

1 sPHENIX Work in Progress Policy

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5 This policy describes a special category of public plots which can be shown by junior sPHENIX
6 collaborators as talks or posters at national/regional meetings. The policy is intended to provide
7 an outlet for junior scientists to show and discuss the status of their work in the experiment,
8 which is understood to be at an earlier stage than the high threshold needed for Preliminary
9 performance or physics results.

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11 The Work in Progress policy below provides overall guidelines but does include a degree of
12 judgment. Thus, it is important for the presenter to discuss their plans far in advance of their
13 target meeting within the relevant Topical Group (TG). In the case of questions about this policy,
14 the TG Conveners, and then ultimately the Physics Coordinator (PC), can make a judgment call
15 on individual cases.

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17 This policy is applicable when all of the following criteria are met:

- 18 ● The presenter is an undergraduate student, graduate student, or post-doc who is
19 otherwise an sPHENIX member in good standing.
- 20 ● The target venue is a national or regional meeting. Some examples include the
21 American Physical Society (APS) Annual, Divisional, or Regional meetings, the
22 Japanese Physical Society (JPS) meetings, etc. This policy does not apply to
23 international workshops or conferences.
- 24 ● The target meeting does not have a lasting record of the presented plots, such as posted
25 slides, recorded talks, or written proceedings.

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27 The approval procedure is as follows:

- 28 ● The presenter works within the relevant TG in advance of the target national/regional
29 meeting, potentially making multiple presentations on their regular progress in the TG.
- 30 ● In their last TG presentation before the national/regional meeting, the presenter shows
31 final-draft versions of every plot intended to be shown as Work in Progress.
- 32 ● The TG Conveners and the PC make the final determination regarding which plots can
33 be shown, including any needed changes in selections, analysis methods, labeling, etc.
- 34 ● The presenter can show the agreed plots with a “sPHENIX Work in Progress” label at
35 the target meeting.

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37 Note that there is no requirement to prepare an internal supporting analysis note or to present
38 the proposed plots in a larger sPHENIX meeting. However, the draft poster or talk slides must
39 still be circulated to the Collaboration following the [Speakers Bureau guidelines](#).

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41 The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of the kind of work that could be shown:

- 42 ● Uncorrected data distributions (e.g. with looser selections or missing
43 corrections/calibrations).
- 44 ● Cross-checks or reproductions of previously approved sPHENIX results.

- 45 ● New methods or techniques developed by the presenter.
- 46 ● Analysis optimization based on simulated data and/or control regions in data.
- 47 ● Expected errors and/or sensitivities, including techniques to evaluate systematic errors.
- 48 ● Simulation results.

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50 Importantly, the Work in Progress policy does not extend to otherwise unpublished sPHENIX
51 physics results and plots prepared under this policy should not allow derivation of unpublished
52 physics results (unless, see above, they are serving as a check on previously published
53 sPHENIX results).

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55 Some additional guidelines:

- 56 ● By default, plots are approved “Work in Progress” only for one specific presenter and
57 meeting. Unlike Preliminary or final results, the Work in Progress plots do not continue to
58 have a public existence after the target meeting. To show the same results at a different
59 meeting, the presenter should check again with the TG ahead of time.
- 60 ● The intention of the policy is that the presenter is showing work they have performed
61 personally. This policy is not intended to be used as a way to show the work of senior
62 scientists through the junior presenter.
- 63 ● It is possible that, for a given meeting, there is a specific quantity which multiple
64 presenters intend to show. In this case, at the discretion of the TG Conveners, a single
65 common plot could be shown by multiple presenters at the meeting (to avoid multiple
66 versions of what is essentially the same plot).