

VENTURE MADNESS RULES + GUIDELINES [EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW]

Participation Criteria

ALL applicants to the Venture Madness by Invest Southwest Conference MUST be available, willing and prepared to FULLY participate in the entire competition process, including but not limited to:

- Downloading the application;
- Completing all three components of the application:
 1. General Application Information (located in Dealum platform),
 2. Financials, and
 3. Pitch Deck
 4. Pitch Video (optional)
- Submitting the completed application by 3 p.m. (AZ time) on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, via the application submission link on the Venture Madness by Invest Southwest website (which will direct you into our online Dealum platform);
- If selected as a presenting company, having the President and/or CEO attend the following events:
 1. Presenting Company Orientation and Reception on January 28, 2026,
 2. Mentoring Sessions scheduled for Friday, February 20 and Friday, March 6, and
 3. Venture Madness by Invest Southwest Conference April 9, 2026, including conducting pitches to a panel of judges, audience and participating in Q&A sessions with judges and closing reception.

Industry Eligibility Requirements

Innovative companies from all industries are invited to apply except for companies from the following industries: fashion, restaurants, retailing/distribution, mining, real-estate and non-software bio. On the application, applicants will select the industry they best fit into per the available categories.

Employee Eligibility Requirements

Eligible companies must have at least two (2), full-time employees who dedicate an average of at least 35 hours/week to the business. Employees may be paid or unpaid and may include founders or active investors who otherwise meet these criteria.

Members of boards of directors or advisory boards who are otherwise full-time employees of another organization may not be included as part of the two-employee minimum.

Corporate Structure/Status

All companies must be existing, for-profit legal entities at the time of application submission.

Eligibility Discretion

The eligibility qualification of applicant companies is determined at the sole discretion of Venture Madness by Invest Southwest, and all such decisions are final.

Additional Rules + Guidelines

IMPORTANT: All applicant companies must adhere to the linked Terms and Conditions.

Companies selected to pitch at the Venture Madness by Invest Southwest Conference will be selected from a competitive and open application process. Criteria for selecting, judging and deciding are at the sole discretion of Venture Madness by Invest Southwest. The purpose of this format is to provide maximum exposure for innovative companies to the broader business community in a fun, exciting and competitive format. All decisions are final and are not subject to review or appeal.

All presenting companies must complete their application materials within the submission period. Applicants and selected companies will be judged on their potential to be successful and to have the most impact on their customers and industries.

All information submitted in connection with the application (except information provided in the economics section of the application), including the application itself, may be subject to open public viewing and analysis, and will be judged by Venture Madness by Invest Southwest experts and by registered participants from business communities that may be located not only in Arizona, but nationally or worldwide. Do not share information that you do not wish to make public (except information provided in the economics section, which is related to financial projections and past or current funding efforts, and which will only be reviewed by the Venture Madness by Invest Southwest selection panel and judges and not made public). It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to adhere exactly to the instructions and notes in the application document.

Participants who attend the April 9, 2026 Venture Madness by Invest Southwest Conference, must be able to pay for and provide their own travel and lodging accommodations.

Questions? Please visit our FAQs page.