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Terms and Conditions for HackWithIndia and Devnovate Events

1. Introduction

These Terms and Conditions ("**Terms**") constitute a legally binding agreement between each participant ("**Participant**") and the organizers of **HackWithIndia** and **Devnovate** (collectively, the "**Organizers**"). These Events are structured competitive programs intended to foster innovation, technical development, and collaborative problem-solving. By registering for, accessing, or participating in any portion of the Events, Participants expressly acknowledge and agree to be bound by these Terms, all Event rules, and any additional policies or directives issued by the **Organizers**.

The **Organizers** retain the sole and exclusive right to interpret, modify, suspend, or enforce these **Terms** at any time, with or without prior notice, in the interest of fairness, security, or operational necessity.

2. Eligibility

- Participants must satisfy all age, academic, professional, or other eligibility requirements specified by the Organizers.
- Individuals, registered teams, startups, and student groups may participate unless otherwise restricted.
- The Organizers reserve the right to verify identity, credentials, or eligibility at any time. Failure to provide verification may result in disqualification.

3. Registration

- Registration must be completed only through officially authorized channels.
- Providing false, misleading, or inaccurate information constitutes grounds for immediate disqualification.

- Any registration fees, where applicable, are strictly non-refundable unless otherwise specified in writing by the Organizers.

4. Participation Rules

Participation requires adherence to all Event instructions, policies, ethical guidelines, and professional standards:

- Participants shall comply with all schedules, submission requirements, and official communications.
- Projects, prototypes, or submissions must be created during the Event period unless expressly permitted by the Organizers.
- Use of third-party components, APIs, datasets, or libraries must follow proper licensing and be fully disclosed.
- Participants shall maintain respectful and professional conduct toward peers, mentors, judges, sponsors, and Organizers.
- **The Organizers reserve full and absolute authority to disqualify any Participant or team for misconduct, indiscipline, cheating, fraud, plagiarism, harassment, or any behavior deemed harmful to the integrity or orderly administration of the Events.**
- All disciplinary decisions are final, binding, and not subject to review or appeal.

5. Team Formation

- Team size, structure, and composition must adhere to Event-specific guidelines.
- Team member changes after registration or submission deadlines require explicit written approval from the Organizers.

6. Intellectual Property (IP)

- Participants retain ownership of any intellectual property developed during the Events unless otherwise stated in Event-specific documentation.
- By submitting any work, Participants grant the Organizers a permanent, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive license to use, display, publish, reproduce, and promote the submission for documentation, marketing, or reporting purposes.

- Participants are solely responsible for ensuring that their submissions do not infringe on third-party rights or violate any licensing agreements.

7. Submission Guidelines

The Events enforce a strict originality and authenticity policy.

- All submissions must be the original work of the Participants.
- **Copied, cloned, or template-based projects, including those generated fully or substantially by AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot, Gemini, etc.), are strictly prohibited unless the Event explicitly allows limited AI usage.**
- Participants must disclose any use of AI tools, third-party code, datasets, or libraries. Failure to disclose constitutes misconduct.
- **AI-generated projects or submissions found to be produced primarily by automated systems will not be accepted and may result in immediate disqualification.**
- Submissions will undergo strict plagiarism and authenticity checks. **If any form of plagiarism, code tampering, copying, AI-generated output misuse, or misrepresentation is identified, the Participant or team will be disqualified without appeal.**
- All submissions must be uploaded before the deadline.
- All submissions must be completed and uploaded before the specified deadline.
- Late submissions may be rejected at the Organizers' discretion.
- Submissions must conform strictly to the required format, criteria, and technical constraints.

8. Judging and Evaluation

- Judging criteria may include innovation, technical complexity, feasibility, execution, functionality, presentation, and relevance.
- **All decisions made by judges and the Organizers are final, binding, and not subject to dispute.**
- The Organizers reserve the right to modify evaluation criteria as deemed necessary.

9. Prizes and Rewards

HackWithIndia and Devnovate may offer prize money, sponsored rewards, internships, incubator opportunities, or other recognition-based incentives. However:

- **The Organizers explicitly do not guarantee any prize money or rewards prior to or during the Event. Final prize details will be confirmed and communicated only after the Event concludes.**
- **All payments, including prize money or other financial rewards, will be processed and disbursed *within 35 days after the conclusion of the Event*.** This timeline may be extended in cases involving sponsor delays, verification issues, or legal/administrative requirements.
- **The Organizers reserve the unrestricted right to revoke or deny prizes, including from declared winners, if post-evaluation reveals misconduct, rule violations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, or any breach of these Terms.**
- All winners and recipients of any monetary or taxable rewards, including *each individual member of a winning or eligible team*, must submit valid documents like tax, identity, and compliance documentation as required under the applicable laws of their respective country or jurisdiction. Failure by any team member to provide accurate and complete documentation within the stipulated timeframe may result in delay, withholding, reduction, or forfeiture of the prize, in whole or in part, without any liability to the Organizers.
- Revoked prizes shall not be reconsidered, replaced, or compensated.
- Participants are solely responsible for any taxes, legal obligations, or reporting requirements arising from prizes.

10. Code of Conduct

- Participants must adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and respect.
- Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in immediate disqualification and removal from the Event premises (physical or digital).

11. Confidentiality

- Participants may receive confidential or sensitive information during the Events. Such information must not be disclosed to any third party without express authorization.

- The Organizers are not responsible for protecting confidential information voluntarily shared by Participants.

12. Data Privacy

- Personal data may be collected, stored, and processed for Event administration, communication, marketing, and compliance.
- All data handling will follow applicable data protection laws. Participation constitutes consent to such data processing.

13. Liability

- Participation is voluntary and undertaken at the Participant's sole risk.
- The Organizers shall not be held liable for technical failures, system interruptions, network outages, data loss, or unforeseen disruptions.
- The Organizers assume no responsibility for injuries, damages, losses, or claims arising out of or related to participation in the Events.

14. Event Changes or Cancellation

- The Organizers reserve the right to modify Event schedules, rules, formats, or structures at any time.
- In the event of cancellation, refunds or alternative arrangements may be provided at the Organizers' discretion.

15. Disqualification

Disqualification may occur at any time before, during, or after the Events based on:

- Plagiarism, fraud, cheating, identity falsification, bribery, or manipulation of results.
- Attempting to compromise judging integrity or Event operations.
- Harassment, abusive behavior, or actions that damage the reputation of the Events.

- **Attempts to escalate disputes to sponsors, partners, media, external organizations, or third parties without using the designated internal resolution process may result in disqualify from the hackathon or legal action by the Organizers or both.**
- Disqualified Participants forfeit all prizes, recognition, certificates, and future eligibility.

16. Third-Party Services

- Events may rely on external platforms or tools. Participants must comply with the terms and policies of such third-party services.
- The Organizers are not liable for failures or limitations caused by third-party providers.

17. Governing Law

- These Terms shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the applicable laws of the jurisdiction (India) in which the Event is hosted or administered.
- Any disputes shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the appropriate courts within that jurisdiction.

18. Acceptance

By participating in HackWithIndia or Devnovate, Participants acknowledge that they have read, understood, and voluntarily agreed to be legally bound by these Terms and Conditions.