

## Rules

The Virtual Datathon Open Competition is a competition facilitated by the Office of the Secretary of Technology of the Commonwealth of Virginia to promote application development and open data.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The Competition is open to all individuals who reside in Virginia. The Competition is not open to persons in any location where the Competition is prohibited by law or where participation in the Competition would create a violation of law.

Any company or individual involved with the design, production, execution, or distribution of the Competition, and employees of any organization providing data sets on [data.virginia.gov](http://data.virginia.gov) and their immediate families (spouse, parents and step-parents, siblings and step-siblings, and children and step-children) are not eligible.

Participants who are minors must have the consent of a parent or guardian and shall submit, at the time of submitting his/her competition entry, a copy of these Rules that has been signed by a parent or guardian. Failure to submit such a consent will result in disqualification.

Individuals making joint or team submissions must meet the eligibility requirements for individual participants. An individual may not join more than one team.

Participants must comply with the Competition Rules. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the Competition.

### **LEGAL RULES**

The Competition is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

These Rules, and the Competition Administrator's decisions, are final and binding on all matters related to the Competition.

Winning a prize is contingent upon complying with all Competition Rules and requirements. No more than the stated number and type of prizes will be awarded.

Submissions must be (a) original; and (b) solely owned by the submitting participant(s). Submissions must not violate the intellectual property or other legal rights of any person. Each participant represents and warrants that the submission is original; that it is free of viruses and other malware; that it is owned solely by the submitting participant(s) and that no other party has any rights or interests; and that the submission does not violate the intellectual property or other legal rights of any person.

Nothing in these Rules constitutes a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth, the Office of the Secretary of Technology, or any other public body.

Nothing in these Rules or any other materials related to the Datathon creates any contractual rights against the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Office of the Secretary of Technology, or any other public body. The Datathon may be terminated or cancelled at any time with or without notice.

## **DISPUTES AND RULES INTERPRETATION**

The Secretary or her designee shall designate the Competition Administrator.

The Competition Administrator shall decide all disputes related to the Competition and shall engage in any necessary interpretation of these Rules or any other Competition Requirements. The Administrator's decisions shall be final. As stated above, nothing in these Rules shall be interpreted to grant any right of appeal or to waive the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth, the Office of the Secretary of Technology, or any other public body.

The construction, validity, and interpretation of these Rules, the rights and obligations of the participants and Sponsors in connection with Competition, and all other matters arising from or related to the Competition shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS**

All application submissions must be submitted via the Virtual Datathon at <http://data.virginia.gov/datathon-2015/virtual-challenge/>. Application submissions are open to any individual or teams. Application submissions can be any form of common implementation including websites, widgets, mashups, standalone applications, applications for mobile devices, or targeting other commonly accessible technologies.

Participants must create and submit a working software application that uses at least one dataset from the required data. Datasets are located at **data.virginia.gov**. Each submission must include the following:

1. A paragraph that explains the purpose of the app, what functions it includes, the intended audience, and the problem/need it addresses. This paragraph will be posted, along with the video (see item #3) on the Virtual Datathon website.
2. A text description of the application (maximum 5 pages). In addition to a description of the app, how it functions and detailed user instructions, the narrative should include what data was used (including URLs), how the data was used, for which platform(s) it was developed, and include detailed user information (instructions on how to use the application).
3. A narrated video demonstration of the working application
4. A link to the application

Submissions may be any kind of software application developed for any type of platform (e.g., web, personal computer, mobile handheld device, SMS or any software platform broadly available to the public).

Submissions must contain an application that functions as explained in the text description.

Applications may combine required data with any other publicly available data.

Applications may combine at least one dataset from the required data source ([data.virginia.gov](http://data.virginia.gov)) with any other publicly available data, provided that the submitting participant is authorized to distribute all data through a free, publicly available application. There may be necessary or limited changes (updating or refreshing) to the existing datasets. All submissions must be the original work of the submitting participant(s), and not been entered in any other competition or violate the rights of other parties.

Submissions containing any matter that the Competition Administrator deems obscene, defamatory, or otherwise impermissible will not be accepted and will be disqualified.

Submissions will not be returned.

#### **RIGHTS IN SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLICITY**

The Commonwealth, Office of the Secretary of Technology, and Competition administrators make no claim to title or ownership in or to submissions. Each submitting participant understands and accepts that the Competition administrators may use the submission to the extent necessary to administer the competition and may publicly perform or display the submission, including, without limitation, for advertising and promotional purposes relating to the Competition. Each submitting participant is solely responsible for taking any necessary actions to protect participant's intellectual property rights, including with respect to the use that may occur in the course of the Competition.

Participation in the Competition constitutes award recipient's consent to the Competition's or its sponsors' use of the applicant's submission, name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, and/or hometown for Competition promotional purposes in any media, worldwide, without further payment or consideration.

#### **COMPETITION EVALUATION AND PRIZES**

There are two phases of evaluation to select the winner of the Virtual Challenge. The apps will first be evaluated by a virtual datathon evaluation panel to be narrowed down to three top finalists. The three top finalists will advanced for their apps to be reviewed by a select evaluation panel comprised of Virginia's most successful and well-known entrepreneurs. This panel will select the Virtual Challenge winner.

The Virtual Challenge winner will be awarded an exclusive dinner for an opportunity to mingle with members of the evaluation panel. This dinner will provide an opportunity for the winning developers to network and gain invaluable insight on how to take their innovation to the next level and successfully

launch a business. The Virtual Challenge winner will advance to the final round of competition at the statewide competition where they will compete for the Governor's Cup.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

The Competition administrators and sponsoring organizations are not responsible for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by participants, printing errors or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the competition; (2) technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines or network hardware or software; (3) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the competition; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the competition or the processing of entries; or (5) any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from participation in the competition or receipt or use or misuse of any prize.

Participants, and not the Competition authorities, are the sole providers of the information content of their submissions. Accordingly, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Office of the Secretary of Technology, and the Competition Administrator are not responsible for any claims or causes of action arising out of or relating to participant's participation in the Datathon.

If you have any questions about these Rules or the Competition, please contact us at [datava@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:datava@governor.virginia.gov).