

Official Rules

Updated November 2024

Preamble

This document contains the official rules for the Healthcare Innovation Challenge (herein, 'HIC'). The HIC team and the Institute of Medical Science (herein, 'IMS') reserve the right to change or update these rules. The HIC team and IMS has final say on issues not covered in these rules. Failure to abide by any of these rules may result in disqualification.

1. General

1.1. Teams must have a minimum of 2 members and a maximum of 5 members.

1.2. Teams must have a minimum of 1 member who is a registered graduate student at the IMS.

1.3. All team members must be registered graduate students (enrolled in a Masters of Doctoral program) or enrolled in a professional degree program (e.g., MD, nursing, etc.) at the University of Toronto in the academic year of the competition.

1.4. Individuals interested in participating who do not have a team can sign-up as a "Free Agent", which indicates that they are available for recruitment. Free Agents shall be assigned to a team with other Free Agents, or to a team that has indicated they are accepting Free Agents.

1.5. Teams that do not have the maximum number of members may indicate that they are seeking additional members ("Free Agents") on the competition registration form.

1.6. Teams may register without an IMS member. However, noting that there are only a maximum of 5 members per team, the team must leave the fifth spot open for an IMS Free Agent to join. The HIC team will assign the Free Agent to the team.

1.7. The competition theme shall be announced prior to the opening of competition registration.

1.8. The HIC and IMS reserve the rights to all distributed material, including but not limited to logos, videos, as well as information packages, pamphlets, and booklets and the intellectual content and writing therein.

2. Structure

2.1. The competition is divided in 2 parts:

- Round 1 (The Written Round): Teams draft a written solution to the challenge question. Submissions include a 1-page written proposal in response to the challenge question and a 5-slide “pitch” deck.
- Round 2 (The Live Pitch): The top 5 scoring teams from Round 1 will advance to the final presentation round, where they will give a 5-minute pitch outlining their solution to an esteemed panel of expert judges and an audience of University of Toronto students and faculty.

2.2. All registered teams are to submit a written proposal in Round 1.

2.3. The top 5 teams advance to Round 2 based on their final scores from Round 1.

2.4. The order of presentations for the Round 2 shall be determined by random draw.

2.5. Members of the public (e.g., friends and family) may attend Round 2.

2.6. The use of a faculty advisor or coach is authorized in preparing submissions for Round 1 and Round 2, with limitations:

- The faculty advisor or coach may not be listed as an official team member.
- The faculty advisor or coach may not participate in Round 2 presentations.
- The faculty advisor or coach may not respond to questions on the teams behalf during the Q & A portion of Round 2.
- The faculty advisor or coach must disclose their involvement in any adjudication to the IMS in the event that they are simultaneously serving as a member of the judging.

2.7. A winner is announced following the completion of all finalist presentations during Round 2 based on the highest aggregate score as determined by the judges.

3. Judging & Advancement

3.1. All scoring and decisions are final and may not be appealed except under highly exceptional circumstances, as determined by the HIC team and IMS.

3.2. Judging criteria in Round 1 is subject to slight modification year-by-year, but generally is based on the following criteria:

- Depth of background research
- Originality
- Feasibility
- Potential impact and return on investment
- Clarity of thoughts and writing style
- References

3.3. Judging criteria in Round 2 is subject to slight modification year-by-year, but generally is based on the following:

- Depth of analysis
- Originality and feasibility of implementation
- Presentation skills
- Question and answer management

3.4. During Round 1, judges identities shall be kept anonymous from competitors and the identities of competitors shall be kept anonymous from judges to ensure parity.

- To maintain double blinding, submissions shall be void of any identifying information except an assigned team number.
- Judges will be assigned a coded identifier (e.g., Judge A, B, C, etc.).

3.5. Participants reserve the right to see their Round 1 scoring cards regardless of whether or not they advanced to the next round.

3.6. During Round 2, judges shall be allotted no more than 10 minutes following the end of a presentation to complete a scoring card.

3.7. Final tabulation of Round 2 scores shall be calculated by at least one member of the HIC team in the presence of the judges.

3.8. Following Round 2, the results may be publicized on social media outlets.

4. Live Presentations

4.1. Round 2 will consist of a 5-minute presentation with judges permitted to ask questions during a 5-minute designated Q&A period after the presentation.

4.2. Exceeding the allotted presentation time will result in an end of the presentation and initiation of the Q&A period.

4.3. Not all team members are required to speak during the presentations.

4.4. The use of props, including, but not limited to costumes, objects, and cue cards is authorized with limitations:

- Props must not exude unprofessionalism.
- Props that are deemed to be hateful, lewd, promote violence, or encourage unlawful behaviour or otherwise contradict the University of Toronto's Student Code of Conduct will result in disqualification.

4.5. Round 2 dress code is professional business attire.

4.6. Finalists shall be seated among the spectators until it is their turn to present.

4.7. Attendance at the live event provides implied consent to being photographed and having your photograph be featured on IMS social media and used in promotional material.

4.8. Decorum is to be maintained at all times, with particular emphasis during presentations and the judging period.

4.9. Presentation deck slides are to be submitted to the HIC team no later than the deadline set forth in the emailed instructions to the qualifying teams.

4.10. Presentation deck slides may be submitted in PPT or PPTX file format.

4.11. Prizes shall be distributed following the conclusion of Round 2.



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