



## **Official Rules & Regulations**

**Imagine Cup**

**2024 Season**

**Version 1**

**October 2023**

## SPONSOR

These are the Official Rules ("Rules") that govern how the Microsoft Imagine Cup Competition operates (the "Competition"). Microsoft Corporation, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA, 98052, USA, is the Competition sponsor ("Sponsor").

## DEFINITIONS

In these rules, "Microsoft", "we," "our," and "us" refer to Sponsor and "you" and "yourself" refers to an eligible entrant, or the parent/legal guardian of any Competition entrant who has not reached the age of majority to contractually obligate themselves in their legal place of residence. By entering, you, or your parent/legal guardian if you are not the age of majority in your place of legal residence, agree to be bound by these Official Rules.

## OVERVIEW

The Imagine Cup is a skill-based Competition. Open to students around the world, the Imagine Cup Competition seeks to honor the most innovative, accessible, ground-breaking, and appealing software built with Microsoft tools and Artificial Intelligence technology.

Microsoft does not claim any equity stake in the businesses or projects submitted for the Imagine Cup competition. All intellectual property rights for the submitted projects remain with their respective owners. Microsoft's role is to provide a platform for young innovators to showcase their talents and bring their ideas to life.

The Competition may be structured differently based on the country/region you are representing. Please make sure to read your local country/region competition rules (if applicable) to better understand how to participate in this competition before registering or submitting an entry. If there are any inconsistencies between these Official Rules and your local country/region Competition Rules, these Official Rules will govern.

## ENTRY PERIOD

This Competition starts at 00:00 Greenwich Mean Time ("GMT") on October 16, 2023 and ends in May 2024 ("Entry Period") and will consist of multiple rounds as follows:

<b>ROUND</b>	<b>START DATE (all times 00:00 GMT)</b>	<b>END DATE (all times 23:59 GMT)</b>
<b>Qualifying</b>	October 16, 2023	January 24, 2024
<b>Round 1: MVP Submission</b>	January 26, 2024	February 9, 2024
<b>Round 2: Semifinals</b>	February 26, 2024	April 2024
<b>Round 3: World Championship</b>	May 2024	May 2024

## ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to enter if you meet the following requirements below at time of entry. For purposes of this Competition, "time of entry" is defined as the most recent date you have submitted an entry into a specific round.

- **You are** at least 18 years of age as of October 16, 2023 and are actively enrolled as a student at an accredited educational institution that grants high-school or college/university (or equivalent) degrees (including home schools) at any time between October 16, 2023 and May 31, 2024; **and**
  - If you are 18 years of age or older but have not reached the age of majority in your legal place of residence, then you should ask your parent's or legal guardian's permission prior to submitting an entry into this Competition.
- **You are NOT** a resident of Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Russia, and the Region of Crimea; **and**
  - U.S. export regulations prohibit the export of goods and services to Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Russia, and the Region of Crimea. Therefore, residents of these countries/regions are not eligible to participate.
- **You/your business has not** received external funding more than \$50,000 USD; **and**
- **You/your business has not** used paid employee's assistance in creating an Imagine Cup entry at any time; **and**
- **You are not** an employee or intern of Microsoft Corporation, or an employee of a Microsoft subsidiary, at any time between October 16, 2023 and May 31, 2024; **and**
- **You are not** involved in any part of the execution or administration of this Competition; **and**
- **You are not** an immediate family member of (parent, sibling, spouse/domestic partner, child) or household member of a Microsoft employee, an employee of a Microsoft subsidiary, or a person involved in any part of the administration and execution of this Competition between October 16, 2023 and May 31, 2024.

#### **If you are a Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador**

(<https://studentambassadors.microsoft.com>) and you meet the eligibility criteria set forth above, you may enter the Competition, but you are prohibited from using Microsoft property, internal resources, Student Ambassador benefits, and/or the work of Microsoft employees, in connection with the creation or execution of an entry. Very simply, you cannot use any resources which are not broadly available to all other students. If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

**If you have previously competed in an Imagine Cup event as a World Finalist or Regional Finalist**, you are eligible to enter but any entry submitted must be substantially new, unique, and different from anything you've brought to the Imagine Cup before.

This Competition is void outside the geographic area described above and wherever else prohibited by law.

#### **TEAMS AND MENTORS**

Up to four (4) eligible students may submit a single entry as a team. It is recommended that each team (or individual if competing alone) enlist the services of a mentor. Mentors may be from academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, or private companies.

- You may have assistance with your project from additional students beyond the four who are your official team. Such assistance is typically in specific disciplines such as

graphic design or business plan development. Any such additional students are not considered members of your team for purposes of these rules and they will not be eligible for any prizes, they will not be included in the World Championship award ceremony, nor will they be recognized in official communications such as press releases. Only the four team members you officially register with us are eligible for prizes, award ceremony inclusion, and official communications.

- Team members may come from different academic institutions and from different countries.
- Each competitor may belong to only one team within the competition.
- To compete, each team member should create an account at [imaginecup.com](https://imaginecup.com) and register for the competition. Once registered, any one of the team members can create a new team and invite the remaining team members to join. The remaining team members must accept the invitations prior to the submission deadline of Round 1 of the competition to be recognized as qualified members of the team.
- If at any time during the Competition, you become ineligible after you've submitted an entry, you should proactively remove yourself from your team via your [Imaginecup.com](https://imaginecup.com) profile and cease participating. If it's found you've continued to contribute to your team's entry after you've become ineligible, your team may be disqualified.
- If your Team is invited to participate in the Semi-Finals or the World Championship, at least one member of your Team must attend. (either virtually or in person dependent on format). If your Team is unable to attend virtually and/or in person for any reason, then we may disqualify your entire Team and invite the next highest scoring Team to participate.
- Each Team is solely responsible for its own cooperation and teamwork. In no event will Sponsor officiate in any dispute regarding the conduct or cooperation of any Team or its members.

The intent and spirit of the Competition is to test the skills and creativity of the student entrants. Anyone acting as a team Mentor, or in any mentorship role, where allowed (for example, local, regional, or global sponsors), must limit the level of support provided to student entrants to general guidance and must not contribute in any way that may be considered original authorship, or in a way that may enable claims of rights or ownership to the submitted entries. In no event will work on behalf of teams or individuals be allowed.

## **HOW TO ENTER**

To enter, visit [imaginecup.com](https://imaginecup.com) and register as instructed by forming your team and following the steps to begin participating in Qualifying.

You cannot compete in the 2024 Imagine Cup if you do not participate in Qualifying.

You may only submit one (1) entry per round. During Qualifying, if you make multiple submissions, we will use the last one you submitted as your official entry. This does allow you to

throw out and replace your project in Qualifying, for example, if you decide your initial approach isn't working. After Qualifying, if you make multiple submissions, we will use the last one you submitted as your official entry.

We will disqualify any incomplete or illegible entries that we receive. We are not responsible for entries that we do not receive for any reason, or for entries that we receive but are not decipherable for any reason.

## COMPETITION ROUND DETAILS

Below is an overview of what to expect for each round of the competition.

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### The Imagine Cup Qualifying

The Imagine Cup Qualifying gives you the chance to pitch your business and provide a project plan to be screened and evaluated by a panel of judges. It's your chance to tell the story of your business and your team, what you're trying to accomplish, how you'll do it, and what the result will be. Submissions will be reviewed biweekly for progression into Founders Hub.

For the Imagine Cup Qualifying you will be required to submit the following materials:

- ❑ **LinkedIn Profile of team leader**
- ❑ **Business Proposal** This should be a Microsoft Word or PDF document no longer than ten pages, or a PowerPoint presentation no longer than twenty slides, which explains your business and your team: Who your team is; what your business does; your use of AI, who your business is for; and how you will bring your business to market.

**Qualifying Advancement:** All submissions will be evaluated by judges using criteria given later in these rules. Submissions that meet the criteria will be sent a link to the team email provided to register to Founders Hub to receive access to the Azure and Open AI credits in Founders Hub in order to proceed with building their MVP. Student teams will need access to a credit card in order to redeem the free credits granted by Founders Hub, in the event a student does not have access to a credit card they can access \$100 of Azure credit through Azure for Students.

### Round 1 – Minimum Viable Product (MVP) Submission

There are three competition categories you can choose to submit an MVP for:

- **Sustainability:** solutions that focus on sustainability and enhancing quality of life
- **Innovation:** solutions that showcase novel and groundbreaking ideas, pushing the boundaries of technology and creativity
- **Industry:** solutions that solve real-world problems in various industries, such as healthcare, education, finance, etc.

You may only select one (1) of the category types to assign your entry to. Once your Round 1 entry is submitted and the deadline has passed your category selection is locked and cannot be altered. If the competition organizers feel your entry is better suited for a different category, your entry may be re-assigned. During Round 1, you may be invited to deliver the following materials:

- ☐ **Business Proposal** to compete against other students from around the world in the Semi Finals. This should be a Microsoft Word or PDF document no longer than ten pages, or a PowerPoint presentation no longer than twenty slides, which explains your business and your team: Who your team is; what your business does; your use of AI, who your business is for; and how you will bring your business to market.
- ☐ **Presentation Video** – 3-minute pitch and demo video as if presenting live to judges.
- ☐ **Software** usable by the judges.
- ☐ **Software Instructions** document explaining how to use your software.

Additional requirements for the live presentation, business proposal, software, and instructions all appear later in these rules in the “Content and Technical Requirements” section.

**Round 1 Advancement:** Teams in Round 1 will be evaluated by judges using the scoring criteria given later in these rules. Round 1 will result in ten (10) teams that will advance to Round 2. Further, multiple additional teams from other participating university competitions may be selected to also advance to Round 2. The amount of additional teams will be communicated broadly after the close of Round 1.

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## Round 2 – Semifinals

Round 2 competitors must have the following materials prepared:

- ☐ **Live Presentation** of your business to a panel of judges. This presentation should explain your business and your team: Who your team is; what your business does; your use of AI, who your business is for; and how you will bring your project to market.
- ☐ **Software** working proof of concept using Artificial Intelligence for a live demo evaluation by the judges.

**Round 2 Advancement:** Teams in Round 2 will be evaluated by judges using the scoring criteria given later in these rules. The judges will choose the top three (3) teams who will progress to the World Championship

### Round 3 – World Championship

All teams who advance to Round 3 will compete in the World Championship, which may take place virtually or in-person. This will be communicated no later than May 1, 2024.

Round 3 competitors must have the following materials prepared for the World Championship

- ☐ **Live Presentation** of your business. This presentation should explain your business and your team: Who your team is; what your business does; your use of AI, who your business is for; and how you will bring your business to market.
- ☐ **Software** working proof of concept using Artificial Intelligence for a live demo evaluation.

**Winning Round 3:** Teams in Round 3 will be evaluated by the judges using the scoring criteria given later in these rules. The judges at the World Championship will choose one (1) first place team and two (2) runner up teams. No other team rankings will be released.

### WINNER SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

#### Judging Criteria:

For Round 1 and Round 2, each entry will receive a score of 1-100, based on the following criteria. Entries are re-evaluated at each round based on the latest version of the solution, so your continued development progress may raise your next score.

Criteria	Description	Weighting
AI Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How well does the solution integrate AI into its design and functionality? Were there any notable platform features or alternative platforms that the project could have utilized to enhance its AI integration? (20 points)</li><li>• How well does the solution include innovations in technical design, implementation, and/or user experience? (10 points)</li><li>• How well does the solution demonstrate responsible AI practices and principles? (10 points)</li></ul>	40%
Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How well does the team ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all users – considering factors such as gender, ethnicity, disability segment, or other diverse characteristics? (5 points)</li><li>• Has the team reviewed the features, presentation, and language used for their product to be as inclusive and accessible as possible? (5 points)</li></ul>	10%

<b>Viability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How well does the solution create a new category of product or service? Does it clearly and meaningfully innovate beyond existing products and services? (15 points)</b></li> <li>• <b>How well does the solution have a clear target market, address a clear need, problem, or opportunity? Is the solution clearly explained? (15 points)</b></li> <li>• <b>How well does the team have a credible plan with a reasonable likelihood of success for bringing their project to market? For their business model, are any required partnerships or other factors to be considered? (10 points)</b></li> <li>• <b>How well does the team conduct idea validation activities, leverage external reviews for their solution (customer surveys, focus groups, beta-testers, subject-matter experts, or potential investors)? Are the review participants representative of their intended user base? (10 points)</b></li> </ul>	<b>50%</b>
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In addition, during Qualifying only, entries will be evaluated to ensure they meet the minimum requirements to gain access to Founders Hub. Minimum requirements mean that to progress from qualifying and gain access to Founders Hub, teams must have validated their student status, submitted a LinkedIn profile and a business proposal with a proof-of-concept idea utilizing Microsoft AI technology. For more detailed information on Founders Hub eligibility, see: [Founders Hub FAQ](#).

### **Judging Round 3 – World Championship**

Each entry will receive a score based on some or all of criteria above and may also include a public voting element. Exact criteria, including how voting will take place and voting limitations (if applicable) will be published before the World Championship. If public voting is used in any way to determine scores, it is prohibited for any person to obtain votes by any fraudulent or inappropriate means, including offering prizes or other inducements in exchange for votes, automated programs or fraudulent ID's. Microsoft reserves the right to void any questionable votes.

### **Judging Details:**

In the event of a tie between any eligible entries, an additional judge will break the tie based on the judging criteria described above. The decisions of the judges are final and binding. If we do not receive enough entries meeting the entry requirements, we may, at our discretion, select fewer winners than the number of Contest Prizes described below.

### **Notifications:**

- Winners will be notified via the contact information provided during entry no more than 7 days following judging with prize claim instructions, including form submission



deadlines. If we require you to affirmatively accept an invitation to further compete or claim a prize, and the notification that we send is returned as undeliverable, or you are otherwise unreachable, we may disqualify your team and extend an invitation to the next highest scoring team/entrant.

- If there is a dispute as to the identity of a particular entrant, we will consider the entrant to be the authorized account holder of the email address provided at time of sign up.
- If you are selected as a potential winner, we may require you to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability and Publicity Release and W-9 tax form (for U.S. residents) or W-8BEN tax form (for non-U.S. residents).
- If you have not reached the age of majority in your legal place of residence, we may require your parent or legal guardian to sign all required forms on your behalf.
- If you do not complete the required forms as instructed and/or return the required forms within the time period listed on the winner notification message, we may disqualify you and select the next highest scoring Team/entrant.
- If the World Championship takes place in person, you will solely be responsible for obtaining a valid passport and any VISA requirements for travel along with any associated expenses incurred to procure them. Microsoft will provide a formal invitation letter to assist in the VISA process. If in-person travel applies, any expenses not explicitly listed by Microsoft are the sole responsibility of the entrant. If you live within 250 miles of the travel destination, we reserve the right to substitute alternate transportation for air travel. Event dates and location are subject to change at our sole discretion. Therefore, you must have flexible travel capabilities. Travel is subject to availability and must be completed on dates specified by Sponsor or advancement will be forfeited and awarded to the next highest scoring team/entrant. No cancellation of reservation or transfer of reservation to another date after reservation has been made.

## **PRIZES**

**Round 3:** At the World Championship one (1) winning team and two (2) runner-up teams will be selected. At least one (1) member of the team must be present virtually and/or in person if applicable to win. (Mentors and associates will not be awarded any portion of the monetary prize winnings.)

- **World Champion:**
  - \$100,000 USD, to be divided equally among each officially registered member of the Team
  - Mentorship call with Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella
- Runner up teams (2)
  - \$50,000 USD, to be divided equally among each officially registered member of the Team

All prizes are stated in U.S. dollars, but we, or our local subsidiary or designated agent (on our behalf), may award a cash prize in the official currency of the winner's country of residence based on the exchange rate on the date of payment. Unless otherwise indicated in the specific

Competition rules, all cash prizes will be divided equally among all officially registered members of a Team.

If you are confirmed as a winner:

- You may not exchange non-cash prizes for cash or any other merchandise or services. However, if for any reason an advertised prize is unavailable, we reserve the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value; **and**
- You may not designate someone else as the winner. If you are unable or unwilling to accept your prize, we may award it to the next highest scoring Team/entrant; **and**
- If you accept a prize, you will be solely responsible for all applicable taxes related to accepting the prize; **and**
- If you are otherwise eligible, but have not reached the age of majority in your legal place of residence, then we may award the prize to your parent/legal guardian on your behalf; **and**
- Unless otherwise noted, all prizes are subject to their manufacturer's warranty and/or terms and conditions; **and**
- Mentors of winning teams are not awarded any cash prizes in association with their participation in Imagine Cup.

**Important note about cash prizes:** All cash or bank checks must be deposited within 90 days of the validity date printed on the check. If the check expires, you will not be reissued a new one.

## **CONTENT AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The following content and technical requirements apply to all Imagine Cup projects.

All Projects must be developed to require Microsoft and/or OpenAI Artificial Intelligence solutions.

This may include OpenAI API, Azure Cognitive Services, and Azure AI Studio. As long as your project requires Microsoft and/or OpenAI Artificial Intelligence solutions, your project meets this requirement.

In addition, all entries must meet the following requirements for the Live Presentation, Project Proposal, Software, and Software Instructions:

### **Live Presentation**

The Live Presentation is three-minute PowerPoint overview of your team and project accompanied by a live demonstration of your project. This presentation should explain your project and your team: Who your team is; what your project does; who your project is for; and how you will bring your project to market. The Live Presentation must meet the following criteria as well as any other criteria set forth by your National Final and/or the World Finals:

1. You are responsible for your project to be fully installed on suitable hardware for the demonstration.
2. Your presentation must clearly address each of the **Judging Criteria** outlined above.
3. The accompanying PowerPoint must be in the English language and you must conduct your presentation in English. If a translator is needed, you are responsible for procuring one. Microsoft staff cannot serve as translators for your team. It is acceptable for mentors to serve as translators, but they must only translate the spoken words of team members and not make a presentation on behalf of the team.
4. The project you demonstrate must be a working proof of concept demonstratable to judges.
5. Any or all of your team members may participate in the presentation, but all are not required to participate. It's permissible for a single team member to deliver the entire presentation.

### **Presentation Video**

The Presentation Video is a video recording of your Live Presentation and must abide by the same requirements as the Live Presentation except that there will be no questions from the judges. In addition:

1. Your video must simulate the experience of a judge viewing a Live Presentation.
2. Place your video camera where a judge might sit and then perform your presentation to the camera.
3. You may not move the camera during the presentation, nor may you edit the video in any way except to trim the beginning and/or ending so the video only includes the presentation itself.
4. It must be no longer than three minutes in duration.
5. As in a live presentation, you may present slides and project demonstrations, but you may not edit those elements into the video afterwards – they must all be used live during the recording.
6. You may approach the camera to demonstrate aspects of your project up close just as you might to a live judge.
7. **You must provide a publicly accessible URL where the video file can be viewed by our judges – we suggest you share the video via Microsoft OneDrive.**

### **Project Proposal**

This is a Microsoft Word or PDF document no longer than ten pages, or a PowerPoint presentation no longer than twenty slides, which explains your project and your team: Who your team is; what your project does; who your project is for; what platform features your project uses; and how you will bring your project to market. It is the written equivalent of the Live Presentation in terms of the material it covers. Your Project Proposal must meet the following criteria:

1. Your presentation must clearly address each of the **Judging Criteria** outlined above.
2. Your document must be in English.
3. It must be no larger than 100MB.

4. It must be in either DOC, DOCX, PPT, PPTX, or PDF formats.
5. You may compress your document in a ZIP file for submission.

## Software

We need to be able to use your app in order to judge it! The Software is defined as an installable and usable software project in the appropriate format for your chosen platform(s).

### Software must meet the following requirements:

1. Your software must be in one of the following formats for installation depending on its platform.

**Windows:** A standard SETUP.EXE or an .MSI Windows Setup application to install your app on a Windows PC. If your project is a Universal Windows Platform (UWP) App, submit it as an .appx app package file with all associated files required for installation, including the PowerShell script; you must also sign the app package by following the instructions given [here](#).

**Mobile Device:** A standard setup file for deployment to iOS or Android devices.

**Microsoft Azure and OpenAI:** The web tier of your project must be deployed to Microsoft and/or OpenAI services and you must supply the full URL to your site and/or services. If your project includes client software, then those components must meet the platform requirements above. If your project includes an embedded component, then you must submit a console application that simulates the data flow and interaction between your web tier and the embedded device. The console application must be submitted as an \*.exe.

In all cases, you may submit any or all of your files compressed in a ZIP file.

2. You may be asked to provide an anonymized dataset sample for your AI solution that will factor into judging at the event as a condition of participating in the World Final.
3. The app executable must be no more than 3GB. No source code is permitted, and apps will be disqualified if they are submitted as development projects.
4. If your app includes and/or requires external device support, you must include this as a requirement in the Software Instructions document.
5. If your app includes and/or requires touchscreen/slate capabilities, you must include this as a requirement in the Software Instructions document.
6. If your app includes and/or requires Mixed Reality support, you must include this as a requirement in the Software Instructions document.
7. It is acceptable to support multiple languages in your app as long as English is one of the represented languages.
8. Our platform supports file sizes up to 1GB. If your file is larger than 1GB, please upload your file to a cloud host and submit a text file with instructions to access it.

## Software Instructions

The Software Instructions document is an electronic document that informs the judges and prospective users how to set up and use your app.

### The Software Instructions must meet the following requirements:

1. The instructions must be submitted as either a document in .DOC, .DOCX, .PDF, .PPT, or .TXT file formats or a graphic image as a .JPG file.
2. It must be submitted in English.
3. It must list all requirements for using the app such as Kinect, webcams, Mixed Reality devices an internet connection, Xbox game controllers, **guest account login/password**, or anything else that a judge must have to use your software.

## GENERAL STANDARDS FOR ENTRIES

In addition to the requirements listed above, all entries must meet the following general standards:

- Your entry must be your own original work. If elements of your entry contain video, please note the video must be solely the work of the team, including but not limited to, the actual filming, editing, graphic design, etc.; **and**
- You must have obtained any and all consents, approvals, or licenses required for you to submit your entry; **and** You must not have used Microsoft property, internal resources, and/or the work of Microsoft employees, in connection with the creation or execution of an entry; **and**
- The content of your entry and any supporting materials must be acceptable for all viewing audiences. We will automatically disqualify any entrant that submits any entry or supporting materials that contain content that we, in our sole and absolute discretion find obscene or offensive, violent, defamatory, disparaging or illegal, or that promotes alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco or a particular political agenda, or that communicates messages that may reflect negatively on the goodwill of Microsoft.

**Important note about Copyright:** Your team's entire entry must only include material (including source code – both open source and third party sourced, user interface, music, video, or images) that you own or that you have permission from the copyright/trademark owner to use. Your team's entry may not include copyrighted materials (such as source code, user interface, background music, images, or video) unless you own or have permission to use the materials. Ownership is not defined as purchasing a CD at a music store for replay, playing a copyright recording on your guitar or repurposing an application's user interface - your team's entry will be disqualified if copyrighted materials, including but not limited to these examples, are a part of your entry without appropriate licensing or permissions. If you do use permissible copyrighted materials, you must include the permissions information by citing the artist/creator and license information as per the respective Competition Rules. Note that even material released under sites such as Creative Commons, common open-source code licenses, and other similar licensing may need permission or acknowledgement as per the specific license. Note:

your team's entry will be disqualified if permissions information is not included as per the requirements in the specific Competition Rules.

**Important note about Hardware:** If your project includes a hardware component, you are not expected to provide that hardware to the judges for judging.

For any stage of the judging process that does not include a virtual presentation, you may explain your complete solution through your submission documentation. Any submitted software, however, should simulate hardware-related data and functionality so that your software can at least be evaluated for user experience design, platform compatibility, and so forth. If elements of your solution cannot reasonably be simulated, describe those omissions in your submission and work around those areas as best you can to enable the judges to evaluate as much of your project as is possible. For any virtual presentations, your solution must be complete and functional and be ready for demonstration for evaluation by the judges.

**Important note about Health Related Solutions:** Your entry may include suggestions or ideas for products, devices, or services that have not been evaluated or approved by Microsoft, including, but not limited to, health related products or devices, however you are solely responsible for any and all legal or regulatory clearances or approvals required to commercialize your entry. You are also solely responsible for the design, development, and implementation of your entry and for providing end users with appropriate warnings pertaining to use of the entry. You are solely responsible for any personal injury that may occur as a result of your entry being used, including (without limitation) any such injuries to end users.

**Important note about Connectivity/Authentication Requirements:** If your project incorporates some form of remote connectivity requiring authentication that our judges cannot perform then attempt to simulate as much of your functionality as is reasonable to enable the judges in early rounds to evaluate your software. You should also describe any simulations and omissions in your submission so the judges understand and can evaluate accordingly. If you compete in the World Finals or the World Championship, however, it is imperative that the judges be able to evaluate your solution as a working proof of concept so please make arrangements and preparations as necessary to support that evaluation should your team become a World Finalist.

We reserve the right to disqualify or reject any entry that we, in our sole and absolute discretion, determine does not meet the above criteria. If, in any Competition, we do not receive a sufficient number of entries meeting the entry requirements, we may, at our discretion, select fewer than the designated number of winners. The decisions of the judges are final and binding in all matters related to the Competition.

**Important note about cheating:** If someone cheats, or a virus, bug, bot, catastrophic event, natural disaster, or any other unforeseen or unexpected event that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (also referred to as force majeure) affects the fairness and/or integrity of this Competition, we reserve the right to cancel, change, or suspend this Competition. This right is reserved whether the event is due to human or technical error. If a solution cannot be

found to restore the integrity of the Competition, we reserve the right to select winners from among all eligible entries received before we had to cancel, change or suspend the Competition.

If you or your Team attempts to compromise the integrity or the legitimate operation of this Competition, or if we have reason to believe that you or your Team have compromised the integrity or the legitimate operation of this Competition by cheating, hacking, creating a bot or other automated program, or by committing fraud in any way, we may seek damages from you to the fullest extent permitted by law. Further, we may disqualify you, and ban you from participating in any of our future Competitions, so please play fairly.

## **USE OF ENTRIES**

Other than what is set forth below, we are not claiming any ownership rights to your entry. Microsoft does not claim any equity stake in the businesses or projects submitted for the Imagine Cup competition. All intellectual property rights for the submitted projects remain with their respective owners. However, by submitting your entry, you:

- Are granting us an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide right and license to: (i) use, review, assess, test, and otherwise analyze your entry and all its content in connection with this Competition; and (ii) feature your entry and all its content in connection with the marketing, sale, or promotion of this Competition (including but not limited to internal and external presentations, tradeshow, and screen shots of the competition entry process in press releases) in all media (now known or later developed); **and**
- Agree to sign any necessary documentation that may be required for us and our designees to make use of the rights you granted above; **and**
- Agree to assist us and the Sponsors in the creation of case studies or white papers (together "Studies") detailing your entry or entries. Studies will not include any confidential participant information. Upon your approval of the Studies' accuracy, you agree to give us and the Sponsors permission to display the Studies including trademarks, logos, and other identifying information contained therein, on our and the Sponsors websites and in other documentation. This documentation may take various forms, including printed materials, online articles, video, audio, and other digital recordings; **and**
- Understand and acknowledge that the Sponsor may have developed or commissioned materials similar or identical to your submission and you waive any claims you may have resulting from any similarities to your entry; **and**
- Understand that we cannot control the incoming information you will disclose to our representatives in the course of entering, or what our representatives will remember about your entry. You also understand that we will not restrict work assignments of representatives who have had access to your entry. By entering this Competition, you agree that use of information in our representatives' unaided memories in the development or deployment of our products or services does not create liability for us under this agreement or copyright or trade secret law; **and**
- Understand and acknowledge that Sponsor does not endorse, approve, recommend, warrant or guarantee, and provides no opinion, recommendation, or advice regarding

the accuracy, integrity, quality, safety, efficacy, suitability, or use of such entry, including but not limited to use of the entry for health, medical, or patient care purposes; **and**

- Understand that you will not receive any compensation or credit for use of your entry, other than what is described in these Official Rules.

Please note that during and after this Competition your entry may be posted on a website selected by us for viewing by visitors to that website. Entries posted on a website are provided "as is". This means that we disclaim all express and implied warranties about your entry and in no case will be liable for any damages or injury that accompany or result from the use, distribution, licensing, and/or sale of any entries. We are not responsible for any unauthorized use of your entry by visitors to this website.

While we reserve these rights, we are not obligated to use your entry for any purpose, even if it has been selected as a winning entry.

Personal data you provide while entering this Competition will be used by Microsoft and/or its agents and prize fulfillers acting on Microsoft's behalf only for the administration and operation of this Contest and in accordance with the [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#).

If you do not want to grant us these rights to your entry, please do not enter this Competition.

## **OTHER CONDITIONS**

By entering this Competition you agree:

- To abide by the Official Rules; **and**
- To release and hold harmless Microsoft, and its respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, and agents from any and all liability or any injury, loss or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with this Competition or any prize won; **and**
- That Microsoft's decisions will be final and binding on all matters related to this Competition; **and**
- That, by accepting a prize, Microsoft may use your proper name and state, country, or region of residence online and in print, or in any other media, in connection with this Competition, without payment or compensation to you, except where prohibited by law.

## **GOVERNING LAW**

This Competition will be governed by the laws of the State of Washington, and you consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts of the State of Washington for any disputes arising out of this Competition.

These Official Rules do not, nor do they purport to, limit, exclude or modify any non-excludable statutory guarantees as provided under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth), or any other warranties (whether express or implied) under any Australian state or federal legislation which cannot be excluded.



## **WINNERS LIST**

A full list of all winners will be published within 30 days following the 2024 World Championship