

DICM PITCHING CHALLENGE – TERMS & CONDITIONS

These Terms and Conditions govern participation in the **DICM 2026 Pitching Challenge** (the “Competition”), facilitated by DICM, with the winning project to be considered for production by Aflam Productions (“Aflam”) and development by Writables FZ-LLC (“Writables”).

By submitting an application, each applicant confirms that they have read, understood and agreed to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

1. ELIGIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The applicant must be at least 18 years old and legally capable of entering into binding agreements.
- 1.2 Where a project has multiple writers, creators or rights holders, the applicant must have the authority and written consent of all relevant parties to submit the project.
- 1.3 The applicant must disclose all co-writers, co-creators, producers, representatives and other persons or entities with any rights or interests in the project.

2. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Applications must be submitted by email to info@dicm.ae by the announced deadline, together with all materials required under the Competition guidelines.
- 2.2 Applicants must comply with all eligibility, formatting, documentation, length, deadline and submission requirements. Incomplete, inaccurate, late or non-compliant applications may be disqualified without further evaluation.
- 2.3 Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all submitted materials are complete, accessible and free from viruses or technical defects. DICM may request clarification or additional materials but are not obligated to permit corrections to incomplete or non-compliant submissions.

3. APPLICANT WARRANTIES

By submitting a project, the applicant represents and warrants that:

- i. the project is original or the applicant has obtained all necessary rights and permissions to submit it;
- ii. the applicant owns or controls the rights in the submitted materials, and the project does not infringe any third-party rights or obligations;
- iii. no agreement or restriction prevents the project from being submitted or potentially developed, financed, marketed or produced; and
- iv. all information provided is complete and accurate, and any use of artificial-intelligence tools in preparing the submission has been disclosed. The applicant remains solely responsible for the originality, authorship, accuracy, legality and rights clearance of the submission.

The applicant is responsible for any claim arising from a breach of these warranties.

4. OWNERSHIP OF SUBMITTED PROJECTS

- 4.1 Submission does not transfer ownership or intellectual-property rights in the project to DICM, Writables, Aflam or any evaluator. The applicant grants them a limited, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to receive,

store, copy, review, evaluate, discuss and internally share the submitted materials *solely for administering and conducting the Competition*.

4.2 No commercial exploitation, development, adaptation, production, sale, licensing or assignment of a submitted project may occur without a separate written agreement with the relevant rights holder(s).

4.3 DICM, Writables, Aflam and evaluators may independently receive, develop or work on projects containing similar themes, genres, situations or general ideas. Similarity alone does not constitute copying or misuse, provided that the applicant's protected expression and intellectual-property rights are not infringed.

5. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

5.1 Eligible applications will be evaluated by the Committee in accordance with the Competition's criteria, which may include originality, concept, storytelling, characters, structure, market potential, production feasibility, audience appeal, cultural relevance and development potential.

5.2 The Committee may shortlist up to ten projects ("Top 10 Projects"). The number shortlisted may be fewer than ten if the quality or eligibility of submissions does not justify selecting ten.

5.3 The Top 10 Projects will be reviewed and discussed by the Committee, which will select the winning project. All decisions regarding eligibility, disqualification, evaluation, shortlisting and selection are final, subject to correction of administrative errors or consideration of material new information.

5.4 The organizers are not required to disclose individual scores, deliberations or reasons for any decision and may reject or disqualify a project at any stage for plagiarism, misrepresentation, rights disputes, undisclosed conflicts, misconduct or breach of these Terms and Conditions.

6. NO OBLIGATION OR GUARANTEE

7.1 DICM's role is limited to facilitating a platform for writers to present their projects to producers and industry professionals. Participation in the Competition or selection as a winner does not create any obligation on DICM or any producer to develop or produce a project.

7.2 Any development or production opportunity is subject to the relevant producer's sole discretion and a separate written agreement with the relevant rights holder. DICM is not a party to, and assumes no obligations or liability under, any such agreement.

7. THE WINNING PROJECT

8.1 The winning project will receive an opportunity for professional development by Writables and may be considered for production by Aflam. Winning the Competition does not guarantee development, financing, commissioning, production, distribution, broadcast, acquisition or other commercial exploitation.

8.2 Any development or production is subject to the project reaching an acceptable production-ready standard, satisfaction of Aflam's creative, editorial, legal, technical and production requirements, confirmation of rights and financing, any required third-party approvals, and agreement on the applicable creative, financial and production terms.

8.3 The writer, Writables and Aflam will enter into separate definitive written agreement(s) governing any development and/or production. Such agreement(s) will determine, as applicable, development responsibilities, writing services, intellectual-property and production rights, compensation, credits,

approvals, decision-making, delivery and revenue participation. Writables may act as development producer, subject to the applicable agreement.

- 8.4 If the parties cannot agree the applicable terms, the project does not reach the required production-ready standard, or the necessary approvals or financing are not obtained, Aflam and Writables may elect not to proceed without liability for unrealised profits or opportunities. The original writer will remain credited as the main writer, subject to customary credit practices and any agreed contributions by additional writers. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, ownership of the project remains with the existing rights holder(s).

8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLICITY

- 9.1 The organizers will use reasonable care in handling submitted materials. Participation does not create any confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation unless a separate written NDA is signed. Applicants should avoid submitting unnecessary confidential business information.
- 9.2 Shortlisted applicants and the winner may be required to participate in Competition-related announcements, interviews, pitching sessions, photographs, recordings and promotional activities. Subject to consent and applicable privacy laws, the organizers may use the applicant's name, biography, photograph, project title, logline and participation status for such publicity. Full scripts and unpublished story details will not be publicly released without permission.
- 9.3 Applicants must not publicly announce their shortlisting, selection, acquisition or production approval without the organizers' prior authorization.

9. DISQUALIFICATION

DICM may disqualify an applicant or project at any stage for breach of these Terms and Conditions, false or misleading information, plagiarism, rights disputes, undisclosed conflicts, misconduct or non-compliance with the Competition requirements.

10. COSTS AND NO COMPENSATION

- 11.1 Applicants are responsible for all costs associated with preparing, submitting and participating in the Competition, unless expressly stated otherwise.
- 11.2 No fee, reimbursement, prize, writer's fee or other compensation is payable solely for submitting, evaluating, shortlisting or selecting a project. Any compensation or payment relating to development, writing, rights, production, revenue participation or services must be agreed separately in writing.

11. CHANGES, CANCELLATION AND FORCE MAJEURE

- 12.1 DICM may make reasonable changes to the Competition timetable, format, committee, evaluation process or event arrangements where operationally necessary.
- 12.2 The Competition may be postponed, suspended, modified or cancelled due to circumstances beyond the organizers' reasonable control, including events causing or likely to cause impossibility, material difficulty or undue hardship in conducting the Competition ("Force Majeure Event").
- 12.3 Where reasonably practicable, material changes will be communicated through the official Competition channels. DICM shall not be liable for any delay, modification, suspension or cancellation resulting from a Force Majeure Event.

12. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

To the fullest extent permitted by law, DICM, Writables, Aflam and their respective committee members, evaluators, employees and representatives shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special or consequential loss arising from participation in the Competition, reliance on feedback, technical issues, non-selection, or any decision not to develop or produce a project.

Nothing in these Terms and Conditions excludes or limits liability that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited.

13. GOVERNING LAW & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

These Terms and Conditions govern participation in the Competition and shall be binding on all participants. DICM reserve the right to determine, at their sole discretion, any matter or circumstance not expressly provided for in these Terms and Conditions, subject always to the applicable laws of the United Arab Emirates. Any dispute, claim, or matter arising out of or in connection with the Competition or these Terms and Conditions that cannot be resolved amicably shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

14. ACCEPTANCE

By submitting an application, the applicant confirms that they have read, understood and accepted these Terms and Conditions, meet all eligibility and ownership requirements, have the necessary authority and rights to submit the project for evaluation, and understand that shortlisting or winning does not guarantee its development, financing, sale, commissioning or production.