

Reward Guidelines and Payment Process

This document serves to contain all the necessary information pertaining to the reward guidelines for the 2026 Map Cup Asia Pacific competition. A helpful agenda can be found below to help navigate through this document.

[1. Eligibility for the Reward](#)

[2. Reward Distribution](#)

[3. Payment Method](#)

[A. Objective](#)

[B. Why PayPal](#)

[C. Proposed Payment Flow](#)

[D. Advantages](#)

[E. Known Limitations / Risks](#)

[F. Mitigation Plan](#)

[4. Receiving of the Reward](#)

1. Eligibility for the Reward

The illegibility of the top 3 rewards will be based on the following criteria:

- The winner must be 13years or older
- The winner must be located within the geographical region of the Asia Pacific. Participants outside of this region can still participate but will not be eligible for the rewards.

The countries included can be found in this list:

Number	Country
1	Afghanistan
2	Australia
3	Bangladesh
4	Bhutan
5	Brunei
6	Cambodia
7	China

8	Fiji
9	Hong Kong
10	India
11	Indonesia
12	Japan
13	Kazakhstan
14	Kiribati
15	Kyrgyzstan
16	Laos
17	Macau
18	Malaysia
19	Marshall Islands
20	Micronesia
21	Mongolia
22	Myanmar
23	Nauru
24	Nepal
25	New Zealand
26	North Korea
27	Pakistan
28	Palau
29	Papua New Guinea
30	Philippines
31	Samoa
32	Singapore
33	Solomon Islands
34	South Korea
35	Sri Lanka
36	Taiwan
37	Tajikistan
38	Thailand
39	Timor-Leste
40	Tonga
41	Turkmenistan
42	Tuvalu

43	Uzbekistan
44	Vanuatu
45	Vietnam

2. Reward Distribution

After the competition scoring and results have been concluded on by the respective country leads and steering committee, the top 3 winners will be awarded momentary amounts to the value of:

First Place

- **USD 500 Travel Grant to attend State of the Map Asia 2026**

If attendance is not possible, the amount will be awarded as a cash prize

Second Place

- **USD 200** cash prize

Third Place

- **USD 100** cash prize

3. Payment Method

The preferred payment method to the winners will be PayPal due to the following benefits:

A. Objective

To enable simple, fast, and widely accessible distribution of cash prizes to winners across the Asia-Pacific region using PayPal as the primary payment method.

B. Why PayPal

PayPal is proposed as the payment method because it provides:

- High global coverage across Asia-Pacific countries
- Easy setup using only an email address
- Fast transfer of funds
- No requirement for complex bank onboarding at the initial stage
- Familiar platform for most participants

C. Proposed Payment Flow

1. Winners will be requested to provide their:
 - Full name
 - Country
 - PayPal email ID
2. Organizer verifies eligibility and prize category.
3. Payments are sent directly to PayPal accounts.
4. Winners withdraw funds to their local bank accounts (where supported) or use PayPal balance for online transactions.

D. Advantages

- Minimal onboarding effort for participants
- Faster payout cycle after result declaration
- Reduced administrative overhead for organizers
- No dependency on cross-border bank transfers
- Scalable for multiple countries in the Asia-Pacific region

E. Known Limitations / Risks

- Transaction and currency conversion fees apply
- Some countries may have limited PayPal withdrawal functionality
- Account verification may be required for recipients
- Exchange rates may not be the most favorable compared to other banking platforms

F. Mitigation Plan

- Clearly communicate that PayPal fees (if any) are borne by recipients
- Collect PayPal eligibility confirmation from winners in advance
- Maintain Wise or alternative payout option as fallback for unsupported regions
- Use standardized payout batches to reduce operational complexity

4. Receiving of the Reward

To receive the money via PayPal, winners only need a few essential things:

1. PayPal account

- The winner must create a PayPal account (free).
- Account type can be personal (no business account needed).

2. Verified email address

- This is the main requirement for receiving payments.
- Organizers send money to this email ID.

Email must be:

- Active
- Confirmed/verified inside PayPal

3. Basic profile details

PayPal may ask for:

- Full legal name (as per ID)
- Country of residence
- Date of birth

4. Verification (sometimes required)

Depending on country and amount:

- Phone number verification
- Identity document (passport/Aadhaar/local ID)
- Address proof

5. Linked bank account (optional but important)

- Not required to receive money in PayPal balance
- Required if the user wants to withdraw funds to their bank
- Availability depends on country