



BURSA CULTURE ART AND TOURISM FOUNDATION
38th INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN KARAGÖZ FOLK DANCE COMPETITION
7-12 JULY 2026

GENERAL RULES

1. If more than one application is received from the same country, the group that will represent that country will be selected by the Festival Committee based on the submitted documents and visual materials.
2. Competing groups may consist of a maximum of 37 people, including managers, dancers, musicians, and (for groups arriving by bus) drivers. Groups using transportation other than a bus may include up to 35 managers, dancers, and musicians.
3. Groups participating in the competition must perform with at least 12 (twelve) and at most 24 (twenty-four) dancers on stage.
4. Competing groups may perform using a digital music recording or with a live orchestra of up to 8 (eight) musicians.
5. In addition to dancers and musicians, each group may include up to 3 (three) managers, including the team leader, and up to 2 (two) drivers.
6. If the dancers and musicians listed in the submitted delegation list do not perform on stage as specified, the group will be disqualified, and all resulting expenses shall be covered by the delegation.
7. Even if they participate with a live orchestra, all groups must perform using a digital music recording during the opening ceremony.
8. Competing groups are not permitted to make any presentation or introduction other than the announcement made by the host. However, if a video promoting their country not exceeding 45 (forty-five) seconds is submitted, it may be shown on screen upon approval of the Festival Committee.
9. Groups may not use flags, banners, boards, or similar objects on stage unless they are elements directly related to the choreography (i.e., not props unrelated to the performance).
10. Groups performing with digital music must have their group coordinator or guide present at the sound desk throughout the performance.
11. The minimum age for dancers and musicians is 16 (sixteen), with 31.12.2009 set as the lower birthdate limit. Any dancer or musician born on or after 01.01.2010 will not be allowed to participate. The submitted application form will be reviewed by the Festival Committee, and replacement of any dancer or musician who does not meet the age requirement will be requested. If these changes are not made, the group will not be allowed to participate in the festival even if they have already arrived at the competition venue.

12. Competing groups must check into their hotel in Bursa no later than 06 July 2026 and check out no later than 12:00 on 13 July 2026. In cases of force majeure such as delays due to transportation issues, groups may still be included in the competition provided that they participate in the parade on 7 July 2026. Groups arriving after this date will not be included in the event.
13. Competing groups are required to comply with the program set by the Festival Committee and with universal rules of etiquette.
14. The official language of the competition is English. While providing a Turkish interpreter is preferred, if no interpreter is available, each group must have at least one person who speaks English.
15. Groups must obtain valid travel health insurance for all members of their delegation and present the insurance document to the organizing committee.
16. If groups choose air travel, transportation costs from the airport onward will be covered by the organizing committee. If they travel by land, round-trip fuel costs from the border gate to Bursa will be covered by the organizing committee. During the competition, groups arriving by land will not be assigned an additional vehicle; fuel expenses will be covered by the organizing committee based on mileage.
17. If a group will participate in another event after the competition, transportation expenses will be covered by the organizer of that subsequent event.
18. During the competition, local transportation, accommodation, and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) will be provided by the organizing committee. Personal expenses incurred by participants at the hotel are their own responsibility. Any physical damage caused by group members at the accommodation facilities must be compensated by the respective group.
19. Groups that do not comply with the rules stated above will not be accepted into the competition even if they have arrived in Bursa. If they wish to continue their stay during the festival, all accommodation, transportation, meal, and other related expenses must be covered by the group itself.



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DAYS OF COMPETITION AND PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCES AND DURATIONS:

7 July 2026 – Parade

7 July 2026 – Opening Ceremony and Performance at the Open-Air Theatre (**3 minutes**)

8 – 9 – 10 July 2026 – Open-Air Theatre Performances (**8–10 minutes**)

8 – 9 – 10 July 2026 – Park and District Performances (**15 minutes**)

11 July 2026 – Competition at the Open-Air Theatre (**8 minutes**)

12 July 2026 – Competition at the Open-Air Theatre (**5 minutes**) (Gala and Award Ceremony)

1st Place Award – **Golden Karagöz** €5,000
2nd Place Award – **Silver Karagöz** €3,000
3rd Place Award – **Bronze Karagöz** €2,000

1 TÜRKSOY Special Award €1,000
1 Honourable Mention Award €1,000
1 Honourable Mention Award €1,000



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APPLICATION FORM

COUNTRY :

CITY :

ASSOSIATION (ENSEMBLE NAME) :

ASSOSIATION ADDRESS :

PHONE NUMBER :

MOBILE PHONE NUMBER :

E-MAIL ADDRESS :

NAME OF THE ENSEMBLE LEADER :

FAX NUMBER :

LANGUAGES SPOKEN :

NUMBER OF MEMBERS (MAX: 35) : **MALE** **FEMALE**

MEANS OF TRANSPORT :

ARRIVING DATE & HOUR :

ARRIVING AIRPORT & FLIGHT CODE :

DEPARTURE DATE & HOUR :

DEPARTURE AIRPORT & FLIGHT CODE :

ON BEHALF OF ASSOCIATION :
Name :
Signature :
Date :

- 1- Please fill the form completely.
- 2- This definitive form must be sent until **15 February 2026**



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PARTICIPANT'S NAME LIST

NO	NAME-SURNAME	GENDER	DATE OF BIRTH	PROFESSION	PASSPORT NUMBER	ROOM SHARING
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2						
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1 - The information in the form must be full filled.

2 - This application form must be signed and delivered in .pdf format to the organization committee before **15 February 2026**.



BURSA CULTURE ART AND TOURISM FOUNDATION
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7 – 12 JULY 2026

COMPETITION EVALUATION

1. The competition will be evaluated by at least 5 international jury members appointed by the organizing committee.
2. The competition draw will be conducted with the participation of the competition's artistic director and the representatives of the competing groups.
3. The evaluation will be carried out using the elimination method on a 50-point scale, based on the criteria provided in the attached document.
4. Mathematical calculation of the evaluation: The highest and lowest scores on the jury evaluation forms will be excluded; the remaining scores will be divided by the number of valid forms to determine the group's average score.
5. Final competition results: The scores obtained on the 1st and 2nd days will be added together and divided by 2, and this average will be announced as the group's final competition score.

Example : 1. performans

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
41	30	44	37	36	38	42
41 + 37 + 36 + 38 + 42 = 194 : 5 = : 38.8						

Example 2. Performans

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
41	30	44	37	34	38	42
41 +37+ 34+38+42=38.4						

Example: Result Point.**38.8+38.4= 77.2 / 2 = 38.6**

- Competing groups must strictly adhere to their assigned performance durations. Groups may exceed the lower or upper limits by up to 30 seconds. If this limit is exceeded, 2 full points will be deducted from the group's final score.
- In the event that groups receive the same average score, the following rules will be applied in order:
 - A) Live music (orchestra) takes precedence over digital music.
 - B) Scores that were previously excluded from the evaluation will be included.
 - C) The result will be determined by drawing lots.
- In the event of a sound, lighting, or technical malfunction during the competition, the competition's artistic director will immediately stop the performance, and the competing group will restart their performance from the beginning.



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EVALUATION FORM (LIVE)

COUNTRY:			NUMBER OF DANCERS: F() M()					
CITY:			NUMBER OF MUSICIANS:					
NAME OF GROUP LEADER:			NAME OF CHOREOGRAPHER:					
SIGNATURE:								
CRITERIAS			POINT SYSTEM					
COSTUME	“Costumes are not folkloric.”							5
	“Errors in costume, makeup, accessories, jewelry, and props.”			1	2	3	4	5
MUSIC	Tuning Error							3
	Pitch Deviation Error			1	2	3	4	5
DANCE	“Stage Entrance – Exit Error”					1	2	3
	The dance steps not reflecting authentic folkloric characteristics.”	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
“Errors in the dancers’ movement, expression, and coordination with the music.”	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Errors in stage use and improper placement in terms of aesthetics and physical balance .			1	2	3	4	5	
Inconsistency in choreography and thematic expression, pattern errors, excessive repetition, and numerical/physical imbalance among the dancers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
TOTAL POINT	50							
POINTS AWARDED								
NAME AND SURNAME OF MEMBERS OF JURY	SIGNATURE							



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EVALUATION FORM (DIGITAL RECORDING)

COUNTRY:			NUMBER OF DANCERS: F() M()					
CITY:			NUMBER OF MUSICIANS					
NAME OF GROUP LEADER			NAME OF CHOREOGRAPHER:					
SIGNATURE:								
CRITERIAS			POINT SYSTEM					
COSTUME	“Costumes are not folkloric.”							5
	“Carelessness in costumes, makeup, accessories, jewelry, and use of props.”			1	2	3	4	5
MUSIC	“Incorrect tuning.”							3
	Pitch deviations (off-key), and errors in the structural and performance coordination of instruments in the orchestra			1	2	3	4	5
DANCE	Errors in arrangement (mixing), including simple sounds, mixing, mastering, and edits.			1	2	3	4	5
	Errors in stage entrances and exits					1	2	3
	The steps forming the dances do not carry authentic folkloric characteristics.			1	2	3	4	5
	Errors in dancers' movement, expression, and coordination with the music	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Errors in stage usage and improper placement affecting aesthetic and physical balance			1	2	3	4	5
	Choreography (arrangement): Lack of consistency between the thematic expression and formations, incorrect pattern transitions, excessive repetition, and numerical/physical imbalance among the dancers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TOTAL POINT			50					
POINTS AWARDED								
NAME AND SURNAME OF MEMBERS OF JURY			SIGNATURE					



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EXPLANATIONS OF COMPETITION CRITERIA

1. COSTUMES

1.1 Costumes are not folkloric:

Competing groups are required to perform in costumes reflecting the folkloric values of their country. If a group wears costumes that do not belong to them or have modern characteristics, 5 (five) points will be deducted from the group's score as a block by all members of the festival jury.

1.2 Carelessness in costumes, makeup, accessories, jewelry, and props:

If costumes are not worn carefully, if pieces of the costume are disorganized, loose, or fall off, if there are missing costume pieces, if makeup or jewelry is inconsistent within the group, or if props are not used appropriately, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.

2. MUSIC

2.1 Incorrect tuning:

Only the tuning of instruments in the orchestra during the first performance will be considered. If a tuning error is detected during the first performance, 3 (three) points will be deducted from the group's score as a block by all jury members. Tuning errors occurring after the first performance will not be evaluated.

2.2 Pitch deviations (off-key) and errors in instrumental coordination in the orchestra:

In case of pitch deviations in instruments or vocals (off-key, detuned), or structural/performance coordination errors among the instruments of the orchestra, including score distribution and sound balance, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.

2.3 Errors in arrangement (sample sounds, mixing, mastering, and edits):

If there are differences in sound quality in digital recordings, exaggerated bass or treble frequencies, or mistakes in editing and mastering, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.

Note: This criterion only applies to groups performing with digital recordings (CD or pre-recorded performance); it does not apply to live performances.

3. DANCE

3.1 Errors in stage entrances and exits:

If assigned backstage areas are not used correctly, or if rules of symmetry/asymmetry are not followed during stage entrances and exits, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.

3.2 Dance steps lack authentic folkloric characteristics:

If the characteristic and dominant features of each country's dances are performed incorrectly within the movement patterns, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.

3.3 Errors in dancers' movement, expression, and coordination with the music:

If dancers lack unity and cohesion in movement, if their expressions are not consistent with the theme of the dance, or if individual or group steps are not synchronized with the music despite correct melody, rhythm, and tempo, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.

3.4 Errors in stage use and improper placement affecting aesthetic and physical balance:

If stage placement is not correct in terms of aesthetics or physical balance, or if symmetry/asymmetry is misused, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.

3.5 Choreography (arrangement): Lack of consistency, pattern errors, excessive repetition, and imbalance among dancers:

If there is a lack of harmony between thematic expression and formations, incorrect pattern transitions, covering (blocking) between lines, excessive repetition of figures, or numerical/physical imbalance among dancers, 1 (one) point will be deducted from the group's score for each error.