



# WISCONSIN STATE JIGSAW PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIP

By attending this event, competitors acknowledge and agree to the following rules:

## Official Rules for the 2026 Wisconsin State Jigsaw Puzzle Championship hosted by WI-JPA on Friday October 23 and Saturday October 24, 2026 in Rothschild.

### Eligibility

- Age requirements
  - Solo competitors must be 16 or older.
  - Pairs and teams must have a team member that is 18 or older.
- Residency
  - Non-Wisconsin residents may compete in all divisions.
  - Non-Wisconsin residents competing in the solo division are not eligible for prizes.
  - Pairs Teams and Teams Relay are eligible for prizes if they have at least one team member that is a Wisconsin resident.

### Before Start

- **Judges:**
  - Recording times: Only accredited judges record the finishing times of the completed puzzles from the official event timer.
    - Note: The official event timer must be started by WI-JPA but judges may synchronize a personal timer with the official timer to aid in capturing completion time in the event of an obstruction that prevents them from observing the official event timer.
  - Decisions made by WI-JPA are final.
- **Arrival time frame:** Puzzlers must be checked in (or in check-in line), 5 minutes before competition start time, otherwise WI-JPA reserves the right to replace the puzzler with those from a waitlist, without providing compensation or refund to the participant.

### Competition Start

- **Puzzles will be obscured** in a bag before the competition begins. Puzzlers must not open or alter the bag before the timer begins or the puzzler will be disqualified.
- **Puzzle seals will be pre-cut** before the competition begins so puzzlers will not have to use any cutting tools.



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- **Protocol:** If your puzzle is sealed when it should not be, do not attempt to open it but instead quickly notify a judge and they will assist you to open the box and mark down the delay of your starting time to ensure your finish time is not affected.
- **Bag removal:** Once puzzle boxes and piece bags have been opened, piece bags should be kept by the competitors in case a piece(s) was accidentally left inside.
- **Found pieces:** If a judge finds a piece on the floor during the competition, they will slide a bright piece of paper underneath the piece without disturbing its position (the Shandling Shim); this will highlight where it is so it doesn't accidentally get moved further but prevents it from being given to the incorrect puzzler.

## Puzzle Completion

- **Upon completion:** A judge will be waiting next to your table as you near puzzle completion; if a judge is not nearby as you near completion, the competitor(s) should raise a hand to alert the judges.
  - **Hands off:** Once completed, all competitor hands must not be touching the puzzle pieces, a judge will verify assembly, and they will record the finishing time.
  - **Lost pieces:** There is a maximum 10 second penalty for missing pieces, even if the piece(s) is/are found later. **Penalty is not per piece.**
    - **Protocol:** If a piece is missing, judges should note the time of the last assembled piece and the puzzler may look for the missing piece.
      - **If it's found within 10 seconds:** The completion time should reflect when the final piece is put in.
      - **If not found within 10 seconds:** The competitor can stop looking and their completion time will be noted as the last assembled piece time plus 10 seconds. Even if there are multiple missing pieces, only 10 seconds should be added, unless there are 10+ missing pieces or they are missing due to a manufacturing error as explained below.
    - **Adjacent missing pieces:** If there are 2 or more adjacent missing pieces, no penalty will be applied as it is considered a manufacturing error.
  - **10+ missing pieces:** Unless determined to be a manufacturing error, if there are 10 or more pieces lost, the participant will be disqualified for lack of intent to complete their puzzle.
  - **Excessive manufacturing error:** If it is deemed by WI-JPA that a manufacturing error causes excessive damage to the competitor's attempt, WI-JPA may take



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the necessary measures to correct the damage caused without undermining the rights of other participants.

- **Courtesy policy:** After finishing their puzzle, all competitors must quietly collect the puzzle and their belongings and leave the competition area to avoid distracting the puzzlers still competing.

## Competition End

- **Unfinished puzzles:** Once the maximum time has elapsed, the competitors must take their hands off the puzzle to indicate they have stopped puzzling. They are then encouraged to assist judges in counting their unassembled puzzle pieces which will determine their placement among other competitors with incomplete puzzles.
  - **Groups of 2+:** Any number of pieces that are assembled together (2+) count toward total assembled pieces.
  - **Piles of 10:** Any other remaining pieces should be piled into groups of 10 pieces to assist judges in counting your unassembled pieces.
- **Time limit:** If no one finishes before the event time runs out, the winner will be whichever competitor has correctly placed the largest number of pieces.

## Tools

- **Box-top holders** are allowed.
- **Sorting Trays:**
  - For 500 piece puzzles, puzzler(s) can use up to 2 trays of a maximum of 16.5" x 11.7" (A3 size). For 1000 piece puzzles, puzzler(s) can use up to 4 trays of a maximum of 16.5" x 11.7" (A3 size). For the Team Relay, teams can use up to 4 trays of a maximum of 4 trays of a maximum of 16.5" x 11.7" (A3 size).
  - Competition puzzle box top and bottom may also be used in addition to above allowed trays.
- **Headphones** are allowed as long as they are quiet enough to avoid disturbing your puzzle neighbors, otherwise you'll be asked to turn them down or remove them.
- **No cutting tools**
  - Refer to above passage about puzzle seals.
- **All other puzzling aids tools** are not allowed.



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## Other Rules

- **Distractions:** Loud conversation/headphone music, singing, moving/standing in another competitor's space, or anything else that may impede another competitor's progress or the ability of judges and competition organizers to fulfill their role is NOT allowed.
- **Shared tables:** When pairs are competing on shared tables, it is NOT allowed to invade the area of the adjacent participant or hinder their construction. If no one is present on the second half of a shared table, it is NOT allowed to utilize that space; it must remain completely empty as though there were another puzzler(s) utilizing it.
- **Safety requirements:** Keeping aisles clear and minimizing crowding in the event space are of the highest priority. Competitors must always abide by a judge's request to preserve safety at the event.
- **Music:** There will not be any music being played during each division. If you do not want to puzzle in a pretty quiet place headphones are recommended.
- **Undefined incidents:** Any incident that arises that is not reflected in these rules will be resolved by WI-JPA.
- **Accommodations:** If you need a reasonable accommodation, that request should be submitted in writing to WI-JPA, please email [wisconsinjpa@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinjpa@gmail.com), at least one week before the event.

**IF A COMPETITOR FAILS TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE ABOVE RULES, IT MAY LEAD TO THEIR DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE EVENT.**

The logo features a green outline of the state of Wisconsin, divided into four quadrants by puzzle pieces. To the right of the map, the text "WISCONSIN STATE JIGSAW PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIP" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines.

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## Fine Print & Liability Disclaimer

By attending this event, you acknowledge and agree to the following terms:

- **Assumption of Risk:** Participation in this event involves inherent risks, including but not limited to, personal injury, property damage, or other losses. By attending, you voluntarily assume all risks associated with participation.
- **Liability Waiver:** The organizing body, its affiliates, and volunteers shall not be held liable for any injury, loss, or damage sustained by participants, including but not limited to, accidents, illness, or theft occurring during or in connection with the event.
- **Medical Conditions:** Participants are responsible for their own health and safety. If you have any medical conditions that may affect your participation, you are encouraged to consult with a medical professional prior to the event.
- **Photography and Media:** By attending, you consent to the use of your image or likeness and full name in promotional materials or publications related to the event.
  - All images and videos posted by the WI-JPA are the intellectual property of the WI-JPA.
- **Changes to Event:** The organizing body reserves the right to make changes to the event schedule, format, or location as necessary.
  - **Refusal of registration or admission:** WI-JPA leadership reserves the right to refuse registration or admission of anyone who may alter the public order or have shown an attitude contrary to the gracious professionalism expected of its members/participants.
  - **Refunds:** Tickets are fully refundable until September 1st, 2026. From September 2nd, 2026 - October 24th, 2026 they are non refundable. If you need to cancel your registration please email us at [contact@wijigsaw.org](mailto:contact@wijigsaw.org) with your information and we will get that processed. In the event of cancellation or postponement on the part of WI-JPA view below clause.
  - **Cancellation or postponement:** In the event of cancellation or postponement of the event for reasons beyond the control of WI-JPA, WI-JPA is not responsible for indirect expenses incurred by participants, WI-JPA will make all puzzles available to registered puzzlers and refund half the cost of the events, if this happens WI-JPA plans to host a virtual competition at a later date on zoom.



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## DIVISION-SPECIFIC RULES

### Solo Division

- **Team size:** The Individual division will be composed of solo competitors.
- **Age limit:** Participants must be at least 16 years old to participate.
- **Puzzle size:** Each puzzler will receive a **Unreleased PuzzleTwist** 500-piece puzzle.
- **Table size:** Will be equivalent for every puzzler, dimensions measuring 4' x 2.5' rectangle.
  - **Number:** There will be up to 40 - 50 rectangle 8' x 2.5' tables and pairs WILL share the table with another puzzler.
  - **Assignment:** Tables will be assigned in advance.
- **Time limit:** Puzzlers will have 2 hours to complete their puzzle.
- **Sanctioned:** This division is sanctioned by USAJPA and if you supply your USAJPA Member number it will be used to calculate your JPAR.
- **Prizes:** The top 3 puzzlers will win prizes.

### Pairs Division

- **Team size:** Pairs will be composed of 2 people. No changes in team members are allowed once the competition begins.
- **Age limit:** Participants under the age of 18 are allowed as long as they are competing with at least one teammate over 18.
- **Puzzle size:** Each pair will receive an **Unreleased Bits and Pieces** 500-piece puzzle.
- **Table size:** Will be equivalent for every pair, dimensions measuring 4' x 2.5' rectangle.
  - **Number:** There will be up to 40 - 50 rectangle 8' x 2.5' tables and pairs WILL share the table with another pair of puzzlers.
  - **Assignment:** Tables will be assigned in advance.
- **Time limit:** Pairs will have 2 hours to complete their puzzle.
- **Prizes:** The top 3 pairs will win prizes.



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## Team Division

- **Team size:** Teams will be composed of a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 4. No changes in team members are allowed once the competition begins.
- **Age limit:** Participants under the age of 18 are allowed as long as they are competing with at least one teammate over 18.
- **Puzzle size:** Each team will receive an **Unreleased Eurographics** 1,000-piece puzzle.
- **Table size:** Will be equivalent for each team, dimensions measuring 8' x 2.5' rectangle.
  - **Number:** There will be up to 40-50 rectangle tables. Each team will have their own table.
  - **Assignment:** Tables will be assigned in advance.
- **Time limit:** Teams will have 2.5 hours to complete their puzzles.
- **Prizes:** The top 3 teams will win prizes.

## Team Relay

- **How does a Team Relay work?** Each team will receive 2, 500-piece puzzles. Teams will be working on both puzzles at the same time, but only 2 individuals on each puzzle at a time. Every 5 minutes a judge will call ROTATE and individuals will need to rotate one seat clockwise. Once one puzzle is finished, the clockwise rotation continues and only 2 people may continue to work on the puzzle at a time. The teammates not puzzling may verbally and visually indicate pieces to their teammates. The first team to complete both puzzles wins!
- **Team size:** Teams may be composed of a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 4. No changes in team members are allowed once the competition begins.
- **Age limit:** Participants under the age of 18 are allowed as long as they are competing with at least one teammate over 18.
- **Puzzle size:** Each team will receive 2 **MyRavensburger** 500-piece puzzles with released images.
- **Table size:** Will be equivalent for each team, dimensions measuring 8' x 2.5' rectangle. The tables will be divided into two equal halves, each side for one of 500 piece puzzles.
  - **Number:** There will be up to 40-50 rectangle tables. Each team will have their own table. The tables will be divided into two equal halves, each side for one of 500 piece puzzles.
  - **Assignment:** Tables will be assigned in advance.
- **Time limit:** Teams will have 2 hours to complete both puzzles.
- **Time Interval:** Every 5 mins individuals will rotate one spot clockwise around the table.
- **Prizes:** The top 3 teams will win prizes.