

Guidelines for BoF Organizers

ISC 2026

Thank you very much for submitting a Bird-of-a-Feather proposal at ISC High Performance. Please find some helpful information below. If you have further questions, please contact: program-support@isc-events.com for organizational matters or our chairs with bofs-2026@isc-events.com for content issues.

GOAL

The ISC Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) sessions aim to provide attendees with a common interest in a specific topic or members of a focus group, a platform for short updates, statements, and discussions in an informal and highly interactive way.

BoF organizers and participants are typically special interest groups that discuss experiences, competing and alternative concepts, and an outlook on the future. BoF sessions also provide networking opportunities, given their highly informal structure, which encourages participants to share ideas and opinions.

BoFs differ from panels, technical paper sessions, tutorials, vendor talks, and other, more lecture-oriented parts of the ISC program.

BOF TYPES

BoFs at ISC can be divided into three different types: (1) Birds of a Feather Presentation, (2) Birds of a Feather Meet-up, (3) Birds of a Feather Roundtable Conversation

1. Birds of a Feather Presentation

The purpose of these BOFs is to share non-commercial information with like-minded participants via a formal presentation of speaker(s) or panelists. Sessions that would use more than one-third of the allocated time (20 minutes) for presentations and updates should justify why this is necessary while ensuring interactivity with all attendees. The room setup is a mixed classroom / theater seating style



2. Birds of a Feather Meet-up

The purpose of these BOFs is to gather informally with others who have interests in the same topic.

The room setup is a mixed classroom / theater seating style.

3. Birds of a Feather Roundtable Conversation

- A round table configuration in a conference room is a popular choice for encouraging lively conversations. In this room, participants will be seated at eight tables, each accommodating ten people. The room capacity is limited to 80 attendees.



- The circular arrangement promotes equal participation among all attendees and fosters open communication and collaboration in an informal atmosphere.
- To enhance interaction, consider keeping participants on the move after a specified amount of time. You can ask different questions or prepare a list of discussion prompts for each table to guide the conversation. Setting up the tables for different discussion topics is another way to cover a wide range of subjects.
- The presentation time should be kept to a minimum, as the round table setup makes it difficult to see the board.

HOW TO STRUCTURE AND RUN A SUCCESSFUL BOF

- Stick to the objective of the BoF as outlined in the accepted title and abstract. Combine short presentations/updates, community discussions, and question-and-answer slots
- Constantly encourage discussions and other forms of participation – encourage attendees to mention their names and institutions/universities/companies.
- Guide discussions if they lose focus but also prepare targeted questions in advance to keep moving the BoF on track

NOT ACCEPTED ARE

- Lecture-like presentations, sales pitches, product demos, and marketing talks
- Short presentations by BoF organizers in the form of a panel with Q&A involving the panelists

PLEASE NOTE

- BoFs will not be streamed or recorded to ensure an informal atmosphere is maintained.
- Clearly indicate the role of each organizer, e.g. as moderator and/or presenter, as well as any expected/potential additional speakers and their affiliations (which may be updated for the program materials).
- BoF rooms include a projector, a screen, a lectern with a microphone and board tables with six seats and microphones. As BoFs are interactive sessions, ISC does not provide down stage monitors in this rooms.