Rules of Contribution Continuity and Account Deletion

Effective Date: May 1, 2026
Platform: Storyliner.cloud

These rules define how Storyliner.cloud manages projects, publications, contributions, royalties, MasterClass tickets, and reader access when a user deletes their account or leaves the platform.

These rules are based on a strict hierarchy:

1. **Author rights and project control come first.**
2. **Coauthor rights are limited to their own contributions and contractual royalty share while their account remains active.**
3. **Reader purchases remain accessible after purchase, unless removed from the reader's personal library.**
4. **Personal information may be deleted or anonymized without necessarily deleting sold or collaborative content.**

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1. General Principles

1.1 Separation of Personal Information and Content

User personal information and user-generated content are treated separately.

When a user deletes their account, Storyliner may delete or anonymize the user's personal information while retaining certain content where needed for:

- reader access to already purchased publications;
- accounting and royalty records;
- dispute resolution;
- legal compliance;
- preservation of other users' rights.

1.2 Publications and Projects Are Different

Storyliner distinguishes between:

Projects
Editable source works used by authors and coauthors during writing, editing, and development.

Publications
Published books or other released works that are made available for sale or reader access. Publications are treated as fixed commercial items.

1.3 Immediate Removal From Sale

When an author deletes their account, all publications owned by that author are removed from sale immediately.

This does not remove already purchased publications from readers' personal libraries.

1.4 Reader Purchase Continuity

Readers who purchased a publication before the author's account deletion may continue accessing that publication while it remains in their personal library.

If the reader deletes the publication from their personal library, Storyliner is not required to restore access.

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2. Account Deletion by Sole Author

This section applies when a writer account is deleted by a user who is the sole author and has no coauthors.

2.1 Projects

All unpublished projects owned solely by the author are deleted after the applicable cooldown period.

2.2 Publications

All publications are removed from sale immediately.

Readers who purchased the publication before the deletion event keep access while the publication remains in their personal library.

2.3 Unfinished or Draft Publications

If a publication was sold while still unfinished, in draft form, or published during writing, the reader purchased it with accepted risk.

Such purchases are not refundable solely because the author later deleted their account.

2.4 Final Royalty Payout

After 30 days, Storyliner calculates the remaining payable balance owed to the author.

If the remaining balance is equal to or greater than the platform's minimum payout threshold, the amount is transferred to the payout account on record.

The minimum payout threshold is set by Storyliner in admin settings and is based on the practical cost of transferring money, including payment processor fees, banking fees, currency conversion costs, and administrative processing costs.

If the remaining balance is below the minimum payout threshold, it may be treated as an administrative closing balance and forfeited to Storyliner, unless applicable law requires different treatment.

This rule exists because very small transfers may cost as much as, or more than, the amount being transferred.

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3. Account Deletion by Author With Coauthors

This section applies when a writer account is deleted by an author who owns projects or publications involving one or more coauthors.

3.1 Projects

Projects are editable source works and remain under the author's control until deletion.

When the author deletes their account, all related projects enter a cooldown period.

After the cooldown period ends, the original projects are deleted.

3.2 Coauthor Contribution Preservation

Before the deletion of a project involving coauthors, each active coauthor may be offered the option to preserve their own contribution.

When the coauthor next logs in, Storyliner displays a required blocking modal asking whether the coauthor wants to keep their contribution.

The coauthor must choose one of the following:

- **Yes, keep my contribution**
- **No, delete it with the project**

The modal cannot be dismissed by clicking outside the window or otherwise bypassed.

If the coauthor does not respond before the cooldown period ends, the coauthor's contribution is deleted together with the original project.

3.3 If the Coauthor Keeps Their Contribution

If the coauthor chooses to keep their contribution:

1. Storyliner creates a new project copy with a new project ID.
2. The copied project is renamed by adding the coauthor's name and "copy" to the title.
3. The coauthor becomes the full owner of the copied project.
4. All content not contributed by that coauthor is stripped from the copied project.
5. The project structure is preserved only to the extent necessary to retain the coauthor's contributions.
6. Artifacts contributed by the coauthor are preserved.
7. Artifacts or content belonging to the deleted author or other contributors are removed.

The copied project does not transfer ownership of the original author's work to the coauthor.

3.4 If the Coauthor Declines or Does Not Respond

If the coauthor chooses not to keep their contribution, or does not respond before the cooldown period expires, the contribution is permanently deleted with the original project.

3.5 Publications

All publications owned by the deleting author are removed from sale immediately.

Already sold publications remain accessible to readers who purchased them and keep them in their personal library.

3.6 Author Final Payout

After 30 days, Storyliner calculates the remaining payable balance owed to the deleting author.

If the remaining balance is equal to or greater than the platform's minimum payout threshold, the amount is transferred to the author's payout account on record.

The minimum payout threshold is set by Storyliner in admin settings and is based on the practical cost of transferring money, including payment processor fees, banking fees, currency conversion costs, and administrative processing costs.

If the remaining balance is below the minimum payout threshold, it may be treated as an administrative closing balance and forfeited to Storyliner, unless applicable law requires different treatment.

This rule exists because very small transfers may cost as much as, or more than, the amount being transferred.

3.7 Coauthor Royalties After Author Deletion

Coauthors who keep their accounts continue receiving their contractual royalty share from already sold publications.

Coauthor payouts are processed according to the normal payout rules, including:

- hold periods;
- minimum payout thresholds;
- admin payout settings;
- manual withdrawal settings, if available.

No new sales occur after the publication is removed from sale.

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4. Account Deletion by Coauthor

This section applies when a writer account is deleted by a user who is a coauthor on another author’s project or publication.

4.1 Projects

When a coauthor deletes their account, the coauthor leaves the project.

The coauthor’s contribution remains with the author.

Ownership and control of the coauthor’s project contribution pass to the author.

The deleting coauthor loses access to the project.

4.2 Publications

When a coauthor deletes their account, the coauthor’s share of future publication emoluments passes to the author.

The coauthor loses rights to future royalties, revenue shares, or other future emoluments connected to the publication.

Any accrued unpaid balance may be handled according to Storyliner’s payout threshold, closing balance, and account deletion rules.

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5. MasterClass Tickets and Events

This section applies when an author deletes their account and has active or pending MasterClass tickets or events.

5.1 MasterClass Not Yet Started

If a MasterClass event has not yet started:

1. The MasterClass event is canceled.
2. Related tickets are invalidated.
3. Students are refunded.

5.2 MasterClass Started but Still Within Refund Window

If the MasterClass event has already started but remains within the refund window:

1. The event is canceled.
2. Students are refunded.

5.3 MasterClass Started and Refund Window Passed

If the MasterClass event has already started and the refund window has passed:

1. The event is closed.
2. Students are not refunded.
3. Remaining payout handling follows the applicable author payout rules.

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6. Reader Account Deletion

This section applies when a reader account is deleted.

6.1 Personal Library

The reader’s personal library is deleted.

After deletion, Storyliner is not required to restore books, publications, reading history, tickets, or other library items.

6.2 Personal Information

The reader’s personal information is deleted or anonymized according to Storyliner’s privacy rules and applicable law.

6.3 Feedback and Draft Book Comments

Feedback, comments, or draft book responses left by the reader may be anonymized.

The content of feedback may remain where needed for the author’s project history, quality review, or collaboration records, unless removal is legally required.

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7. GuestBook Messages and Similar Contributions

If a user deletes their account after leaving messages, comments, or similar contributions on another user’s GuestBook or content area:

1. The message may remain visible to the recipient.
2. Attribution is anonymized as “Deleted user” or a similar label.
3. If the message contains personal information, Storyliner may redact or remove that information.

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8. Royalties, Balances, and Closing Payments

8.1 Minimum Payout Threshold

Storyliner defines a minimum payout threshold in admin settings.

The threshold is based on the practical cost of transferring money, including payment processor fees, banking fees, currency conversion costs, and administrative processing costs.

The purpose of the threshold is to avoid processing transfers where the cost of the transfer would be equal to, or greater than, the amount being transferred.

Balances below the threshold after account closure may be treated as administrative closing balances and forfeited to Storyliner, unless applicable law requires a different treatment.

8.2 Final Payment Timing

Unless otherwise stated, final payable balances are calculated after 30 days from the account deletion event.

8.3 Active Coauthors

Active coauthors continue to receive their contractual share from qualifying already sold publications according to normal payout rules.

8.4 Deleted Coauthors

A coauthor who deletes their account forfeits future emoluments connected to the author's project or publication.

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9. Personal Information and Anonymization

Storyliner may anonymize deleted users in system and public views using labels such as:

- "Deleted user"
- "Former contributor"
- "Deleted author"
- "Deleted coauthor"

Anonymization does not necessarily delete content, sales records, royalty records, project history, or reader access rights where retention is necessary.

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10. Disputes

Storyliner enforces the platform's recorded project settings, publication settings, contracts, payout rules, and account deletion rules.

Disputes between authors and coauthors regarding ownership, copyright, contribution value, or private agreements must be resolved directly between the parties unless Storyliner is legally required to act.

Storyliner may suspend, restrict, or preserve content where necessary for legal compliance, fraud prevention, dispute handling, or platform safety.

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11. Policy Updates

Storyliner may update these rules to reflect legal, technical, operational, or platform changes.

Users will be notified of material changes where required by law or platform policy.

Internal Review Notes

The following points should be reviewed before publication or incorporation into Terms of Service:

1. **Below-threshold forfeiture to platform**
   Some jurisdictions may treat unpaid royalties as money owed or unclaimed property.

2. **Coauthor loses future emoluments after deleting account**
   This should be clearly accepted in Terms of Service and collaboration agreements before the coauthor contributes.

3. **Coauthor contribution passes to author on account deletion**
   This should be backed by an explicit platform license or assignment clause accepted before collaboration.

4. **Unfinished publication is non-refundable**
   This should be disclosed to readers at purchase time, not only in this policy.