

NATIONAL PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

By the Portuguese Puzzle Association – APPZ

- **Date:** April 25 and 26, 2026
- **Venue:** Panorama – Alcobaça Multi-Purpose Center

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

TIME	CATEGORY	PIECES	PRICE
APRIL 25, 2026, SATURDAY			
9h30 - 11h30 (2h)	Pairs Semifinal A and B (2 persons)	500pc	24€ (Pair)
13h00 - 15h00 (2h)	Individual Semifinal A (13+ years)	500pc	17€
15h30 - 17h30 (2h)	Individual Semifinal B (13+ years)	500pc	17€
15h30 - 17h30 (2h)	Children (8 to 12 years old)	200pc	10€
Awards Ceremony – Children’s Category			
18h30 - 20h30 (2h)	Teams Semifinal A and B (3 to 4 persons)	1000pc	38€ (Team)
APRIL 26, 2026, SUNDAY			
10h00 - 11h45 (1h45)	Individual Final (13+ years)	500pc	
Awards Ceremony			
13h00 - 14h30 (1h30)	Pairs Final (2 persons)	500pc	
Awards Ceremony			
15h30 - 17h30 (2h)	Teams Final (3 a 4 persons)	1000pc	
Awards Ceremony			



National Puzzle Championship 2026 – Regulations

1 – THE TOURNAMENT

The **3rd National Puzzle Championship**, organized by APPZ, will take place in person on April 25 and 26, 2026, at Panorama – Multiusos de Alcobaça. The event is sponsored by Ravensburger and is organized in partnership with the Municipality of Alcobaça and the World Jigsaw Puzzle Federation, represented by Alfonso Álvarez-Ossorio.

The championship is open to all individuals over 8 years old, of any nationality. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

As this is a national championship, specific rules apply regarding the awarding of prizes, the podium positions, and the recognition of national records, which are fully explained in point 4 of these regulations.

There will be four events: one for children aged 8 to 12 (inclusive) and three for teens and adults aged 13 and above. The objective is to assemble as many pieces as possible in the shortest time within the allotted period for each event.

Anyone may watch the events **free of charge**.

Any questions not addressed in the conditions below should be sent by email to **associacaoportuguesadepuzzles@gmail.com**, including your name, contact information (email address or phone number), and the question you wish to ask.

2 – THE EVENTS

As part of the championship, four events will take place. In each event, new puzzles will be provided, identical for all participants, and these will remain the property of the competitors. The events will be held according to the following schedule, including times, number of pieces, and registration fees:

Children’s Individual Event – Ages 8 to 12 (inclusive)

- Registration: €10
- 200 pieces | Saturday: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- For the purposes of participation in this category, age is considered based on the current calendar year. *For example, a child who is 7 years old on the date of the event, but will turn 8 by December of that year, may participate in the event.*
- Participants must assemble a 200-piece puzzle within a time limit of 120 minutes. If they do not complete the puzzle within this period, the number of correctly placed pieces will be used for ranking purposes. Groups of three or more correctly connected pieces will be counted.

Adults Individual Events – Participants aged 13 and over (inclusive)

- Registration: 17€
- 500 pieces | Saturday: - SFA: 13h00 PM – 15h00 PM/ SFB: 15h30 PM - 17h30 PM
Sunday: - FINAL: 10h AM - 11h45 AM
- Participants must assemble a 500-piece puzzle, with a time limit of 120 minutes in the semifinals and 105 minutes in the finals. If they do not complete the puzzle within this period, the number of correctly placed pieces will be used for ranking purposes. Groups of three or more correctly connected pieces will be counted.
- For the championship final, between 50% and 75% of the participants from each semifinal qualify (depending on the number of participants). Since this is a national championship, at least 75% of the participants advancing to the final stage must be of Portuguese nationality. *For example, in the case of a total of 100 participants, considering the 50 who qualify based on their times, at least 38 must be of Portuguese*

nationality, with the remaining participants being either Portuguese or of another nationality. If, based on the times, only 30 Portuguese participants and 20 participants of other nationalities initially qualify, an additional 8 Portuguese participants will be selected according to their times, resulting in only 12 participants of other nationalities advancing to the final.

Pairs Event – Consists of two participants, with at least one being over 13 years old and the other having a minimum age of 8 years. *Examples of valid pairings include: one participant aged 13 with another aged 25; two participants aged 13; two participants aged 30; or one participant aged 8 with another aged 13.*

- Registration: 24€
- 500 pieces | Saturday - SFA and SFB: 09h30 AN – 11h30 AM
Sunday - Final: 13h00 PM - 14h30 PM
- Pairs in which at least one participant holds Portuguese nationality (or dual nationality) are considered Portuguese pairs. Thus, a pair consisting of one Portuguese participant and one foreign participant will be considered a Portuguese pair.
- Participants must assemble a 500-piece puzzle, with a time limit of 120 minutes in the semifinals and 90 minutes in the finals. If they do not complete the puzzle within this period, the number of correctly placed pieces will be used for ranking purposes. Groups of three or more correctly connected pieces will be counted.
- For the championship final, between 50% and 75% of the participants from each semifinal qualify (depending on the number of participants). Since this is a national championship, at least 75% of the participants advancing to the final stage must be of Portuguese nationality. *For example, in the case of a total of 100 participants, considering the 50 who qualify based on their times, at least 38 must be of Portuguese nationality, with the remaining participants being either Portuguese or of another nationality. If, based on the times, only 30 Portuguese participants and 20 participants of other nationalities initially qualify, an additional 8 Portuguese participants will be selected according to their times, resulting in only 12 participants of other nationalities advancing to the final.*

Team Event – Consists of three to four participants, with at least one member aged 18 or over, and the remaining members having a minimum age of 8. *Examples of valid team compositions include: a team with one participant aged 18 and two participants aged 8 and 10; or a team of three or four participants all aged 18 or over.*

- Registration: 38€
 - 1000 pieces | Saturday - SFA and SFB: 18h30 PM - 20h30 PM
Sunday - FINAL: 15h30 PM - 17h30 PM
 - Teams are considered Portuguese teams when at least two participants hold Portuguese nationality (or dual nationality). Therefore, a team made up of two Portuguese participants and two foreign participants will be considered a Portuguese team.
 - In the semifinals, participants must assemble a 1000-piece puzzle within a time limit of 120 minutes. In the final, the team must choose between two 1000-piece puzzles and assemble one of them in the shortest possible time. Both puzzles will remain in the team's possession. If the puzzle is not completed within the allotted time, the number of correctly placed pieces will be considered for ranking purposes. Groups of three or more correctly connected pieces will be counted.
 - For the championship final, between 50% and 75% of the participants from each semifinal qualify (depending on the number of participants). Since this is a national championship, at least 75% of the participants advancing to the final stage must be of Portuguese nationality. *For example, in the case of a total of 100 participants, considering the 50 who qualify based on their times, at least 38 must be of Portuguese nationality, with the remaining participants being either Portuguese or of another nationality. If, based on the times, only 30 Portuguese participants and 20 participants of other nationalities initially qualify, an additional 8 Portuguese participants will be selected according to their times, resulting in only 12 participants of other nationalities advancing to the final.*
-
-

3 – REGISTRATION

- **Childrens, Adult Individual, Pairs, and Team Events:** Registrations must be completed online via the World Jigsaw Puzzle Federation website:

<https://www.worldjigsawpuzzle.org/appz>.

For individual events, each participant is responsible for completing their own registration. In the Children's category, registration must be completed by the participant's parent or legal guardian. For pairs and team events, registration must be completed by only one member of the pair or team, who must provide, in the designated fields, the details of the remaining participants.

Subsequently, the participant will receive the necessary details to complete the **bank transfer or, alternatively,** may make the payment via app **MB WAY** to the number **+351917501620**. **In both cases, the registration code or the participant's name(s) must be included in the payment description.**

- Registration period runs **from 14 February to 22 March 2026**. Participation in all events is subject to prior registration, and payment must be made within a maximum of three days after registration is completed.

- Payment receipts for registration fees will be made available on the event days, 25 and 26 April, at the organization desk, and must be requested in advance by email.

- Association members with their dues fully paid, including the January 2026 membership fee, are entitled to the following discounts. When making the bank transfer, the discount must be applied and the membership number indicated in the payment description:

- **Individual Event (Children or Adults):** €2 discount
- **Pairs Event:** €2 discount per member participant
- **Team Event:** €2 discount per member participant

- The puzzles used in the events become the property of the participants after the competitions.

- The Association reserves the right, if deemed necessary, to adjust the schedule according to the number of registrations, provided that the dates and the previously defined start and end times are maintained:
 - **Start:** 25 April 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
 - **End:** 26 April 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

- There is no maximum limit on the number of registrations. However, the Association reserves the right to close registrations before the announced deadline, if necessary.

- Until the registration deadline, participants may cancel their registration and will receive a full refund. After the registration deadline and up to one week before the event, refunds will only be issued upon presentation of a medical justification or another equivalent reason.

- If a participant does not attend the event in which they were registered, they may collect the corresponding puzzle(s) and welcome kit at the event venue during the event days. If the participant does not attend the event on either day, they may request, by email, that the welcome kit and puzzle(s) be sent by post, upon payment of the respective shipping costs (valid for Mainland Portugal, the Islands, and Spain).

- In the event of cancellation or postponement of the Championship due to circumstances beyond the Organization's control, APPZ shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by participants, with the exception of registration fees already paid.

NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH DUAL NATIONALITY:

- Participants with dual nationality may choose which nationality they wish to compete under, and must adopt that nationality consistently across all categories in which they participate. Therefore, at the time of registration, they must ensure that the selected nationality is the same for all events.

4 – PRIZES

National record holders will be awarded in the different events:

National Records — National records shall be those achieved by Portuguese citizens or citizens holding dual nationality.

- **CHILDREN:** National records shall be those achieved by children of Portuguese nationality or dual nationality who complete the puzzles in the shortest possible times.
- **INDIVIDUAL:** National records shall be those achieved by participants of Portuguese nationality or dual nationality who, in the final, complete the puzzles in the shortest possible times.
PAIRS: National records shall be those achieved by pairs in which at least one member holds Portuguese nationality, who, in the final, complete the puzzles in the shortest possible times.
- **TEAMS:** National records shall be those achieved by teams in which at least half of the members (2/3 or 2/4) hold Portuguese nationality, who, in the final, complete the puzzles in the shortest possible times.

In order to recognize participants of other nationalities, a prize and trophy will be awarded to the fastest non-Portuguese participants in each category:

- **CHILDREN:** The foreign-national child who completes the puzzle in the shortest time will be awarded.
- **INDIVIDUAL:** The foreign-national participant who completes the puzzle in the shortest time will be awarded.
- **PAIRS:** The foreign-national pair who completes the puzzle in the shortest time will be awarded.
- **TEAMS:** The foreign-national team who completes the puzzle in the shortest time will be awarded.

- A pair composed of one Portuguese national and one foreign national shall be considered eligible for the national podium. Likewise, a team composed of at least two Portuguese participants shall be eligible for the national podium and may not be awarded the prizes intended for participants of other nationalities.
 - National record holders will be distinguished with medals or equivalent awards, as well as prizes, with three prizes awarded per event.
 - Trophies or equivalent awards, as well as prizes, will be awarded to foreign winners, with one awarded per event.
 - The description of the prizes will be announced up to one week before the start of the championship and may be subject to changes until the event date.
 - Children's category prizes will be awarded at the end of the respective event. Individual, Pairs, and Team category prizes will be awarded after the completion of each final.
-
-

5 – GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Each participant may use up to two boards, made of cardboard, foam, or other material, with a maximum size of A3, to assist in puzzle assembly.
- Each pair may use up to two boards, made of cardboard, foam, or other material, with a maximum size of A3, to assist in puzzle assembly. The Organization recommends wearing the same model of shirt, including names and country of origin.
- Each team may provide up to four boards, made of cardboard, foam, or other material, with a maximum size of A3, to assist in puzzle assembly. The Organization recommends that all team members wear the same model of shirt, indicating names and country of origin.

- All tables will be numbered and labeled with participants' names, as well as their city or country of origin. Table numbers will be displayed at the event venue.
- Participants must arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of each event.
- Participants may not handle, open, or unlock the puzzle boxes on the table until the host announces the start of the event and activates the timer.
- To open the plastic wrapping around the puzzle box, only letter openers, keys, or other non-sharp objects may be used. For safety reasons, **scissors or X-Acto knives are not allowed.**
- During the event, official monitors will oversee the progress of puzzle assembly, ensuring they are nearby when a participant is about to complete a puzzle. If no Organization member notices this, the participant must raise their hand so that a monitor can record the completion time. Once the puzzle is correctly completed, the monitor will note the time in the participation record and submit it to the main desk.
- All participants who complete the puzzles within the time limit, after the completion time has been recorded by a monitor, must collect their belongings and vacate the competition area to allow preparation for the next event.
- Only monitors and authorized Organization staff are allowed to record puzzle completion times.
- If pieces are missing at the end of assembly, 10 seconds will be added to the final time for each missing piece. If the last piece is found after 10 seconds of searching, the time of the penultimate piece plus the penalty will be considered. If more than 10 pieces are missing, the participation will be considered invalid. If two or more adjacent pieces are missing, no penalty will be applied, as this is considered a manufacturing defect.
- If, due to a manufacturing defect, the puzzle does not contain the correct number of pieces and causes damage to a participant, the Organization may take the necessary measures to remedy the damage, without prejudice to the rights of other participants.

- Only participants and authorized personnel are allowed access to the competition area.
 - The use of supports or any objects that alter the height or arrangement of tables is not allowed.
 - Supports are allowed only to keep the puzzle box lid upright, so it can be easily viewed during assembly.
 - The use of headphones is permitted, provided they do not disturb other participants.
 - Singing or vocalizing during the event is prohibited. The Organization may disqualify participants who are repeatedly warned for behavior that disturbs other competitors.
 - Bringing additional lighting or using printed or digital templates that reveal any manufacturer cutting pattern is not allowed.
 - Any assistance given during the competition by a non-participant may result in disqualification.
 - In pairs and individual events, if shared tables are used, participants must not invade the adjacent participant's area or obstruct their assembly. A participant may be disqualified for seriously hindering another competitor.
 - The Organization will photograph and video record the event, and images may be publicly shared to promote the championship and the organizing entities. By registering, all participants and guardians agree to this use.
 - The Organization is not responsible for items lost during the championship.
 - Any questions or issues that arise during the event will be decided by the Organization.
 - Decisions made during the events are final.
-
-

6 – HOTEL PARTNERSHIPS

YOUR HOTEL & SPA ALCOBAÇA

- Reservations can be made directly on the website: <https://www.yourhotelspa.com/>
- **10% Discount Code:** PUZZLES
- Code valid for reservations from **12/01/26 to 25/04/26**
- Discount can be applied for stays between **19/04/26 and 30/04/26**
- Phone number: **(+351) 262 505 370** (calls to national landlines)

REAL ABADIA CONGRESS AND SPA HOTEL

- Reservations can be made directly by **phone or email: 262 580 370** or **geral@realabadiahotel.pt**
- **Rates:**
 - **1 Night:** Double Room €113; Single Room €87
 - **2 Nights:** Double Room €100/night; Single Room €77/night
- Stay includes **buffet breakfast** and access to the **Wellness Area** (heated indoor pool, sauna, and Turkish bath).

MONTEBELO MOSTEIRO DE ALCOBAÇA

- Reservations can be made directly on the website:
<https://montebelohotels.com/en/home>
- **15% Discount Code:** CNPUZZLES26



Organizado em Parceria com:



Com o Apoio:

