



AHA Health Tech Competition 2026 - Terms and Conditions

These Terms and Conditions (the “Agreement”) govern participation in the AHA Health Tech Competition 2026 (the “Competition”) organized by the American Heart Association (AHA). By entering the Competition, participants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

1. Eligibility

The Competition is open to individuals who are legal residents of the United States and are at least 18 years of age or the age of majority in their jurisdiction of residence. An individual who enters on behalf of a business entity represents and warrants that he or she has the requisite authority to act on behalf of such entity. Employees, officers, and directors of the AHA and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate. Participants who are not legal residents of the United States are responsible for obtaining any necessary travel documents, including, without limitation, passports and visas, and related immigration papers required to be able to legally attend any required in-person activities related to this Competition in New Orleans, LA, USA, and to legally work on their submissions within the United States. AHA cannot render legal advice to Participants or to the winner(s), who are solely responsible for obtaining any legal advice they deem necessary or proper in order to participate in this Competition.

2. Submission Requirements

Participants must submit their submissions (each, a “Submission”) through the official Competition website at <https://ahahealthtech.org/aha-health-tech-competition-2026/> by the specified deadline. Submissions must be original, not infringe on any third-party rights, and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Participants must submit an original Submission that reflects their own ideas, analysis, and writing. Limited use of generative artificial intelligence tools is permitted for activities such as brainstorming, outlining, grammar review, or editing support, but participants may not use generative AI to draft, rewrite, or generate substantive portions of the submission or to misrepresent AI-generated content as their own work. By submitting a Submission, the participant certifies compliance with these requirements and acknowledges that failure to do so may result in disqualification from consideration.

3. Judging and Prizes

Submissions will be judged based on innovation, feasibility, impact, and alignment with the AHA’s mission. The decision of the judging panel is final and binding. Prizes will be awarded as described on the Competition website and are subject to applicable taxes and reporting requirements.

4. Participant Representations, Warranties and Covenants

By submitting a Submission in the Competition, each participant represents, warrants, and covenants as follows: (a) contact and factual information that is submitted as part of the Submission is true and accurate; (b) the content of the Submission is the original work of the participant (or participants, if a team) and such participant (or participants, if a team) is/are the sole author, creator, and owner of the Submission; (b) participant is eligible to participate in the Competition in accordance to the eligibility criteria set forth in these Terms and Conditions; (c) the Submission is not the subject of any actual or threatened litigation or claim, and participant is not under a contractual, employment or other obligation to provide the content of the Submission to any other person or entity as part of an exclusive obligation, first right of refusal, or other similar restriction; (d) the Submission does not and will not violate or infringe upon the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, publicity rights, or other legal rights of any third party; (e) the Submission does not and will not contain any harmful computer code (sometimes referred to as “malware,” “viruses” or “worms”); and (f) the Submission and participant’s use of the Submission do not and will not violate any applicable laws or regulations, including, without limitation, applicable export control laws and regulations of the United States and other jurisdictions. If the Submission includes any third-party works (such as third-party content or open-source code), participant has permission or a license or release to use such works and must be able to provide, upon AHA’s request, all appropriate substantiation of the right to use such third party works. In the event the participant cannot provide all required substantiation, AHA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify the applicable Submission, or seek to secure the licenses and releases for AHA’s benefit and allow the applicable Submission to remain in the Challenge. AHA has no responsibility for any agreements between participants and third parties.

5. Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

To the extent a Submission’s proposed solution (the “Solution”) incorporates, relies upon, or was developed using artificial intelligence, machine learning, generative AI, large language models, predictive analytics, agentic AI, automated decision-making systems, or similar technologies (“AI Technologies”), participant represents, warrants, and covenants that:

1. the participant has complied with all applicable laws, regulations, industry standards, and contractual obligations relating to the development, training, testing, deployment, and use of such AI Technologies;
2. the participant has the legal right to use all data, content, software, models, training data, prompts, outputs, and other materials incorporated into or used to create the Submission;
3. the Solution does not knowingly incorporate, rely upon, or reproduce copyrighted, proprietary, confidential, personal, protected health, or other third-party information in a manner that infringes, misappropriates, or otherwise violates the rights of any person or entity;

4. the Solution is not materially generated through unauthorized copying, scraping, replication, reverse engineering, or other use of third-party intellectual property in violation of applicable law or contractual restrictions;
5. any performance, efficacy, clinical, scientific, safety, predictive, diagnostic, or health-related claims made in the Submission are supported by reasonable evidence, testing, research, or validation and are not misleading, deceptive, or materially overstated; and

AHA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to request additional information regarding any AI Technologies used in connection with a Solution and to disqualify any Submission that AHA reasonably believes does not align with this Agreement.

6. Intellectual Property

Participants retain ownership of their Submissions. However, by entering the Competition, participants grant AHA a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use, reproduce, and display the Submissions for promotional and educational purposes. AHA has no obligation to keep any of the Submissions confidential. AHA will not be restricted in any manner from using any content from a Submission that is within the public domain.

7. Privacy

By participating in the Competition, participants agree to the collection and use of their personal information in accordance with the AHA's Privacy Statement, available at: <https://www.heart.org/en/about-us/statements-and-policies/privacy-statement>

8. Publicity

By participating in the Competition, each participant hereby irrevocably grants to AHA the right to use such participant's name, likeness, image, and biographical information in all media for any purpose, including, without limitation, advertising and promotional purposes, without any further notice, compensation, review or approval. No participant may use the name or logo of AHA in any publicity related to a Submission or any product resulting from a Submission without the prior express written consent of AHA.

9. Dispute Resolution

Any disputes arising out of or related to this Agreement or the Competition will be resolved exclusively through binding arbitration in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration will take place in Dallas, Texas, and the decision of the arbitrator will be final and binding. Each party will bear its own costs and attorneys' fees.

10. Limitation of Liability

AHA is not and will not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, or consequential damages arising out of or in connection with the Competition. Participants agree to release and hold harmless the AHA from any claims arising from participation in the Competition. AHA makes no warranties, representations, or guarantees, express or implied, in fact or in law, with respect to prizes, including, without limitation, regarding such prize's merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Selection of the winning Submission is not a representation of guarantee that such Submission will be funded or commercialized by anyone, or that such Submission is commercially viable.

11. Severability

The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these Terms and Conditions does not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. If any provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable or illegal, these Terms and Conditions otherwise remain in effect and will be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or illegal provision were not contained herein. In the event of a conflict between these Terms and Conditions and any other Competition-related materials or information, these Terms and Conditions will prevail.

12. Governing Law

This Agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to its conflict of law principles.

13. Entire Agreement

These Terms and Conditions constitute the entire agreement between the participant and the AHA with respect to the Competition and supersede all prior agreements and understandings, whether written or oral.