

Pinch Me, I Want 50K!

A Pinch Payments Hackathon in partnership with The Founders Union (TFU)

Terms & Conditions

1. General

- 1.1. "The Event" means the Pinch Me, I Want 50K! Hackathon, including all associated activities, workshops, mentoring sessions, judging processes, presentations and prize fulfilment activities conducted by the Partners.
- 1.2. By registering for or participating in the Pinch Payments Hackathon (*the Event*), participants acknowledge that they have been provided with and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.
- 1.3. The Event is organised by The Founders Union (TFU) in partnership with Zootive Pty Ltd T/A Pinch Payments (Pinch Payments) (*the Partners*).
- 1.4. The Event is a national competition open to participants across who are Australia.
- 1.5. The Partners reserve the right to amend these Terms and Conditions at any time. Participants will be notified of any material changes.
- 1.6. The Partners reserve the right to modify, suspend, postpone or cancel the Event, or any part of the Event, at any time where reasonably necessary, including due to technical issues, insufficient registrations, force majeure events (including natural disasters, public health events, telecommunications failures, cyber incidents, government restrictions) or other circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the Partners.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. The Event is open to individuals and teams who meet the registration requirements as specified by the Partners.
- 2.2. Participants must be 18 years or older at the time of registration and Australian residents.
- 2.3. Employees, contractors, and immediate family members of TFU or Pinch Payments are not eligible to participate.
- 2.4. Participant teams are responsible for ensuring all members satisfy eligibility requirements prior to registration.
- 2.5. Participant team composition may not be changed after the commencement of the Event without the prior written approval of the Partners. The Partners reserve the right to determine ongoing eligibility where Participant team membership changes during the Event.
- 2.6. Submissions must not be designed for, facilitate, promote or otherwise support any industry, activity or use case that is prohibited or restricted under Pinch Payments' policies, terms, or applicable laws and regulations. The Partners reserve the right to determine eligibility in their absolute discretion and may disqualify any submission that does not comply with this requirement.

3. Prizes

- 3.1. The following prizes are available:
 - **Winner:** AUD \$50,000 cash prize, split equally among all registered winning team members (see clause 3.2)
 - **Runner-Up:** AUD \$25,000 worth of payments processed via Pinch Payments, without incurring transaction fees.
- 3.2. Where the winning entry is submitted by a team, the AUD \$50,000 cash prize will be divided equally among all registered team members unless the team nominates an alternative agreed split in writing prior to the announcement of results. The Partners accept no responsibility for any disputes arising between team members regarding the distribution of prize funds.
- 3.3. Prizes are non-transferable and may not be exchanged for cash or any alternative prize, except where required by law.
- 3.4. The Partners reserve the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value in the event that a stated prize becomes unavailable.
- 3.5. Unless expressly stated otherwise, all prize values are inclusive of GST (where applicable). Participants are responsible for remitting any taxes payable in respect of the prize money and should refer to the Australian Taxation Office or a tax professional for advice and guidance on the treatment of any prize received.

4. Judging and Selection

- 4.1. Entries will be assessed by a panel appointed by TFU and Pinch Payments based on criteria including innovation, commercial viability, technical execution, use of Pinch Payments products, presentation quality and potential market impact.
- 4.2. To be eligible for judging and prizes, submissions must demonstrate meaningful use of Pinch Payments technology. The determination of whether a submission satisfies this requirement will be made by the judges in their absolute discretion.
- 4.3. The weighting and application of judging criteria will be determined by TFU and Pinch Payments in their absolute discretion.
- 4.4. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence or dispute regarding results will be entered into.

5. Prize Payment & Fulfilment

- 5.1. **Cash Prize (Winner):** The AUD \$50,000 cash prize will be paid to the winning team or individual within **six (6) weeks** of the announcement of results, subject to successful completion of the verification process outlined in clause 6.
- 5.2. The six (6) week payment timeline commences only once the verification process has been successfully completed to the Partners' satisfaction.
- 5.3. Winners must provide all requested verification information within fourteen (14) days of being notified. Where a winner fails to provide the required information within this timeframe, the payment timeline may be extended accordingly and the Partners will not be liable for any resulting delay.

- 5.4. **Fee Free Processing (Runner-Up):** Subject to the runner-up holding an activated, valid Pinch Payments account, the runner up will have their first \$25,000 AUD of payments processed free of incurring transaction fees. Further payments processed will incur fees at the standard rate as advertised on getpinch.com.au.
- 5.5. The runner up prize is not redeemable for cash, transferable, refundable or exchangeable. It may only be applied against eligible Pinch Payments transaction processing fees in accordance with Pinch Payments' standard terms and conditions.
- 5.6. **National Showcase & Merchandise:** Details regarding the national showcase opportunity will be communicated to eligible participants following the Event. Pinch Payments branded merchandise will be distributed at or following the Event, as advised by the Partners.
- 5.7. If a prize is forfeited, declined, unclaimed or the winner is disqualified, TFU and Pinch Payments reserve the right to award the prize to another eligible entrant or not award the prize at all.

6. Winner Verification

- 6.1. Prior to receiving any prize, the winning team, runner-up team, or individual must complete a verification process as required by the Partners. This may include, but is not limited to, providing:
 - Valid government-issued photo identification for all named prize recipients;
 - Australian bank account details in the name of the recipient or registered entity;
 - An ABN or ACN where the prize is to be paid to a business entity; and
 - Completion of any required tax or compliance documentation, including a bank information form
- 6.2. The participants agree that the Partners will be entitled to perform any necessary sanctions checks.
- 6.3. Either registered businesses or individuals are eligible to receive prize funds.
- 6.4. Payment will be made via EFT. If the verification process is not completed within thirty (30) days of the winner being notified, the Partners may, at their discretion, disqualify the winner and award the prize to the runner-up, subject to the same verification requirements.

7. Disqualification

- 7.1. The Partners reserve the right to disqualify any participant or team that:
 - breaches these Terms and Conditions;
 - submits a project that supports, facilitates or otherwise relates to a prohibited or restricted industry, activity or use case under Pinch Payments' policies or applicable laws;
 - provides false or misleading information;
 - engages in plagiarism;
 - infringes third-party intellectual property rights;
 - behaves in a disruptive, abusive or unethical manner;
 - attempts to manipulate the judging process; or
 - otherwise brings the Event into disrepute.

- 7.2. The Partners reserve the right to withhold or reclaim any prize in the event of disqualification.

8. Submissions and Intellectual Property

- 8.1. Intellectual property rights arising in relation to the Event, created or developed by a participant, belong to that participant.
- 8.2. By participating in the Event, participants grant TFU and Pinch Payments a non-exclusive, royalty-free, irrevocable, global use of intellectual property rights created or developed in relation to the Event, and to reference, showcase, and promote the participant's participation in the Event, for marketing and publicity purposes.
- 8.3. Intellectual property rights vested in a party prior to the Event remain at all times the sole property of that party throughout and after the Event.
- 8.4. Participants warrant that their submissions:
 - are original or properly licensed;
 - do not infringe any third-party intellectual property rights;
 - comply with applicable open-source licence requirements; and
 - do not contain malicious code, viruses or unlawful content.
- 8.5. Participants acknowledge that the Partners, sponsors, judges, mentors and other participants may independently develop, acquire or receive ideas similar or identical to those submitted during the Event, and no confidentiality obligation arises merely through participation. Participation in the Event does not constitute an offer of investment, partnership or any ongoing commercial relationship.
- 8.6. Participants are solely responsible for ensuring that their submissions comply with all applicable laws, regulations and industry requirements. The Partners make no representation that any submission is legally compliant, suitable for commercial use, or capable of being deployed in a production environment.
- 8.7. Participants remain solely responsible for the accuracy, legality, security, licensing compliance and intellectual property status of all content, code and materials included in their submissions.
- 8.8. Upon request from the Partners, participants must provide access to the source code repository of the participant's submission to verify eligibility, originality, technical implementation, and use of Pinch Payments' technology. Any such access will be used solely for verification and judging purposes and will not affect the participant's ownership of their intellectual property. Failure to provide requested access may result in disqualification.

9. Non-Disparagement

- 9.1. Participants agree that they will not, whether before, during or after the Event, make or publish any statement or comment, whether oral or in writing, which is intended to or has the effect of disparaging, damaging, or otherwise prejudicing the reputation or goodwill of the Partners, their related entities, officers, employees, agents, or representatives.
- 9.2. This clause does not prevent participants from making any statements or disclosure as required by law, regulation, or court order, provided that, where legally permissible, the participants required to make such disclosure gives reasonable prior notice to the Partners.

10. Publicity and Media

- 10.1. Participants agree that the Partners may use their name, organisation name, likeness, photographs, video recordings, project details and submissions for promotional, marketing and publicity purposes without further compensation, unless prohibited by law.
- 10.2. Participants consent to being photographed and filmed during the Event for the purposes outlined in clause 10.1.

11. Liability

- 11.1. The total aggregate liability of the Partners arising out of or in connection with the Event, whether in contract, tort (including negligence), statute, or otherwise, shall not exceed the total cash prize paid or payable by Pinch Payments in connection with the Event, whether arising from a single event or a series of related or unrelated events.
- 11.2. Neither the Partners nor participants in the Event shall be liable in contract, tort (including negligence), under any statute, indemnity or otherwise arising from or related in any way to the Event for any of the following losses:
 - Loss of goodwill, loss of profit, loss of revenue, loss of expected savings, opportunity costs, loss of business, damage to image; or
 - Any other indirect, special, consequential or punitive loss or damage that does not arise naturally (that is, according to the usual course of things) as a result of the breach or other event giving rise to the loss.
- 11.3. Participants in the Event indemnify the Partners against any loss, damage, claim, liability, cost or expense (including reasonable legal fees) suffered or incurred which arise out of or in connection with the participants:
 - Compliance with these Terms and Conditions;
 - Breach of these Terms and Conditions;
 - Wilful misconduct or fraud or unlawful act or omission;
 - Breach of applicable laws; or
 - Any infringement of a third party's intellectual property rights.
- 11.4. To the extent permitted by law, the Partners exclude all liability for any loss, damage, or injury arising in connection with the Event or any prize.
- 11.5. Participants are responsible for their own conduct during the Event and agree to comply with all reasonable directions from Event organisers.

12. Governing Law

- 12.1. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Australia. To the extent any dispute requires resolution in a particular jurisdiction, the parties submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of the state or territory in which the relevant participant is located or in which the Event is conducted.

Last updated: June 2026

For queries, contact: accounts@scalarepartners.com or hello@getpinch.com.au