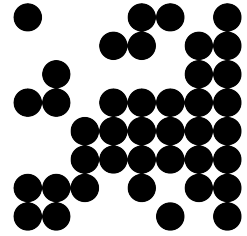


EGF Youth Newsletter

December 2025



Past events

The most notable international youth event of the last half a year were:

- [40th World Youth Go Championship](#) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- 2025 "Quzhou Lanke Cup" International Children Friendly Weiqi Championship in Quzhou, China;
- first time ever Youth Division as part of [20th Korea Prime Minister Cup](#) in Taebaek, South Korea.

More details about these below

World Youth Go Championship (WYGC)

Traditionally, young players to participate in WYGC were selected based on the results of the latest European Youth Go Championship (last time held in Vatra Dornei, Romania) to meet the organizer requirements (age criteria, inability to participate twice in a row). This year, the EGF was proud to receive 9 seats for the tournament: 5 for the U12 group and 4 for the U18 group. Based on their performance at the EYGC, Europe was represented by the following players (along with the place taken at WYGC).

U12

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Larion Syrotkin | (6th) |
| Lilly Hu | (8th) |
| Litao Mei | (9th) |

- 12 - Cherry Hu (12th)
- 13 - Lukasz Kudla (13th)
- U18
- Roberrt-Andrei Grosu (8th)
- Stjepan Medak (11th)
- Antoni Bugaj (12th)
- Jan Komin (14th)



The competition in Kuala Lumpur was intense, and our players did their best to fight against peers from all over the world.



Aside from the games, our young players had the chance to immerse themselves in the local culture and form lasting friendships. What a fantastic experience!

Team-leaders meeting was also full of emotions and unexpected turns. The EGF proposal to firmly set the date to define age groups was accepted. In the future, age groups will be defined by the age as of January 1 of the corresponding year. However, some sad news was also announced: WYGC will become a bi-annual event, happening every second year. Please see below to see how this decision changes our local Go scene.

3rd "Quzhou Lanke Cup" International Children Friendly Weiqi Championship

The "Quzhou Lanke Cup" has quickly become a major event in the international youth Go scene. European teams have been part of the competition since its very first edition three years ago. This year, Europe received an increased number of invitations - four in total - reflecting the growing importance of this event.

As announced previously, the two best teams not participating last year from the PYGETC [League A](#) were invited. Additionally, the winner of [League B](#) was also granted an invitation for their exceptional performance. The final spot was determined through a separate [selection tournament](#), which became possible due to organizers allowing international teams. The selection process allowed us to form a team made up of Europe's strongest youth players. During the European Go Congress in Warsaw, 12 young players with a strength of 1 dan or higher participated in an intense three-round Swiss system competition on a free day. The top three players earned spots on the EGF International Team, which traveled to China for the tournament.

Finally, the teams that represented Europe in Quzhou were:

EGF International Team

Vsevolod Ovsienko, 6d (Ukraine)

Yuze Xing, 6d (Germany)

Bende Barcza, 5d (Hungary)

Croatia

Stjepan Medak, 5d

Roko Crvelin, 3d

Karlo Vlahovic, 2d



UK International

Dragos Boldeanu, 4d (Romania)

Ryan Zhang, 3d (UK)

Lukasz Kudla, 5k (UK)

Czechia

Bartik Dach, 4d

Jan Komin, 4d

Matous Babka, 4k



The [results](#) were impressive, with the EGF International team finishing in an outstanding 3rd place! The other, no less impressive, results are:

11 – Croatia;

13 – Czechia;

15 – UK International.



Congratulations to all the players for their incredible performance!

As mentioned, we expect the Quzhou Lanke Cup to return next year. To better align with the event’s criteria, the selection process will be updated. More details come below.

Youth Division at the 20th Korea Prime Minister Cup

This year, the organizers of the Korea Prime Minister Cup introduced a new [Youth Division](#), inviting players aged 15 or younger to compete. We were happy to see 12 European players travel to Korea for this exciting opportunity. Some of our young players even participated in the National Division, competing alongside adults from around the world and holding their own in tough matches. Pair Baduk competition was a great warm-up before the main action. Some updates and fun facts are [here](#) and [here](#).

Let's give a round of applause to these amazing [young players](#)!

Updates

The structure and development of international youth events could not go unnoticed. As a result, several changes to our rules have been introduced. While a detailed document describing the new selection process in full is available [here](#), below is a brief recap of the most important updates.

The European Youth Go Championship (EYGC) remains the main European youth event of the year and, with some adjustments, continues to serve as the primary qualification event for selecting European youth representatives for international competitions. However, the selection system itself has changed.

New “Old” age groups are back!

To begin with, EYGC is returning to ***three age groups: U12, U16, and U18***. We believe this structure will lead to more balanced groups and fairer competition. Taking into account the newly fixed reference date for age-group definition, eligibility is as follows:

U12 – players born in 2014 or later;

U16 – players born in 2010 or later;

U18 – players born in 2006 or later.

Selection for the World Youth Go Championship (WYGC)

For the purposes of WYGC selection, players will earn selection points over two consecutive years. These points will be awarded as follows:

For EYGC 2026 and EYGC 2027:

- 1) Each win in the top group of U12, U16 and U20 age groups is worth 2 points;
- 2) Each win outside the top group of the U12, U16 and U20 age groups is worth 1 point;
- 3) Places 1, 2 and 3 in each age group bring additional 3, 2 and 1 points respectively;

The list of nominees for WYGC 2027 is based on a sum of points gained in EYGC 2026 and EYGC 2027. In case of equal number of points, the placement in EYGC 2027 decides. After the year when WYGC is played, the points for all players are reset to zero.

Selection points are not the only rewards. Winners of each age group will be given the opportunity to ***join the EGF International Team*** to compete in the Quzhou Youth

Team Event, subject to the conditions set by the organizers. Besides, they will also get an invitation to *participate in the European Championship*, given their GoR is 2400 or more by June 15th. The *title of Champion, prize money, cups, and medals* are, of course, also at stake. Last year, some of the strongest EYGC performers were invited to *join a training program at the Go Academy in China*. While there is no guarantee that this opportunity will be offered again, should such an invitation arise, EYGC results will certainly be crucial.

Selection for the Quzhou Lanke Cup

The selection process for the Quzhou Lanke Cup International Children Friendly Weiqi Championship is also changing, obviously subject to any criteria imposed by organizers.

Most importantly, *PYGETC will no longer serve as a qualification tournament*. Instead, a *new live competition* — fully aligned with the Quzhou World Youth Team Championship format (age range 7–18, three-board teams) — will be introduced: the [EGF Youth Teams Cup](#). This event will take place on Sunday, immediately following EYGC. National federations are warmly invited to register their teams.

Save the date

EYGC

First and foremost, the [31st European Youth Go Championship](#). It will take place on March 25–28, 2026, in Plitvice Lakes, Croatia. Mark your calendars, and don't lose your chance to benefit from the [early-bird registration](#) (available until January 31, 2026). More than 25 participants have already registered — now it's your turn.

Youth Teams Cup

National Associations are invited to express their interest in [registering teams](#). The [EGF Youth Teams Cup](#) will take place on March 29, 2026, in Plitvice Lakes, Croatia, right after EYGC.

Pandanet Youth Go European Team Championship

Registration for [PYGETC](#) is already closed, and the next season is just around the corner, with rounds starting in January. This year, we have an impressive total of *12 teams*, with three new teams joining League B: Austria, Italy, and Slovakia.

Even if you are not participating, you can still follow exciting matches on the Pandanet server. The event web page will be updated with the list of teams and the round schedule in the coming days.

What else?

We are working hard on re-launching the EGF Academy to provide an environment where the strongest and most promising young players can further develop their skills. Stay tuned for future updates!