration	100% or less

BASELINE REQUIREMENT	RESULT
Onboarding quickly	Started Mainnet Beta node within 10 epochs of onboarding date
Metric reporting on Testnet	Reported in 8 of the last 10 epochs
Responsiveness	Within 24H

Validators must be running the specified versions at the beginning of the specified epoch. The required versions are subject to change, so be sure to check this schedule regularly.

Required software versions may also be fetched from the [required versions API](#).

EPOCH	AGAVE MIN.	AGAVE MAX.	FIREDANCER MIN.	FIREDANCER MAX.
992	4.2.0-beta.0	-	0.1005.40100	-
993	4.2.0-beta.0	-	0.1005.40100	-
994	4.2.0-beta.2	-	0.1102.0-beta.40201	-
995	4.2.0-beta.2	-	0.1102.0-beta.40201	-

Validators must meet all of the residual requirements in addition to the matching requirements to receive matching stake

BONUS REQUIREMENT	RESULT
5 epoch average skip rate	Must not exceed 40% + cluster average skip rate

MONTH	EPOCHS
July 2026	982–991
June 2026	967–981
May 2026	950–966
April 2026	935–949
March 2026	919–934
February 2026	904–918
January 2026	889–903
December 2025	877–888
November 2025	863–876
October 2025	848–862
September 2025	834–847
August 2025	820–833
July 2025	806–819
June 2025	792–805
May 2025	779–791
April 2025	766–778

MONTH	EPOCHS
March 2025	753-765
February 2025	742-752
January 2025	730-741
December 2024	717-729
November 2024	705-716
October 2024	698-704
September 2024	685-695
August 2024	673-684
July 2024	661-672
June 2024	647-660
May 2024	632-646
April 2024	618-631
March 2024	604-617
February 2024	591-603
January 2024	585-590
December 2023	564-577
November 2023	549-561

MONTH	EPOCHS
October 2023	534–548
September 2023	519–533
August 2023	505–518
July 2023	490–504
June 2023	476–489
May 2023	463–475
April 2023	450–462
March 2023	436–448
February 2023	425–435
January 2023	408–421
December 2022	393–407
November 2022	384–392
October 2022	369–383
September 2022	356–368

FAQ

Testnet Participation

Vote Credits

Max Commission

Data Center Concentration

ASN/Company Concentration

Total Stake

Software Version

Skip Rate

Metric Reporting

Earned Stake

Onboarding Quickly

Responsiveness

Transaction Processing Requirements



What is this?

In order to receive a delegation from the Foundation on a validator's mainnet beta node, the validator must also operate a node on testnet which is subject to similar performance requirements. Any differences between the mainnet beta and testnet delegation criteria are noted accordingly.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria

A validator's testnet node must meet all of the Baseline criteria for at least 5 of the latest 10 testnet epochs in order for the validator's mainnet beta node to receive a delegation.



What is this?

Vote credits are earned when a validator submits a consensus vote on a block that becomes finalized by the network. Each vote on a finalized block earns 1 vote credit. Voting more frequently and on the correct fork, a validator earns more credits. Voting on an incorrect fork or failure to submit votes on time or at all results in fewer vote credits. The SOL reward issued to a validator and their stakers is proportional to the number of credits earned over an epoch.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria

In order to receive or maintain a stake delegation from the Solana Foundation, a validator must earn no less than 3% fewer vote credits than the cluster average for a given epoch. For example, if the cluster average for

the last epoch was 100,000 vote credits, a validator must have earned at least 97,000 credits to meet this criteria. This criteria is the same for nodes on mainnet beta and testnet.



What is this? #

A validator's commission, or fee, is the percentage of total rewards earned by an individual validator in an epoch that are deposited into the validator's vote account. The remainder of the reward is distributed to the stake accounts that have delegated to that validator's vote account.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria #

A validator must maintain a commission of 5% or less to meet this criteria. This criteria applies to mainnet beta nodes only. There is no maximum commission enforced on testnet.



What is this? #

Multiple validators may run their node in the same physical facility. As more validators which are housed in the same location attract stake delegations, this can cause a centralization of stake and a possible point of failure for the network if the concentration grows too large. Data Center Concentration is the percentage of total delegated stake on the network that is operated in a physical data center. The data center stake percentage is determined by using [validators.app](#).

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria #

Starting May 1, 2026, the Data Center Concentration must not exceed 15% for all staked validators at a data center provider to pass this criteria. Validators receiving a delegation from the Foundation before the maximum concentration is reached are assigned a seniority score, based on the number of epochs that validator has been receiving a Foundation delegation while located in a given data center. In the event the data center concentration threshold is exceeded due to new validators coming online in the same data center, the Foundation will remove its delegation from validators based on seniority score, from lowest to highest. Operators can track data center concentration at [validators.app](#).

**What is this? #**

An Autonomous System Number (ASN) identifies a network operated by an internet service provider or hosting company. Multiple validators may share the same ASN or hosting provider, even across different physical data centers. High concentration of stake within a single ASN or company creates systemic risk for the network if that provider experiences issues.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria #

Starting May 1, 2026, SFDP participants must operate on an ASN and hosting provider holding less than 25% of overall network stake. Operators can track ASN concentration at validators.app.

**What is this? #**

This refers to the total amount of stake from all sources (self stake or otherwise) that have been delegated to a validator.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria #

A validator must have less than 1,000,000 SOL in total stake to be eligible for a delegation from the Foundation. This only applies to mainnet beta, there is no maximum stake on testnet.

**What is this? #**

The release version of the solana-validator code that an individual node is running.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria #

Validators are expected to consistently update their nodes to the latest stable software release in a timely manner. The minimum software version is updated 48 hours after the supermajority of the network has adopted that same version. Testnet often runs on a newer software version than beta. A minimum version is enforced on both networks, though the values are often different.



What is this? #

Skip rate is the percent of leader slots in which a validator fails to produce a block which is eventually confirmed by the network. Skip rate and block production are two numbers often used to refer to the same metric. Block production is the percent of scheduled slots in which the validator produces a confirmed block, whereas skip rate is 1 - block production.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria #

A validator must have a skip rate that does not exceed 5 percentage points plus the network average skip rate. For example, if the network average skip rate was 20%, a validator must have a skip rate of 50% or less to meet this criteria. This criteria is the same on mainnet beta and testnet.



What is this? #

Whether or not a validator is continually submitting metrics about their validator to the correct cluster(s).

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria #

Starting in epoch 337, validators are expected to report metrics about their validator nodes in eight of the last 10 epochs on both the testnet and mainnet beta clusters in order to receive residual stake. To meet the reporting requirements, validators must continually report metrics throughout the epoch. Metric reporting will be sampled multiple times an epoch. Validators on mainnet beta would need to report metrics on both testnet and mainnet beta for eight out of the last 10 epochs (in addition to existing residual criteria) in order to receive residual stake. Validators on testnet would need to report metrics for eight out of the last 10 epochs to get residual stake.



What is this?

Earning stake means receiving a delegation from the Solana Foundation at either the residual or Bonus amount.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria

To ensure node operators are responsive and monitoring their validators closely, validators should be continually meeting the requirements for residual or Matching stake and not go 10 or more epochs without receiving stake from the Foundation. If validators do not receive any stake in any 10 epoch window on mainnet beta, they will be rejected from the program. If validators do not receive any stake in any 10 epoch window on testnet, they will lose their current onboarding number and be sent to the bottom of the onboarding queue. Testnet validators that begin re-earning stake will once again be eligible for an onboarding number. As a reminder, for those onboarded to mainnet beta, [earning stake on testnet](#) is a requirement for continuing to receive Delegation stake on mainnet beta. If you do not receive stake on testnet for 10 epochs, you will also not receive stake on mainnet beta. If you do not receive stake on mainnet beta for 10 epochs, you will be rejected from the program.



What is this?

Starting your node means getting your server on mainnet beta running, ensuring it can be found in gossip, and starting to meet the rest of the requirements necessary to receive residual stake from the Foundation.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria

To ensure node operators are responsive and monitoring their Delegation Program participation closely, validators will receive a 10 epoch window to start their mainnet beta node from their onboarding date. If they do not start their node within 10 epochs, they will be rejected from the program.



What is this?

Running a validator successfully involves continuously participating in gossip, packing new blocks, and voting on other leader's blocks. In order to help maintain consensus, it also means ensuring your node is available with good uptime.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria

To ensure node operators maintain good uptime, are responsive and are monitoring their servers closely, validators are expected to respond to critical network events (e.g. restarts) within 24 hours. If they do not respond within 24 hours, they will be rejected from the program.



What is this?

To ensure fair and predictable transaction processing across the network, SFDP participants must follow infrastructure and scheduling standards that support censorship resistance and consistent block production.

Solana Foundation Delegation Criteria

SFDP participants must meet the following transaction processing requirements:

- **Scheduler ordering:** Use either FIFO or prioritization-fee-ordered scheduling within a 50ms or less time window.
 - **Regular shred release:** Shreds must be released every 50ms or as soon as a full erasure batch is coalesced.
 - **No TPU censorship:** Do not censor transactions received on TPU.
 - **No TPU delay:** Do not delay transactions received on TPU for greater than the allowed 50ms batch times.
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