

MERLIN Mentoring Service

Rules for Participating Entrepreneurs

All entrepreneurs and members of entrepreneurial teams who participate in the MERLIN program should understand and are expected to abide by the following basic rules and principles:

1. MERLIN entrepreneurs are expected to commit to a sustained relationship with MERLIN, and to be professional, open, and responsive to the volunteer mentors who work with them. It is expected that the entrepreneur will be in meaningful contact with the MERLIN mentor system at a minimum of once every two weeks and face to face meetings at least once per two months. Entrepreneurs should give a progress report to MERLIN once per month. During crucial times, contact may be daily and after mutual "graduation", contact may drop to quarterly reviews. In addition, there must be mutual agreement that the relationship between the entrepreneur and MERLIN is beneficial.
2. MERLIN entrepreneurs are responsible for providing MERLIN, to the best of their ability, with accurate information regarding their venture, and for identifying any current or potential claims on, or liabilities of, their business. All identified proprietary information provided by entrepreneurs will be maintained in strict confidence by MERLIN.
3. All applicants for MERLIN services must complete and sign a MERLIN Application Form for Mentoring Services, Acknowledgements and Waiver of Liability.
4. A lead mentor will be assigned to each MERLIN entrepreneur or entrepreneurial team to arrange and oversee mentor assignments and to monitor the mentoring process. MERLIN entrepreneurs are expected to notify the MERLIN Operations Manager promptly to describe any problems or changes in their mentor relationships, or to request replacement of a mentor or to gain assignment of additional mentors.
5. Prospective MERLIN entrepreneurs should understand that any MERLIN mentor who enters into a financial, equity or compensated business relationship with a MERLIN venture or entrepreneur must resign his or her position as mentor to the entrepreneur and/or venture involved. This resignation and proposed financial, equity or compensated business relationship must be submitted to the MERLIN Director and Operations Manager. In such cases, the Director will notify the entrepreneur and assign a new mentor as appropriate.
6. With MERLIN permission, entrepreneurs may include the MERLIN name in their written business plan or company description, or mention MERLIN in their written fund raising presentations. Names of individual MERLIN mentors may be used if permission is given by the individual mentor.
7. MERLIN Management reserve the right to disassociate from any entrepreneur who fails to comply with rules of the organization, does not act in accordance with MERLIN principles or fails to keep up the sustained relationship as outlined in (1) above.

