

iOS app · Runbooks · pinned from gurbani-soul-ios

Runbook: App Store submission (go / no-go)

🕒 7 min read · Updated 27 October 2026

<https://docs.gurbanisoul.com/ios/process/runbooks/app-store-submission/> · a pinned copy of Algorythmos-AI/gurbani-soul-ios at a386422

Pinned copy. The canonical file is [gurbani-soul-ios/docs/process/runbooks/app-store-submission.md](#)¹ at commit [a386422](#) — edit it there. This wiki publishes it by pin ([ADR-0012](#)); a newer version arrives as a reviewed bump of `docs-site/sources.lock.json`.

The order matters: the web pages must be live before the binary is submitted, and the binary must be an **App Store channel** build. Nothing here is improvised — each step names the command or the file that proves it. Audit and plan: 2026-09-20.

0. What cannot be undone

- There is **no binary rollback on iOS**. A bad release is fixed by a new build ([ios-hotfix](#)).
- The EU trader details (address, phone, email) become **public** once declared.
- The app name can be changed only with a new version once it has been submitted.

1. Machine-checkable gates (an agent or CI closes these)

#	Gate	Proof
M1	The platform release <code>vX.Y.Z</code> is live and this app vendors it	<code>platform: /api/health.commit == the vX.Y.Z tag commit</code> ; here: <code>vendor.lock.json platform ref vX.Y.Z, make gates green</code>
M2	<code>/privacy</code> and <code>/support</code> are live on production and name Gurbani Soul	<code>@smoke</code> specs in the deploy gate; <code>uptime</code> workflow green
M3	Repogates green on the RC commit	<code>make gates</code> (vendored inputs, versions, iOS source/listing/archive gates)
M4	The RC is an App Store channel build from green trunk	<code>make testflight TEAM_ID=... BUILD=N CHANNEL=appstore UPLOAD=1</code> — refuses a dirty tree, an off-trunk commit, red CI, Xcode < 26, or an unsigned Nitnem review
M5	The ledger row is committed	<code>ios/testflight-builds.json</code> has the build with <code>channel: appstore, sdk: iphoneos26.x</code> ; PR merged
M6	This version may be submitted	<code>make appstore-preflight</code> exits 0
M7	Listing text is within limits and true	<code>listing lint</code> (part of M3); paste from <code>docs/ios/app-store-listing.md</code> only
M8	App Store Connect holds exactly the listing doc	<code>make asc-diff</code> prints <code>RESULT: NO DRIFT</code> (GET only; run after pasting and again on submission day)

2. Owner gates (only a person can close these — record name + date in the build log)

#	Gate	Where
H1	Scholar review of the Nitnem non-SGGS text → REVIEWED: true, and NitnemReview.extraTextReviewed = true in the same commit	ios/Resources/NITNEM-REVIEW.md, docs/nitnem/review-pack/
H2	G3 — Granthi / scholar acceptance of the  icon treatment and the default saroop rendering	platform docs/brand/gurbani-soul-brand-book.md ²
H3	G4 — legal / trade-dress clearance; the source edition's publisher noted; the ShabadOS 4.8.7 licence text recorded	brand book; NOTICE.md
H4	CharterS (scripture fidelity) signed on the RC build number	docs/ios/testflight-test-plan.md
H5	Hardware pass on the RC (below)	ios/App/Tests/UI/A11Y_CHECKLIST.md
H6	App Store Connect forms (below)	docs/ios/app-store-listing.md
H7	A monitored support address exists and is the one in the listing	platform support-inbox ³
H8	Rulesets applied so the iOS parity + app checks are required	scripts/gh/apply_rulesets.sh
H9	Submit for review; after approval, Release manually (7-day phased release applies from the first <i>update</i>)	App Store Connect

H5 — hardware pass (signed RC build, real devices)

- ☐ Oldest supported iPhone on iOS 17.x: **first** launch after install — note the seconds spent on “Verifying scripture integrity...” (budget: under 5 s; the app stays responsive throughout).
- ☐ Turn a Nitnem reminder on → the system permission prompt appears → at the chosen time a **banner with sound** arrives; tapping it opens Nitnem.
- ☐ Live Activity: More → turn it on → open a bani, stay 20 s, lock the device → progress shows; tapping the Lock Screen banner returns to that bani; it ends when the bani is left.
- ☐ Reader: scroll down an Ang, swipe to the next, swipe back — is the scroll position kept? (Record the answer; the pager's neighbour handling is untouched pending this check.)
- ☐ Change the accent in Themes, return to the Reader — the open Ang uses the new accent at once.
- ☐ iPad: portrait + landscape, Split View ⅓ and ½, Stage Manager resize.
- ☐ A11Y_CHECKLIST.md: VoiceOver, largest accessibility text size, Reduce Motion, Increase Contrast, Bold Text.
- ☐ Widgets (all three) populate after the first app launch; More → About → Integrity shows “Widget App Group available”.
- ☐ Airplane Mode for the whole session: nothing degrades.

- ☐ Storage almost full: the app launches and reads; saving a verse fails gracefully.

H6 — App Store Connect

Paste from `make asc-sheet` (every field in console order, exactly as the reviewed listing doc says, markdown stripped). When done, `make asc-diff` (with the API key env from CLAUDE.local / the TestFlight command) reads the console — GET only, it never writes — and must print `RESULT: NO DRIFT`. It does not see App Privacy, DSA, Mac/Vision Pro, agreements or the age-rating answers; tick those by hand.

- ☐ Name available; subtitle, promo text, keywords, description pasted from the listing doc.
- ☐ Support / Marketing / Privacy URLs = the “**Submit this**” column (they must resolve today).
- ☐ App Privacy: **Data Not Collected**.
- ☐ Age rating questionnaire → 4+. Read the live form; answer what it asks.
- ☐ **New app record / version:** create the App Store version with the string **exactly matching the binary’s MARKETING_VERSION** (a new app record defaults to 1.0; the build is not selectable until the version string matches). **Submit the build whose version equals the live site** (`/api/meta.version` on `gurbanisoul.com`) — one number everywhere. Confirm with `python3 scripts/release/check_release_complete.py X.Y.Z` in the **sggs-platform** repository (the script lives there) before selecting. Any earlier superseded upload (e.g. a prior patch) is left unsubmitted; Apple expires it. Select the processed build once it leaves “Processing”.
- ☐ **App Information:** Primary category Reference, Secondary Education; Content Rights.
- ☐ Content rights: **Yes, contains third-party content, and I have the rights** (list from the doc).
- ☐ Export compliance: answered by `ITSAAppUsesNonExemptEncryption = false`.
- ☐ EU DSA trader status declared and verified (the contact details become public).
- ☐ Accessibility labels: declare only what H5 proved.
- ☐ Availability: all territories. Price: free. Agreements: nothing pending under Business.
- ☐ **Untick “Make this app available on Mac” and “... on Apple Vision Pro”** — both are ON by default. The app is iPhone/iPad only (`TARGETED_DEVICE_FAMILY "1,2"`) and is never tested on those platforms; a broken Mac/visionOS run is a 2.1 rejection on a surface we never shipped.
- ☐ App Review Information: contact name, **phone**, email; review notes pasted; no sign-in.
- ☐ Screenshots retaken from the RC (`ios/AppStore/README.md` checklist). Mandatory display sizes today: **iPhone 6.9”** and — because the app supports iPad — **iPad 13”**; 6.5” iPhone is optional. **Confirm the live requirement in the upload UI on the day** (Apple changes it).

- ❑ **An update:** App Store Connect will not create version X.Y.Z while the previous version is still “Pending Developer Release” — release (or cancel) that one first. Paste **What’s New** from the sheet; the field exists from the first update on.
- ❑ Version release: **manual**. Phased release: **on for every update**; Apple offers it only for updates, so a first version goes to everyone at once when you press Release. `make asc-diff` reads both back (Version · What's New, Version · Phased release).
- ❑ After approval the version sits at “**Pending Developer Release**” — it is NOT live. Open the version page and press **Release** (for an update this starts the 7-day phased rollout); record the timestamp.

3. Re-check on submission day

`make asc-diff` again (someone may have edited the console since), then: Apple changes these without notice — read <https://developer.apple.com/news/upcoming-requirements/>: minimum Xcode/SDK (and raise `MIN_XCODE_MAJOR` in `ios/tools/testflight_archive.sh` + `MIN_SDK_MAJOR` in `ios/tools/appstore_preflight.py` together), the age-rating questions, whether accessibility labels have become mandatory.

4. If App Review rejects

Read the cited guideline, reply in Resolution Center with the specific evidence (the review notes already explain offline use, location, notifications and the Live Activity). A metadata-only rejection is fixed in App Store Connect and in `docs/ios/app-store-listing.md` **in the same sitting** — the doc and the listing must never diverge. A binary rejection that needs **no source change** (signing, a processing fault) is rebuilt from the same tag with the next build number. One that needs a source change cannot reuse the version: the tag `vX.Y.Z` is immutable and an App Store build must be at it, so the fix ships as `X.Y.(Z+1)` on the platform and here (`ios-hotfix.md`).

5. After release — halt criteria (decided in advance)

For an **update**, pause the phased release (App Store Connect → the version → Pause Phased Release) if any of the criteria below holds. A **first version** has no phased release: its levers are the timing of the manual Release (hold it while anything is in doubt) and, once live, a fixed build with an expedited review ([ios-hotfix](#) step 2). The criteria:

- an integrity-gate false positive in the field (“Scripture integrity check failed” on a clean install);
- a wrong-text report **confirmed against the printed Bir** by a person;
- a crash or hang reported by more than one user on the same screen, or an Organizer crash rate that is clearly above the previous build’s. Then follow [ios-hotfix](#). Weekly during the rollout: Xcode Organizer crashes and hangs → symbolicate with the dSYM UUIDs recorded in the candidate JSON → issue → decide.

Links

1. <https://github.com/Algorythmos-AI/gurbani-soul-ios/blob/a386422e90c2c681f9ecc4f7167b4deb6a35fb92/docs/process/runbooks/app-store-submission.md>
2. <https://github.com/Algorythmos-AI/siggs-platform/blob/main/docs/brand/gurbani-soul-brand-book.md>
3. <https://github.com/Algorythmos-AI/siggs-platform/blob/main/docs/process/runbooks/support-inbox.md>

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