

PHP-FIG

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This guide extends and expands on [PSR-1](#), the basic coding standard.

The intent of this guide is to reduce cognitive friction when scanning code from different authors. It does so by enumerating a shared set of rules and expectations about how to format PHP code.

The style rules herein are derived from commonalities among the various member projects. When various authors collaborate across multiple projects, it helps to have one set of guidelines to be used among all those projects. Thus, the benefit of this guide is not in the rules themselves, but in the sharing of those rules.

The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#).

1. Overview

- Code **MUST** follow a “coding style guide” PSR [[PSR-1](#)].
- Code **MUST** use 4 spaces for indenting, not tabs.
- There **MUST NOT** be a hard limit on line length; the soft limit **MUST** be 120 characters; lines **SHOULD** be 80 characters or less.
- There **MUST** be one blank line after the `namespace` declaration, and there **MUST** be one blank line after the block of `use` declarations.
- Opening braces for classes **MUST** go on the next line, and closing braces **MUST** go on the next line after the body.

- Opening braces for methods **MUST** go on the next line, and closing braces **MUST** go on the next line after the body.
- Visibility **MUST** be declared on all properties and methods; `abstract` and `final` **MUST** be declared before the visibility; `static` **MUST** be declared after the visibility.
- Control structure keywords **MUST** have one space after them; method and function calls **MUST NOT**.
- Opening braces for control structures **MUST** go on the same line, and closing braces **MUST** go on the next line after the body.
- Opening parentheses for control structures **MUST NOT** have a space after them, and closing parentheses for control structures **MUST NOT** have a space before.

1.1. Example

This example encompasses some of the rules below as a quick overview:

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;

use FooInterface;
use BarClass as Bar;
use OtherVendor\OtherPackage\BazClass;

class Foo extends Bar implements FooInterface
{
    public function sampleMethod($a, $b = null)
    {
        if ($a === $b) {
            bar();
        } elseif ($a > $b) {
            $foo->bar($arg1);
        } else {
            BazClass::bar($arg2, $arg3);
        }
    }
}
```

```
final public static function bar()  
{  
    // method body  
}  
}
```

2. General

2.1. Basic Coding Standard

Code **MUST** follow all rules outlined in [PSR-1](#).

2.2. Files

All PHP files **MUST** use the Unix LF (linefeed) line ending.

All PHP files **MUST** end with a single blank line.

The closing `?>` tag **MUST** be omitted from files containing only PHP.

2.3. Lines

There **MUST NOT** be a hard limit on line length.

The soft limit on line length **MUST** be 120 characters; automated style checkers **MUST** warn but **MUST NOT** error at the soft limit.

Lines **SHOULD NOT** be longer than 80 characters; lines longer than that **SHOULD** be split into multiple subsequent lines of no more than 80 characters each.

There **MUST NOT** be trailing whitespace at the end of non-blank lines.

Blank lines **MAY** be added to improve readability and to indicate related blocks of code.

There **MUST NOT** be more than one statement per line.

2.4. Indenting

Code **MUST** use an indent of 4 spaces, and **MUST NOT** use tabs for indenting.

N.b.: Using only spaces, and not mixing spaces with tabs, helps to avoid problems with diffs, patches, history, and annotations. The use of spaces also makes it easy to insert fine-grained sub-indentation for inter-line alignment.

2.5. Keywords and True/False/Null

PHP **keywords** **MUST** be in lower case.

The PHP constants `true`, `false`, and `null` **MUST** be in lower case.

3. Namespace and Use Declarations

When present, there **MUST** be one blank line after the `namespace` declaration.

When present, all `use` declarations **MUST** go after the `namespace` declaration.

There **MUST** be one `use` keyword per declaration.

There **MUST** be one blank line after the `use` block.

For example:

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;

use FooClass;
use BarClass as Bar;
```

```
use OtherVendor\OtherPackage\BazClass;

// ... additional PHP code ...
```

4. Classes, Properties, and Methods

The term “class” refers to all classes, interfaces, and traits.

4.1. Extends and Implements

The `extends` and `implements` keywords MUST be declared on the same line as the class name.

The opening brace for the class MUST go on its own line; the closing brace for the class MUST go on the next line after the body.

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;

use FooClass;
use BarClass as Bar;
use OtherVendor\OtherPackage\BazClass;

class ClassName extends ParentClass implements \ArrayAccess, \Countable
{
    // constants, properties, methods
}
```

Lists of `implements` MAY be split across multiple lines, where each subsequent line is indented once. When doing so, the first item in the list MUST be on the next line, and there MUST be only one interface per line.

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;
```

```
use FooClass;
use BarClass as Bar;
use OtherVendor\OtherPackage\BazClass;

class ClassName extends ParentClass implements
    \ArrayAccess,
    \Countable,
    \Serializable
{
    // constants, properties, methods
}
```

4.2. Properties

Visibility **MUST** be declared on all properties.

The `var` keyword **MUST NOT** be used to declare a property.

There **MUST NOT** be more than one property declared per statement.

Property names **SHOULD NOT** be prefixed with a single underscore to indicate protected or private visibility.

A property declaration looks like the following.

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;

class ClassName
{
    public $foo = null;
}
```

4.3. Methods

Visibility **MUST** be declared on all methods.

Method names **SHOULD NOT** be prefixed with a single underscore to indicate protected or private visibility.

Method names **MUST NOT** be declared with a space after the method name. The opening brace **MUST** go on its own line, and the closing brace **MUST** go on the next line following the body. There **MUST NOT** be a space after the opening parenthesis, and there **MUST NOT** be a space before the closing parenthesis.

A method declaration looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, commas, spaces, and braces:

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;

class ClassName
{
    public function fooBarBaz($arg1, &$arg2, $arg3 = [])
    {
        // method body
    }
}
```

4.4. Method Arguments

In the argument list, there **MUST NOT** be a space before each comma, and there **MUST** be one space after each comma.

Method arguments with default values **MUST** go at the end of the argument list.

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;
```

```
class ClassName
{
    public function foo($arg1, &$arg2, $arg3 = [])
    {
        // method body
    }
}
```

Argument lists MAY be split across multiple lines, where each subsequent line is indented once. When doing so, the first item in the list MUST be on the next line, and there MUST be only one argument per line.

When the argument list is split across multiple lines, the closing parenthesis and opening brace MUST be placed together on their own line with one space between them.

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;

class ClassName
{
    public function aVeryLongMethodName(
        ClassTypeHint $arg1,
        &$arg2,
        array $arg3 = []
    ) {
        // method body
    }
}
```

4.5. abstract, final, and static

When present, the `abstract` and `final` declarations MUST precede the visibility declaration.

When present, the `static` declaration MUST come after the visibility declaration.

```
<?php
namespace Vendor\Package;

abstract class ClassName
{
    protected static $foo;

    abstract protected function zim();

    final public static function bar()
    {
        // method body
    }
}
```

4.6. Method and Function Calls

When making a method or function call, there MUST NOT be a space between the method or function name and the opening parenthesis, there MUST NOT be a space after the opening parenthesis, and there MUST NOT be a space before the closing parenthesis. In the argument list, there MUST NOT be a space before each comma, and there MUST be one space after each comma.

```
<?php
bar();
$foo->bar($arg1);
Foo::bar($arg2, $arg3);
```

Argument lists MAY be split across multiple lines, where each subsequent line is indented once. When doing so, the first item in the list MUST be on the next line, and there MUST be only one argument per line.

```
<?php
$foo->bar(
    $longArgument,
    $longerArgument,
    $muchLongerArgument
);
```

5. Control Structures

The general style rules for control structures are as follows:

- There **MUST** be one space after the control structure keyword
- There **MUST NOT** be a space after the opening parenthesis
- There **MUST NOT** be a space before the closing parenthesis
- There **MUST** be one space between the closing parenthesis and the opening brace
- The structure body **MUST** be indented once
- The closing brace **MUST** be on the next line after the body

The body of each structure **MUST** be enclosed by braces. This standardizes how the structures look, and reduces the likelihood of introducing errors as new lines get added to the body.

5.1. if, elseif, else

An `if` structure looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, spaces, and braces; and that `else` and `elseif` are on the same line as the closing brace from the earlier body.

```
<?php
if ($expr1) {
    // if body
} elseif ($expr2) {
```

```
    // elseif body
} else {
    // else body;
}
```

The keyword `elseif` SHOULD be used instead of `else if` so that all control keywords look like single words.

5.2. switch, case

A `switch` structure looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, spaces, and braces. The `case` statement MUST be indented once from `switch`, and the `break` keyword (or other terminating keyword) MUST be indented at the same level as the `case` body. There MUST be a comment such as `// no break` when fall-through is intentional in a non-empty `case` body.

```
<?php
switch ($expr) {
    case 0:
        echo 'First case, with a break';
        break;
    case 1:
        echo 'Second case, which falls through';
        // no break
    case 2:
    case 3:
    case 4:
        echo 'Third case, return instead of break';
        return;
    default:
        echo 'Default case';
        break;
}
```

5.3. while, do while

A `while` statement looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, spaces, and braces.

```
<?php
while ($expr) {
    // structure body
}
```

Similarly, a `do while` statement looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, spaces, and braces.

```
<?php
do {
    // structure body;
} while ($expr);
```

5.4. for

A `for` statement looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, spaces, and braces.

```
<?php
for ($i = 0; $i < 10; $i++) {
    // for body
}
```

5.5. foreach

A `foreach` statement looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, spaces, and braces.

```
<?php
foreach ($iterable as $key => $value) {
```

```
    // foreach body
}
```

5.6. try, catch

A `try catch` block looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, spaces, and braces.

```
<?php
try {
    // try body
} catch (FirstExceptionType $e) {
    // catch body
} catch (OtherExceptionType $e) {
    // catch body
}
```

6. Closures

Closures **MUST** be declared with a space after the `function` keyword, and a space before and after the `use` keyword.

The opening brace **MUST** go on the same line, and the closing brace **MUST** go on the next line following the body.

There **MUST NOT** be a space after the opening parenthesis of the argument list or variable list, and there **MUST NOT** be a space before the closing parenthesis of the argument list or variable list.

In the argument list and variable list, there **MUST NOT** be a space before each comma, and there **MUST** be one space after each comma.

Closure arguments with default values **MUST** go at the end of the argument list.

A closure declaration looks like the following. Note the placement of parentheses, commas, spaces, and braces:

```
<?php
$closureWithArgs = function ($arg1, $arg2) {
    // body
};

$closureWithArgsAndVars = function ($arg1, $arg2) use ($var1, $var2) {
    // body
};
```

Argument lists and variable lists MAY be split across multiple lines, where each subsequent line is indented once. When doing so, the first item in the list MUST be on the next line, and there MUST be only one argument or variable per line.

When the ending list (whether of arguments or variables) is split across multiple lines, the closing parenthesis and opening brace MUST be placed together on their own line with one space between them.

The following are examples of closures with and without argument lists and variable lists split across multiple lines.

```
<?php
$longArgs_noVars = function (
    $longArgument,
    $longerArgument,
    $muchLongerArgument
) {
    // body
};

$noArgs_longVars = function () use (
    $longVar1,
    $longerVar2,
```

```
    $muchLongerVar3
) {
    // body
};

$longArgs_longVars = function (
    $longArgument,
    $longerArgument,
    $muchLongerArgument
) use (
    $longVar1,
    $longerVar2,
    $muchLongerVar3
) {
    // body
};

$longArgs_shortVars = function (
    $longArgument,
    $longerArgument,
    $muchLongerArgument
) use ($var1) {
    // body
};

$shortArgs_longVars = function ($arg) use (
    $longVar1,
    $longerVar2,
    $muchLongerVar3
) {
    // body
};
```

Note that the formatting rules also apply when the closure is used directly in a function or method call as an argument.

```
<?php
$foo->bar(
    $arg1,
    function ($arg2) use ($var1) {
        // body
    },
    $arg3
);
```

7. Conclusion

There are many elements of style and practice intentionally omitted by this guide. These include but are not limited to:

- Declaration of global variables and global constants
- Declaration of functions
- Operators and assignment
- Inter-line alignment
- Comments and documentation blocks
- Class name prefixes and suffixes
- Best practices

Future recommendations MAY revise and extend this guide to address those or other elements of style and practice.

Appendix A. Survey

In writing this style guide, the group took a survey of member projects to determine common practices. The survey is retained herein for posterity.

A.1. Survey Data


```

url,http://www.horde.org/apps/horde/docs/CODING_STANDARDS,http://pear.php.net
voting,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,no,no,no,?
indent_type,4,4,4,4,4,tab,4,tab,tab,2,4,tab,4,4,4,4,4,4,tab,tab,4,tab
line_length_limit_soft,75,75,75,75,no,85,120,120,80,80,80,no,100,80,80,?,?,12
line_length_limit_hard,85,85,85,85,no,no,no,no,100,?,no,no,no,100,100,?,120,1
class_names,studly,studly,studly,studly,studly,studly,studly,studly,studly,st
class_brace_line,next,next,next,next,next,same,next,same,same,same,same,next,
constant_names,upper,upper,upper,upper,upper,upper,upper,upper,upper,up
true_false_null,lower,lower,lower,lower,lower,lower,lower,lower,lower,upper,l
method_names,camel,camel,camel,camel,camel,camel,camel,camel,camel,came
method_brace_line,next,next,next,next,next,same,next,same,same,same,same,next
control_brace_line,same,same,same,same,same,same,next,same,same,same,same,nex
control_space_after,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,no,yes,yes,yes,yes,no,yes,yes,yes,yes
always_use_control_braces,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,no,yes,yes,yes,no,yes,yes,y
else_elseif_line,same,same,same,same,same,same,next,same,same,next,same,next,
case_break_indent_from_switch,0/1,0/1,0/1,1/2,1/2,1/2,1/2,1/1,1/1,1/2,1/2,1/1
function_space_after,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no
closing_php_tag_required,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,no,yes,no,no,no,no,yes,no,no,no
line_endings,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF,?,LF,?,LF,LF,LF,LF,?,LF,?,LF,LF,LF
static_or_visibility_first,static,?,static,either,either,either,visibility,vi
control_space_parens,no,no,no,no,no,no,yes,no,no,no,no,no,no,yes,?,no,no,no,n
blank_line_after_php,no,no,no,no,yes,no,no,no,yes,yes,no,no,yes,?,yes,yes,
class_method_control_brace,next/next/same,next/next/same,next/next/same,next/

```

A.2. Survey Legend

`indent_type`:

The type of indenting. `tab` = “Use a tab”, `2` or `4` = “number of spaces”

`line_length_limit_soft`:

The “soft” line length limit, in characters. `?` = not discernible or no response, `no` means no limit.

`line_length_limit_hard`:

The “hard” line length limit, in characters. `?` = not discernible or no response, `no`

means no limit.

`class_names` :

How classes are named. `lower` = lowercase only, `lower_under` = lowercase with underscore separators, `studly` = StudlyCase.

`class_brace_line` :

Does the opening brace for a class go on the `same` line as the class keyword, or on the `next` line after it?

`constant_names` :

How are class constants named? `upper` = Uppercase with underscore separators.

`true_false_null` :

Are the `true`, `false`, and `null` keywords spelled as all `lower` case, or all `upper` case?

`method_names` :

How are methods named? `camel` = `camelCase`, `lower_under` = lowercase with underscore separators.

`method_brace_line` :

Does the opening brace for a method go on the `same` line as the method name, or on the `next` line?

`control_brace_line` :

Does the opening brace for a control structure go on the `same` line, or on the `next` line?

`control_space_after` :

Is there a space after the control structure keyword?

`always_use_control_braces` :

Do control structures always use braces?

`else_elseif_line`:

When using `else` or `elseif`, does it go on the `same` line as the previous closing brace, or does it go on the `next` line?

`case_break_indent_from_switch`:

How many times are `case` and `break` indented from an opening `switch` statement?

`function_space_after`:

Do function calls have a space after the function name and before the opening parenthesis?

`closing_php_tag_required`:

In files containing only PHP, is the closing `?>` tag required?

`line_endings`:

What type of line ending is used?

`static_or_visibility_first`:

When declaring a method, does `static` come first, or does the visibility come first?

`control_space_parens`:

In a control structure expression, is there a space after the opening parenthesis and a space before the closing parenthesis? `yes` = `if ($expr)`, `no` = `if ($expr)`.

`blank_line_after_php`:

Is there a blank line after the opening PHP tag?

`class_method_control_brace`:

A summary of what line the opening braces go on for classes, methods, and control structures.

A.3. Survey Results

```
indent_type:
  tab: 7
  2: 1
  4: 14
line_length_limit_soft:
  ?: 2
  no: 3
  75: 4
  80: 6
  85: 1
  100: 1
  120: 4
  150: 1
line_length_limit_hard:
  ?: 2
  no: 11
  85: 4
  100: 3
  120: 2
class_names:
  ?: 1
  lower: 1
  lower_under: 1
  studly: 19
class_brace_line:
  next: 16
  same: 6
constant_names:
  upper: 22
true_false_null:
  lower: 19
  upper: 3
method_names:
  camel: 21
  lower_under: 1
method_brace_line:
  next: 15
  same: 7
```

```
control_brace_line:
    next: 4
    same: 18
control_space_after:
    no: 2
    yes: 20
always_use_control_braces:
    no: 3
    yes: 19
else_elseif_line:
    next: 6
    same: 16
case_break_indent_from_switch:
    0/1: 4
    1/1: 4
    1/2: 14
function_space_after:
    no: 22
closing_php_tag_required:
    no: 19
    yes: 3
line_endings:
    ?: 5
    LF: 17
static_or_visibility_first:
    ?: 5
    either: 7
    static: 4
    visibility: 6
control_space_parens:
    ?: 1
    no: 19
    yes: 2
blank_line_after_php:
    ?: 1
    no: 13
    yes: 8
class_method_control_brace:
```

```
next/next/next: 4
next/next/same: 11
next/same/same: 1
same/same/same: 6
```

Additional Info:

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