

Sudoku-U End User License and Account Agreement

Version 1.0

Effective: *August 25, 2026*

This End User License and Account Agreement (“Agreement”) governs use of Sudoku-U, an educational puzzle platform operated by **STEAM Education Research Group, LLC** (“**STEAMER**”).

By creating a Sudoku-U account and selecting “**I agree**,” you agree to this Agreement. If you do not agree, do not create or use a Sudoku-U account.

1. About Sudoku-U

Sudoku-U is an educational platform for creating, submitting, reviewing, rating, revising, organizing, searching, and, when separately authorized, publishing puzzles.

Sudoku-U is currently under active development and may include beta features. Features, interfaces, and functionality may change as the platform develops.

2. Eligibility and Accounts

You must provide accurate account information and keep your login credentials secure.

Sudoku-U is not intended for children under 13. You may not create an account if you are under 13.

If you are under 18, your use of Sudoku-U may also be subject to requirements imposed by your parent or guardian, instructor, educational institution, or applicable law.

If you are an unemancipated minor, separate guardian consent is required before publication permission for one of your puzzles can take effect.

You may not impersonate another person, create an account for another person without authorization, or intentionally interfere with another user’s account.

3. Educational and Institutional Use

If you use Sudoku-U as part of a course or other educational program, your instructor and, when appropriate, authorized personnel associated with that instructional use may have access to information reasonably necessary to administer the course or activity, including your submissions, feedback, ratings, revisions, and related activity.

Sudoku-U commonly uses pseudonyms for puzzle construction, feedback, and related activity. A pseudonym reduces the use of real names within the platform but does not guarantee anonymity. In particular, a pseudonym that you also use publicly elsewhere may potentially be associated with you by others.

STEAMER may maintain limited account information necessary to connect an account with a real person for purposes such as course administration, account management, rights and permission management, or compliance with legal obligations.

4. Your Puzzles and Copyright

You retain copyright in puzzles that you create.

Creating, uploading, storing, submitting, reviewing, or revising a puzzle in Sudoku-U does not transfer your copyright to STEAMER.

For purposes of operating Sudoku-U, you grant STEAMER a nonexclusive, royalty-free license to host, store, reproduce, process, display to authorized users, back up, preserve, and technically format a puzzle that you place on the platform.

This operational license permits STEAMER to provide the services you request through Sudoku-U. It does **not**, by itself, authorize STEAMER to publish a private puzzle publicly.

If you remove a private puzzle or close your account, STEAMER may retain copies when reasonably necessary for backup, security, course records, rights documentation, dispute resolution, or legal compliance. Any retained copy remains subject to the limitations in this Agreement.

5. Public Puzzle Publication Is Governed Separately

Permission to make a puzzle public is **not granted merely by creating an account or uploading a puzzle.**

Public publication is governed by Sudoku-U's separate **Publication Permissions** process and any puzzle-specific publication decision recorded in Sudoku-U.

Where co-constructors are listed, all required permissions must be obtained before the puzzle can be approved for publication.

The publication setting and puzzle-specific permission recorded in Sudoku-U are the authoritative record of the constructor's publication preference.

If there is a conflict between this Agreement and a puzzle-specific Publication Permission concerning the right to publish that puzzle, the puzzle-specific Publication Permission controls.

6. Feedback, Ratings, and Other Contributions

You retain any copyright you may have in original written feedback or other copyrightable material that you contribute to Sudoku-U.

By submitting feedback, ratings, comments, reviews, tags, or similar contributions through Sudoku-U, you grant STEAMER a nonexclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to store, reproduce, display to appropriate users, organize, analyze, aggregate, preserve, and otherwise use those contributions as reasonably necessary to:

- operate and administer Sudoku-U;
- provide puzzle review, rating, revision, and publication functionality;
- support instructors and educational use;
- improve the platform and its educational workflows;

- maintain historical records of puzzle development and review;
- generate statistics, averages, and other aggregated measures; and
- create and use de-identified or aggregated information as described below.

This license does not authorize STEAMER to publicly identify you by your legal name as the author of feedback unless you separately authorize that identification or disclosure is otherwise required or permitted by law.

7. Platform Data, Aggregated Information, and De-Identified Records

Sudoku-U creates records associated with use of the platform, which may include puzzle metadata, revision histories, feedback relationships, ratings, average ratings, publication status, timestamps, course or instructional associations, and similar operational information.

STEAMER may use such information as reasonably necessary to operate, secure, maintain, evaluate, and improve Sudoku-U.

STEAMER may also create **aggregated or de-identified information** from platform records when it reasonably determines that the resulting information does not identify an individual.

Subject to applicable law and obligations to participating educational institutions, STEAMER may retain and use properly de-identified or aggregated information for purposes including:

- platform analytics;
- improving Sudoku-U;
- understanding puzzle construction, review, revision, and publication processes;
- evaluating platform functionality;
- developing educational resources;
- business planning; and
- maintaining historical information about the operation and development of Sudoku-U.

STEAMER may retain properly de-identified or aggregated information after an individual's account is closed.

This Agreement does **not** by itself constitute consent to participate in a research study. Research requiring informed consent, institutional approval, or other authorization must be governed separately as applicable.

8. Artificial Intelligence and Model Training

Permission to use Sudoku-U does **not** grant STEAMER permission to use your private puzzles, written feedback, or other original user-created content to train a generative artificial intelligence or machine-learning model.

If STEAMER later wishes to use user-created content for a purpose requiring additional permission, including AI or model training, STEAMER will obtain whatever separate authorization is required before doing so.

This section does not prevent ordinary computational processing necessary to operate Sudoku-U, such as search, indexing, spam or security detection, statistical calculation, or other platform functionality.

9. Acceptable Use

You agree not to:

- upload material that you know you do not have the right to submit;
- falsely claim authorship or construction credit;
- intentionally misrepresent another constructor's contribution;
- interfere with another user's work or account;
- attempt to gain unauthorized access to private puzzles, accounts, or administrative functions;
- use Sudoku-U to harass, threaten, or abuse another person;
- intentionally introduce malicious software or interfere with the operation of the service;
- scrape, systematically download, or reproduce substantial portions of the Sudoku-U archive except through functionality expressly provided or permission expressly granted by STEAMER;
- circumvent permissions, access controls, or publication settings; or
- use Sudoku-U in violation of applicable law.

STEAMER may suspend or terminate access when reasonably necessary to protect users, instructors, constructors, the platform, or the integrity of the puzzle archive.

10. Responsibility for Submitted Material

You are responsible for material you submit to Sudoku-U.

You represent that, to the best of your knowledge, you have the right to submit your own contribution and that doing so does not knowingly violate another person's copyright or other rights.

Submission of another person's copyrighted work does not transfer that person's rights to you or to STEAMER.

If a puzzle has multiple constructors, each constructor remains responsible for granting any permission required for that constructor's own contribution.

11. Public Puzzles and Attribution

When a puzzle has been properly approved for public publication, Sudoku-U may display the constructor pseudonym or pseudonyms recorded for that puzzle in accordance with the applicable Publication Permission.

STEAMER may make routine technical, formatting, preservation, accessibility, or factual-correction changes permitted by the applicable Publication Permission.

Substantive adaptations of publicly licensed puzzles remain subject to the applicable Publication Permission and any additional permission required from the constructor or co-constructors.

12. Privacy and Data Minimization

STEAMER intends to collect and retain only information reasonably useful for operating Sudoku-U, supporting educational use, administering rights and permissions, maintaining security and integrity, and developing the platform.

STEAMER does not sell users' personally identifying information.

Additional information about data collection, retention, access, and use is provided in the Sudoku-U Privacy Notice, which should be read together with this Agreement.

Where Sudoku-U is used through an educational institution, applicable institutional agreements and education-privacy laws may impose additional requirements concerning student information. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to eliminate rights provided by applicable law.

13. Beta Service and Availability

Sudoku-U is currently a developing service.

STEAMER may add, remove, modify, suspend, or discontinue features as the platform evolves.

STEAMER does not guarantee that the service will always be available without interruption or error.

You should retain copies of original work that is important to you. Sudoku-U should not be treated as the sole archival copy of irreplaceable material.

At present, Sudoku-U may be made available without a license fee to beta users. STEAMER may introduce fees or paid services in the future, but no fee will be imposed retroactively for use that was provided without charge.

14. Intellectual Property in Sudoku-U

Except for user-created content and other material owned by third parties, STEAMER owns or licenses the rights in the Sudoku-U platform, including its software, interface, database systems, documentation, branding, and STEAMER-created materials.

Your account gives you a limited, personal, revocable, nonexclusive right to use Sudoku-U in accordance with this Agreement. It does not transfer ownership of Sudoku-U or its underlying software or systems to you.

15. No Guarantee of Publication or Particular Outcome

Submission of a puzzle does not guarantee publication.

Ratings, feedback, instructor decisions, editorial decisions, and publication decisions may involve judgment and may change as the platform and its practices develop.

STEAMER does not guarantee any particular educational result, rating, review outcome, or publication decision.

16. Disclaimer and Limitation of Liability

To the extent permitted by applicable law, Sudoku-U is provided on an “**as is**” and “**as available**” basis during its beta period.

STEAMER does not warrant that Sudoku-U will be uninterrupted, error-free, or suitable for every particular purpose.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, STEAMER will not be liable for indirect, incidental, special, consequential, or punitive damages arising solely from use of or inability to use Sudoku-U.

Nothing in this Agreement excludes or limits liability that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited.

17. Account Suspension, Closure, and Continuing Records

You may stop using Sudoku-U at any time.

STEAMER may suspend or close an account for violation of this Agreement, security concerns, misuse of the platform, or other reasonable operational reasons.

Account closure does not automatically:

- revoke publication permission that has become irrevocable under a separate Publication Permission;
- require deletion of records that STEAMER must or reasonably needs to preserve for legal, educational, rights-management, security, archival, or dispute-resolution purposes; or
- require deletion of properly de-identified or aggregated information.

18. Changes to This Agreement

STEAMER may revise this Agreement as Sudoku-U develops.

The current version and effective date will be made available through Sudoku-U.

If STEAMER makes a material change affecting user rights or obligations, STEAMER may require users to affirmatively accept the revised Agreement before continuing to use the platform.

Acceptance records may be retained to document which version of the Agreement applied to each account.

19. Transfer of the Platform or Business

STEAMER may assign this Agreement, together with applicable rights and obligations, in connection with a merger, reorganization, financing, sale of the Sudoku-U business or assets, or sale of substantially all of STEAMER's relevant business, provided that the successor remains subject to applicable law and the limitations governing the relevant user content and data.

This section does not enlarge the publication rights granted for any individual copyrighted puzzle. Those rights remain governed by the applicable Publication Permission.

20. Governing Law

To the extent permitted by applicable law, this Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of South Carolina, without regard to its conflict-of-laws principles.

This section does not deprive users of rights that applicable law does not permit them to waive.

21. Entire Agreement and Priority of Specific Permissions

This Agreement, together with the Sudoku-U Privacy Notice and any applicable puzzle-specific Publication Permission, governs your use of Sudoku-U.

Where a specific Publication Permission grants or limits rights concerning a particular puzzle, that specific permission controls over a more general provision of this Agreement concerning publication of that puzzle.

If any provision of this Agreement is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions will continue to apply to the extent permitted by law.

22. Contact

Questions about this Agreement, account records, privacy, publication permissions, or Sudoku-U may be directed to:

STEAM Education Research Group, LLC
Sudoku-U

6650 Rivers Ave. Suite 100
Charleston, SC, 29406, USA

Account Acceptance

By selecting **"I agree,"** I confirm that:

- I have had an opportunity to read this Agreement and the Sudoku-U Privacy Notice;
- I understand that puzzle publication requires a separate publication decision;
- I understand that I retain copyright in puzzles I create;
- I understand that my feedback, ratings, and other platform activity may be stored and used as described in this Agreement; and

- I agree to conduct this transaction electronically and to be bound by this Agreement.