

**IRMSA YOUTH RISK CHALLENGE 2026: RUBRIC: NGUBANDE (PTY) LTD – THE FAIRCREDIT INITIATIVE**

Section	Category	Max Score (100)	Rubric
1	Risk Identification	15	<p>Identification, assessment, prioritisation, and analysis of key risks and opportunities arising from AI-driven credit scoring and financial inclusion models. Participants should demonstrate an understanding of how risks and opportunities may emerge through the use of proxy variables, historical datasets, governance arrangements, algorithmic decision-making processes, and broader organisational and regulatory environments. Consideration should be given to both intended and unintended outcomes of AI implementation, including implications for fairness, accountability, transparency, financial inclusion, operational effectiveness, innovation, customer access, and organisational strategic objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent: 14–15 points</li> <li>• Innovative: 12–13 points</li> <li>• Standard: 9–11 points</li> <li>• Below Standard: &lt;9 points</li> </ul>
2	Risk Reporting	15	<p>Development of a practical and effective risk monitoring and reporting framework for AI-enabled financial systems. This may include fairness dashboards, governance reporting structures, risk registers, heat maps, model validation reports, key risk indicators, escalation processes, and fairness monitoring metrics. Participants should demonstrate how risks and performance indicators will be monitored, reported, and communicated to regulators, stakeholders, and leadership structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent: 14–15 points</li> <li>• Innovative: 12–13 points</li> <li>• Standard: 9–11 points</li> <li>• Below Standard: &lt;9 points</li> </ul>
3	Deep Analysis	40	<p>Comprehensive analysis of 3–5 strategic initiatives or interventions aimed at improving equitable access to finance while managing AI-related risks. Participants should demonstrate critical thinking and practical application through scenario analysis, root cause analysis, governance evaluation, stakeholder analysis, fairness assessments, and risk interdependency analysis. The report should demonstrate how</p>



			<p>AI, financial inclusion, governance, change management, and enterprise risk management can be integrated into one coherent operating model. Innovative, practical, and sustainable solutions that go beyond incremental improvements will be highly rewarded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraordinary: 35–40 points</li> <li>• Excellent: 29–34 points</li> <li>• Innovative: 23–28 points</li> <li>• Standard: 17–22 points</li> <li>• Below Standard: &lt;17 points</li> </ul>
4	Risk Strategies	20	<p>Development of practical and sustainable risk management strategies and recommendations designed to improve fairness, transparency, and ethical AI decision-making. This may include governance enhancements, fairness-aware AI controls, policy and regulatory recommendations, stakeholder engagement strategies, ecosystem partnerships, change management initiatives, and implementation roadmaps. Participants should clearly demonstrate how their recommendations support financial inclusion while balancing risk, sustainability, and operational effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent: 18–20 points</li> <li>• Innovative: 14–17 points</li> <li>• Standard: 10–13 points</li> <li>• Below Standard: &lt;10 points</li> </ul>
5	Presentation	10	<p>Presentation and professionalism of the final Risk Management Report. This includes clarity of communication, logical structure, grammar, visual presentation, and effective integration of risk management concepts and tools. Reports should clearly communicate complex AI and financial inclusion risks in a concise and professional manner. The report must not exceed 12 pages. A deduction of 1 point will apply for every page exceeding the limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent: 9–10 points</li> <li>• Standard: 6–8 points</li> <li>• Below Standard: &lt;6 points</li> </ul>

