

USA Jigsaw Puzzle Association FAQ about the WJPC

WJPC Official Rules: <https://www.worldjigsawpuzzle.org/wjpc/2023/rules>

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Competition Related

Will there be a Team USA meet up in Valladolid? If so, where and when? Yes! We're planning to send an email to all of the US participants to meet up at the large VALLODOLID sign near the event venue about at 4:30 p.m. before the welcome ceremony on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:00 p.m. We want to take a team photo, do a quick round of introductions and hand out some free USAJPA swag! Because there are so many of us this year (80+), it's been hard to find a place to gather for puzzling.

When will everyone find out which rounds they are competing in and will they be able to see who they are competing against?

On September 9 the groups will be assigned. An email will be sent to all participants. Not sure yet on what will be visible to individual participants about who they are competing against.

What's the best way we can share information about who is assigned to which individual heats, so that we can root for each other during the rounds in which we're not personally racing? The USAJPA will put together a Google Sheet and share it with US participants that will show when everyone is competing. Hopefully, we'll be able to fill it out once the information is available. Otherwise, we'll just share it with the WhatsApp group and people can fill in the times they have been assigned.

Is English used at the tournament? Yes. There is an English interpreter that makes announcements, specifies rules, and kicks off each event. In addition, there will be an English livestream offered this year to allow people watching to hear English commentary and results from all of the events.

What is the atmosphere like? It's like any puzzle contest but with more spectators and cameras than you're probably used to. It's very similar to Nationals if you attended that event. We tried to run our event similarly. Top competitors are typically strategically placed along the perimeter of the competition area so cameras and spectators can more easily watch them. There are a lot of distractions in that when people finish there is usually some cheering and hubbub around them. As the competition progresses, it gets louder in the venue as puzzlers finish and gather around to watch times come in. There are monitors stationed around the venue and times are continually being updated and displayed there so you can see the official finishing times. Obviously, with that many people in attendance, the venue can get pretty loud as it's just one big room. More than anything - it's just fun! It also gets pretty warm inside so stay hydrated and dress comfortably.

What are the size of the tables and what is the setup like?

Tables size are 180cm x 80cm

This question is included in FAQ <https://www.worldjigsawpuzzle.org/wjpc/faq>

Each table has a tablecloth on it with a white plastic piece that covers much of the table when only one group is using it. If the table is being used by two people, then there are two white plastic pieces, one on each side for each competitor. The white plastic piece is where you assemble your puzzle. Trays can be helpful for larger puzzles as not all the pieces will fit on the plastic. It's best to refer to videos and pictures of past events to see the setup.

In the Team qualifier will the divisions have the same four puzzles to choose from or will there be four different puzzles presented in each division?

From the Rules: "Each qualifying test will feature 4 different models."

How does the choosing of the puzzles for the team competition work? All of the tables will have the four puzzles on them. When the contest starts, you choose the two that you will be doing. The two that you are not planning to complete, you put under the table in the bags. A volunteer will check with you and confirm the two that you plan to complete. When the timer starts, your team then opens the first puzzle it will complete. When you are finished with that one, a volunteer needs to confirm completion and they will write down a time for the first puzzle finish and give you the go ahead to put it away. Once the first puzzle is put away, you can open the next puzzle.

Do we choose the order of the teams puzzles? Yes

Are sorting trays provided? No, you need to bring your own trays that meet the specifications provided in the rules.

Are scissors allowed to open the plastic? From the newly updated rules, "Only letter openers, keys or other blunt objects may be used to open the plastic that covers the puzzles. Nothing sharp like scissors or box cutters as that could be dangerous to handle during a speed competition."

Are risers allowed to make the tables taller? It is not allowed to use risers or any object that changes the height or layout of the tables.

Can competitors bring any of their own supplies? Yes. Competitors must bring their own sorting trays as they are not provided. You're also allowed dull instruments to help open the puzzle box like keys or letter openers. Box top holders are also allowed. Snacks are permitted, but not recommended unless you're doing that between events. It's not a bad idea to pack water and snacks for between events if you plan to be there for multiple divisions or back-to-back events. Purses, cameras, etc. can be placed under the table during competitions. There is no cloak room or storage area in the venue so you need to keep items with you.

In the Pairs final, the competitors are doing a 1000 piece puzzle. Will each pair have their own table? Yes, there are only 90 pairs advancing and there are 90+ tables available.

How are times determined? It is similar to contests here. There is a big timer projected on the stage which is used for official times. Volunteers hover around tables as people are near to completion and write down the finish times. If people are not done before the time is up. There is a countdown to the end and then everyone stops. A photographer takes a picture of your table. At that point, you're given the go ahead to stack remaining pieces into piles of ten. Any pieces that are attached in groups of three count towards completion of the puzzle. The remaining pieces are tallied and officially written down by a referee and then your placing is determined by how many pieces you had left compared to other competitors.

What happens if divisions don't fill up?

All the rounds that are scheduled will be held, that is, the number of individual participants will be divided by 6 and that will determine the number of participants in each round. If there are 600, it will be 100. If there are 720, there will be 120 in each round. If there are 500, then 83 people. In pairs and teams divisions, it will be the same setup. So, if there are 130 teams, there will be two groups of 65 teams.

How is the representation of a country determined?

In the registration form, only nationality and residence data are requested. What determines the country you represent is your nationality, which is determined by your passport. Those who have double or triple nationality can choose which country they represent.

People are not encouraged to choose their nationality, if they have dual citizenship for example, based on which country has a better chance of advancing into final rounds. However, there's nothing to officially prevent this from occurring.

If a division is not full, will everyone still share a table or will some people not have to share?

Currently there are almost 700 registered individual participants, but confirmed numbers are not yet 600. In any case, there will be one table per participant if there are 100 or less in each group. If there were more than 100, the last tables would be those that would have to share 2 participants per table. In the semifinals, **360 participants** will pass (60 x 6 groups), so it is certain that they will have to share a table. In the final, only the first 20 classifieds (the first two rows) will have a table, the rest up to 180 will share a table.

In pairs there are already 300 confirmed, so the last registered will surely have to share a table in the first round. In the final there will be 100 pairs and one table per participant.

In semi-finals, if someone does not finish the puzzle but no one else is from their country, do they advance? The rules state, "Players classified will have to assemble a 500-piece puzzle in a maximum period of 90 minutes, qualifying to a final 90 participants from each semifinal

according to the following criteria: Of all participants who finish before the maximum time, the best participant from each country.”

What is being offered for puzzlers in addition to the contests? Are there other activities or social events for all the puzzlers? Alfonso said he is planning to offer walking tours again. A sign-up will be shared via email prior to the event and groups gather outside the venue after the Welcome Ceremony to be taken on a walking tour around the city center. There may also be a formal reception on the evening of the Welcome Ceremony but official details on that have not yet been announced. Look for an email on that, too. The walking tours are free but the reception will require a fee and involve a party with cocktails and appetizers for a limited number of guests.

How is the event covered? Is it on TV? Streamed on YouTube? Is there commentary?

The event will be livestreamed on YouTube in English and in Spanish. There will be commentators for both broadcasts. It is not being broadcast on TV. Multiple influencers will also be there filming and a few documentary crews will be in attendance.

If a pair wants to find 2 more people while at Valladolid to form a team, should they register a team now, or wait until they get to Valladolid?

WJPC has launched a private message system precisely to help teams form as soon as possible. Here's the link: https://www.worldjigsawpuzzle.org/wjpc/2023/participants_countries

To let other participants know that you are looking for a partner or want to participate in teams, you can activate the option on the main page under your name in the registration area. The message system gives you the option to get in touch with other participants from the private zone, and you can restrict the reception of messages. Your email address remains safe. To get in touch with other participants from your country, access the menu option "WJPC 2023/my country" (you must be logged in) and indicate that you are looking for a team or pairs partner. If you want, you can also contact participants from other countries and form a pair or mixed team.

There will be no problem creating teams and pairs in Valladolid, even shortly before the tests as long as there is room, which as of yet is not a problem. But, it's better if you can make arrangements in advance as WJPC is a busy event.

Valladolid Related

What is the food situation like? Do people typically grocery shop or go out for every meal? Is every restaurant completely packed? There is not a lot of food places right next to the venue, but there are a lot of things within a 10-minute walk or likely between your accommodations and the venue. There are many options in the surrounding area: fast food, tapas, bars, sidewalk cafes, ice cream shops, pubs, casual restaurants and more expensive restaurants. There are grocery stores where you can buy things if you don't want to eat at

restaurants all the time. Restaurants weren't so busy that it was hard to get a table even though there were other events happening in the city at the time we were there last year.