Sword Hackathon 2025: Official Rules

Participation in the *Sword Hackathon 2025* assumes acceptance of all of the rules below.

I. Eligibility

1. All participants must be 18 or older and based in Portugal.
2. Sword Health employees, as well as first-degree family members or partners, are not eligible for participation in the challenge.
3. Sword Health reserves the right to reject participants due to other reasons relevant to the company. In that case, the rejection will be communicated to the candidates and the underlying rationale provided.

II. Team constitution

1. Projects can be developed individually or in teams (maximum 3 members). Cross-disciplinary teams (e.g., backend engineers, AI engineers, product) are encouraged to foster diverse perspectives.
2. Each team should have a name.
3. To be considered a team, all members must be identified in the proposal submission form by 11:59 PM GMT on April 2, 2025.

III. Conduct

1. Participants are expected to abide by the [Code of Conduct](), promoting a respectful and inclusive environment where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.
2. Teams may be disqualified from the *Sword Hackathon* at Sword Health's discretion at any point during the event. Reasons for doing so will always be provided and might include but are not limited to:
    1. Team or team members breaking the rules present in this document.
    2. Team or team members breaking the Code of Conduct.
3. Participants must adhere to all applicable local laws and regulations throughout the Hackathon.

IV. Scope

1. The project should address a real-world challenge with a creative and innovative approach. Whether you use Large Language Models (LLMs), other AI tools, or no AI at all, the focus is on how you solve the problem and bring your ideas to life.

2. Projects must include meaningful developments and original code created during the hackathon period. Building on existing projects or using open-source code is allowed, as long as your original contributions are clear and significant.
3. The project should feature novel developments that were not merely foundational or theoretical before the hackathon. Your work should demonstrate progress and innovation made during the event.
4. A working prototype or demo is required for the final presentations.
5. The project can tackle problems in any field. There are no restrictions or expectations that your solution must relate to healthcare or any specific industry.
6. The addition of a novel feature to an existing project is considered valid.
7. Direct plagiarism or misrepresentation of existing projects is not allowed.
8. The created solution must abide by all local regulations and must not be illegal, malicious or unethical in nature.
9. Any data used in the development of the solution must be legally obtained from open sources.
10. Participants will retain ownership of the ideas and creations developed during the hackathon. However, Sword Health shall have the right to implement similar approaches and use any feedback, suggestions or ideas related to its business or products for any purpose, without attribution or compensation. There are no confidentiality obligations on either the Participants or Sword Health.
11. Participation in this project shall not be construed as creating any employment between Participants and Sword Health.

V. Tooling

1. For teams interested in integrating Large Language Models (LLMs) into their projects, we provide a pre-defined amount of computation credits for a state-of-the-art LLM, along with detailed usage instructions. However, please note:
    1. The use of the provided LLM is entirely optional. Teams are welcome to use other publicly available LLMs or choose not to use LLMs at all in their projects.
    2. The provided computing budget is not transferable and only applies to the LLM models offered by Sword Health.
    3. Budget management is considered a core part of the challenge. As such, budget extensions will only be considered on exceptional cases and communicated to all teams transparently if granted.
    4. Sword Health's team will be monitoring computing budgets. Teams can request information about the status of theirs at any time.
2. Participating teams are encouraged to utilize any libraries, frameworks, open-source code, or tools that support their project vision. This includes, but is not limited to:
    - Code development tools such as Replit, Lovable Dev, and Cursor AI.
    - No-code platforms like n8n or Make.
3. We welcome creativity and innovation in your choice of tools and methods. The only requirement is that participants must not engage in any activities that violate the terms of

service or policies of any third-party platforms, APIs, libraries, or services, whether provided by Sword Health or chosen independently.

VI. Support

1. At Sword Health, we prioritize autonomy and foster an environment that encourages independent problem-solving and innovation. Participants are expected to leverage their skills and resources autonomously throughout the hackathon. We'll host one 60-minute office hour where teams can drop in, ask questions, and get feedback. This session is open to all teams, not one-on-one.
2. Should teams have practical questions or require clarification on specific requirements, they may reach out to swordhackathon@swordhealth.com. Please note that while practical input will be provided, no mentorship or feedback on the project's direction or quality will be offered.
3. The six finalist teams will receive written feedback prior to the final presentation. This feedback will offer constructive insights and address any outstanding product, scope, or technical inquiries to help refine their projects.

VII. Timeline

1. **Hackathon Launch**: March 10, 2025
2. *Get Inspired: Live Q&A* (remote): Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM GMT
3. **Solution Submission**: March 18 – April 2, 2025
4. *Mentoring Session* (remote)**:** March 26, 2025, at 5:00 PM GMT
5. **Finalist Teams Contacted**: by April 7, 2025
6. *Sword Hackathon Final* (in person): Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM GMT
7. Time committed to the challenge between competition start and solution submission is fully up to each team. Sword Health recommends the balance needed to keep it both engaging and fun.

VIII. Deliverables

1. Participants must submit their submission via online forms available on the website by **Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 11:59 PM GMT.**
2. The following deliverables must be included:
    1. A video demonstration of the developed solution, not exceeding 4 minutes. The video should clearly showcase the functionality and user experience of your solution. Creativity in presentation is encouraged.
    2. A concise slide deck, limited to 10 slides, outlining your solution. Suggested structure:
        1. Cover Slide: Title, team name, and a brief tagline.

2. Problem Statement (The Why): Clearly define the problem, its impact, and the gaps in current solutions.
3. Solution Overview (The What): Describe the developed solution. Focus on the demo video for a detailed walkthrough.
4. Technical Architecture (The How): Detail the technical architecture, highlighting key components and considerations. This section is crucial.
5. Challenges and Mitigations: Identify potential weaknesses and propose mitigation strategies.
6. Future Steps: Outline the next steps from the team's perspective, including potential improvements or expansions.
3. Teams not submitting the desired deliverables within the indicated timeframe will be disqualified.
4. The solution's code will not be required and will not be subject to evaluation.
5. The deliverables submitted at this stage will serve as the basis for the *Sword Hackathon* Final Event presentation, should the team advance. Teams are welcome to continue developing their solutions between selection and the final presentation, allowing for further refinement and enhancement of their projects.

IX. Selection of top teams for *Sword Hackathon Final* presentation

1. The top 6 teams will be invited to participate in the *Sword Hackathon Final*, in person, in Sword Health's Porto Office. If any finalists are unable to attend in-person, we will ensure that they can participate remotely.
2. Sword Health will cover travel costs for the teams selected to participate in the Demo Day:
    1. Travel costs include a two-way trip from continental Portugal to Sword Health's HQs in Porto.
    2. Whenever relevant, accommodation for one night will also be provided. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
3. The selection of top teams will be done by the *Sword Hackathon's* organization based on the submitted deliverables.
4. The selection will use the evaluation criteria defined in section XI.
5. Selected teams will be announced at the end of the day on April 7, 2025.
6. Sword Health reserves the right to, between submission and announcement of top teams, book a short call with select teams to confirm the authenticity and functionality of the submitted demo.
    1. Teams are expected to have the demo running on their computers and share their screen while arbitrary interaction flows are tested.
    2. Alternatively, teams can opt to submit the code of their solution. Code won't be considered for evaluation and will only be checked in case doubts arise.
7. Each team can request additional feedback about its submission.

X. Selection of *Sword Hackathon* winners

1. At the *Sword Hackathon Final*, teams are expected to deliver a 12 min presentation (7min + 5min QA) based on their submitted deliverables.
   1. A live demo of the solution is mandatory.
   2. The jury will be able to request interactions or directly interact with the prototype.
2. Teams will have a dedicated physical space to show their demo to the broader audience of the event (during coffee breaks and before/after sessions).
3. The jury, comprising internal Engineering, AI and Product experts from Sword Health, will evaluate the presentations using the criteria defined in section XI.
4. Each jury member will have equal voting rights on 3 out of 4 evaluation criteria. However, the technical approach will be assessed separately by the engineering jury members.
5. The jury's decision on the winners and prize distribution will be final and no disputes will be entertained.
6. In case of a draw, the jury reserves the right to convene and choose a winner based on the criteria in section XI. The jury will communicate the underlying rationale of its decision.
7. An anonymized version of the evaluation matrix filled in by the jury will be shared publicly.

XI. Evaluation Criteria

1. Solutions will be evaluated on 4 main evaluation criteria.
2. Each criterion will have an associated weight.
3. Each criterion will be encapsulated by a statement.
4. Jury members will assign a number corresponding to the extent they agree with the criteria's statement in the context of the team's work.
   - *0 - Disagree completely*
   - *1 - Disagree*
   - *2 - Agree*
   - *3 - Agree completely*
5. Criteria, weights, and statements:
   - **Problem [20%]**: The problem addressed by the team is significant in terms of impact. The team has identified a gap in existing solutions or highlighted an underwhelming aspect of current approaches.
   - **Solution [35%]:** The solution demonstrates out-of-the-box thinking and innovative problem-solving.
   - **Technical approach [35%]**: The architectural choices demonstrate reliability, appropriate technical sophistication, and potential for real-world applicability.
   - **Communication [10%]**: Throughout all deliverables, the team effectively communicates the problem, the solution, and the underlying technical architecture.
6. A team's score will be the weighted average of all criteria across all jury members.

7. The team with the highest total score will be the winner.

XII. Incentives

1. Prize money will be distributed among the winning teams as per the following structure:
    1. 1st place: one thousand two hundred and fifty (1250) euros;
    2. 2nd place: seven hundred and fifty (750) euros;
    3. 3rd place: five hundred (500) euros.
2. As an official partner of this event, Replit is offering all participants free access to its AI Agent for four weeks to enhance the coding experience and provide a unique opportunity to work with cutting-edge AI tools. We will send a follow-up email with all the details on how to redeem the offer.

XIII. Others

1. By participating, teams grant Sword Health the right to use their demos, names, and materials for promotional purposes related to the Hackathon.
2. Sword Health reserves the right to decide on a discretionary basis for all omissions or circumstances not covered by the above rules.