

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here you can find the answers you need to be prepared for the competition, but if you do not see an answer to your query, please email [IFGIC@InventFuture.Global](mailto:IFGIC@InventFuture.Global)

**Q: Am I eligible to participate in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge?**

A: The IF.GIC is open to students still enrolled at school (or homeschool) from ages 5 to 19. See [Eligibility Requirements](#).

**Q: How do I qualify to participate in the IF.GIC?**

A: Participating students must be in grades K to 12 (or the equivalent) and have qualified to advance to the IF.GIC from an InventFuture.Global member organization or the Global Independent Innovator program. See [Eligibility Requirements](#).

**Q: When does registration open and close?**

A: Registration for IF.GIC 2026 opens on 15 March 2026 and closes on **Friday 18 September 2026, but you really want to register as soon as you can.**

**Q: May we enter as a Team?**

A: A team of up to three students can participate in the competition. By using the grade of the oldest team representative, your team will be judged against other teams as well as individual inventors. You may participate as an individual or as part of a team, but not in both categories. See [Eligibility Requirements](#) and [Team Requirements](#).

**Q: How do we register a Team?**

A: One member of the team will register all the team members at the same time as well as uploading the required files. Please make sure that you have all the information about all the team members and the files ready. You will NOT be able to partially register and then finish the registration later. **See Register for the IF.GIC before Friday 18 September.**

**Q: What is an IF.GO - InventFuture.Global Member Organization?**

A: Innovators are selected to advance by the IF.GO (InventFuture.Global Member Organization) in your country.

**Q: How do I know if there is an IF.GO in my country?**

A: Visit this page to learn more: <https://inventfuture.global/IFGIC/>. If you do not have a IF.GO in your country, contact [IFGIC@InventFuture.Global](mailto:IFGIC@InventFuture.Global) for help with your direct submission.

**Q: What is an Access Code?**

A: An Access Code is a code number issued to entrants by the IF.GO which will allow you to register for IF.GIC. Apply to the IF.GO in your country to get your Access Code.



**Q: Is there a maximum length of the innovation title?**

A: Yes, the innovation title should be short and interesting, but no more than 6 words long.

**Q: What happens if the pitch video is longer than 60 seconds or the presentation is more than 6 pages?**

A: The judges have been instructed not to watch anything beyond 60 seconds or read anything of project content after 6 pages.

**Q: There are 3 members of our team. Do all 3 have to be part of the video pitch and the live GIFT presentation if we are selected as Finalists?**

A: The video pitch and the live GIFT presentation are important parts of the entire innovation presentation and so, yes, **ALL** the members of the team are expected to participate in both events.

**Q: I have 2 great innovation ideas. Can I present both of them at IF.GIC?**

A: You can only present one innovation at IF.GIC. We know it may be difficult to **CHOOSE BUT** decide which one you think is best and use your Access Code to register and present that **ONE** innovation.

**Q: Is there a specific format for the names of students and how they should be written at registration?**

A: There is a lot of variety in the ways people around the world write their names, so we will use the names you give us at registration. In whatever format or order you write the names when you register, that will be the way we will list the names on the certificates and other documents.

**Q: Is it important to show myself in the 60 second pitch video or I can animate and edit it to explain my innovation idea?**

A: The purpose of the video is to give you actual experience in giving a presentation yourself. You should be on the video telling your story yourself. Do **NOT** create a digital animation of yourself. The quality of your spoken English is **NOT** important. If you want, you can have captioning in English on the video.

**Q: I submitted my invention registration to IF.GIC last week. I also got an e-mail from Global Innovation Field Trip (GIFT). Should I also submit an application to GIFT, or is it a different thing from IF.GIC?**

A: This may be a little confusing, but IF.GIC and GIFT are two different programs, although some of the same people are involved in both.

- ❑ IF.GIC is an actual competition with awards and honors for students who give a great presentation about their great innovations as determined by our international panel judges.
- ❑ GIFT is not a competition, but an international showcase of student innovators. At GIFT students will also present to a global audience the innovative things they have done and created, but there are no judging or awards.
- ❑ What makes this confusing is that the final round of IF.GIC presentations take place during the October GIFT.
- ❑ If you are registered for IF.GIC, you will be participating in the initial round of IF.GIC judging **after 18 September. If, for any reason, you are not selected to participate in the Final round**, then you can register for GIFT and give your innovation presentation there.
- ❑ In either case, whatever happens, you will be able to present your innovation to a global audience, and you will be very happy and proud of your accomplishment.

**Q: Do I have to do anything else after I have registered for IF.GIC and gotten the registration confirmation?**

A: If you are officially registered for IF.GIC, there is nothing that you need to do right now. As we get closer to the registration **deadline of 18 September**, we will be sending **ALL** the registered students, including yourself, more information about the schedule and what you will be doing at each part of the program.

**Q: I am confused about the schedule. What happens in the First Round? What happens in the Second Round?**

A: To make this contest affordable and inexpensive so that everyone can join, **ALL** the activities in the IF.GIC are done on-line with the internet. You do not have to travel anywhere.

- **Before the 18 September registration** deadline all the registration materials should be uploaded. An international panel of judges will review all the materials uploaded and select some innovations as finalists.
- On 7 October, the finalists will be notified that they are finalists, and they will have until 12 October to select the choice of which time to give their live presentation at the October Global Innovation Field Trip. Semi-Finalist will also be notified and while they will NOT be giving a live presentation at GIFT, they will still be eligible for awards and honors at the ceremony on 25 October.
- During 17/18 October, all the finalists will be given an opportunity to give a live presentation to a different panel of international judges. During this live session, the judges will be able to talk to and ask questions of the presenters.
- On Sunday 25 October, there will be a live, on-line celebration session where all the honors and awards will be announced.

**Q: What prizes, awards and honors will be given at the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge?**

A: In addition to the pride of representing your country in a global competition, InventFuture.Global secures a variety of opportunity awards and honors for young innovators that provide them continued opportunities to develop their skills. Learn more by visiting <https://www.inventfuture.global/IFGIC/>.

**Q: How do I know if my registration is complete?**

A: You will receive an email with final information confirming your entry. If you do not see your confirmation, then please check your SPAM folder. If, after 48 hours, you still do not see your confirmation, please write to [IFGIC@InventFuture.Global](mailto:IFGIC@InventFuture.Global) with your name, country and the title of your project.

**Q: Can I make changes to my registration once I have sent it in?**

A: **All registrations must be completed by 18 September 2026. However, if you have registered early** and you find that you must change something important in your registration data or the files you uploaded, then you will have to completely re-register and let us know that you are doing that. IF.GIC Administration will then ignore your prior first registration.

**Q: What happens at a Presentation Session?**

A: There are up to 10 projects and at least 2 judges at each 60-minute session. Each student or team gives a 3-minute live presentation (using their PowerPoint, PDF file or video demonstrate their innovation). After this, 5 additional minutes are used for questions from the Judges and other attendees.

**Q: Do I need to prepare everything by myself?**

A: Yes, you (and/or your team) are responsible for preparing all your content. However, if you got help from any external source, including a teacher, parent or friend, you must acknowledge the help you received. For example, maybe you needed assistance in creating a PowerPoint presentation, or a blueprint or you got advice on how to wire a circuit and so on. This acknowledgement must be noted in your live presentation as well as your logbook/journal/diary.

**Q: Is my Logbook/Journal/Diary Important?**

A: Innovation is NOT a sudden one-minute event, but rather a long process of work, experimentation, evaluation and redesign. The Logbook/Journal/Diary is the documentation and story of your journey in that process, and it is very important that you can show people what you did and why you did it.

**Q: Do I have to use PowerPoint to create the presentation?**

A: No. You may use Keynote, Google Slides, WPS, Prezi or any other program to create your slides, but after they are done, you MUST convert them to PPTX or PDF format files. You will only be able to upload PPTX (PowerPoint) or PDF (Adobe) files when you register.

**Q: May I use AI in my Research and Presentation?**

A: This is meant to be YOUR innovation. You may use AI to help with some research aspects, but the actual design and creation of the innovation and the presentation about it are supposed to be your work and your work alone. You must acknowledge the help you received from using AI and it must be noted in your live presentation as well as your journal. *For more information see [IF.GIC Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Use Policy](#).*

**Q: How can I make sure the Judges or Hosts can operate my uploaded file/s?**

A: Judges will be able to open and operate files uploaded as PPTX or PDF. Do NOT use any other format or website links.

**Q: How do I protect my IP – Intellectual Property?**

A: PROTECTING YOUR INNOVATION - It is sole responsibility of the creator(s) of their Innovation to determine whether their innovation requires protection, what type of protection it may require. It is the sole responsibility of the creator to contact the appropriate legal professionals to secure any or all protection they deem necessary.

**Intellectual Property Concerns** - Anytime you decide to share your idea or innovation, if you have a scientific discovery or invention that could lead to a Patent or any other intellectual property protections, it is best to check your country's patent law before publicly sharing your idea. It is important to understand the intellectual property laws in your country if you have any plans to bring your product to market in the future. When presenting, be cautious about sharing the specific details of what you made and focus on sharing the general operation and benefits of your product.

**Q: What do I need to include in my Presentation Slides?**

A: The slides should highlight key points of the innovation process of your innovation. You have 3 minutes to make your live presentation and may use no more than 6 slides of content material. See [6-Slide/Page Presentation](#).

**Q: What are the judging criteria?**

A: Entries will be scored using the following judging criteria: *See Evaluation Criteria for grades level [K-2](#), [3-5](#), [6-8](#) and [9-12](#).*

- Innovation Process
- Innovation Impact
- Communication

**Q: What happens at the Final Event?**

A: At the on-line Global Innovation Field Trip on Saturday/Sunday, 17/18 October, the IF.GIC Finalists will give live presentations to an international panel of Judges while the world is watching on Zoom and YouTube. You will be notified if you are a Finalist after the First Round of off-line judging. If you are selected as a Finalist, more information will be sent to you about this event.

**Q: When is the Award Ceremony?**

A: The InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge Award Ceremony will be held live on Zoom on Sunday, 25 October. Everyone around the world is invited to watch this exciting live celebration of student innovation. The link for the celebration will be posted on the [www.InventFuture.Global](http://www.InventFuture.Global) website.

**Q: Need some encouragement?**

A: Go here <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3214008025506677>

If you have any additional questions, please contact us at: [IFGIC@InventFuture.Global](mailto:IFGIC@InventFuture.Global)

## PARTICIPANT AGREEMENTS AND GUIDELINES

### HONEST COMMUNICATION

- Be in compliance with this Code of Civility
- Be accurate (where they state facts)
- Be genuinely held (where they state opinions)
- Be in compliance with applicable law in any country from which they are posted
- Respect Yourself and Others

We require that all G.I.C. participants treat other people with respect. Any use of Communication Services (see the [Code of Civility](#)) to threaten, harass, stalk, or abuse others using these services is unacceptable and is strictly forbidden. All contributions are expected to:

We reserve the right to remove content that advocates or encourages expressions of violence, bullying, general cruelty, bigotry, racism, illegal activity, hatred, or profanity. This includes content that is deemed inappropriate, offensive, or that violates guidelines in the Terms of Service or the Code of Civility. Falsely impersonating an IF.GIC employee, agent, manager, host, or any other person other than yourself, is forbidden.

### PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

We caution you against sharing unnecessary personally identifiable information during the Zoom challenge (such as home address or personal contact information), which may be inadvertently obtained by others or, in rare instances, used for illegal or harmful purposes. Talk to your coach, parent or the IF.GIC staff if you have a question or concern.

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The IF.GIC continuously addresses issues of diversity and multiculturalism and is committed to engaging in actions that create inclusive communities, increased diversity, and the elimination of discrimination. The

IF.GIC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, and gender identity or expression in all its programs and activities.

### CODE OF CIVILITY

As part of our commitment to making the IF.GIC and its related social media channels a great place to meet and interact with others who have a passion and commitment to science, technology, engineering, math, innovation and entrepreneurship, you agree to abide by this Code of Civility. By participating on the Site and social media community, you give your commitment to abide by this Code when contributing to all IF.GIC resources and programs, including, but not limited to, profiles, team pages, chats, posts and comments, emails, social media sources, etc. ("Communication Services"), and to help create a positive experience for all the community's users.

We reserve the right in our sole discretion to eject or ban any user from participating in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge (IF.GIC), the Site or social media community who behaves in a manner deemed inappropriate or offensive, or who violates the guidelines of this Code of Civility. The IF.GIC and its partners and service providers are not responsible for any user-created content or other activities.

### PROTECTING YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

It is the sole responsibility of the creator(s) of their innovation to determine whether their innovation requires protection, what type of protection it may require. It is the sole responsibility of the creator to contact the appropriate legal professionals to secure any or all protection they deem necessary. Anytime you decide to share your idea or innovation, if you have a scientific discovery or invention that could lead to a

Patent or any other intellectual property protections, it is best to check your country's patent law before publicly sharing your idea. It is important to understand the intellectual property laws in your country if you have any plans to bring your product to market in the future. When presenting, be cautious about sharing the specific details of what you made and focus on sharing the general operation and benefits of your product.

---

## RELEASE AGREEMENT

By registering your child, you grant permission for your child to take part in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge and verify agreement with the following Innovation World photography/filming release:

Without expectation of compensation or other remuneration of any kind, now or in the future, on behalf of my registered student, I as guardian do hereby give consent, permission, and authorization to InventFuture.Global, including its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, and agents, to use their name, image and likeness, including all rights, title and interest therein, for InventFuture.Global's use in whatever form (digital, web-based, hard-print or otherwise) and for whatever purpose in perpetuity. InventFuture.Global's use includes, without limitation, any advertising, video footage, recording, publication, website, radio, digital media, print media, or other promotional marketing or media activities, as well as, all film, motion picture and television rights (e.g., free television, pay television, basic cable, subscription, video-on-demand, pay-per-view, syndication, digital streaming, and all other methods of transmission delivery systems and formats). Both my registered child and I as their guardian, hereby further release InventFuture.Global from any and all claims or disputes, including damages in any form, for libel, slander, right of publicity, invasion of right of privacy, trademark infringement or false endorsement, breach of contract, or any other tortious claim or personal right associated with InventFuture.Global's use of said name, image and likeness, and further, hereby acknowledge that InventFuture.Global shall have no obligation to use said name, image or likeness.

This consent is given in perpetuity and does not require prior approval. By completing online registration and paying the non-refundable registration fee, I hereby grant my child permission to participate in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge (G.I.C.) hosted by InventFuture.Global. I have been thoroughly informed of the rules and requirements of the IF.GIC. I

understand and consent to my child being in virtual contact with Innovation World employees and volunteers for the purpose of evaluating and advising my child's project. I hereby release InventFuture.Global and any of its officers, directors, employees or sponsors, from responsibility and liability for any damage, injury or illness that my child may sustain as a result of or in any way connected to my child's participation in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge and, further, waive any and all rights to assert any claims against InventFuture.Global for any damages allegedly sustained as a result of my child's participation in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge.

---

## BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

- I understand and agree that my child's behavior with regard to their participation in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge is my responsibility. I will instruct my child in proper behavior and ensure that they respect and adhere to the Code of Conduct, which include the Participant Community Guidelines and the following:
- The content of my child's project submission in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge shall be age appropriate and non-discriminatory.
- My child's InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge project submission must be of a nature where it cannot cause harm to property, animals, my child or other children, and any other adults.
- Plagiarism, defined as when an author attempts to pass off someone else's work as their own, of any type and format, is strictly prohibited.
- In the event of (a) behavior problem(s) regarding my child's participation in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge or failure to adhere to the Participant Community Guidelines, I understand that I will be contacted to correct any problem or issue. In the event a problem or issue cannot be corrected, I recognize my child will no longer be allowed to participate in the InventFuture.Global Innovation Challenge for the remainder of the event year.