**🔐 Hackster: Code of Conduct**

Hackster is more than just a hackathon—it's a rebellion of ideas, a collaborative ecosystem, and a celebration of creativity and innovation. To foster a safe, inclusive, and vibrant environment throughout all phases of the event—including the **Online Round**, **Pre-Meetup**, and **Final Hackathon**—we expect all participants to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

**🎯 Core Principles**

1. **Be Respectful**
   * Treat all participants, mentors, judges, and organizers with kindness and respect, regardless of gender, identity, experience, beliefs, or background.
   * Avoid discriminatory comments, personal attacks, or any form of hate speech.
2. **Foster Inclusivity**
   * Hackster thrives on diversity. We welcome all individuals, irrespective of their technical ability or background.
   * Make conscious efforts to ensure everyone feels included and valued.
3. **Collaborate, Don’t Compete**
   * Respect differing viewpoints and communicate your ideas constructively.
   * Teamwork and knowledge sharing are encouraged throughout all stages.
4. **Maintain Professionalism**
   * Be on time for all sessions, especially for the **Mentorship Round** and **Final Judging**.
   * Avoid any disruptive behavior online or onsite, and maintain a productive and welcoming attitude.
5. **Respect Intellectual Property**
   * All submissions must be original. Plagiarism or the use of AI-generated content without modification is strictly prohibited.
   * Ideas or work shared by others during the event should not be reused without permission.
6. **Zero Tolerance for Harassment**
   * Harassment in any form—verbal, physical, visual, or written—will not be tolerated.
   * This includes offensive jokes, unwelcome attention, and inappropriate messages.

**📢 Reporting & Action**

If you observe or experience any inappropriate behavior, please **report it immediately** to the organizing team through the official WhatsApp group or directly contact the admins.

**Consequences of Violating the Code May Include:**

Violations of the Code of Conduct will be taken **very seriously** and may result in **immediate and escalated actions** based on the severity of the incident. These consequences include, but are not limited to:

* **Formal Warning** issued by the Hackster organizing committee
* **Immediate removal** from the current phase or entire event
* **Permanent disqualification** from Hackster and affiliated events
* **Blacklisting from future hackathons and tech opportunities** hosted or recommended by Hackster’s partner networks
* **Public disclosure of disqualification**, including project invalidation and removal from official listings
* **Escalation to institutional authorities** or relevant legal bodies in case of severe harassment, intellectual property theft, or threats

**Event-Specific Guidelines**

**Online Round (30th August-2nd September )**

* All communication must occur via official Hackster WhatsApp groups.
* Participants must submit original MVPs and relevant documentation via GitHub.
* Respect judge feedback and the defined evaluation timeline.

**💬 Pre-Meetup (TBD)**

* Real-time Q&A and demonstrations require **mandatory attendance**.
* All team members must be present unless explicitly exempted.
* Projects should demonstrate clear progress from the Online Round.

**🚀 Final Hackathon (6th September)**

* All project development and final presentations must be conducted onsite.
* Follow the venue’s dress code (smart casual or branded dress).
* Respect time slots for judging and feedback.

**💬 Communication & Authority**

* All announcements will be made via registered emails and official WhatsApp groups.
* Judges’ decisions are **final and binding**.
* Respect decisions made by mentors and the organizing team throughout the event.

By participating in Hackster, you agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. Let’s build, break, and innovate—**with integrity**.