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9th. MTFE GRAVE DIGGING COMPETITION

OFFICIAL RULES

Only teams registered in advance via the official registration form and having paid the participation fee are eligible to take part in the 2026 9th. MTFE Grave Digging Competition, organized by the Hungarian Association of Cemetery Maintainers and Operators (MTFE).

By entering the competition, the members of each 2-person team acknowledge and accept these rules, and agree to act fairly and respectfully throughout the event. Any deliberate violation of the rules or unacceptable conduct may result in disqualification by the jury or competition committee.

1./ General information:

Date: 5th September 2026

Venue of the competition: Új Köztemető Cemetery
2536 Nyergesújfalu, Zelk Zoltán Street 2.

Registration: Team representatives/participants must register at the competition venue between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m.

Work safety and accident prevention briefing: 8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Start time: 9:00 a.m.

2./ Task description:

The competitors' positions within the plot will be determined by drawing lots.

The competition consists of two tasks:

- Grave digging
- Grave mounding (reburial with soil)

2.1./ Grave digging (Sírásás)

Each grave pit must be dug according to the marker post assigned by the lottery. The grave's head side (the shorter end) must be placed exactly 50 cm from the post, and the grave must be symmetrical with respect to the post.

During the competition, it is not possible to use the cage (measuring frame) for inspection purposes, nor is it permitted to use your own cage.

Time allowed for grave digging: 2 hours

Required dimensions of the grave pit:

- Width: 80 cm
- Length: 200 cm
- Depth: 160 cm

The excavated soil must be placed around the two long sides and the shorter head side of the grave. Only one team member may be in the grave pit at any time. The second team member may only work outside the grave.

All tools and safety equipment (e.g. spade, shovel, pickaxe, ladder, helmet, harness, rope, etc.) must be provided by the teams. The use of personal planks is permitted.

2.2./ Grave mounding (Hantkialakítás)

Only soil excavated during the digging of the grave pit may be used to construct the mound. Any other "foreign" elements or soil patterns will result in disqualification from this part of the competition.

The time allowed for constructing the mound is 15 minutes.

First aid facilities and restrooms will be provided by the cemetery operator, Léthé Temetkezési Ltd.

3./ Evaluation and Judging Criteria:

The jury consists of leaders or delegates of professional funeral associations.
The order of evaluation criteria is as follows:

3.1/ Grave digging

The primary criteria is the shortest time required to complete a correctly sized grave (as per 2.1). For teams that meet these criteria, the measuring frame ('kaloda') may be fully lowered to the bottom of the grave."

The jury will verify the grave dimensions only after the team declares completion by placing all tools beside the grave and both team members report to the jury table. Once the time is recorded, the inspection takes place, and the first part of the competition is officially concluded for that team.

If the measuring frame ('kaloda') cannot be lowered to the bottom of the grave without obstruction, the team will be ranked based on the depth to which the frame could be lowered in a horizontal position. No corrections or adjustments to the grave dimensions are allowed afterward.

If, within the time limit specified in section 2.1, no team manages to lower the measuring frame to the bottom of the grave, the team that achieves the greatest depth will be declared the winner.

In the case of teams reaching the same depth, ranking will be determined by time – the winning team will be the one that reached the given depth in the shortest amount of time.

3.2/ Grave Mounding

The winner is the team that places back the most soil and creates the most well-formed mound.

Each jury member gives a score between 1 and 10 for each team.

Speed is not a factor in this round; all teams have exactly 15 minutes.

The team with the highest total score wins.

4./ Prizes

a) Grave Digging:

1st Place: HUF 200,000 per team + trophy

2nd Place: HUF 140,000 per team + trophy

3rd Place: HUF 100,000 per team + trophy

b) Grave Mounding:

Winner: HUF 100,000 per team + trophy

Dated: Kecskemét, July 1, 2026



József Varga
President of MTFE