



NextGen Pitch Competition Rules, Terms and Conditions

Participation in the NextGen pitch competition involves learning from pursuing new ideas and creating, submitting, and presenting original business and social venture concepts. All submissions and presentations are granted consideration by the NextGen Pitch Competition leadership team, which retains the sole discretion to interpret, modify, or eliminate any of the competition's rules, terms, and conditions at any time and without notice.

Application Requirements

1. Teams must consist of 1-6 high school students aged 14-18 at the submission deadline. Each team is required to have one adult advisor aged 21 or older. While multiple advisors are allowed, only one can be included in the official team submission. Contact information, including email addresses, must be provided for all team members, including the adult advisor. Each student may participate on only one team and submit one concept per competition year.
2. **Pitch Round Format**
Live Pitch Event: Participants can choose to pitch their project at a live event. Typically, events are held in-person though the determination of the event format is at the discretion of the Pitch Event Partner. A participant from a team must be present at the event to compete.
3. Throughout the competition, participants must avoid listing or disclosing the names of their schools unless the school constitutes a critical element of their concept.
4. Only concepts created by members of the team may be submitted. If a submission has also been conceived by members not participating in the Diamond Challenge, their full legal names must be disclosed during submission to avoid potential conflicts of interest and/or possible legal challenges at later stages of the competition.
5. Concepts must have generated at most \$50,000 in total revenue before the submission deadline.

*Updated 9/11/2023



Submission Round Requirements

To enter the NextGen pitch competition, participants are required to complete an initial submission that consists of two components:

1. Written Concept Narrative:

- a. Persuasive concepts can be expected to tell a seamless and compelling story about the problem being solved, the customers/beneficiaries who have the problem, how the problem is being solved (i.e., a description of the product/service), why the solution is different and better than existing alternatives (i.e., its unique value), the basic economics underlying how it will make money (or sustain the social venture), the collective means of the team members for pursuing the venture, and any evidence gathered to show positive progress (or gaining customer-problem-solution traction).
- b. The narrative is limited to 1-3 pages, double-spaced, utilizing a 12-point font and standard spacing. Cover pages are not to be included. Pages over the stated limit will be removed. All submissions are to be written in English. Documents should be submitted in a .pdf format.

2. Introductory Video:

- a. A compelling video serves as a concise introduction to both the team and the concept being submitted. The video should present the team member's names, the concept name, and a brief yet impactful explanation of the problem the concept aims to solve and the significance of the proposed solution.
- b. The video is strictly limited to 60 seconds. Videos must be submitted as a publicly accessible URL link. Videos exceeding the time limit or unavailable to be viewed will be disqualified.

5. Incomplete submissions and/or submissions that do not adhere to all NextGen rules, terms, conditions, and judging criteria may be penalized and excluded from judging.

6. All materials are considered final once submitted via the online competition platform.



Pitch Round Requirements

Teams will select their pitch round format during the initial submission. Requests to change pitch event locations afterward will not be accepted. If a pitching round team cannot compete in the chosen pitch round format for any reason, they will forfeit their place in the pitching round.

Pitch Event Requirements

1. Pitches are strictly limited to **5 minutes** utilizing a pitch deck of no more than 15 slides. Teams are free to use their creativity as they see fit to portray best their concept, which includes display boards, prototypes, images, sounds, motion graphics, etc.
2. Pitch deck submission format is at the discretion of the Pitch Event Partner organization.
3. Judges' questions and team members' responses will be limited to **3 minutes**. Only team members who participate in the pitch are eligible to answer judges' questions during the 3-minute question and answer section.
4. While embedded audio or video elements are allowed, please know that technology requirements such as sound amplification and internet access are not guaranteed. If technical difficulties are encountered, the timer does not stop, and they will affect the 5-minute pitch time limit. Be prepared to adapt if needed.