Constraints

One way to ensure data quality is to add constraints to the data fields in your form. For example, when asking for a person’s age, you want to avoid impossible answers, like -22 or 200. Adding data constraints in your form is easy to do. You simply add a new column, called **constraint**, and type in the formula specifying the limits on the answer. In the example below, the answer for the person’s age must be less than or equal to 150. Note how the . in the formula refers back to the question variable.

| **type** | **name** | **label** | **constraint** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| integer | age | How old are you? | . <= 150 |
| **survey**choicessettings | | |  |

In this example, the formula . <= 150 is saying that the value entered . for the question must be less than or equal to 150. If the user puts 151 or above as the answer, s/he will not be allowed to move on to the next question or submit the form.

Constraint message

If you want to include a message with your constraint, telling the user why the answer is not accepted, you can add a **constraint\_message** column to your form. See the example below.

| **type** | **name** | **label** | **constraint** | **constraint\_message** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| integer | respondent\_age | Respondent’s age | . >=18 | Respondent must be 18 or older to complete the survey. |
| **survey**choicessettings | | |  |  |

In this example, if the user enters an age less than 18, then the error message in the **constraint\_message** column appears.