Apps are changing the world, enriching people’s lives, and enabling developers like you to innovate like never before. As a result, the App Store has grown into an exciting and vibrant ecosystem for millions of developers and more than a billion users. Whether you are a first time developer or a large team of experienced programmers, we are excited that you are creating apps for the App Store and want to help you understand our guidelines so you can be confident your app will get through the review process quickly.

The guiding principle of the App Store is simple—we want to provide a safe experience for users to get apps and a great opportunity for all developers to be successful. We have updated the App Review Guidelines with that principle in mind. The guidelines themselves haven’t changed, but they are better organized and provide more context. On the following pages you will find guidelines arranged into five clear sections: Safety, Performance, Business, Design, and Legal. A few other points to keep in mind:

We have lots of kids downloading lots of apps. Parental controls work great to protect kids, but you have to do your part too. So know that we’re keeping an eye out for the kids.

If your app looks like it was cobbled together in a few days, or you’re trying to get your first practice app into the store to impress your friends, please brace yourself for rejection. We have lots of serious developers who don’t want their quality apps to be surrounded by amateur hour.

We will reject apps for any content or behavior that we believe is over the line. What line, you ask? Well, as a Supreme Court Justice once said, “I’ll know it when I see it.” And we think that you will also know it when you cross it.

If you attempt to cheat the system (for example, by trying to trick the review process, steal user data, copy another developer’s work, or manipulate ratings) your apps will be removed from the store and you will be expelled from the Developer Program.

We hope these new guidelines help you sail through the App Review process, and that approvals and rejections are more consistent across the board. This is a living document; new apps presenting new questions may result in new rules at any time. Perhaps your app will trigger this. We love this stuff too, and honor what you do. We’re really trying our best to create the best platform in the world for you to express your talents and make a living, too.

SAFETY
Art by Mark Simmons

PERFORMANCE
Art by Itz Wolf
Luján Fernández

BUSINESS
Art by Shari Chankhamma

DESIGN
Art by Ben Jelter

LEGAL
Art by Malcolm Johnson

Cover art by Dallen Ogden
When people install an app from the app store, they want to feel confident that it’s safe to do so.

That the app doesn’t contain upsetting or offensive content, won’t damage their device, and isn’t likely to cause physical harm from its use.

We’ve outlined the major pitfalls below, but if you’re looking to shock and offend people, the app store isn’t the right place for your app.

1.1 Objectionable content:

Apps should not include content that is offensive, insensitive, upsetting, intended to disgust, or in exceptionally poor taste.

Examples of such content include:
I.1 (A) DEFAMATORY OR MEAN-SPIRITED CONTENT, INCLUDING REFERENCES OR COMMENTARY ABOUT RELIGION, RACE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER, OR OTHER TARGETED GROUPS, PARTICULARLY IF THE APP IS LIKELY TO PLACE A TARGETED INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP IN HARM’S WAY.

Professional political satirists and humorists are generally exempt from this requirement.

I.1 (C) DEPICTIONS THAT ENCOURAGE ILLEGAL OR RECKLESS USE OF WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS OBJECTS, OR FACILITATE THE PURCHASE OF FIREARMS.

I.1 (B) REALISTIC PORTRAYALS OF PEOPLE OR ANIMALS BEING KILLED, MAIMED, TORTURED, OR ABUSED, OR CONTENT THAT ENCOURAGES VIOLENCE. “ENEMIES” WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A GAME CANNOT SOLELY TARGET A SPECIFIC RACE, CULTURE, REAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATION, OR ANY OTHER REAL ENTITY.

I.1 (D) OVERTLY SEXUAL OR PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL, DEFINED BY WEBSTER’S DICTIONARY AS “EXPLICIT DESCRIPTIONS OR DISPLAYS OF SEXUAL ORGANS OR ACTIVITIES INTENDED TO STIMULATE EROTIC RATHER THAN AESTHETIC OR EMOTIONAL FEELINGS.”

I.1 (E) INFLAMMATORY RELIGIOUS COMMENTARY OR INACCURATE OR MISLEADING QUOTATIONS OF RELIGIOUS TEXTS.

I.1 (F) FALSE INFORMATION AND FEATURES, INCLUDING INACCURATE DEVICE DATA OR TRICK/JOKE FUNCTIONALITY, SUCH AS FAKE LOCATION TRACKERS. STATING THAT THE APP IS “FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES” WON’T OVERCOME THIS GUIDELINE. APPS THAT ENABLE ANONYMOUS OR PRANK PHONE CALLS OR SMS/MMS MESSAGING WILL BE REJECTED.
1.2 USER-GENERATED CONTENT:

Apps with user-generated content present particular challenges, ranging from intellectual property infringement to anonymous bullying.

To prevent abuse, apps with user-generated content or social networking services must include:

- A method for filtering objectionable material from being posted to the app.
- A mechanism to report offensive content and timely responses to concerns.
- The ability to block abusive users from the service.
- Published contact information so users can easily reach you.

Apps with user-generated content or services that end up being used primarily for pornographic content, objectification of real people (e.g. “hot-or-not” voting), making physical threats, or bullying do not belong on the app store and may be removed without notice.

If your app includes user-generated content from a web-based service, it may display incidental mature “NSFW” content, provided that the content is hidden by default and only displayed when the user turns it on via your website.
1.3 Kids Category:

The Kids Category is a great way for people to easily find apps that are appropriate for children.

Apps in the Kids Category may not include behavioral advertising (e.g., the advertiser may not serve ads based on the user's activity), and any contextual ads must be appropriate for young audiences.

If you want to participate in the Kids Category, you should focus on creating a great experience specifically for younger users.

Keep in mind that once customers expect your app to follow the Kids Category requirements, it will need to continue to meet these guidelines in subsequent updates, even if you decide to deselect the category.

You should also pay particular attention to privacy laws around the world relating to the collection of data from children online.

These apps must not include links out of the app, purchasing opportunities, or other distractions to kids unless reserved for a designated area behind a parental gate.

Be sure to review the privacy section of these guidelines for more information.
1.4 PHYSICAL HARM:

If your app behaves in a way that risks physical harm, we may reject it. For example:

1.4 (a) Medical apps that could provide inaccurate data or information, or that could be used for diagnosing or treating patients may be reviewed with greater scrutiny.

If your medical app has received regulatory clearance, please submit a link to that documentation with your app.

1.4 (b) Drug dosage calculators must come from the drug manufacturer, a hospital, university, health insurance company, or other approved entity, or receive approval by the FDA or one of its international counterparts. Given the potential harm to patients, we need to be sure that the app will be supported and updated over the long term.

1.4 (c) Apps should not encourage illegal or excessive consumption of drugs or alcohol; encourage minors to consume drugs, alcohol, or tobacco; and facilitating the sale of marijuana isn’t allowed.
1.4 (d) Apps may only display
DUI checkpoints that
are published by law
enforcement agencies,
and should never
encourage drunk driving
or other reckless
behavior such as
excessive speed.

1.4 (e) Apps should not urge
customers to use their devic-
es in a way that contradicts
safety documentation for
Apple hardware, risking damage
to the device or physical harm
to people. For example, apps
should not encourage placing
the device under a mattress
or pillow while charging.

1.5 Developer information:

People need to know how
to reach you with ques-
tions and support issues.

Make sure your support URL in-
cludes an easy
way to reach you.

Failure to include accurate and up-
to-date contact information not
only frustrates customers, but may
violate the law in some countries.

Also ensure that wallet passes
include valid contact information
from the issuer and are signed
with a dedicated certificate as-
signed to the brand or trademark
owner of the pass.
SUBMISSIONS TO APP REVIEW SHOULD BE FINAL VERSIONS WITH ALL NECESSARY META-DATA AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL URLs INCLUDED; PLACEHOLDER TEXT, EMPTY WEBSITES, AND OTHER TEMPORARY CONTENT SHOULD BE SCRUBBED BEFORE SUBMISSION.
2.2 Beta Testing:

- Demos, betas, and trial versions of your app don't belong on the App Store—use Testflight instead.

- Any app submitted for beta distribution via Testflight should be intended for public distribution and should comply with the App Review Guidelines.

- Make sure your app has been tested on-device for bugs and stability before you submit it, and include demo account info (and turn on your back-end service) if your app includes a login.

- If you offer in-app purchases in your app, make sure they are complete, up-to-date, and visible to the reviewer, or that you explain why not in your review notes. Please don't treat App Review as a software testing service. We will reject incomplete app bundles and binaries that crash or exhibit obvious technical problems.

Note, however, that apps using Testflight cannot be distributed to testers in exchange for compensation of any kind, including as a reward for crowd-sourced funding.

Significant updates to your beta build should be submitted to Testflight app review before being distributed to your testers.
2.3 ACCURATE METADATA:

Customers should know what they're getting when they download or buy your app, so make sure your app description, screenshots, and previews accurately reflect the app's core experience and remember to keep them up-to-date with new versions.

2.3 (A) Don’t include any hidden or undocumented features in your app; your app’s functionality should be clear to end-users and app review. Egregious or repeated behavior is grounds for removal from the developer program. We work hard to make the app store a trustworthy ecosystem and expect our app developers to follow suit; if you’re dishonest, we don’t want to do business with you.

2.3 (B) If your app includes in-app purchases, make sure your app description, screenshots, and previews clearly indicate whether any featured items, levels, subscriptions, etc. require additional purchases.

2.3 (C) Screenshots should show the app in use, and not merely the title art, log-in page, or splash screen.

2.3 (D) Previews are a great way for customers to see what your app looks like and what it does.

To ensure people understand what they’ll be getting with your app, previews may only use video screen captures of the app itself. You can add narration and video or textual overlays to help explain anything that isn’t clear from the video alone.
2.3 (e) Select the most appropriate category for your app, and check out the app store category definitions if you need help. If you’re way off base, we may change the category for you.

2.3 (f) Answer the age rating questions in iTunes Connect honestly so that your app aligns properly with parental controls. If your app is mis-rated, customers might be surprised by what they get, or it could trigger an inquiry from government regulators.

2.3 (g) Choose a unique app name, assign keywords that accurately describe your app, and don’t try to pack any of your metadata with trademarked terms, popular app names, or other irrelevant phrases just to game the system. Apple may modify inappropriate keywords at any time.

2.3 (i) Metadata should be appropriate for all audiences. So make sure your icons, screenshots, and previews adhere to a 4+ age rating even if your app is rated higher. For example, if your app is a game that includes violence, select images that don’t depict a gruesome death or a gun pointed at a specific character. Remember to ensure your metadata, including app name and icons (small, large, Apple Watch app, etc.), are similar to avoid creating confusion.

2.3 (j) You are responsible for securing the rights to use all materials in your app icons, screenshots, and previews, and you should display fictional account information instead of data from a real person.

2.3 (j) Make sure your app is focused on the iOS, Mac, Apple TV or Apple Watch experience.

And don’t include names, icons, or imagery of other mobile platforms in your app or metadata, unless there is specific, approved interactive functionality.
2.4 HARDWARE COMPATIBILITY:

2.4 (a) To ensure people get the most out of your app, iPhone apps should run on iPad whenever possible. We encourage you to consider building universal apps so customers can use them on all of their devices.

2.4 (b) Design your app to use power efficiently. Apps should not rapidly drain battery, generate excessive heat, or put unnecessary strain on device resources.

2.4 (c) People should be able to use your Apple TV app without the need for hardware inputs beyond the Siri remote or third party game controllers, but feel free to provide enhanced functionality when other peripherals are connected.

2.4 (d) Apps should never suggest or require a restart of the device.

2.5 SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:

2.5 (a) Apps may only use public APIs.

2.5 (b) Apps should be self-contained in their bundles, and may not read or write data outside the designated container area.

Nor may they download, install, or execute code, including other iOS, watchOS, macOS X, or tvOS apps.
2.5 (c) Apps that transmit viruses, files, computer code, or programs that may harm or disrupt the normal operation of the operating system and/or hardware features, including push notifications and game center, will be rejected. Egregious violations and repeat behavior will result in removal from the developer program.

2.5 (d) Multitasking apps may only use background services for their intended purposes: VoIP, audio playback, location, task completion, local notifications, etc. If your app uses location background mode, include a reminder that doing so may dramatically decrease battery life.

2.5 (e) We will be reviewing on an IPv6 network, so if your app isn’t compatible with the IPv6 addressing, it may fail during review.

2.5 (f) Apps that browse the web must use the appropriate webkit framework and webkit javascript.

2.5 (g) Video streaming content over a cellular network longer than 10 minutes must use HTTP live streaming and include a baseline 192 KBPS HTTP live stream.

2.5 (h) Apps that create alternate desktop/home screen environments or simulate multi-app widget experiences will be rejected.

2.5 (i) Apps that alter the functions of standard switches, such as the volume up/down and ring/silent switches, or other native user interface elements or behaviors will be rejected.

2.5 (j) Apps should not be submitted with empty ad banners or test advertisements.
There are many ways to monetize your app on the App Store. If your business model isn’t obvious, make sure to explain in its metadata and app review notes.

If we can’t understand how your app works or your in-app purchases aren’t immediately obvious, it will delay your review and may trigger a rejection.

And while pricing is up to you, we won’t distribute apps and in-app purchase items that are clear rip-offs. We’ll reject expensive apps that try to cheat users with irrationally high prices.

If we find that you have attempted to manipulate reviews, inflate your chart rankings with paid, incentivized, filtered, or fake feedback,

or engage with third party services to do so on your behalf,

we will take steps to preserve the integrity of the App Store, which may include expelling you from the developer program.
3.1 Payments:

3.1 (a) In-App Purchase:

If you want to unlock features or functionality within your app, (by way of example: subscriptions, in-game currencies, game levels, access to premium content, or unlocking a full version), you must use in-app purchase. Apps may not include buttons, external links, or other calls to action that direct customers to purchasing mechanisms other than IAP.

Any credits or in-game currencies purchased via IAP must be consumed within the app and may not expire, and you should make sure you have a restore mechanism for any restorable in-app purchases. Please remember to assign the correct purchasability type or your app will be rejected. Apps should not directly or indirectly enable gifting of IAP content, features, or consumable items to others.

3.1 (b) Subscriptions:

Auto-renewing subscriptions should only be offered using in-app purchase and may only be used for...

...periodicals (e.g., newspapers, magazines), business apps (e.g., enterprise, productivity, professional creative, cloud storage), media apps (e.g., video, audio, voice, photo sharing), and other approved services (e.g., dating, dieting, weather).

These subscriptions must last a minimum of 7 days...

...and be accessible from all of the user’s devices where the app is available.

You may offer subscriptions that are shared across your own apps, but these subscriptions may not extend to third party apps or services.
3.1 (C) CONTENT-BASED "READER" APPS:

Apps may allow a user to access previously purchased content or subscriptions (specifically: magazines, newspapers, books, audio, music, video, access to professional databases, VoIP, cloud storage, and approved services such as educational apps that manage student grades and schedules), provided the app does not direct users to a purchasing mechanism other than IAP.

3.1 (D) CONTENT CODES:

Apps may not use their own mechanisms to unlock content or functionality, such as license keys, augmented reality markers, QR codes, etc.

In limited circumstances, such as when features are dependent upon specific hardware to function, the app may unlock that functionality without using in-app purchase.

3.1 (E) PHYSICAL GOODS AND SERVICES OUTSIDE OF THE APP:

If your app enables people to purchase goods or services that will be consumed outside of the app, you must use purchase methods other than IAP to collect those payments, such as Apple Pay or traditional credit card entry.

Apps may facilitate transmission of approved virtual currencies (e.g., Bitcoin, Dogecoin).

(e.g., an astronomy app that adds features when synced with a telescope), app features that work in combination with an approved physical product (such as a toy).

...on an optional basis may unlock functionality without using IAP provided that an IAP option is available as well.

You may not, however, require users to purchase unrelated products or engage in advertising or marketing activities to unlock app functionality.

Provided that they do so in compliance with all state and federal laws for the territories in which the app functions.
Apps using Apple Pay must provide all material purchase information to the user prior to sale of any good or service and must use Apple Pay branding and user interface elements correctly, as described in the Apple Pay Identity Guidelines and Human Interface Guidelines.

Apps using Apple Pay to offer recurring payments must, at a minimum, disclose the following information:

- The length of the renewal term and the fact that it will continue until canceled;
- What will be provided during each period;
- The actual charges that will be billed to the customer; and

How to cancel.
3.2 OTHER BUSINESS MODEL ISSUES:

The lists below are not exhaustive, and your submission may trigger a change or update to our policies, but here are some additional do’s and don’ts to keep in mind:

3.2 (A) ACCEPTABLE:

(i) Displaying your own apps for purchase or promotion within your app, provided the app is not merely a catalog of your apps.

(ii) Displaying or recommending a collection of third-party apps that are designed for a specific approved need (e.g., health management, aviation, accessibility). Your app should provide robust editorial content so that it doesn’t seem like a mere storefront.

(iii) Disabling access to specific approved rental content (e.g., films, television programs, music, books) after the rental period has expired; all other items and services may not expire.

(iv) Wallet passes can be used to make or receive payments, transmit offers, or offer identification (such as movie tickets, coupons, and VIP credentials). Other uses may result in the rejection of the app and the revocation of wallet credentials.

(v) Insurance apps must be free, in legal compliance in the regions distributed, and cannot use IAP.
3.2 (B) UNACCEPTABLE:

(i) Creating an interface for displaying third party apps, extensions, or plug-ins similar to the App store or as a general-interest collection.

(ii) Monetizing built-in capabilities provided by the hardware or operating system, such as push notifications, the camera, or the gyroscope, or Apple services, such as Apple Music access or iCloud storage.

(iii) Artificially increasing the number of impressions or click-throughs of ads, as well as apps that are designed predominantly for the display of ads.

(iv) Collecting funds within the app for charities and fundraisers.

(v) Arbitrarily restricting who may use the app, such as by location or carrier.

Apps that seek to raise money for such causes must be free on the App store and may only collect funds outside of the app, such as via Safari or SMS.
APPLE CUSTOMERS PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON PRODUCTS THAT ARE SIMPLE, REFINED, INNOVATIVE, AND EASY TO USE, AND THAT’S WHAT WE WANT TO SEE ON THE APP STORE. COMING UP WITH A GREAT DESIGN IS UP TO YOU, BUT THE FOLLOWING ARE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL TO THE APP STORE.
4.1 COPYCATS:

Come up with your own ideas. We know you have them, so make yours come to life. Don’t simply copy the latest popular app on the App Store, or...

...make some minor changes to another app’s name or UI and pass it off as your own. In addition to risking an intellectual property infringement claim...

It makes the App Store harder to navigate and just isn’t fair to your fellow developers.

4.2 MINIMUM FUNCTIONALITY:

Your app should include features, content, and UI that elevate it beyond a repackaged website. If your app is not particularly useful, unique, or “app-like,” it doesn’t belong on the App Store.

If your app doesn’t provide some sort of lasting entertainment value, or if it’s just plain creepy, it may not be accepted.

Apps that are simply a song or movie should be submitted to the iTunes Store. Apps that are simply a book or game guide should be submitted to the iBooks Store.
4.2(a) Apps should use APIs and frameworks for their intended purposes and indicate that integration in their app description.

For example, the Homekit framework should provide home automation services, and Healthkit should be used for health and fitness purposes and integrate with the health app.

4.2(b) Other than catalogs, which have a dedicated category, apps shouldn’t primarily be marketing materials, advertisements, web clippings, content aggregators, or a collection of links.

4.2(c) Your app should work on its own without requiring installation of another app to function.

4.2(d) Apple Watch apps that appear to be a watch face are confusing, because people will expect them to work with device features such as swipes, notifications, and third party complications.

Creative ways of expressing time as an app interface is great (say, a tide clock for surfers), but if your app comes too close to resembling a watch face, we will reject it.

4.2(e) Apps that are primarily (cloud and iCloud drive file managers need to include additional app functionality to be approved.
4.3 SPAM:

Don't create multiple bundle IDs of the same app. If your app has different versions for specific locations, sports teams, universities, etc., consider submitting a single app and provide the variations using in-app purchase.

Also avoid piling on to a category that is already saturated.

The app store has enough fart, burp, flashlight, and kama sutra apps already.

4.4 EXTENSIONS:

Apps hosting or containing extensions must comply with the app extension programming guide and should include some functionality, such as help screens and settings interfaces where possible.

Extension views should not include marketing, advertising, or in-app purchases.

Spamming the store may lead to your removal from the developer program.
KEYBOARD EXTENSIONS HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL RULES. THEY MUST:

- PROVIDE KEYBOARD INPUT FUNCTIONALITY (E.g., Typed characters).
- PROVIDE A METHOD FOR PROGRESSING TO THE NEXT KEYBOARD.
- REMAIN FUNCTIONAL WITHOUT FULL NETWORK ACCESS.
- PROVIDE NUMBER AND DECIMAL KEYBOARD TYPES AS DESCRIBED IN THE APP EXTENSION PROGRAMMING GUIDE.
- HAVE A PRIMARY CATEGORY OF UTILITIES WHEN THE KEYBOARD IS THE MAIN POINT OF THE APP, AND...
- COLLECT USER ACTIVITY ONLY TO ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE USER'S KEYBOARD EXTENSION ON THE DEVICE.
4.5 APPLE SITES AND SERVICES:

4.5(a) Apps may use approved Apple RSS feeds such as the iTunes store RSS feed, but may not scrape any information from Apple sites (e.g., apple.com, the iTunes store, App Store, iTunes Connect, developer portal, etc.) or create rankings using this information.

4.5(b) The Apple Music API lets customers access their subscription while using your app. Users must initiate the stream and be able to navigate playback using standard media controls such as “play,” “pause,” and “skip.” Apps may not automate these actions. Moreover, your app may not require payment or indirectly monetize access to the Apple Music service (e.g., in-app purchase, advertising, requesting user info).

4.5(c) Do not use Apple Services to spam, phishing, or send unsolicited messages to customers, including Game Center, push notifications, etc.

4.5(d) Push notifications must not be required for the app to function and should not be used for advertising, promotions, or direct marketing purposes.

4.5(e) Only use Game Center player IDs in a manner approved by the Game Center terms and do not display them in the app or to any third party.

...or to send sensitive personal or confidential information.

END.
Apps must comply with all legal requirements in any location where you make them available (if you're not sure, check with a lawyer). We know this stuff is complicated, but it is your responsibility to understand and make sure your app conforms with all local laws, not just the guidelines below. And of course, apps that solicit, promote, or encourage criminal or clearly reckless behavior will be rejected.
5.1 PRIVACY:

PROTECTING USER PRIVACY IS PARAMOUNT IN THE APPLE ECOSYSTEM, AND YOU SHOULD USE CARE WHEN HANDLING PERSONAL DATA TO ENSURE YOU’VE COMPLIED WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND THE TERMS OF THE APPLE DEVELOPER PROGRAM LICENSE AGREEMENT, NOT TO MENTION CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS, MORE PARTICULARLY:

5.1 (a) DATA COLLECTION & STORAGE:

(i) Apps that collect user data must have a privacy policy and secure user consent for the collection. This includes—but isn’t limited to—apps that implement HealthKit or other health/medical technologies, HomeKit, keyboard extensions, Apple Pay, include a log-in, or access user data from the device (e.g., location, contacts, calendar, etc.).

(ii) If your app doesn’t include significant account-based features, let people use it without a log-in.

Apps may not require users to enter personal information to function, except when directly relevant to the core functionality of the app or required by law.

(iii) Developers that use their apps to surreptitiously discover passwords or other private data will be removed from the developer program.
5. (B) DATA USE & SHARING:

(I) Apps cannot use or transmit someone’s personal data without first obtaining their permission and providing access to information about how and where the data will be used.

(II) Data collected from apps may not be used or shared with third parties for purposes unrelated...

...to improving the user experience or software/hardware performance connected to the app’s functionality, or to serve advertising in compliance with the Apple developer program license agreement.

(III) Data gathered from the HomeKit API may not be used for advertising or other use-based data mining.

(IV) Apps using Apple Pay may only share user data acquired via Apple Pay with third parties to facilitate or improve delivery of goods and services.
5. (c) Health and Health Research:

Health, fitness, and medical data are especially sensitive and apps in this space have some additional rules to make sure customer privacy is protected:

- Apps may not use or disclose to third parties data gathered in the health, fitness, and medical research context—excluding from the HealthKit API, motion and fitness, or health-related human subject research—for advertising or other use-based data mining purposes other than improving health management, or for the purpose of health research, and then only with permission.

- Apps must not write false or inaccurate data into HealthKit or any other medical research or health management apps, and may not store personal health information in the cloud.

- Procedures, risks, and benefits to the participant;

- Information about confidentiality and handling of data (including any sharing with third parties);

- A point of contact for participant questions; and...

- The withdrawal process.

- Apps conducting health-related human subject research must obtain consent from participants or, in the case of minors, their parent or guardian. Such consent must include the...

- Nature, purpose, and duration of the research;

- Apps conducting health-related human subject research must secure approval from an independent ethics review board. Proof of such approval must be provided upon request.
5.(d) Kids: For many reasons, it is critical to use care when dealing with personal data from kids, and we encourage you to carefully review all the requirements for complying with laws like the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (“COPPA”) and any international equivalents.

Apps may ask for birthdate and parental contact information only for the purpose of complying with these statutes, but must include some useful functionality or entertainment value regardless of a person’s age.

Moreover, apps in the kids category or those that collect, transmit, or have the capability to share personal information (e.g., name, address, email, location, photos, videos, drawings, the ability to chat, other personal data, or persistent identifiers used in combination with any of the above)...

...from a minor must include a privacy policy and must comply with all applicable children’s privacy statutes. For the sake of clarity, the parental gate requirement for the kids category is generally not the same as securing parental consent to collect personal data under these privacy statutes.

5.(e) Location Services: Use location services in your app only when it is directly relevant to the features and services provided by the app.
LOCATION-BASED APIs shouldn’t be used to provide emergency services or autonomous control over vehicles, aircraft, and other devices, except for small devices such as lightweight drones and toys, or remote control car alarm systems, etc.

Ensure that you notify users and obtain consent before collecting, transmitting, or using location data.

If your app uses background location services, be sure to explain the purpose in your app; refer to the human interface guidelines for best practices on doing so.

Make sure your app only includes content that you created or that you have a license to use.

Your app may be removed if you’ve stepped over the line and used content without permission. Of course, this also means someone else’s app may be removed if they’ve “borrowed” from your work.

5.2 Intellectual Property:
Laws differ in different countries, but at the very least, make sure to avoid the following common errors:

5.2 (a) Audio/Video downloading: Apps should not facilitate illegal file sharing or include the ability to save or download media from third party sources (e.g., Apple Music, YouTube, SoundCloud, Vimeo, etc.) without explicit authorization from those sources.

5.2 (b) Third party sites/services: If your app uses, accesses, monetizes access to, or displays content from a third party service, ensure that you are specifically permitted to do so under the service’s terms of use. Authorization must be provided upon request.

5.2 (c) Apple Endorsements: Don’t suggest or infer that Apple is a source or supplier of the app, or that Apple endorses any particular representation regarding quality or functionality. If your app is selected as an “Editor’s Choice,” Apple will apply the badge automatically.

5.2 (d) Apple products: Don’t create an app that appears confusingly similar to an existing Apple product, interface, app (such as the App Store, iTunes Store, or Books Store) or advertising theme, and don’t misspell Apple product names (i.e., GPS for iFone, itUnz). iTunes music previews may not be used for their entertainment value (e.g., as the background music to a photo collage or the soundtrack to a game) or in any other unauthorized manner.

If your app displays activity rings, do not modify the look and feel of the rings themselves or the data they represent.
5.3 GAMBLING, GAMING, AND LOTTERIES:

GAMBLING, GAMING, AND LOTTERIES CAN BE TRICKY TO MANAGE AND TEND TO BE ONE OF THE MOST REGULATED OFFERINGS ON THE APP STORE.

ONLY INCLUDE THIS FUNCTIONALITY IF YOU’VE FULLY VETTED YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS EVERYWHERE YOU MAKE YOUR APP AVAILABLE AND ARE PREPARED FOR EXTRA TIME DURING THE REVIEW PROCESS.

SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

5.3 (A) SWEEPSTAKES AND CONTESTS MUST BE SPONSORED BY THE DEVELOPER OF THE APP.

5.3 (B) OFFICIAL RULES FOR SWEEPSTAKES, CONTESTS, AND RAFFLES MUST BE PRESENTED IN THE APP AND MAKE CLEAR THAT APPLE IS NOT A SPONSOR OR INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITY IN ANY MANNER.

5.3 (C) APPS MAY NOT USE IAP TO PURCHASE CREDIT OR CURRENCY FOR USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH REAL MONEY GAMING OF ANY KIND, AND MAY NOT ENABLE PEOPLE TO PURCHASE LOTTERY OR RAFFLE TICKETS OR INITIATE FUND TRANSFERS IN THE APP.

5.3 (D) APPS THAT OFFER REAL MONEY GAMING (E.G. SPORTS BETTING, POKER, CASINO GAMES, HORSE RACING) OR LOTTERIES MUST HAVE NECESSARY LICENSING AND PERMISSIONS IN THE LOCATIONS WHERE THE APP IS USED, MUST BE GEO-RESTRICTED TO THOSE LOCATIONS, AND MUST BE FREE ON THE APP STORE.

ILLEGAL GAMBLING AIDS, INCLUDING CARD COUNTERS, ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE APP STORE. LOTTERY APPS MUST HAVE CONSIDERATION, CHANCE, AND A PRIZE.