CodeWars Barcelona 2026
Competition Rules

Official document with the rules for the CodeWars Barcelona 2026 competition.

1. Introduction and Objective

HP CodeWars Barcelona is an annual programming competition for ESO, *Bachillerato*, and FP (CFGM) students, organized at the HP headquarters in Sant Cugat del Vallès.

The competition aims to encourage STEM vocations, promote teamwork and creativity through programming challenges, and foster gender equality in technology.

Key values of the event:

- Practical learning: Solve real-world problems through programming.
- Collaboration: Teamwork and networking with other students and professionals.
- Diversity and inclusion: Encourage female participation and equal opportunities.
- Innovation: Challenges designed to stimulate creativity and logic.
- Promote reading comprehension in English.

2. Organization

- Organizer: HP Barcelona (Sant Cugat del Vallès)
- Date and place: Saturday, 7 March 2026, at the HP Barcelona International Centre
    - Address: Camí de Can Graells, 1-21
      Sant Cugat del Vallès
      08174 (Barcelona)
- The competition lasts 3 hours, but the event continues into the afternoon, including welcome activities, lunch, awards ceremony, optional visit to the Customer Experience Center, and access to the University Fair featuring the most relevant STEM universities in Catalonia.

3. Participants and Eligibility

Who can participate?

- Students from 3rd year of ESO to 2nd year of *Bachillerato* or *Ciclos Formativos de Grado Medio* (CFGM).
- Maximum age: born in 2008 or later (inclusive).
- No advanced programming experience required, just an interest in learning and competing.

Teams:

- Each team will consist of 3 students.
- Each educational center may register up to 3 teams in total.
- To promote inclusion, gender diverse teams will be prioritized.

Registration:

- Opens January 2026.
- Deadline: 20 February 2026 (may be extended if places remain).
- Process:
  - Up to 3 teams registered per school. The number of participating teams is limited and participation of all teams registered by the school is not guaranteed, so we recommend registering teams in order of preference.
  - Registration must be done through the school and with a responsible teacher, who will act as the team sponsor.
- Confirmation: The organization will send an email to confirm registration and the details of the day of the event.

4. Competition

A. Format

- 3 hours to solve as many challenges as possible.
- Official language: English.
- Modality: teams of 3 students.
- Each problem has a point value. The value increases with the difficulty of the problems. The objective is to score as many points as possible within the allotted time.

B. Required Materials

- Laptop with browser and wireless network access for competing. These laptops must run Windows, Linux, or MacOS operating systems.
  Ensure the laptops do not have restrictions that prevent access to a simple local network.

- We recommend bringing a second backup laptop, although answers can only be submitted from one computer. The backup may only be used if the main laptop fails during the competition.
- Each team/school is responsible for bringing their own laptop(s). Please check before the event. External monitors are not allowed, and only one external keyboard and mouse per team may be used (spares may be brought). It is important to bring the necessary chargers
- Competition tables have only one power socket per team.
- Support documentation in physical or digital format is allowed, as well as libraries and code examples on the laptop.
- During the competition, the use of phones or other devices with internet access is not permitted, except for the authorized competition laptop. Use of phones, smartwatches, or any other device with internet access will result in automatic disqualification of the team.

C. Development Software

Permitted development software during the competition:

- Python 3: a local Python interpreter must be installed on the laptop.
- C/C++: a compatible ANSI C/C++ compiler capable of creating standalone executables must be installed.

D. Evaluation Criteria

- Number of challenges solved correctly according to our public and private test cases.
- Judges may contact teams to ask about their code solutions.

E. Prizes and Recognition

Main Prize

- First place team: trip to HP Houston (USA) to participate in next year's CodeWars Houston edition.
- Second place team: selection of HP products.
- Third place team: selection of HP products.
- Participation: certificate of recognition for all participants, including teachers.

Additional Categories:

HP is committed to promoting STEM vocations in early stages of education. For this reason, in addition to the main prize, there is an additional prize:

- Best under-16 team (all participants born in 2010 or later)

Note: The organization reserves the right to change categories and prizes.

F. Guidelines

- Each team will receive a unique username and password for the competition, which must not be shared with any other team. Accessing with another team's credentials will result in immediate expulsion.
- Teams may not speak with participants at other tables or help other teams. This will result in immediate expulsion.
- Participating teams must configure the competition system with the provided username and password.
- There is no limit to the number of attempts to solve a problem. In case of a tie in points, the jury will decide the competition result based on criteria they deem appropriate.
- Any decision by the jury is final and binding.
- Any necessary corrections to the contest problem statements, test vectors, or criteria will be shown to all participating teams via the platform provided by HP.
- It is recommended that team sponsors (teachers) help their students with setup before the event. However, once the competition starts, the team must work independently.
- Additional rules, modifications, and/or more details will be available in advance in the days leading to the event.
- Please arrive on time to set up equipment and ensure the competition starts on schedule.

5. Rules and Regulations

- Mandatory accompaniment: All participants must attend with the teacher acting as sponsor.
- Entry and exit must be done as a group (no partial exits).
- Entry is not permitted to anyone who is not registered to the competition (no additional companions).
- Conduct: respectful behavior and compliance with safety rules at the venue is expected.
- HP reserves the right to disqualify a team if:
  - They do not meet registration or participation criteria.
  - They copy or use unauthorized external means.
  - They do not maintain appropriate conduct during the competition.
- Private or charter schools must provide a civil liability certificate.

6. Queries and Support

- Official website: codewarsbcn.hpcloud.hp.com
- Contact: hpcodewarsbcn@hp.com

7. Data Protection

The data controller is HP Printing and Computing Solutions S.L.U ("HP"), with registered office at Calle José Echegaray 18, Las Rozas, Madrid.

HP will process personal data for the following purposes:

- To manage participation and attendance at the CodeWars Barcelona 2026 event, including prize management.
- Promotion of the event before, during, and after the event. For this promotion, images of participants and attendees taken during the event may be used.

The legal basis for processing personal data to manage participation and attendance at the CodeWars Barcelona 2026 event, including prize management, is the execution of the contract derived from acceptance of the Competition Rules. The legal basis for event promotion is consent. Consent must be given by the participant or attendee or by a third party authorized to do so. If consent is given by an authorized third party, that third party must inform the participant or attendee about HP's processing of their personal data.

The personal data HP will process at the CodeWars Barcelona 2026 event are: name and surname, ID, age, school, email address, phone number, and image.

HP will retain your personal data until the purpose for which they were collected has been fulfilled and/or until the consent given is withdrawn. Notwithstanding the above, HP may retain personal data for as long as necessary to comply with legal obligations in each case.

Personal data may be disclosed to those third parties to whom HP is legally obliged to disclose them; those to whom HP has entrusted the provision of any service related to the management or execution of the processing purposes and which involves access to personal data; and to other HP group companies as necessary to fulfil the processing purposes. If any of these personal data disclosures involve a transfer to a third country or international organization, HP will only make such transfer in accordance with applicable law.

You may exercise your rights of access, cancellation, rectification, restriction, portability, and objection and revoke your consent at any time by contacting HP via the contact form available at https://www.hp.com/us-en/privacy/ww-privacy-form.html. Requests to exercise rights must include a copy of your ID or equivalent identification document. You may also contact HP's Data Protection Officer via the same form and consult HP's privacy policy at www.hp.com/privacy.

If you believe HP has processed your personal data in breach of applicable regulations, you may file a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency.