

CODE OF CONDUCT

Access Youth Tech Forge 2026



Powered by



1

Purpose and Scope



- 1.1. Access Youth Tech Forge 2026 brings together builders from across Africa to work, compete and learn in the same environment. This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of everyone taking part, so that the Programme remains a place where people can do their best work.
- 1.2. This Code applies to all participants, mentors, judges, speakers, volunteers, staff and guests, and covers every part of the Programme: the application process, the virtual build phase, Demo Day, and all associated channels including communication platforms, repositories and social media where the Programme is being discussed.
- 1.3. Acceptance of this Code is a condition of participation. It should be read alongside the Terms of Use and the Terms of Participation.

2

Expected Behaviour



- 2.1. **Treat everyone with respect.** Participants come from different countries, backgrounds, disciplines and levels of experience. Disagreement about technical or commercial decisions is expected and welcome; disrespect towards the person making the argument is not.
- 2.2. **Communicate professionally.** Assume good faith, be clear and be constructive, particularly in written channels where tone is easily misread.
- 2.3. **Support others where you can.** Mentors, volunteers and organisers give their time to the Programme. Beginners are part of the field by design. Helping someone who is stuck costs little and reflects well on the community the Programme is building.
- 2.4. Follow instructions from the organising team, mentors and moderators on matters of safety, timing, submission and conduct.

3

Unacceptable Behaviour



3.1. The following will not be tolerated in any part of the Programme:

- ⊗ Harassment of any kind, including unwelcome comments related to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or age.
- ⊗ Sexual language, imagery or attention, including unwelcome advances, in any Programme space.
- ⊗ Intimidation, stalking, bullying, threats or deliberate humiliation, whether in person or online.
- ⊗ Sustained disruption of sessions, briefings, mentor clinics or presentations.
- ⊗ Discrimination in the selection or treatment of team members.
- ⊗ Publishing another person's private information, including contact details or images, without permission.
- ⊗ Use of the Programme, its channels or its participant list for recruitment, solicitation or unrelated commercial promotion.

4

Fair Competition



- 4.1.** All work submitted must be produced by your team during the build phase, except for clearly identified pre-existing code, open-source libraries, frameworks, datasets or design assets that you are licensed to use. Declare these in your submission.
- 4.2.** Passing off another person's work as your own is grounds for immediate disqualification. This includes code, designs, written material and ideas taken from other teams, from previous competitions, or from any source without attribution.

- 4.3. Where artificial intelligence tools are used in the course of building, this is permitted, but the team remains responsible for understanding, explaining and defending every part of its submission to the judges.
- 4.4. Do not attempt to influence judges, mentors or organisers outside the formal judging process, and declare any personal or professional relationship with a judge as soon as the panel is announced.

5

Use of the Sandbox and Technical Environment



- 5.1. The Access Bank sandbox and any other environment provided are made available solely for building your submission. Do not attempt to access live systems or real customer data, test the security of Bank infrastructure, or use credentials issued to another team.
- 5.2. Any security vulnerability discovered during the Programme must be reported immediately and in confidence to the organising team, and must not be disclosed publicly or exploited further.
- 5.3. Participants must not attempt to gain unauthorised access to the sandbox, its data, accounts, credentials or connected systems, or alter, manipulate, extract, disclose, damage or misuse any data or information within the technical environment. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, Access Bank Plc, Africa Fintech Foundry and the Programme organisers shall hold responsible participant for any and all loss or damage arising from such malicious, unlawful or unauthorised acts by a participant. including to the extent directly caused by their fraud, wilful misconduct or gross negligence. The person responsible shall bear sole responsibility for their actions and any resulting consequences, without prejudice to the organisers' right to suspend access, disqualify the responsible participant or team, recover losses and refer the matter to the appropriate authorities.

6

Reporting a Concern



- 6.1. If you experience or witness behaviour that breaches this Code, report it to the organising team at africafintech@accessbankplc.com, or to any identified member of the team during a live session. Reports may be made in confidence.
- 6.2. Every report will be taken seriously, handled discreetly and reviewed promptly. We will not require you to confront the person concerned, and no participant will be penalised for making a report in good faith.

- 6.3.** If you or someone else is in immediate danger during the physical Demo Day, alert a member of the organising team or building security without delay.

7 Consequences



- 7.1.** Where the organising team determines that this Code has been breached, it may take any action it considers appropriate. Depending on the seriousness of the breach, this may include a private warning, removal from a session or channel, disqualification of an individual or team, withdrawal of a prize, exclusion from future Africa Fintech Foundry programmes, or referral to the appropriate authorities.
- 7.2.** Decisions under this Code are made at the discretion of the organising team and are final.

8 Contact



Questions about this Code, or reports of a breach, should be directed to **africafintech@accessbankplc.com**.