

STARTING AN IGDA® CHAPTER

The International Game Developers Association is the largest non-profit membership organization serving individuals who create video games. Our mission is to advance the careers and enhance the lives of game developers by connecting members with their peers, promoting professional development, and advocating on issues that affect the developer community. Much of our organization's mission is carried out in local areas through the IGDA Chapters, formed and run by dedicated volunteers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR IGDA® CHAPTERS

The following conditions must be met for the creation of an IGDA Chapter:

1. There must be a Chapter Chair who is committed (in both time and energy) to leading the group and handling the logistics.
2. The Chair needs to assemble a starting board of directors comprised of at least 3-5 people who are likewise committed to running the chapter. Board member roles should also be defined, at minimum, there should be a Vice Chair who assists with chapter administration.
3. There should be a core group of at least 10 IGDA members (this includes the Coordinator and board).
4. If the chapter wishes to become empowered (i.e., become a legal entity in their locale), this requires additional steps administrative steps and coordination with IGDA HQ. For new chapters, we usually encourage them to wait at least 1 year and ensure the chapter active and sustainable before taking this step.

TYPES OF IGDA® CHAPTERS

The following are the three (3) general types of IGDA chapters:

1. **Emerging Chapter:** This status applies to a chapter that wishes to exist and has a small core group to get it started, but doesn't have 10 IGDA members yet and is in the early organization phase. A start-up chapter has 1 year to attain the minimal 10 member threshold, establish a board and chapter coordinator, and start regular meetings/events (at least one meeting per quarter).
2. **Established Chapter:** This is a chapter that has a chair and vice-chair, a board, at least 10 IGDA members and a regular schedule of meetings/events to serve the local game developer community. They are still subject to guidelines from IGDA HQ and their insurance (if needed), and other logistics such as taxes (for U.S. Chapters), bank accounts and so forth are managed by IGDA HQ.
3. **Empowered Chapter:** An empowered chapter attains a level of autonomy from IGDA HQ to run themselves as they see fit for their locale, while promoting the IGDA brand and the organization's values. There are two paths for a chapter to become more autonomous:
 - Chartered: For U.S. chapters: this is the legal step of signing the License and Affiliation Agreement, at which point IGDA HQ will hold and disburse funds for the chapter as a result of their own fundraising activities, and so forth.
 - Formalized: For non-U.S. chapters, this is a legal step of creating a local non-profit organization that will serve as the local IGDA chapter and signing the IGDA's Chapter Affiliation Agreement. They maintain a close association to IGDA HQ but most logistics, fund-raising, etc. are all managed locally and run as an autonomous entity.

HOW TO PROCEED

If you're interested in starting a new chapter in your locale, first check to see if a chapter already exists. If not, please contact Executive Director Kate Edwards (kate@igda.org) to inform about your intent and to ask any additional questions.