

TECHFIESTA 2026 INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT POINTS

- ✓ The Idea should be explained using the given points in the template itself.
 - ✓ No extra slides should be added in the idea submission ppt.
 - ✓ Explain the Idea in precise and concise manner.
 - ✓ Highlight innovative idea in your approach clearly.
 - ✓ 10 min presentation, 5 min Q & A.
 - ✓ *Not to disclose college name, and no need to introduce team to save the time.*
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ROUND 1 – COMMON PITFALLS AFFECTING EVALUATION SCORES

1. Lack of clear Problem–Solution Fit

- *Solution doesn't clearly address the problem*
- *Judges could not understand why the project matters*

2. Insufficient Innovation

- *Idea may already exist in the market*
- *Not enough unique features or differentiators*
- *Built a common CRUD application without novelty*

3. Limited Technical Depth

- *Mostly UI with no real backend / ML / automation*
- *Too much focus on designing instead of building*
- *Used prebuilt tools without demonstrating original development*

4. Missing Real-World Use Case / Market Potential

- *No business model or user adoption plan*
- *No clarity on who will use the solution and why*
- *Judges look for scalability, not only code*

5. No Data / Research / Validation

- *Not enough evidence that problem exists*

- *No user survey, market study, or benchmarking against competitors*

6. Lack of Required Submission Items

- *Missing README file*
- *No deployment link*
- *No GitHub repository or code access*
- *Incomplete abstract or problem statement*

7. Weak Documentation

- Even if the project is good:
 - *No architecture explanation*
 - *Features not listed clearly*
 - *No instructions to run the project*
 - *No explanation of datasets / APIs used*

8. Poor Online Communication

- *In video pitch, team not confident / monotone*
- *Explanation too fast or too technical*
- *No real user story or use-case mentioned*

9. Judges Could Not Understand the Workflow

- *Demo jumps between screens without context*
- *No start-to-end user journey*
- *No flow diagram or storyboard provided*

10. No Proof of Work Done in Hackathon Time

Judges sometimes try to detect copied / old projects:

- *Git commit history irrelevant or old*
- *Code copied from online sources*
- *Demo unavailable but UI screenshots submitted*

11. Other Teams Had Higher Impact Projects

Even a well-done project may lose if:

- *Other ideas had bigger social/business impact*
 - *Other teams showed more innovation and polish*
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FAQs

1. What is Blind Review?

Blind Review is considered the **0th round** of evaluation. In this stage, we verify whether the submitted PPT strictly follows all the **guidelines and instructions** shared with you earlier. The purpose of this round is to ensure that your PPT is properly aligned with the required format, structure, and rules before proceeding to further evaluation stages.

2. Can we change the background styling of the PPT?

No. The background styling of the PPT **cannot be changed**. You must use the template exactly as provided without altering the background design.

3. Do we have to present the prototype?

Presenting the prototype is **not compulsory**. However, if you wish to include it, you may.

If you choose to present it, please ensure that you **manage your timeline carefully**, as the presentation time is **10 minutes**, followed by **5 minutes of Q&A**.

4. Can we create an extra document if all our content doesn't fit into the 6 slides?

Yes, you may. If your content does not fit within the required 6 slides, you can create an additional document and **share a link to that document** (properly stored and accessible). Make sure the main PPT still covers the required points concisely.

5. Timeline (Please Note):

- The **last date to submit the PPT** for the **Online Elimination Round (1st Round)** is **22nd December**.
- The **last date for Blind Review (0th Round)** is also **22nd December**.

- We will continue verifying PPTs for Blind Review **up to 22nd December**, so having the same deadline for the 0th and 1st rounds will **not cause any issues**.

6. Will we receive a shortlist after the Blind Review?

No. The Blind Review is **not a shortlisting round**. Its only purpose is to check whether all the **guidelines and instructions** have been followed in the PPT. If a team fails to meet the guidelines, we will inform them, and they can make the necessary changes. In conclusion, **every team will proceed to the Online Elimination Round**, where they will present their idea to the industry experts.

7. Where can we find our Team ID?

Log in to your dashboard and navigate to the **Team Formation** section. You will find your Team ID displayed there.

If in case the Team ID is not visible, **click on the blue refresh button**.

8. Where will we get the WhatsApp link to join the group?

You will receive the official WhatsApp group link in the **payment verification email**.

9. Can we use AI tools?

We **do not encourage** the use of AI tools like ChatGPT. Instead, you should rely on **official documentation** related to the domain you are working in. If judges suspect AI-generated content and you are **unable to explain or justify** your work, it may lead to complications. So, it's safer to avoid AI-generated assistance for core implementation or explanation.

10. Do all team members have to present in the meeting?

It is **not mandatory** for all team members to present. However, the team can decide who will present the content, as long as the presentation is clear, well-structured, and within the given time limits.

11. Before the Grand Finale, do we have to prepare the project completely or build it from scratch?

Pre-development is allowed and encouraged. However, simply presenting a finished project is not enough. During the final round, the panel will request live changes or new features to test your understanding of the code. You must be prepared to code and evolve your project during the event based on this immediate feedback.

12. How many winners will there be?

Winners will be selected **domain-wise**, not overall. Each domain will have its own set of winning teams.

13. How many teams will be selected for the Grand Finale?

The number of teams selected for the Grand Finale **depends entirely on the marks** you _____ score.

If your team **crosses the required threshold**, you will be promoted to the Grand Finale. There is no fixed number of finalists—selection is purely merit-based.

14. Are the judges going to ask the Q&A based on the PPT or the working prototype?

The Q&A will be based on **whatever you have explained in the PPT**—your methodology, tech stack, research papers, approach, and overall understanding. If you show a prototype, they may ask questions related to it, but primarily the questions will come from the **content you have presented in your PPT**.

15. If we want to present the prototype, should it be done during the 10-minute PPT presentation or the 5-minute Q&A?

The prototype must be presented **within the 10-minute PPT presentation slot**. You will need to **manage your time accordingly** to ensure both the PPT and the prototype (if included) fit within the 10 minutes.

16. For the changes suggested by the judges, do we have to hard-code them in front of the judges, or can we use tools like Copilot or Cursor?

The judges will not sit with you or monitor how you implement the required changes. You can make the updates on your own after the round.

However, make sure you **personally understand and implement the changes yourself**, so that you can **explain the logic confidently** in the next evaluation stage. Using AI tools may affect your ability to justify your work, so rely primarily on your own understanding.

17. If we have a prototype, where should we include it in the PPT?

If you have a prototype, you should place the link on the **second-last or last slide** of your PPT.

18. If I have applied for two PS in the same domain, should I submit one PPT or two PPTs?

Please make **separate PPTs for each Problem Statement**. Each PS requires its own dedicated presentation. Additionally, for the **final project**, each Problem Statement will also have a **different project**. You must work on and submit them separately.

19. In the presentation round, do we have the freedom to switch tabs between the PPT and the prototype?

Yes, you can freely switch between the PPT and the prototype during the presentation. For a **smoother and more professional presentation**, ensure all required tabs are pre-opened and arranged so that switching is quick and seamless.

20. Can we use bilingual language during the presentation?

It is preferred that you use **English**, as it is universal and ensures clear communication with all judges and reviewers.

21. Where will the selected teams be displayed?

Selected teams will receive an official email regarding their selection.
