

Dear prospective member of the European Go Instructors Network,

Thank you for your interest in joining the European Go Instructors Network. To help us understand your qualifications and aspirations as a Go instructor, please complete the following application form. Your responses will be instrumental in building a strong and supportive community of Go instructors in Europe.

### Section 1: Personal Information

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<b>Full Name:</b> Dave de Vos
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<b>Contact Email:</b> dave.devos@planet.nl
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<b>Contact Phone Number:</b> +31 6 42771476
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.
<b>Country:</b> Netherlands (and Belgium to some extent)
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<b>Town:</b> Baarle, dual nationality of Baarle-Nassau(NL) and Baarle-Hertog(BE), some 10,000 inhabitants total.
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<b>Teaching Format:</b> Club
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### Section 2: Go Instruction Activity

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<b>Number of Active Students (U18 Only):</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently 11 members in after school club: Jan-Paul Houter Castro, Daan Brosens, Tim Brosens, Eline Kools, Sanne Kools,</li></ul>

Maurice van den Berg,  
Bennie van den Berg,  
Jaylen Kleiren,  
Liv Bruurs,  
Finn Bruurs,  
Gijs Daemen.

- A few dozens of unregistered players that play during lunch breaks only

### **Short History of Your Activity:**

- Starting Year: 2012
- Highlights:

The origin of my youth club was that my son gave a presentation on go that interested his primary school teacher, and the school invited me to give a beginners course to 6 students during lunch breaks on Fridays (I don't work on Fridays).

After the course finished, the group continued as a go club. With some natural turnover, the club remained stable with about 10 players for some years.

The school moved to a new building in 2016 and this allowed go to become more visible. Some 20 players would now come to play every Friday, with peaks of over 40 players (reaching the limit of our playing material).

This was great, but it also meant that this informal group was getting a bit too large and diverse for me to teach, so in 2018 I started a slightly more formal club after school on Fridays, in addition to the informal lunch break group. After school members pay a small fee (about 1 euro per week). The membership of this group has fluctuated between 8 and 20 members over the years. I use the membership fees to buy boards, stones, books, clocks and occasionally some small sponsoring of events elsewhere.

In 2018 I also became Youth board member of the NgoB (Dutch go association), so I started organising the Dutch Youth Championships, I helped to organise other youth tournaments and I was a captain for Dutch youth players in online events

(such as the EYGTC).

I also helped starting a small go school in a Chinese school in Delft.

I'd say 2019 was the top year in regard to youth activities where I was involved in. Then in 2020 covid came and this had quite a negative impact on youth go in the Netherlands. Recovery from that time is slow, but I feel we are clearly on the path to recovery in late 2023.

### **Calendar of Organized Events:**

- I'll organise the Dutch Youth Championships in mid January 2024

### **Teaching Structure:**

- Lesson Duration: 10-15 minutes per hour
- Lesson Frequency: weekly
- Number of Age Groups: 2 groups after school, first (larger) group for all members, second (smaller) group for somewhat older/stronger members.

### **Participation at Other Events:**

- Dutch Youth Championship: 2019, 2020, 2023
- EYGTC: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Local youth tournaments: Den Bosch 2018, Den Haag 2019, Den Bosch 2019, Delft 2019, Baarle 2019

### **Notable Results from Students:**

- Dutch Youth Championships (though maybe not very notable due to a lack of competition):  
Collin Nooijens: 1<sup>st</sup> place U12 2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> place U12 2020  
Flynt Warmenhoven: 2<sup>nd</sup> place U12 2019, 1<sup>st</sup> place U12 2020  
Jair Falkenstein: 3<sup>rd</sup> place U12 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> place U12 2020  
Joah Falkenstein: 3<sup>rd</sup> place U16 2019  
Dior de Vos: 2<sup>nd</sup> place U20 2019, 1<sup>st</sup> place U20 2020, 3<sup>rd</sup> place U20 2023

### **Plans for the Future:**

- Recover my club further from the "covid depression". That may also provide a basis to have sufficient participants in local youth tournaments again.
- Organise another youth tournament in Baarle
- Still uncertain about participation in EYGTC 2023
- Help the development and distribution of material to support creating and sustaining youth clubs elsewhere

### **Section 3: Support and Challenges**

#### **How Can NA or EGF Help Improve Local Activity:**

- I'd like the NGoB to be more active in supporting the development and distribution of material to support creating and sustaining youth clubs in the Netherlands.  
The NGoB has had many plans in this direction for at least 5 years and they commit funding to it as well, but the NGoB has been understaffed for many years already and there is a persistent lack of volunteers who are willing and able to realise these plans, so those plans don't seem to go forward and year after year those funds end up not getting used.  
I imagine that many smaller EGF members are in a worse situation than the Netherlands, so I hope the EGF can help to move things forward.  
Due to the double nationality of our town and the club, the club also functions as a Belgian youth club (it might even be the only one at this moment).  
I'm hoping that at some point the BGF (Belgian Go Federation) will organise Belgian Youth Championships so that our Belgian members also have a chance to compete for an official title.

#### **Challenges Encountered:**

- The club in Baarle has a good location and sufficient playing material, financial resources and active players.

A potential issue is human resources: it's fully dependent on me. If I would quit, the club would simply stop existing. I have a busy day job and a family, so I may not invest enough time to lift his club to a higher competitive level. But I'm not even sure if I should aim for that, because I like that this club is a more recreational youth club and neither parents nor players seem all that interested in investing more time to reach a high level. Although perhaps they might if I push it a bit more?

**Additional Topics:**

- I developed an informal rating system with diplomas for our youth club that might be useful for other youth clubs. I can share more details if anyone is interested.

**Section 4: Additional Information and Links**

**Additional Information:**

- I don't have anything to add.

**Media Links:**

- Since 2018, I use a Facebook group to inform teachers and parents about activities of our youth club. I think it is a relatively easy way to maintain a local support base. To ensure some privacy for the children, it is a closed group and I only give access to people who I know to be involved in youth go or our local community.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/goclubdevlinder>

By submitting this application, you acknowledge that your information will be used for membership evaluation within the European Go Instructors Network. Membership is granted upon successful submission of this form and providing a yearly activity report is mandatory.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting Go among U18 youth in Europe and for your interest in joining our network. We look forward to welcoming you into our community of dedicated Go instructors.

Sincerely,

Dave de Vos, 7 October 2023

Please submit your completed application form to [catalin@eurogofed.org].

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