

**USAII[®] GLOBAL
AI HACKATHON 2026**

**FINAL ROUND
RULES & PRIZE
DISTRIBUTION
GUIDELINES**

SUBMISSION & COMPLIANCE
REQUIREMENTS

USAII[®] is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent competition. Participants are expected to comply with all hackathon rules and policies throughout the event. Failure to meet these requirements may affect eligibility for evaluation, awards, and recognition.

Grounds for disqualification include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism, copyright infringement, or intellectual property violations
- Submission of pre-existing or substantially pre-developed projects
- Unauthorized team modifications
- Incorrect academic category selection
- Misrepresentation of participant information or eligibility
- Failure to meet submission requirements
- Misleading project demonstrations, claims, or disclosures
- Violation of the Code of Conduct or ethical participation standards
- Attempts to influence judges or manipulate results

USAII[®] may verify eligibility, review submissions, conduct originality checks, and investigate suspected violations at any time. If a winning team is subsequently found to be non-compliant, USAII[®] reserves the right to revoke awards and reassign them to the next highest-ranked eligible team.

Winner Announcement & Prize Claim Process

The official winners will be announced during the Closing Ceremony & Global Awards Showcase live session on June 27, 2026. The webinar access link will be shared with all participating teams.

Winning teams will receive an official communication on **June 29, 2026**, from **Mr. Ajit K. Jha, Chief Product Partner, USAII[®]** (ajit.jha@usaii.org), at the registered email address of the designated Team Leader, outlining the complete prize claim process, required documentation, and next steps to claim their awards.

The Team Leader is responsible for ensuring that all submitted banking and payment information is accurate and complete. Incorrect or incomplete information may result in delays in the prize transfer process.

Cash Prize Distribution

1. Cash prizes will be transferred only to the bank account of the designated **Team Leader** as assigned by the winning team.
2. All communication regarding cash prize processing, documentation, and payment confirmation will be made exclusively with the Team Leader through their registered email address.
3. **For Team Leaders under the age of 18, prize funds must be transferred to a parent's or legal guardian's bank account.** Additional verification documentation may be required before processing the payment.

4. Once the cash prize has been successfully transferred to the Team Leader's verified bank account, **the responsibility for distributing the prize amount among team members rests solely with the Team Leader.**
5. USAII's responsibility is limited to transferring the awarded cash prize to the designated Team Leader's provided bank account and will not be involved in the internal distribution of the prize amount among team members.
6. The method of prize disbursement (including but not limited to bank transfer, wire transfer, or other approved payment methods) will be communicated in the official prize claim email based on the recipient's country and payment eligibility.
7. Prize disbursements will be processed within **15 business days** after receipt and verification of all required documentation.

To initiate the prize claim process, the designated Team Leader must submit the required information within the specified timeline, including:

Banking details of the designated Team Leader for cash prize transfer:

- Account Holder Name
- Bank Name
- Account Number
- SWIFT/BIC Code (for international transfers, where applicable)
- Bank Branch Details (if required)
- Country
- Any additional banking information required to successfully process the transfer
- Any additional documentation requested by USAII® for processing the prize distribution

Winning teams must submit all required banking details, tax documentation (if applicable), and any other requested information **within fourteen (14) calendar days of receiving the official prize claim communication.** Once the required documentation is received and verified (see #7 Cash Prize Distribution above), **disbursement will be processed within 15 business days.** Failure to provide the requested information within the specified timeframe may result in forfeiture of the prize and/or award benefits, at USAII's discretion. Teams that anticipate delays should proactively contact USAII® through the official communication channel before the deadline. Any extension requests will be reviewed solely at USAII's discretion.

Scholarship, Certification Discounts & Other Non-Cash Awards

Each eligible member of the winning team will receive an individual email containing details of their awarded USAII® certification scholarship and/or certification discount, including the applicable certification program, discount value or scholarship benefit, redemption instructions, and validity period. Award details will be aligned with the prizes officially published on the hackathon prize page and communicated directly to eligible recipients.

Scholarships, discounts, and other non-cash awards cannot be exchanged for cash nor transferred or resold.

The winners will be provided with 100% scholarship for USAII's AI certification programs, which are Certified AI Prefect (CAIP™), Certified AI Prefect-Advanced (™CAIPa), and Certified AI Engineer (CAIE™) - according to the eligibility of the programs. Students who participated in the USAII's Global AI Hackathon 2026 will be provided with 25% scholarship for the USAII AI certification programs (as per the eligibility of the program).

Taxes & Financial Responsibilities

USAII[®] may require recipients to complete applicable tax forms and compliance documentation prior to prize disbursement, including but not limited to:

- Form W-9 for eligible U.S. residents
- Form W-8BEN or equivalent documentation for eligible international recipients

Failure to submit required tax documentation may delay or prevent prize disbursement.

Recipients are responsible for complying with all applicable tax laws and reporting obligations within their jurisdiction. USAII[®] does not provide tax advice and recommends recipients consult a qualified tax professional if needed.

Communication & Organizer Rights

Official communications from USAII[®] shall be considered the final source of information regarding rules, eligibility, verification, and prize distribution.

USAII[®] reserves the right to:

- Interpret and clarify these rules
- Verify eligibility and originality
- Investigate suspected violations
- Resolve disputes
- Modify administrative procedures when necessary

Appeals & Review

USAII[®] may, at its sole discretion, provide teams an opportunity to respond to concerns or provide clarifications before a final disqualification determination is made. In the event of any inconsistency, dispute, or interpretation issue relating to these guidelines, the decision of USAII[®] shall be final and binding.

About USAII[®]

The United States Artificial Intelligence Institute (USAII[®]) is the world's leading Artificial Intelligence certifications provider for aspiring professionals and leaders at any stage of their career, organizations, institutions, academia, or governments, looking to upskill and reskill their expertise in the ever-evolving Artificial Intelligence domain.

Closing Ceremony & Global Awards Showcase

[REGISTER FOR THE EVENT](#)

LOCATIONS

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