Winter League 2020-2021
Guidebook

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Introduction

Roundnet Belgium is proud to organise the third edition of the Winter League. This year not only the teams have stepped up their game, also the organisation has stepped it's game. As we grow each year, we attempt to professionalise our competitions. We will continue our quest to make roundnet an official recognised sport in Belgium.

Throughout the Winter League the development of the competitive level in Belgium will continue. With new strong teams the top level in Belgium is getting larger and better. We are looking forward to discovering which players will emerge as new powerhouses and which players will confirm their spot at the top.

Tournament Hosts

Of course this league would not be possible without the help of the Belgian roundnet clubs. Their commitment and hard work are two of the main reasons the Belgian community is one of the biggest in Europe. We can not thank them enough for helping building the competitive framework in Belgium and supporting the sport locally.

The clubs who will organise a Winter League match day are:

- Roundnet Oudsbergen
- Roundnet Maldegem
- Roundnet Leuven
- Roundnet Lier - Ballieters
- Roundnet Mechelen
- Roundnet Gent

Register in a tournament

The opening of the registrations will be announced beforehand on social media by the organising roundnet club and by Roundnet Belgium. Be quick because the places are limited.

The fee of participating in a tournament should be payed at last one week before the day of the event.

NOTE: There is one condition to take part in the Winter League: you must register as a member with Roundnet Belgium. No worries, this is free and done in a second. Here is the following link if you haven't registered already: https://www.roundnetbelgium.be/membership/. Don't forget to tell your partner to do the same

NOTE: if a team is registered in a tournament and does not show up at the day of the event (without notification to the organising club), all players will receive an automatic ban from the competition and can not compete in future Winter League match days.

Competition format

General

The league will take place from October until March with a tournament each month. The league consists of six different match days in six different parts of Belgium (only Flanders this year, Roundnet Belgium is trying to get the competitive scene to the Walloon region in the future). At each match day, points can be won based on the ranking of that tournament.

- The ranking is an INDIVIDUAL ranking. Every player will be ranked individually, there is no distinction between being part of the same team or different teams throughout the league.
- Only the 5 best results account for the final score. This means that for a player that participated in all 6 match days, only 5 tournament results will account for the total score. In this way, a player will not be disadvantaged for missing a tournament (with the corona measures only a limited number (25) of teams can participate in an indoor event)
- The formula for the total score is the sum of the points of the separate tournaments (with a maximum of 5 different scores, as explained previously)(more info see 'Point Matrix'):

$$R_{TS} = \sum R_i$$
$$R_{TS} = Total\ Score$$
$$R_i = Points\ obtained\ on\ Match\ Day\ i$$

- There is no distinction between men, women or mixed teams. Because of the corona measures as they are, only a limited number of players are welcome at a tournament. Therefore, we are forced to create one general league. In the future, we strive to create different leagues for different types of teams.

Match Days

Every month, starting from October until March, a match day will be organised by one of the hosting roundnet clubs. Which club organises each month is agreed, but the exact date of each tournament is yet to be set. Be sure to regularly check our social media for updates.

OCTOBER	ROUNDNET OUDSBERGEN
NOVEMBER	ROUNDNET MALDEGEM
DECEMBER	ROUNDNET LEUVEN
JANUARI	ROUNDNET LIER - BALLIETERS
FEBRUARI	ROUNDNET MECHELEN
MARCH	ROUNDNET GENT

Tournament Format

A tournament will consist of pool play and bracket play.

(Our apologies for the mathematical language, this is to show our approach for those who are interested)

Point Matrix

The point matrix of a match day is based on the ranking of the teams at the end of the tournament. Every player will receive an individual score. First a team score is calculated. After, Every player receives the same score as the team score.

The following formula will be used:

$$R_{(a+b)ij} = 0.88^{j-1}1000$$

$R_{(a+b)ij} = Score\ of\ team\ (a+b)\ that\ has\ ranked\ on\ place\ j\ on\ match\ day\ i$

$$R_{aij} = R_{(a+b)ij}$$

$R_{iaj} = Score\ of\ player\ a\ that\ has\ ranked\ on\ place\ j\ on\ match\ day\ i$

$$R_{bij} = R_{(a+b)ij}$$

$$R_{ibj} = Score\ of\ player\ b\ that\ has\ ranked\ on\ place\ j\ on\ match\ day\ i$$

As illustration: the team that ranked 1st on match day 1 receives $R_{(a+b)11} = 0.88^{1-1}1000 = 1000$, the team that ranked 2nd on match day receives $R_{(c+d)12} = 0.88^{2-1}1000 = 880$, the team that ranked 3rd receives $R_{(e+f)13} = 0.88^{3-1}1000 = 774,4\ points, \dots$.

Seeding

The participating teams are divided into groups according to the their seeding. The team with the highest seeding points is ranked 1st, the team with the lowest seeding points is ranked last.

Formula

The formula to calculate the seeding points of each team on a match day is based on the results of the individual players in previous match days.

First a team score of each (previous) match day j is calculated:

$$R_{i(a+b)} = R_{ia} + R_{ib}$$

$$R_{ia} = Score\ of\ player\ a\ in\ match\ day\ i$$

$$R_{ib} = Score\ of\ player\ b\ in\ match\ day\ i$$

$$R_{i(a+b)} = Score\ of\ the\ team\ consisting\ of\ player\ a\ and\ player\ b\ in\ match\ day\ i$$

$$as\ of\ now, for\ the\ sake\ of\ simplicity, R_{i(a+b)}\ is\ reffered\ to\ as\ R_i$$

Next, a summation function (simple: the sum of previous results) is used to calculate the seeding points of a team. In this summation function, there is a factor present with exponential decay. In this way, every result of a tournament receives a weight. Therefore, a tournament that has taken place a longer time ago, will receive less weight than a tournament that has taken place more recently.

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n} 0.7^{n-i} R_{i-1}$$

$$S_n = Seeding\ points\ of\ match\ day\ n$$

$$(R_0 = Score\ of\ Belgian\ Championship)$$

The ranking of the Belgian Championship will be taken into account for the seeding of a match day. First this gives an opportunity to calculate a seeding for match day 1. Second, the Belgian Championship are a good and important representation because this can be seen as the most important tournament of the Belgian competitive year. Even more, for the men's division, this tournament will receive a multiplier of two in proportion to the Winter League match days (see 'point matrix').

NOTE: the score of the Belgian championship will only account for the SEEDING of a match day, NOT FOR THE TOTAL SCORE of the Winter League.

NOTE: if a player did not participate in a match day or at the Belgian championships, she or he will receive a score of 0.

Pool Pay

Division of groups

As previously mentioned, the teams are ranked according to their seeding points. After this ranking, the groups are formed:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E
1	2	3	4	5
10	9	8	7	6
15	14	13	12	11
20	19	18	17	16
25	24	23	22	21

Game format

A game in pool play will consist of 1 set to 21 points (two point differential), with hard cap 25.

Bracket Play

Seeding after pool play

The results of the pool play will determine a new seeding ranking. This ranking first looks at the number of matches won and second to the average point difference of all matches played.

Only the 16 highest ranked teams will advance to bracket play. The remaining 9 teams will play swiss draw to determine their final rank.

The top 16 team will play single elimination. The highest ranked team plays against the lowest ranked team. The bracket is set up in a way that the highest ranked team can only encounter the second highest ranked team in the final.

If a team is eliminated in bracket play, they will play games until their final rank is known.

In bracket play or swiss draw, every game will consist of 2 winning sets to 15 points (two point differential), hard cap 19.

EXCEPTION: the semi-finals and final will consist of 2 winning sets to 21 points (two point differential), hard cap 25.

Corona guidelines

We will follow the COVID-19 rules set by government closely. We hope that every match day of the league will take place but there is no guarantee. If not, we will notice everyone on our social media and refunds will be paid if necessary. Check our social media for updates regarding COVID-19.

As the situation is now, we will apply the following rules:

- When not playing, respect the distance of 1.5m (except with your teammate).
- When not playing, wearing a face mask is mandatory
- All balls must be disinfected after every game.
- Wash your hands regularly (at least after every game). Soap will be present.
- Stay home if you feel ill

If a player does not oblige one of the previous rules, the organisation has the authority to evict that person from the tournament and/or league.