

29th NATIONAL TROPHY / 10th INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION COMPETITION “Alcobaça 2026”

As part of the **29th INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION WEEK**, to be held from **May 16 to 24, 2026**, the **Accordion Association of PORTUGAL** is organizing the **29th National Trophy / 10th International Accordion Competition “Alcobaça 2026”**, on **May 23 and 24**.

These Regulations set out the rules governing participation, categories, programmes, evaluation, and prizes.

I. SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Competition is public and open to Portuguese participants and/or foreign participants residing in Portugal (National Trophy), as well as to participants of all nationalities (International Competition). It will take place in the city of Alcobaça on **May 22, 2026** (Opening Concert) and **May 23 and 24, 2026** (competition rounds and awards ceremony).
2. All Portuguese participants and/or residents in Portugal, upon registering, will be entering **both competitions** (National and International). They are required to perform **only once** in the selected category(ies). After the performances, separate rankings will be drawn up for the National Trophy and for the International Competition.
3. Regardless of the category in which they intend to participate, competitors may also apply for the **VITORINO MATONO PRIZE**.
4. The following categories will be considered in the Competition:
 - a) **Soloists**
 - b) **Chamber Music**
 - c) **Accordion Duos, Trios, Quartets, etc.**
 - d) **Orchestras**

II. CATEGORIES, AGES, AND PROGRAMMES TO BE PRESENTED

CATEGORIES A/B – BEGINNER	A – Beginner 1 – ONE ROUND	Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion.	Competitors who, by December 31, 2025 , are 9 years of age or younger .
	B – Beginner 2 – TWO ROUNDS	1st round – Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion. 2nd round – Free programme with a maximum duration of 6 minutes , including at least one original piece for accordion.	
	Beginner CONVERTOR A – ONE ROUND	Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion.	
	Beginner CONVERTOR B – TWO ROUNDS	1st round – Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion. 2nd round – Free programme with a maximum duration of 6 minutes , including at least one original piece for accordion.	

ATTENTION

In categories **A – Beginner 1** and **B – Beginner 2**, the participant must perform the entire programme using the **STANDARD BASS** system.

In **Converter A** and **Converter B** categories, the participant must present **at least one piece using the FREE BASS system** in all rounds.

CATEGORIES C/D – CHILDREN	C – Children 1 – ONE ROUND	Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion.	Competitors who, by December 31, 2025 , are 10, 11, or 12 years old .
	D – Children 2 – TWO ROUNDS	1st round – Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion. 2nd round – Free programme with a maximum duration of 8 minutes , including at least one original piece for accordion.	
	Children CONVERTOR C – ONE ROUND	Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion.	
	Children CONVERTOR D – TWO ROUNDS	1st round – Two free-choice pieces – at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion. 2nd round – Free programme with a maximum duration of 8 minutes , including at least one original piece for accordion.	

ATTENTION

In categories **C – Children 1** and **D – Children 2**, the participant must perform the entire programme using the **STANDARD BASS** system.

In **Converter C** and **Converter D** categories, the participant must present **at least one piece using the FREE BASS system** in all rounds.

CATEGORIES E / F / G / H / I / J / L / M	E – YOUTH CONCERT (Free Bass) TWO ROUNDS	1st ROUND Two works by different composers and in different styles (one must be an original piece for accordion); Baroque period or earlier excluded; Maximum duration: 10 minutes. 2nd ROUND Free programme with a maximum duration of 12 minutes; At least two pieces must be performed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One piece from the Baroque period and one original piece for accordion. 	Competitors who, by December 31, 2025, are 13, 14, or 15 years old.
	F – YOUTH CONCERT (Standard Bass) TWO ROUNDS	1st ROUND Two pieces by different composers and in different styles (one must be an original work for accordion); Baroque period or earlier excluded; Maximum duration: 10 minutes. 2nd ROUND Free programme with a maximum duration of 12 minutes; At least two pieces by different composers, with diverse characteristics and styles (one must be an original piece for accordion).	
CATEGORIES E / F / G / H / I / J / L / M	G – JUNIOR CONCERT (Free Bass) TWO ROUNDS	1st ROUND Two pieces by different composers and in different styles (one must be an original piece for accordion); Baroque period or earlier excluded; Maximum duration: 12 minutes. 2nd ROUND Free programme with a maximum duration of 15 minutes; At least two pieces by different composers and in different styles must be presented. The programme must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One Baroque piece and one original piece for accordion. 	Competitors who, by December 31, 2025, are 16 or 17 years old, or 18 years old if turning 18 in 2026 before the date of the Competition. In this case, they may choose to compete in either the Junior or Senior category.
	H – JUNIOR CONCERT (Standard Bass) TWO ROUNDS	1st ROUND Two pieces by different composers and in different styles (one must be an original piece for accordion); Baroque period or earlier excluded; Maximum duration: 12 minutes. 2nd ROUND Free programme with a maximum duration of 15 minutes; At least two pieces by different composers and in different styles, one of which must be an original piece for accordion.	
CATEGORIES E / F / G / H / I / J / L / M	I – SENIOR CONCERT (Free Bass) TWO ROUNDS CITY OF ALCOBAÇA PRIZE	1st ROUND Two pieces by different composers and in different styles (one must be an original work for accordion); Baroque period or earlier excluded; Maximum duration: 12 minutes. 2nd ROUND Free programme with a maximum duration of 18 minutes; At least three pieces by different composers and in different styles must be presented. The programme must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One Baroque piece; ○ One original piece for accordion; ○ One Contemporary piece (20th or 21st century) original for accordion. 	Competitors aged 18 or over.
	J – SENIOR CONCERT (Standard Bass) TWO ROUNDS	1st ROUND Two pieces by different composers and in different styles (one must be an original piece for accordion); Baroque period or earlier excluded; Maximum duration: 12 minutes. 2nd ROUND Free programme with a maximum duration of 18 minutes; At least three pieces by different composers and in different styles must be presented. The programme must include at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One original piece for accordion and one Contemporary piece (20th or 21st century) original for accordion. 	
CATEGORIES E / F / G / H / I / J / L / M	L – FREE SOLOIST CONCERT (Free Bass) ONE ROUND	Free programme in a single round; Programme must include a minimum of two pieces, at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion; Maximum duration: 10 minutes, concert/classical style.	No age limit.
	M – FREE SOLOIST CONCERT (Standard Bass) ONE ROUND	Free programme in a single round; Programme must include a minimum of two pieces, at least one of which must be an original piece for accordion; Maximum duration: 10 minutes, concert/classical style.	

ATTENTION

In categories **E, G, I, and L,** at least one piece in each round must be performed on an accordion with the **FREE BASS** system. In categories **F, H, J, and M,** the entire programme must be performed exclusively on an accordion with the **STANDARD BASS** system.

CATEGORIES N/O/P/Q/R/S and VITORINO MATONO PRIZE	N – VARIÉTÉ YOUTH	Free programme with a maximum duration of 8 minutes. Popular/Variété style.	Competitors who, by 31 December 2025, are 13, 14, or 15 years old.
	O – JUNIOR VARIÉTÉ	Free programme with a maximum duration of 9 minutes. Popular/Variété style.	Competitors who, by 31 December 2025, are 16 or 17 years old; or 18 years old if they turn 18 in 2026 up to the date of the Competition, and who may, in this case, choose to participate either in the Junior Variété category or in the Senior Variété category.
	P – SENIOR VARIÉTÉ	Free programme with a maximum duration of 10 minutes. Popular/ Variété style.	Competitors aged 18 years or older.
	Q – FREE SOLOIST VARIÉTÉ	Free programme with a maximum duration of 8 minutes. Popular/ Variété style.	No age limits.
	R – 21st-Century Contemporary Junior Award 1 Round	Presentation of two original piece for Accordion – one piece written in the 20th century and one piece written in the 21st century.	Competitors who, by 31 December 2025, are under 18 years of age; or 18 years old if they turn 18 in 2026 up to the date of the Competition, and who may, in this case, choose to participate either in this category or in Category S.
	S – 21st-Century Contemporary Senior Award 1 Round	Presentation of two original pieces for Accordion – one piece written in the 20th century and one piece written in the 21st century.	Competitors aged 18 years or older.
	VITORINO MATONO PRIZE	Presentation of a piece composed by Professor Vitorino Matono. (List of works attached.)	Soloists with no age limits.

GROUPS

CATEGORIES Chamber Music / Ensemble Duos Trios, Quartets, etc. (Accordion) Orchestra 1 Orchestra 2	CHAMBER MUSIC / ENSEMBLE	Programme with a maximum duration of 10 minutes.	No age limits. At least one of the members must participate as an accordionist.
	DUO A	Programme with a maximum duration of 10 minutes.	One of the members is up to 12 years old on 31 December 2025.
	DUO B	Programme with a maximum duration of 10 minutes.	One of the members is between 13 and 17 years old on 31 December 2025.
	DUO C	Programme with a maximum duration of 10 minutes.	Both members are aged 18 years or older.
	TRIOS, QUARTETS, ETC.	Programme with a maximum duration of 10 minutes.	No age limits.
	ORCHESTRA 1	Programme with a maximum duration of 15 minutes (programme entirely composed of works in the “classical/concert” style).	No age limits. Orchestras are defined as groups of 10 or more members, including at least one accordionist.
	ORCHESTRA 2	Programme with a maximum duration of 15 minutes (programme wholly or mostly composed of works in the “popular/varieté” style).	No age limits. Orchestras are defined as groups of 10 or more members, including at least one accordionist.

III. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCES

- 1) The Jury will be composed of teachers and musicians of recognized merit, mainly from the field of accordion.
- 2) The following will be evaluated:
 - a. Musical expression;
 - b. Technique and bellows control;
 - c. Sound quality;
 - d. Rhythmic consistency;
 - e. Degree of difficulty of the repertoire.
- 3) The decisions of the Jury are final and unappealable.

IV. PARTICIPATION

Participants may perform in the category corresponding to their age or in a higher category, but never in a lower category.

1. In this edition, competitors may not participate in a category lower than the one in which they competed in the 2025 edition.
2. All competitors may participate in all categories for which they meet the necessary requirements and comply with the previous point.
3. **ATTENTION:** No participant may repeat, in different categories, the piece(s)/programme(s) already performed or to be performed (exception: Vitorino Matono Award).

V. TRANSITION AND CONDITIONS

In the BEGINNER and CHILDREN categories that have 2 performances, all competitors will progress from the first to the second performance.

1. If a competitor, by their own decision/will, does not perform in the second performance, they will be disqualified.
2. The order of performance of works in the competition shall be indicated by the participant on their registration form (which may be changed by notifying the organization up to 1 month before the performances), but the works declared on the form may never be altered.

VI. REGISTRATION

1. To register, the form available on the website www.asacord.com (or the form attached) must be completed and sent by email to: Info.asacord@gmail.com
2. All soloist participants must send, together with the registration form, a document proving their age and a photograph with their accordion.
3. Participation fees must be paid on the day of the performance, the amount being indicated in **POINT VIII**.
4. The registration deadline will end without exception on 25 April 2026.
5. The programmes to be performed by candidates will, after receipt of the registration forms, be subject to technical review, understood as an evaluation of the style in which the scores fall – light or concert – and their level of difficulty.
6. Two copies of the scores or programmes, properly bound, must be submitted up to 30 minutes before the performance. One copy will remain in the possession of the Competition organization.

VII. AWARDS

1. Winners of the soloist categories and the Chamber Music, Duos, Trios, Quartets, etc., categories will receive: 1 Artistic Trophy and 1 Diploma.
2. The winner of Category I – Senior Concert – **“CIDADE DE ALCobaça AWARD”** will receive: 1 Artistic Trophy, 1 Diploma, and a scholarship of €500.00. If the winner of this category is from a European country, they will receive the **INTERNATIONAL AWARD**, consisting of participation in a concert integrated into the **30th INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION WEEK “Alcobaça 2027”**, with fee, travel, and accommodation paid by the organization, and also an invitation to participate in a concert at the **Accordéons-Nous Festival** in Mons, Belgium, with a fee set by the Belgian organizer. The Portuguese Accordion Association will offer a scholarship of €250.00 if this participation takes place. Accommodation will be provided by the Accordéons-Nous Festival organization.
3. The 2nd place winner of Category I – Senior Concert (**“CIDADE DE ALCobaça PRIZE”**) will receive 1 Artistic Trophy, 1 Diploma, and a scholarship of €200.00.
4. The winner of Category G – Junior Concert – will receive the **ACORDEONATA – PIGINI Portugal Award**, consisting of a €200 voucher as a discount toward the possible purchase of a PIGINI brand accordion at Acordeonata.
5. The winner of Category E – Youth Concert – will receive the **ACORDEONATA – PIGINI Portugal Award**, consisting of a €200 voucher as a discount toward the possible purchase of a PIGINI brand accordion at Acordeonata.
6. The winner of Category P – Senior Variété – will receive 1 Artistic Trophy, 1 Diploma, and a scholarship of €100.00. If the winner of this category is from a European country, they will receive the **INTERNATIONAL WEEK AWARD**, consisting of participation in a concert integrated into the **30th INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION WEEK “Alcobaça 2027”**, with fee, travel, and accommodation paid by the organization.
7. In the Orchestra Category, the winning group will receive 1 Trophy and 1 Diploma. All members of the group will receive 1 Diploma each.
8. The first-place winner of the Vitorino Matono Award will receive 1 Artistic Trophy, 1 Diploma, and a scholarship of €50.00.
9. **The awarding of Diplomas/Awards will take place at the ceremony dedicated to this purpose (24 May – 15:30 – Final Concert).**
10. **The presence of the competitor(s) at the Final Concert (24 May 2026) is mandatory; failure to attend will prevent the delivery of the Diploma(s)/Award(s) to which they are entitled.**
11. **Only the competitor(s) may receive their respective Diplomas/Awards during the Awards Ceremony, which will take place at 15:30 on 24 May 2026, at the Cine-Teatro de Alcobaça.**

VIII. FEES PAYABLE ON THE DAY OF PARTICIPATION

BEGINNER CATEGORY CHILDREN CATEGORY	25,00 €
YOUTH CONCERT CATEGORY JUNIOR CONCERT CATEGORY SENIOR CONCERT CATEGORY	30,00 €
YOUTH VARIÉTÉ CATEGORY JUNIOR VARIÉTÉ CATEGORY SENIOR VARIÉTÉ CATEGORY FREE CATEGORIES	25,00 €
VITORINO MATONO PRIZE	20,00 €
GROUPS	
ENSEMBLE / CHAMBER MUSIC DUOS TRIOS QUARTETS QUINTETOS, etc.	30,00 € (total)
ORCHESTRAS	40,00 € (total)

XIX. ACCEPTANCE

1. All competitors, in order to participate, must accept all points of these regulations. Any violation of these regulations may result in disqualification.
2. The organization reserves the right to admit competitors.
3. Participation implies full acceptance of these Regulations, including authorization for audiovisual recording and dissemination.
4. These Regulations supersede all previous versions.

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Any clarifications can be requested via telephone (+351 917 255 951) or by email to the Accordion Association of PORTUGAL (info.asacord@gmail.com)

Additional information is always available on the Accordion Association of PORTUGAL website at www.asacord.com

ORGANIZATION

Associação de Acordeão de Portugal



Município de Alcobaça



Orquestra Típica e Coral de Alcobaça



APOIOS

União de Freguesias de Alcobaça e Vestiaria



Pigini Accordions



Acordeonata – Pigini Portugal



PIECES OF PROFESSOR VITORINO MATONO

AMÊNDOAS ALGARVIAS
AMOR CAMPESTRE
BORBOLETA BEIJA AS FLORES QUE DEUS LHE DEU
CAPRICO ESLAVO
CORRIDINHO DE AVIS
CORRIDINHO DO MONTINHO
COSTA D'OURO
DEDOS DE OIRO
DO SOBRAL À ARRUDA
ENTRE PARREIRAS
ESTRELAS DO MEIO DIA
FAISÃO
FANTASIA CIGANA
FANTASIA MUSETTE
FESTA NA SERRA
FESTIVALHOMENAGEM AO TANGO
OLHÃO VIRADO AO MAR
PANORAMAS DE PORTUGAL
RECORDAÇÕES DE AVIS
RITMOS DO SUL
SEVILHA TERRA DE SOL
TARDES DE VILA FRANCA
VALSA ROMÂNTICA