

Presentation



Kortrijk (Belgium)

***The International Aquarius X-Mas Tournament
Kortrijk (Belgium)***

Welcome at the **Aquarius X-Mas Tournament** in Kortrijk (Belgium), the reference youth basketball tournament in Northern Europe!

In a nutshell

- The **Aquarius X-Mas Tournament** in Kortrijk (Belgium) is an international three days event, at the end of December, open for both boys and girls, in different age groups. We organize competitions for ages Under 19, Under 18, Under 16, Under 14, Under 12 and Under 10.
- We apply high standards when it comes to the level of the participants. Participating teams must play at the highest level in their respective countries. Our aim is to gather some of the better teams from all over the globe.
- Our main strength: we aim at providing quality in all fields, on and off the court. That's why teams always want to come back to Kortrijk !

The participants

- In the past years, teams from 30 different countries, including the United States and Canada, participated in our event. In our most recent edition, we hosted 182 teams.
- We focus on the international aspect of the event. At least 50 % of the participants in each age group must come from abroad. This offers the best Belgian teams an outstanding opportunity to compete against the international top-level teams.
- In our recent editions, some of the big names in European basketball have been participating, such as Fenerbahce Istanbul, Juventud Badalona, Alba Berlin, Spartak Moscow, USK Prague, Stellazzura Roma or Belgrade. Northfield Mount Hermon, one of the better prep schools in the USA is a regular participant, and we also hosted several national teams (Belgium, the Netherlands, England, Germany, Israel, Hungary, Switzerland, Norway...)



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The organization

- The event is organized by a hard-working organizing committee, supported by several local basketball clubs: Kortrijk Spurs, Wikings Kortrijk, ION Waregem, Holstra Wings Wevelgem, Basket HEXIA Zwevegem Deerlijk and Jeunesse Sportive Dottignies.
- During the three days of competitions, more than 500 volunteers are working for the organization. They take care of official duties during the games (except officiating), administrative support, catering, beverages, transportation, security, medical assistance and many other issues.
- As the **Aquarius X-Mas Tournament** became a reference event, we are happy to be able to benefit from support by regional and local authorities as well as significant aid from several sponsors. Without them, this event would be impossible to organize.
- We also receive significant support from our national and the European basketball federations, mainly in the field of officiating (referees). FIBA Europe organizes a FIBA referee clinic in Kortrijk during the event, for high potentials from all over Europe.



Where does it happen

- The Center of gravity is in venue Lange Munte in Kortrijk, homecourt of Kortrijk Spurs and also used very often by the Belgian Cats, our women's national team.
- Competitions also take place in surrounding towns Deerlijk, Zwevegem, Waregem, Wevelgem and Dottignies. In total, competitions take place on 22 courts.
- In every venue, one of the organizing clubs takes care of all issues on and of the court. These clubs put an enormous effort in hosting all the teams in the best possible circumstances before, during and after their games.



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The competitions

- *The competitions take 3 days for all teams (U10 excepted). Every team plays 5 games with stopped clock. All participants play two games on the first and on the second day of the tournament, and a final ranking game on the last day.*
- *All games are officiated by two or three referees, all belonging to the national or European high potential program.*
- *All finals are organized in Venue Lange Munte in Kortrijk. Although we work on the best possible international level in every age groups, we put a particular effort in our flagship age groups, Men Under 19 and Women Under 17.*
- *The most recent edition offered us the following winners in these age groups: Belgrade Basketball (Men Under 19) and Sparta&k Moscow (Women Under 17).*



And besides the competitions....

- *In every age group an MVP is awarded. The MVP Awards are sponsored by Coach Van Kers, living legend in Basketball coaching, and by An Wauters, former WNBA champion and multiple European player of the year. Several former MVPs play now at the highest European level and are internationals for their country.*
- *We also organize competitions in G-Basketball. G-Basketball is open for those who are, due to physical or mental reasons, not able to play basketball in traditional teams.*
- *Every year, we financially support a humanitarian or social project with the benefits of our event.*



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Our secret: offering the best possible services

Of course, we are not the only big youth tournament in Europe, but the difference with most other organizations is our ambition to deliver quality on and off the court:

- *Games are played on the best possible venues in and around Kortrijk. These venues respond to the international standards.*
- *Teams are accommodated in the best hotels in the Kortrijk region. Thanks to the cooperation of some top-level hotels, we are able to limit participation costs for teams to the absolute minimum.*
- *For teams arriving by airplane, we provide airport shuttles, and we take care of transport between the hotels and the venues during the tournament. Our "taxi-drivers" are known all over Europe.*



Some figures

- *The Aquarius X-Mas Tournament has been organized 14 times. In our first edition, a one-day event, we only hosted 5 Belgian teams. In our most recent edition, 182 teams were present. We also had to disappoint over 100 teams that applied, as we reached our full capacity.*
- *Every day, we distribute around 2.000 lunches and evening meals to our participants, in five tournament restaurants.*
- *Over 1.500 players, coaches, managers, members of family and friends are accommodated by us in hotels and hostels.*
- *Over 100 referees, from over 20 countries, are officiating every game. Every referee is permanently coached and evaluated by Belgian and European basketball federations*



Next edition:

27-29 December 2021

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