

Founders Agreement Clause Checklist

The clauses every founders' agreement should cover, so the terms between co-founders are on paper before they're ever tested.

Ownership & commitment

- Equity split among founders
- Vesting schedule (commonly 4 years with a 1-year cliff)
- Roles, titles and responsibilities of each founder
- Founder compensation and expense reimbursement policy

Protection & governance

- IP assignment from each founder to the company
- Non-compete and confidentiality obligations
- Decision-making authority and voting rights
- Dilution treatment in future fundraising rounds

If things change

- Exit and share buy-back provisions if a founder leaves
- Dispute resolution mechanism