Founders' House Kolkata — Code of Conduct

Organized by Hult Prize at Techno India University, in collaboration with AIC Techno, at OFFBeat CCU, Kolkata.

1. Purpose & Scope

This Code applies to every participating team at Founders' House Kolkata, throughout the full 3-day residential program — during sessions, challenges, meals, free time, and anywhere you are identifiable as a Founders' House Kolkata participant.

2. General Behavior

- Treat every person — fellow participants, mentors, jury, investors, organizers, volunteers, and venue staff — with respect and courtesy.
- Collaborate in good faith, especially since teams work on a problem statement assigned by their mentor rather than one they chose themselves.
- No participant is required to tolerate disrespectful, aggressive, or demeaning behavior from anyone, regardless of role or seniority.

3. Anti-Harassment & Anti-Discrimination

- Zero tolerance for harassment, discrimination, or abuse of any kind — based on gender, caste, religion, region, sexual orientation, disability, or any other characteristic.
- This includes unwelcome physical contact, sexual advances, derogatory jokes or comments, stalking, or persistent unwanted attention, in person or in event WhatsApp/group chats.
- Given the residential, live-in format, the organizers take gender sensitivity and participant safety especially seriously.

4. Residential Living Rules

- All participants are expected to stay for the full 3-day duration confirmed at registration.
- Room allocations, curfew timings, and shared-space rules set by the organizing team must be followed.
- Participants are responsible for the safety and cleanliness of their assigned spaces and are liable for damages caused by negligence or misuse.
- Visitors outside the registered cohort are not permitted in residential areas without prior organizer approval.

5. Substance Policy

- Consumption, possession, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, or any narcotic/banned substance is strictly prohibited on the premises for the duration of the event.
- Any violation results in immediate disciplinary action, including removal from the event without refund.

6. Fair Play in Challenges & Gamified Activities

- All teams must participate honestly: fabricating customer interviews, validation data, or MVP progress is a violation and may result in disqualification from points and/or awards.

- Judging decisions by mentors, the emcee/scorekeeper, and the jury are final.

7. Confidentiality of Problem Statements

- Problem statements revealed during Problem Reveal & Team Huddles are shared in confidence with the assigned team.
- Teams must not share, publish, or discuss their assigned problem statement outside the event, or with other teams before Demo Day, unless the mentor explicitly permits it.

8. Media, Recording & Social Conduct

- Official photography/videography is conducted by the Media Team per the media consent collected at registration.
- Participants may not record private mentor sessions, jury deliberations, or other participants without consent.
- Social media posts about the event should reflect the spirit of Founders' House Kolkata and avoid disclosing other teams' confidential problem statements or unreleased pitch content.

9. Health, Safety & Emergency Protocol

- Participants must disclose medical conditions, allergies, or accessibility needs at registration so the organizing team can plan accordingly.
- First-aid support is available on-site; inform the organizing team immediately in case of injury or illness.
- Emergency contacts provided at registration may be used by organizers in a medical or safety emergency.

10. Reporting Mechanism

Any participant experiencing or witnessing a violation should report it immediately and confidentially to a designated organizing team member (named at the Opening Ceremony). Reports are handled with discretion; retaliation against a good-faith reporter is itself a violation of this Code.

11. Consequences of Violation

Depending on severity: a verbal/written warning, forfeiture of Founder Points or award eligibility, removal of the individual or full team from the event without refund, and/or referral to Techno India University/AIC Techno disciplinary processes. The organizing team's decision is final.

12. Code of Conduct is Binding

Acceptance of these Terms at registration constitutes acceptance of the Code of Conduct in Part A. Violation of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action as described in Part A, Section 11, up to and including removal from the event without refund.

13. Data Privacy

Personal data collected at registration (contact details, ID documents, emergency contacts, dietary/accessibility information) is used solely for event planning, communication, and safety purposes, and is not shared with third parties beyond the organizing partners (Hult Prize, Techno India University, AIC Techno) without consent, except as required by law.

14. Dispute Resolution & Governing Law

These Terms and the Code of Conduct are governed by the laws of India, with courts in Kolkata, West Bengal having exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes arising from this event.

15. Amendments

The organizers reserve the right to amend these Terms and the Code of Conduct at any time before or during the event; material changes will be communicated to registered teams.

Acceptance

By submitting the team registration form for Founders' House Kolkata, the Team Lead confirms, on behalf of every listed team member, that each member has read, understood, and agreed to both the Code of Conduct (Part A) and the Terms and Conditions (Part B) above, and agrees to be bound by them for the full duration of the event.