

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) PHILIPPINE STARTUP CHALLENGE

## OVERVIEW AND REGISTRATION

### 1. What is PSC?

- Philippine Startup Challenge (PSC) is DICT's flagship annual startup pitching competition among Senior High School and College students. It aims to encourage and support the Filipino Youth in creating innovative and relevant ICT products and services that may potentially develop into viable business ventures as well as solve social problems. This initiative is geared towards promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship in ICT among the youth and in ensuring the continuous creation of investible ideas and startup founders that will expand the Philippine Startup ecosystem. The competition will be open for submission of entries that cover software or IoT (Internet of Things) enabled technologies.

### 2. What are the stages of PSC?

- PSC has three (3) main stages namely: Regional Pitching Competition, PSC Semifinals, and PSC Finals.

#### A. Regional Pitching Competition (RPC)

- The Regional Pitching Competition or RPC is spearheaded by the DICT Regional Offices across the country.
- The RPC commences once the official Call for Application begins.
- Aspiring startups submit their entries following the stipulated guidelines in the PSC Mechanics.
- The RPC Screening Committees shall screen the entries.
- The results from the RPC are endorsed to the Central Office in preparation for the PSC Semifinals.

## B. PSC Semifinals

- The Champions or 1st Placers hailing from each of the Regions will compete during the PSC Semifinals.
- All PSC Semifinals entries shall undergo a 1-week table review by a panel of judges.
- The Top 10 teams will be eligible as Finalists and shall advance to the PSC Finals.

## C. PSC Finals

- The PSC Finals will be held face-to-face during Geeks on A Beach 2023.
- The finalists shall deliver their pitch live for 3-5 Minutes.
- A maximum of 10 minutes will be allotted for the Question and Answer session for each finalist after they deliver the pitch.
- During the Question and Answer Session, the judges may also give their comments, feedback, and suggestions to the finalists.
- The following ranking system will be employed:
  1. PSC 7 Champion
  2. 1st Runner-up
  3. 2nd Runner-up
  4. 3rd Runner-up
  5. 4th Runner-up



**3. Who is eligible to compete?**

- PSC is open to enrolled (during the application up until the conduct of the Finals Round) Senior High School and College students.

**4. Where should a team apply?**

- Interested teams should apply on the provided Application Links of the DICT Regional Office that caters to their area. These Application Links will be posted in the official social media accounts/websites of both the DICT Central and Regional Offices.

**5. Can a student or mentor be allowed to join multiple teams?**

- Yes, a mentor or a student team member may join multiple teams provided that they are representing one School/University only. Additionally, an individual representing two teams must submit two separate applications.

**6. Can a team be composed of members and mentors from different Schools/Universities?**

- No. Student Team Members and their Mentor should come from a one (1) School/University only.

**7. Who is eligible to be a startup team mentor?**

- A mentor must be an employee of the same school that the team represents. He/She must be currently employed during the application and the competition period.

**8. Would a mentor be allowed to join multiple teams?**

- Yes, mentoring multiple teams is allowed. For instance, a mentor who is representing two teams must apply twice representing each of their teams.



**9. I didn't attend any Mentors' Bootcamp, am I allowed to mentor?**

- While joining a Mentors' Bootcamp is highly encouraged, particularly those held within two years of the current PSC conduct, it is not required; and thus a mentor who satisfies the qualifications stipulated in the PSC Mechanics can register himself/herself as a team mentor.

**10. What are the benefits of joining PSC?**

- Aside from exposure to linkages, networks, partnerships and collaboration; the pool of student-founded startups are prioritized in DICT's provision of services, incentives, and invitation to various events of industry partners. Teams are subject to direct interaction through the presentation of their pitch decks before a renowned pool of Startup key ecosystem players. Winning startup teams are also awarded with trophies, certificates, and other prizes provided by event partners.

**SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES**

**1. What are the requirements?**

- A. Accomplished registration through the provided application links of the DICT Regional Offices
- B. School Clearance
- C. Startup Logo
- D. Video Pitch (See video pitch guidelines)
- E. Pitch deck (In PDF)

*For items D and E, content must include:*

- o Problem description
- o Target market segment
- o Business Model
- o Solution
- o Features
- o Progress/Traction
- o Proposed use of funds/asks from investors

## F. VIDEO PITCH GUIDELINES

- Duration: 3-5 minutes
- Content should include the following:
  - Problem description
  - Target market segment
  - Business Model
  - Solution
  - Features
  - Progress/Traction
  - Proposed use of funds/asks from investors
- The video should include an introduction of the startup founders. It should also explain the rationale behind the startup creation. The pitch shall also include relevant achievements of the founders and if any, the startup itself.
- The video should not be more than 5 minutes long and should utilize the natural voices of the founders. No text-to-speech voice enhancements should be allowed. Should a demo enhance the video, it should not take more than 1 minute.
- Try to include all founders in the video.

### 2. Who shall be eligible to submit entries?

- The designated **mentor** per team shall be the one to submit the entries.

### 3. Where do I submit the requirements?

- Submission of requirements must be in the provided application forms of the DICT Regional Offices:



REGION	APPLICATION LINKS
NCR	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentor_NCR">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentor_NCR</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Student_NCR">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Student_NCR</a>
CAR	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-CAR-Mentor">https://bit.ly/PSC8-CAR-Mentor</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-CAR-Student">https://bit.ly/PSC8-CAR-Student</a>
REGION I	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSCR1_MENTOR">https://bit.ly/PSCR1_MENTOR</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSCR1_TEAM">https://bit.ly/PSCR1_TEAM</a>
REGION II	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/R2-PSC8-2023-Mentor">https://bit.ly/R2-PSC8-2023-Mentor</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/R2-PSC8-2023-Student">https://bit.ly/R2-PSC8-2023-Student</a>
REGION III	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentor_R3">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentor_R3</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Student_R3">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Student_R3</a>
REGION IV-A	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentor_R4A">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentor_R4A</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Student_R4A">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Student_R4A</a>
REGION IV-B	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_MIMAROPA_Mentor">https://bit.ly/PSC8_MIMAROPA_Mentor</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_MIMAROPA_Student">https://bit.ly/PSC8_MIMAROPA_Student</a>
REGION V	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-MentorR5">https://bit.ly/PSC8-MentorR5</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Student-R5">https://bit.ly/PSC8-Student-R5</a>
REGION VI	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R6">https://bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R6</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R6">https://bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R6</a>
REGION VII	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-mentorR7">https://bit.ly/PSC8-mentorR7</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-studentR7">https://bit.ly/PSC8-studentR7</a>
REGION VIII	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R8">https://bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R8</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R8">https://bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R8</a>
REGION IX	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R9">https://bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R9</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R9">https://bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R9</a>

REGION	APPLICATION LINKS
REGION X	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R10">bit.ly/PSC8-Students-R10</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R10">bit.ly/PSC8-Mentors-R10</a>
REGION XI	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8MentorsR11">https://bit.ly/PSC8MentorsR11</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8StudentsR11">https://bit.ly/PSC8StudentsR11</a>
REGION XII	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8MentorsR12">https://bit.ly/PSC8MentorsR12</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8StudentsR12">https://bit.ly/PSC8StudentsR12</a>
CARAGA	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentors_R13">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Mentors_R13</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC8_Students_R13">https://bit.ly/PSC8_Students_R13</a>
BARMM	Mentor's Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC-Mentors-BARMM">https://bit.ly/PSC-Mentors-BARMM</a> Students/Team Member Application Form: <a href="https://bit.ly/PSC-Students-BARMM">https://bit.ly/PSC-Students-BARMM</a>

## REGIONAL PITCHING COMPETITION (RPC)

### 1. Am I allowed to edit and/or revise my requirements after submission?

- Both Technical and Substantive edits will not be allowed once entries have been submitted. For clerical errors, contact the RPC Team in the region where the entry is submitted as they shall assist the concerned participant.

### 2. How will I get notified if my entry was accepted?

- Shortlisted participants will be announced by their respective DICT Regional Office.

### 3. When will the Regional Pitching Competition be held?

- The RPC shall tentatively run starting from the 4th Week of September up to the 1st Week of October 2023. RPCs will simultaneously be conducted by the DICT Regional Offices within the aforementioned timeframe.



**4. Would the Regional Pitching Competition be a virtual or a Face-to-Face event?**

- The conduct of the RPC shall depend on the program design set by the respective DICT Regional Offices.

**5. How can a team qualify for the Semifinals?**

- The Champion from each DICT Regional Office will be the Semifinalist of that region and will compete during the Semifinals.

**6. How can I claim my RPC Trophy/Certificate/ Prizes?**

- The concerned RPC Team in the region shall provide the process in claiming the RPC Trophy, Certificates, and Prizes.

**PSC SEMIFINALS**

**1. How will I get notified if I qualify for the Semifinals?**

- Shortlisted participants will be announced by the respective DICT Regional Office. The Central Office will also have an online announcement via its official Social Media Accounts.

**2. Am I allowed to edit/revise my RPC entry submission after I qualify for the Semifinals?**

- Yes. Teams who will qualify for the Semifinals can revise their submitted entries from the RPC. They should re-submit the revised entries within the set deadline.

**3. How will the Semifinals for PSC be conducted?**

- The Top 1 or Champions from each of the DICT Regional offices will be endorsed by the Regional Offices to the PSC Secretariat of the DICT Central Office.
- The entries of the 17 teams will be judged by the PSC Semifinals Panel of judges for a week.

- There will be no face-to-face or virtual events to be hosted by the Central Office for the PSC Semifinals. The judges will remotely evaluate and provide comments for each of the 17 PSC semifinalists
- The scoresheets will be submitted by the judges to the PSC Secretariat of the Central Office for tabulation and ranking.
- Once the scores have been tallied and rankings are finalized, the top 10 finalists shall be announced by the DICT Central Office.

#### **4. Who shall qualify for the PSC Finals?**

- Only the Top 10 out of the 17 Semifinalists after the judging period shall be eligible as finalists.

### **PSC FINALS**

#### **1. How will I get notified if I qualify for the Finals?**

- The PSC Secretariat from the DICT Central Office shall spearhead the announcement of the 10 PSC Finalists. The provided emails of the teams in the application form shall be the main contact point for sending of updates and other PSC related announcements. The DICT Regional Offices shall also be informed about the Semifinals results.

#### **2. Am I allowed to edit/revise my Semifinals entry submission after I qualify for the Finals?**

- Yes. Teams who will qualify for the Finals can revise their submitted entries during the Semifinals. If a team does not submit a revised entry within the set deadline, the version submitted during the semifinals shall automatically be the team's PSC finals entry.

### 3. How will the Finals for PSC be conducted?

- The PSC Finals will be held face-to-face during Geeks on A Beach 2023.
- The top 10 finalists will deliver their pitch live before a panel of judges.
- The winners will be announced at the end of the pitching session.

### 4. Am I allowed to skip several parts of the program during the PSC Finals?

- As much as possible, be present during the entire duration of the PSC Finals. Only emergencies (health, safety, etc.) shall be accepted to excuse a participant.
- All team members are encouraged to participate during the Question and Answer Session.

## **PRIZES (FOR PSC FINALS ONLY)**

### 1. How will I claim my prize?

- The PSC Secretariat from the DICT Central Office shall contact you and provide you further instructions on how to claim your prizes.

### 2. Will a Team Certificate be issued?

- Yes, a Team Certificate shall be issued.

### 3. Will individual certificates for team members be issued?

- Individual Certificates will be issued only for the winning team members, upon request.

### 4. Will the mentor receive a Certificate?

- Yes a certificate will be issued for a mentor.

### 5. To whom shall I direct my inquiries regarding prizes?

- For further information and inquiries about the prizes for PSC Finals, contact the secretariat at: [psc\\_inquiries@dict.gov.ph](mailto:psc_inquiries@dict.gov.ph).

## **SPECIAL AWARDS**

### **1. What are the special awards for PSC participants?**

- Apart from the ranking and its consecutive prizes, three (3) special awards will be given to the participants:
  - Best Startup Video Pitch (Open for Semifinalists)
  - Best Startup Logo (Open for Finalists)
  - Best Startup Pitch Presenter (Open for Finalists)
  
- Only one (1) winner will be awarded for each of the special awards.

### **2. What are the criteria for judging for the special awards?**

#### **A. Best Startup Video Pitch**

1. Structure/Cohesiveness (50%)
2. Quality (Audio and Visual) (30%)
3. Creativity (10%)
4. Over all Presentation (10%)

#### **B. Best Startup Logo**

1. Originality/Uniqueness (30%)
2. Branding and Recall (30%)
3. Design (20%)
4. Creativity (20%)

#### **C. Best Startup Pitch Presenter**

1. Clarity (40%)
2. Delivery (Tone, Projection) (25%)
3. Use of Language (20%)
4. Wit (15%)



## CONTACT DETAILS

For further inquiries, the applicant may contact the following:

<i>DICT CENTRAL OFFICE PSC 8 SECRETARIAT</i>	<a href="mailto:psc_inquiries@dict.gov.ph">psc_inquiries@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
<b>CAR</b>	<a href="mailto:car.iidb@dict.gov.ph">car.iidb@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>NCR</b>	<a href="mailto:iidbregion4a@dict.gov.ph">iidbregion4a@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION I</b>	<a href="mailto:region1iidb.dict@gmail.com">region1iidb.dict@gmail.com</a>
<b>REGION II</b>	<a href="mailto:region2@dict.gov.ph">region2@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION III</b>	<a href="mailto:dict.iidbr3@gmail.com">dict.iidbr3@gmail.com</a>
<b>REGION IV-A</b>	<a href="mailto:iidbregion4a@dict.gov.ph">iidbregion4a@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION IV-B</b>	<a href="mailto:iidbregion4b@dict.gov.ph">iidbregion4b@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION V</b>	<a href="mailto:region5@dict.gov.ph">region5@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION VI</b>	<a href="mailto:region6@dict.gov.ph">region6@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION VII</b>	<a href="mailto:region7@dict.gov.ph">region7@dict.gov.ph</a>
<b>REGION VIII</b>	<a href="mailto:region8@dict.gov.ph">region8@dict.gov.ph</a>



REGION	EMAIL ADDRESS
REGION IX	<a href="mailto:iid.region9basulta@dict.gov.ph">iid.region9basulta@dict.gov.ph</a>
REGION X	<a href="mailto:region10@dict.gov.ph">region10@dict.gov.ph</a>
REGION XI	<a href="mailto:region11@dict.gov.ph">region11@dict.gov.ph</a>
REGION XII	<a href="mailto:r12iidb@dict.gov.ph">r12iidb@dict.gov.ph</a>
CARAGA	<a href="mailto:iidb.caraga@dict.gov.ph">iidb.caraga@dict.gov.ph</a>
BARMM	<a href="mailto:iid.region9basulta@dict.gov.ph">iid.region9basulta@dict.gov.ph</a> or <a href="mailto:r12iidb@dict.gov.ph">r12iidb@dict.gov.ph</a>