



BELIŠČE
candidate for

EUROPEAN TOWN OF SPORT
2017

...because people are
the foundation of success!



A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

The Town of Beliše bears the title "Town of Sport" rightly and proudly. It is an indisputable fact that Beliše is a small city in terms of population, but sports results-wise; it is also a town of world-class athletes, who have been celebrating the sport in their city by training hard and diligently. In short, but exceptionally rich sports history of Beliše, the name of their town and homeland has been carried worldwide by numerous kayakers, canoeists, bowlers, football players, sports fishermen, chess players and many other athletes. What unites all them and what Beliše is most proud of are the virtues of unity, enthusiasm, and commitment.



From the very beginning of the formation of what was later to become the industrial Town of Beliše, athletic life has been an indispensable part of daily routine, side by side with culture, education and all other life components of residents of Beliše. From the first mention of football matches in Beliše and a long, almost a century old (since 1919) and rich tradition of the Football Club "Beliše" Beliše, to the fantastic and extremely successful Kayak Club "Beliše", to the very active Sports Association Board of Beliše, whose members today are more than 30 sports clubs and associations, there have always been opportunities for the development of sports skills, knowledge and abilities in various sports disciplines and for all ages in our town.

Around thirty medals from the biggest world and European championships, along with those brightest ones from the Olympic Games, are the best indicators of how the Town of Beliše has always encouraged and given a high-quality environment for the development and improvement of professional sport, at the same time not ignoring the significance of recreational sports as an integral life part of residents of all ages.

In addition, it should be proudly noted that there are not many cities, including the much bigger ones than Beliše that can be honoured that five World champions in four different sports disciplines (kayaking, canoeing, bowling and fishing) spawned from their rows. Likewise, there are four Olympic medals, two gold, one silver and one bronze, shining in the sports sky over Beliše and the entire Croatia, won by the legendary world-class athlete, Matija Ljubek.

Today's Town administration, led by the Mayor, same as all the previous ones, aims to support every sports club and association with the desire that each athlete and each team represent their Town with dignity and pride and promote the sports spirit and friendship among all nations and all people.

The special value of the past athletic achievements of athletes from the Town of Beliše becomes clear in the message to the present and future generations of sports, which is that persistence always pays off in the end because the big things can only happen if the little things are done well, with a lot of hard work and persistence.

Therefore, aware of the importance of our Town's candidature for the title of "European Town of Sport 2017", we believe that the specific value of the award of the title to the Town of Beliše lies in confirming and continuing its phenomenal success of the entire sport in the area. It is providing Beliše with a new motivation and incentive, to the satisfaction of all residents of the Town and its visitors, and reinforcing the already mentioned, particularly valuable, qualities such as commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication to the overall life of the Town. Finally, the importance of sport in the life of a person is also in the fact that sport not only builds human character, but it also reveals it.

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BELIŠĆE – THE TOWN OF SPORT, OLYMPIC AND WORLD CHAMPIONS

It all started and kept going because of the famous Slavonian oak forests, high-quality raw material and entrepreneurship of one family. Slavonian oak was the main reason why in 1884 the brothers Gutmann, entrepreneurs from Hungary, came to our area and built a saw-mill on the right bank of the Drava river. The rest is the story about investments in new production units, the railroad, the erection of new factories, apartment buildings, communal areas and infrastructure for the growing number of employees and residents of the new industrial settlement - the Town of Belišće.

It is a story about a town that had an athletic soul since the first day of its establishment, the soul that would bring forth some dazzling results of world significance. Today, Belišće is a town with 9 suburbs (Belišće, Bistrinci, Bocanjevci, Gat, Gorica Valpovačka, Kitišanci, Tiborjanci, Veliškovci and Vinogradci) with a total of 10,825 residents.

RESIDENTS AS ACTIVE ATHLETES

There are 819 registered athletes in 31 sports clubs in the town area, with over 2,000 members and volunteers involved in the work of sports clubs. This represents 18.5% of the total population. The estimate is that more than a third of the total population is engaged in some kind of sport when we add the ones who do it recreationally as well. All sports clubs are members of the Sports Association Board (SAB) of the Town of Belišće, which is financially supported by the Town.



There are few written documents, but according to oral tradition, the first football match was played in 1888 and the first football ball was brought to Belišće by three students from Pécs: Tomica Bayer, Drago Bauer and Alojz Dvoržak.

However, the real beginnings of organized sports date back to 1919 and are also linked to football. The first sports clubs - BŠK (Belišće Sport club) and ŽAK (Railroad Athletic Club) – have been rivals on the

sports fields for many years. Even today, football is the most popular sport in Belišće area with 360 registered players and over 600 members and volunteers who work in 8 football clubs.

The oldest club in the BŠK tradition, the Football club "Belišće" from Belišće, in its nearly a century old history, also played a starring role at the highest level of football competition in Croatia. During the time of the People's Republic of Croatia in 1946, the football club "Belišće" placed in the First

Croatian League. In the athletic season of 1966-67, "Belišće" became the champion of the Slavonia zone and managed to fulfil the dream of their loyal fans by winning the qualification games against "Lokomotiva" from Rijeka and Split and entering the Second Federal League "West", which was extremely strong at the time. Upon Croatian independence, the Football club "Belišće" participated in the highest football competition in the country, the Croatian First Football League, for



three seasons - from 1992 to 1995. Today, it is a participant in the Croatian Third Football League East and it brings together athletes of all ages, from beginners to younger and older pioneers, cadets, juniors, seniors to veterans.

In 1924, the company S. H. Gutmann Ltd. founded the tennis club named Lawn-Tennis Club Beliše (LTC). It is interesting that the tennis courts turned into ice rinks in the winter and were illuminated by the street lights at night. Moreover, the existence of Sokol Society with 208 trainees and 179 supporting members was recorded in the school yearbook of 1930-31. In the period from 1930 to 1934, an Aeroclub operated in Beliše, whose members performed various stunts at aero-meetings.



DIVERSITY OF SPORTS

In addition to football, there is a total of 20 different sports represented in Beliše. These are: basketball, bowling, volleyball, handball, sambo, shooting, bowls, indoor football (futsal), sport fishing, triathlon (cycling, running, rowing), judo, tennis, table tennis, gymnastics, mountaineering, chess, darts, school sports and of course, the most successful, kayaking and canoeing.

The best results and the brightest medals come from Kayak Club "Beliše" and the legendary Matija Ljubek. Born in Beliše, everything he accomplished, he accomplished in his town, Beliše, which is difficult to repeat in the sports world. Matija was a winner of four Olympic medals: two gold, a silver and a bronze. He won his first and the brightest - Olympic gold medal, for himself, for his team, for his town, and for his homeland exactly 40 years ago, at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada, as a representative of the former state. It was the first Olympic medal won in kayaking and canoeing in the history of this sport in Croatia and Yugoslavia. In addition, there are dozens of medals from World Championships won by Matija Ljubek.

The athletes from the town of Beliše have so far won thirty medals at the largest world and European competitions, 27 of which belong to kayakers and canoeists.

Pavica Galošević (married Romić), a bowling champion, is the winner of the Bowling World Cup in pairs, held in Luzern in 1978, and our sport fisherman and a Croatian national team

member, Matija Vidaković, won the title of a Junior World champion in sport fishing in Portugal in 2016. Beliše also has an international chess Master, the chess Olympian and the National champion from 1998, Zorica Puljek Salai.



KAYAK CLUB “BELIŠĆE” – THE INSTITUTION OF SPORT

Kayak Club “Belišće” exists since 1949. Ever since then, there have been numerous generations of female and male athletes, sports officials and enthusiasts who have actively participated in the work of the Club, and who have, in the name of the club and the town, carried their sports achievements literally across the entire world.

Up until the 67th birthday of their club, kayakers, canoeists and sports enthusiasts won 27 medals at major international competitions. The competitions included the Olympic Games, World and European Championships.

Members of Kayak Club

MAJOR TEAM RESULTS OF KAYAK CLUB “BELIŠĆE”

“Belišće” participated in 21 titles of the National champion in the strongest senior competition in eight Olympic Games in the years 1958, 1968, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, row in different roles, be it 1996, 1998, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2014 (two titles – as competitors, as marathon and sprint) and 2015. There are also dozens of titles in the members of the coaching younger categories - pioneer, cadet and junior.

staff or the management

team. In the time span of 32 years, from Montreal 1976 to Athens 2004, they were at the very top of world sport. Medals from international regattas are counted in hundreds and the titles of individual, state and national champions and winners of local regattas in thousands.

We should also point out the activities of the Club and its members during the aggression against our country during the Croatian War of Independence.

Although kayakers and canoeists were unable to approach their Drava river for seven years due to the War, the iractivities and hard work did not stop for a moment. With great sacrifices, the members of the Club managed to survive on the Karašica river and on nearby ponds. They kept the remaining boats and equipment in their private backyards and homes. In these extremely difficult circumstances, young men and women of Kayak Club “Belišće” won the national title as a team in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996 and 1998.

This is why, on this occasion of candidature of the Town of Belišće for this valuable European sport recognition, the title of “European Town of Sport 2017”, one should remember and point out the main

and most important condition that has enabled this extraordinary athletic success. **This condition that cannot be replaced is - the PEOPLE!** Not only athletic talents who want success and recognition, but especially those humble, simple and modest, almost anonymous enthusiasts, who often times devoted the best years of their lives to their club, working for the community, for mutual success and impressive results. Without such people, Belišće would not have the sports legends Matija Ljubek, Milan Janić, Ivan Šabjan and many others. Such people, the creators, people with an idea and a vision - from making the first canoe and kayak to organizing the top class preparation and working conditions - are the reason and the foundation for success and shine of the hardly attainable results of Kayak Club “Belišće”.



Milan Janić



In 1978, one of the members of Kayak Club "Belišće" was also Milan Janić, an exceptional athlete from Bačka Palanka. At the World

Championships in Belgrade he won the gold medal in the K-1 10,000 m and the silver medal in the K-1 1,000 m category.



A line of the world's greatest results was continued by Ivan Šabjan, when he won the bronze medal in the C-1 1,000 m category and the silver one in the 10,000 m at the World Championships in Montreal in 1986. At the 1987 World Championships in Duisburg, Šabjan won the gold medal in the C-1 10,000 m.

Dražen Funtak and Emanuel Horvatiček made sure to continue the great series of the most significant world titles. Funtak won the bronze medal at the World Junior Championships in 1993 in the C1500 m, whereas Emanuel Horvatiček and Nikica Ljubek brought home the silver medal in 1997 at the World Junior Championships in the C-2 1,000 m.

Our young and promising canoeists, members of the Croatian national team, Marko Jelkić and Ivan Orešković are continuing the tradition of their older colleagues. During their performance in Duisburg in May 2016 they achieved an excellent finishing time and will be competing at the European Championship with the support and financial assistance to the Town of Belišće.

MATIJA LJUBEK (1953-2000)

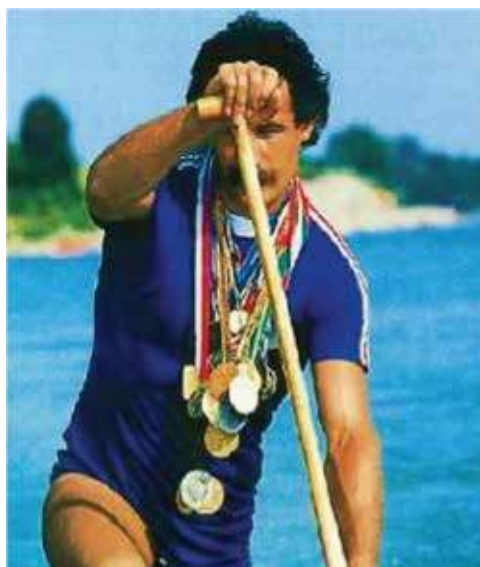
Matija Ljubek (Nov 22nd, 1953 – Oct 11th, 2000) was a remarkable man, a brilliant athlete, born and raised in Belišće, an honorary citizen of Belišće, who became a legend even during his lifetime precisely because of his athletic achievements.

He was born in Belišće in 1953. He finished his primary and secondary education in Belišće and Valpovo and graduated from the University of Osijek in 1980 with a degree in Physical Education. Ljubek achieved everything he attended to in Belišće - from education to work to



personal development to the best sports results in the history of

Croatian sport. We know almost everything about this athlete and Olympic champion. However, this is an opportunity to recall his brightest athletic achievements, because it is those achievements and their significance that speak the most about the man who won them.



The only way to reach the Olympics was, and still is - work, sacrifice, perseverance, desire and determination to tackle professional glory. Ljubek had all of these virtues. He was born with them. He studied them, and used them in the best way possible.

Sports medals that he won as a member of Kayak Club “Belišće”, from 1972, when he first came to the Drava river and became a member of the Club, to his untimely and tragic death, can be counted in hundreds. However, the brightest are those from the Olympic Games and World Championships.

He achieved his first major international success in winning the bronze medal at the World Championship in 1975 in Belgrade. It was also the first medal ever won in the history of kayaking and canoeing in the area. In 1976, at the Olympic Games in Montreal, Ljubek entered the golden book of the biggest – he won another gold medal in the theC-1 1,000 m and the bronze one in the 500 m. That year, he was named the best Yugoslav athlete. At the 1978 World Championship in Belgrade, he once again won the gold and the bronze medal in C-1.

In C-1 he was a silver medallist at 1981 World Championship in Nottingham. From 1982 he competed in C-2 with Mirko Nišović and won gold in the 500 m and silver in the 1,000 m at the World Championship. At 1983 World Championship in Finland he won yet another gold and bronze medal. At the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984 in C-2, he also won the gold medal in the 1,000 m and the silver one in the 500 m.



The Olympic medals that followed finally and eternally classified him as an athletic legend of both Belišće and Croatia. At the 1985 World Championship in Belgium he was a gold medallist in the 10,000 m and a bronze medallist in the 1,000 m. After this competition he retired from professional sport and dedicated his time to professional, pedagogical and promotional athletic work.

The name and results of Matija Ljubek have carried the voice of Belišće and for Belišće to virtually all the meridians of the globe. His contribution to the popularization of kayaking and canoeing and the affirmation of Kayak Club "Belišće" is immeasurable and invaluable.



These sports achievements made our fellow citizen into an athletic immortal, into a person that will be remembered for generations as someone who has achieved the greatest and most beautiful of human work, perseverance, body and spirit. Ljubek's results brought him much social recognition, sports awards and honours, and in 2000 he became an honorary citizen of the Town of Belišće. Since 2001, the Croatian Olympic Committee Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sport is named after him.

Matija Ljubek was and will remain a Croatian athletic giant from Belišće. The flame of his achievements, his Olympic and world medals will glow for the generations of young athletes in the future. It will encourage them as long as there are memories of present and knowledge of upcoming generations of people from Belišće, together with their desire to reach great heights in sports or other human development activities through their work, will and persistence. Continued top sports results, winning of team titles and many young athletes in Kayak Club "Belišće" best confirm that the unique results of Matija Ljubek serve as a lasting inspiration, and will stay so for a long, long time.

ALL OF OUR OLYMPICS

Montreal 1976

Matija Ljubek competed at our first Olympic Games, 40 years ago, accompanied by the Secretary of the Club and the man who contributed the most to his great results – Antun Mužević. In the category of C-11,000 m Ljubek won the gold medal, and in the C-1 500 m the bronze medal.



Moscow 1980

Matija Ljubek competed in these Games in C-1 and C-2 with Mirko Nišović from Zemun. There was also a member of Kayak Club “Belišće” in the team, Jovan Đolić, who was a substitute in the kayak national team. In the C-11,000 m Ljubek made the final and won the eighth place, but in the C-21,000 m he and Mirko Nišović came 4th in an uncertain race where the judges had to examine the photo-finish for a full hour.

Los Angeles 1984

In the USA, we achieved excellent results once again. In the C-2500 m Matija Ljubek and Mirko Nišović won the gold medal, and in the 1,000 m they came second and won the silver medal.

Seoul 1988

Members of Kayak Club “Belišće” travelled to the Olympics in Korea both as competitors and as sports representatives. As athletes, there were Matija Ljubek and Ivan Šabjan, and as a leader of the team and the coach, there was an expert from Belišće, Stjepan Krznarić. At these Games Ivan Šabjan won the eighth place in the C-11,000 m.

Barcelona 1992

At the first Olympic Games under the Croatian flag, Croatia was represented exclusively by the competitors and representatives of Kayak Club “Belišće” when it came to kayak and canoe. The team leader was Matija Ljubek and the national team coach was Stjepan Krznarić. Zvonimir Krznarić competed in kayak and Vlado Poslek in canoe. Zvonimir Krznarić competed in the K-1500 m and 1,000 m. Vlado Poslek placed in the semi-finals of the C-1500 m and 1,000 m. In the 500 m semi-finals, he finished seventh, and in the 1,000 m fifth.

Atlanta 1996

At the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Kayak Club “Belišće” had its representatives once again. The team leader was Matija Ljubek, and the national team coach was Stjepan Krznarić. Ivan Šabjan starred in the C-11,000 m and came eighth in the final. Ivan Šabjan also competed in the C-2500 m with Dražen Funtak and they took the fifth place in the semi-finals.

Sydney 2000

Dražen Funtak and Nikica Ljubek competed at these Olympics in the C-2500 m. They got through to the semi-finals and came fifth. The coach of the national team was Stjepan Krznarić again.

Athens 2004

At the Greek Olympics Kayak Club “Belišće” was represented both through the athletes and professional staff. Our canoeist Emanuel Horvatiček was the only representative and performed in qualifying races of the C-1500 m and 1,000 m. The head coach of Kayak Club “Belišće”, Davor Popović, was also there as the head coach of the Croatian kayak team.

SPORTS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF BELIŠĆE (SAB)

SAB of Belišće, is the umbrella organization in the sports system of Belišće and brings together 31 sports associations. It is directed and managed by a volunteer president, Milan Zamaklar.

With regards to the fulfilment of the set criteria, which are primarily mass practice of sports and success of individual teams, SAB counts their results and quality of work and allocates funds accordingly pursuant to the Regulations.

PLANS AND GOALS FOR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Development strategy of the Town of Belišće for the period from 2014 to 2020 includes the strengthening of human resources, the development of sports infrastructure and utilizing the possibilities of development of sports and recreational tourism.

SAB of Belišće, as an umbrella organization of sports in the town, adopts its own work plan every year. This way it meets its goals of fostering the development and promotion of sports in Belišće, fostering the development of sports activities for children and youth and sports and recreational activities for residents and the disabled, encouraging top-notch sports creativity and creating conditions for achieving top-notch sports results.

Every year, according to the Regulations and as proposed by the clubs, prizes and awards are awarded in the categories of the best sports officer, best sports team, best female athlete and best male athlete in the past year.

The obligation of SAB, as a vital part of the sports organization in the Town, is the coordination and harmonization of activities of its members, as well as creating and implementation of public needs programs in sports, care of athletes and professional staff, public presentation and promotion of athletic values in the local community.

Transparency of work

Transparency of work, presentation of achieved results, as well as announcements of sports events are done through our official website: www.zsugbelisce.hr, other portals, and through local media - informative monthly edition of "Beliščanski list", the Town Radio Belišće and Television of Slavonia and Baranja.

Athletes' health

Care about athletes' health is a priority of all the clubs. To help athletes stay healthy, SAB has signed a contract with the occupational health physician and it finances medical examinations for all athletes.

Athletic scholarships and education

From mid-2014 SAB has been awarding athletic scholarship to athletes categorized by the Croatian Olympic Committee. In the past two years and to date, a total of 21 athletic scholarships were paid out, the amount of the scholarships totalling in 48,300 HRK.

There are no educational institutions for coaches and sports officials in the Town of Belišće, as those activities are organized at universities or within national associations. That is why SAB has provided funds for co-financing of education and training of coaches in its budget.

Every year SAB organizes swimming lessons for children non-swimmers, and the training costs for the children from Belišće are fully covered by the Town. Swimming lessons have been organized and carried out since 1978.

SPORTS FUNDING

The town annually allocates significant resources to public needs in sports that rely heavily on voluntary work and volunteering.

in 2012 - 1,265,219.00 HRK
in 2013 - 1,317,370.00 HRK
in 2014 - 1,748,319.00 HRK
in 2015 - 2,367,343.00 HRK
in 2016 - 2,620,000.00 HRK

Care for the disabled



SAB pays special attention to work with the disabled. There are 2 clubs with people with disabilities in its membership: Indoor Football Club “Belišće” and the Sports Association of the Deaf “Belišće”. Their member and a member of Football Club “Belišće” Belišće is Mirko Blažević, who is a member of the Croatian National Football Team of the Deaf as well. National Championship of the Deaf in indoor football was held in Belišće in 2014.

Volunteer activities

Most of the executives who work in clubs do their duties without monetary remuneration. Their biggest qualities are enthusiasm and hard work for the common good. Other than in sports clubs, the awareness of volunteering has been developed in approx. 50 other civil society organizations that operate in the area of the town of Belišće.

To make sure children are brought up with a sports spirit from an early age, two volunteers, experts in the field of kinesiology, hold a universal sports lesson in the local kindergarten 2 times a week during the school year.

Subsides

In order to facilitate all the regular operations of the clubs in accordance with legal regulations, SAB does the bookkeeping and accounting tasks for them at its own expense.

The Town funds the use of the sports hall that's owned by the primary school for all the clubs dealing with indoor sports. SAB covers the cost of rental and maintenance of the bowling alley, which is also owned by the primary school, for the two bowling clubs in the town. Other sports facilities and grounds are used free of charge for the clubs. Since those are properties of the Town, the Town covers the current and investment maintenance.



The Town and SAB do not provide additional subsidies for the purchase of tickets for sports events as they are usually free, while the prices of tickets for football matches cost the symbolic 10-20 HRK.

PROMOTION OF SPORTS AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES

Sports activities are carried out by sports clubs, businesses, church organizations, kindergarten and primary schools. From recreational activities, the most common ones are Zumba, pool aerobics, fitness, Pilates, recreational hiking and biking. All age categories are represented as follows:

3-6 years (universal sports lesson in kindergarten)

6-14 years (sports clubs, primary schools, youth organizations in Catholic parishes)

15-26 years (sports clubs, businesses, non-profit organizations)

27-49 years (sports clubs, businesses, non-profit organizations)

50 and over (veteran sections of sports clubs, non-profit organizations)

70 and over (veteran sections of sports clubs, non-profit organizations)

SPORTS CLUBS/ASSOCIATIONS

1. Bocce club "Belišće"
2. Croatian Mountaineering Society "Belišće"
3. Judo Club "Belišće" Belišće
4. Kayak Club "Belišće"
5. Adventure Sports Club "Baraber Extreme Team" Belišće
6. Basketball Club "Belišće" Belišće
7. Bowling Club "Belišće"
8. Bowling Club "Željezničar" Belišće
9. Hunting Society "Vepar" Belišće
10. Indoor Football Club "Belišće"
11. Football Club "Belišće" Belišće
12. Football Club "Croatia" Veliškovci
13. Football Club "Gat" Gat
14. Football Club "Hrvatski Sokol" Bocanjevci
15. Football Club "Kitišanci" Kitišanci
16. Football Club "Mladost" Taborjanci
17. Football Club "Mladost" Bistrinci
18. Football Club "Zrinski" Vinogradci
19. Volleyball Club "Belišće"
20. Handball Club "Belišće"
21. Sambo Club "Belišće"
22. Sports Association of the Deaf "Belišće"
23. Table Tennis Club "Belišće" Belišće
24. Shooting Society "Stjepan Petnjarić" Belišće
25. Chess Club "Belišće" Belišće
26. School Sports Society "Meteor" Belišće
27. Tennis Club "Belišće"
28. Association of Recreational Gymnastics "Belišće"
29. Association of Sport Fishermen "Belišće" Belišće
30. Association of Sport Fishermen "Podravac" Bistrinci
31. Association of Sport Fishermen "Virje" Gat



SPORTS CLUBS/ASSOCIATIONS IN THE BIGGEST NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Kayak Club "Belišće" | - a unique 1 st class National Championship |
| - Shooting Society "Stjepan Petnjarić", Belišće | - a unique 1 st class National Championship |
| - Sambo Club "Belišće" | - a unique 1 st class National Championship |
| - Basketball Club "Belišće" Belišće | - A2 League East |

- Bowling Club "Željezničar", Belišće
- Association of Sport Fishermen "Belišće" Belišće
- Football Club "Belišće" Belišće
- 2nd League
- 2nd League East
- 3rd Croatian Football League East

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

OUTDOOR:

- 9 football fields (2 in Beliše, Bistrinci, Bocanjevci, Gat, Kitišanci, Tiborjanci, Veliškovci, Vinogradci)
- 5 handball courts (2 in Beliše, Bocanjevci, Gat, Vinogradci)
- four-lane bowling alley
- 4 red clay tennis courts
- 1 volleyball court
- 2 basketball courts
- 1 Olympic pool
- 1 small pool for children
- 4 tracks for bowls (2 of which are covered)
- 1 outdoor gym
- River fishing lane
- Bike trails: 8,200 m built
- Walking Trails: 54 684 m built



INDOOR:

- 2 large sports halls (basketball, volleyball, handball, indoor climbing wall)
- 2 small sports halls (sambo, judo, table tennis, gymnastics)
- 1 shooting range
- 1 indoor rowing pool in Kayak Club
- 1 gym in Kayak Club

The Town of Beliše has allocated substantial resources for incentive and capital investments in sports infrastructure in the past few years.

The total value of the renovation of sports facilities in the suburbs (Gat, Veliškovci and Bistrinci) was 1,476,454.61 HRK and it was financed by the Town, Osijek-Baranja County, the Ministry of Economy, and the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency. Through those investments the premises of Football Club "Gat" were renovated, as well as the Fishing Lodge in Gat, and the premises of Football Club "Croatia" Veliškovci. The premises of Football Club "Podravac" Bistrinci are in the process of renovation. The renovation of the premises of Football Club "Zrinski" Vinogradci is planned for the following period. It should be noted that Osijek-Baranja County has also funded the construction of a handball court in Gat, and the plan is to build the same in Bistrinci as well.

Football Club "Beliše" Beliše also boasts newly refurbished club premises. 1,042,343.15 HRK has been invested in roof thatching, window replacement, reconstruction and renovation of locker rooms, offices and all accompanying premises. The newly renovated Club premises were visited by the president of the Croatian Football Federation, Mr. Davor Šuker, on May 30th, 2014. He pointed out that it is with joy that he remembered the moments he had spent on our football field at the beginning of his brilliant football career and did not hide his satisfaction about seeing the new look of the premises.

An open-air gym, the so-called *Street Workout Park*, has been built within the Sports Park. The holder of this project worth 115.000,00 HRK, of which 62,000.00 HRK were allocated to the gym equipment only, is the Sports Association Board of Beliše. The partners are Sports Board of Osijek-Baranja County and the Town.

As a part of the open-air workout area, there is a total of nine gym equipment pieces, four of them multifunctional and one for people with disabilities. The project for the construction of the indoor football field with artificial grass is in the process of realization, whereas the project for the construction of the west stand of the Town Stadium is in the phase of obtaining the necessary documentation. The outdoor handball court has also been renovated and renewed. The Town allocated more than 120,000 HRK for this, and there are plans to also renovate the outdoor basketball courts.

All the sports fields and dwellings are easily accessible as nearly all of them are located in the town centre. The Town also sponsors monthly tickets for all primary school, high school and university students who use the local public transportation, so that the availability of sports facilities is provided to children and young people from all suburbs.

PLANS FOR THE FOLLOWING PERIOD

- to build the west stand of the Town Stadium with 1000 seats, 400 of which will be covered,
- to build a field with artificial grass for indoor football (futsal) with accompanying stand and lighting,
- to build a handball court in Bistrinci,
- to expand the existing bocce area,
- to renew 2 outdoor basketball courts and set up new baskets,
- to build 5,935 meters of new bicycle paths,
- to build 10,750 meters of new footpaths.

All the completed projects and investments in sports infrastructure up to date, as well as those that are in progress or in the preparation stage, form strategic guidelines for the development of sport, systematic development of human resources and achievement of high quality of healthy living.



SPORTS EVENTS IN THE TOWN OF BELIŠĆE

In the past five years in Belišće there has been a series of international and national competitions in various sports, and many of them are traditional and are held every year.

International Kayak and Canoe Regatta “Majski turnir gradova”

For more than four decades Kayak Club “Belišće” has been the organizer of the International Regatta “Majski turnir gradova”. For many years the race was held on the Drava river, but in 2016 it got its debut on the Old Drava, the stagnant water. Every year hundreds of kayakers and canoeists, both from home and abroad can measure their strength in this extremely tough regatta. In honor of Matija Ljubek, there is also a special Memorial Race in the 500 m C-1.



The IPC Shooting World Cup



The Town of Belišće had a very great honour of hosting the closing ceremony of the IPC Shooting World Cup at the town pool in Belišće. The organizers of the World Cup were the Croatian Paralympics Committee and the Civil Shooting Society “Osijek 1784”. The competition, which was the annual competition for the qualifications for the Paralympics Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, lasted from July 7th to 14th 2015. The organizers of the closing ceremony of the World Cup were the Town of Belišće, Belišće Tourist Board and Kombel Ltd. that, in cooperation with the Organizing Committee of the IPC Shooting World Cup, hosted approx. 400 athletes and sports professionals from all over the world.



Croatian Football Federation (CFF) National Development Camp in Belišće

In three days of the CFF National Development Camp in Belišće, held from April 21st to 23rd 2015, there have been about a hundred young men and women aged 11 and 12 from the cities of Belišće, Valpovo, Donji Miholjac, Našice and neighbouring municipalities, who participated in the activities.

In addition to the regional instructor for Slavonia and Baranja, Mr. Petar Krpan, the activities in the camp were led by the chief instructor of CFF, Mr. Martin Novoselac. Besides children, their coaches were also involved in the project in order to gain extra education in training execution.

The primary goal of this camp, along with selection of the best players, is their introduction to the world of sports, development of cooperation and fair-play, their playing skills and competitive spirit.

Preparatory Training Camps of Football National Teams in Belišće

We cannot forget the U-19 national team, "The Chileans", led by their coach Mirko Jozić and the legendary players Zvonimir Boban, Davor Šuker, Robert Prosinečki and others, who in 1987 did their preparatory training camp in Belišće before leaving for the World Junior Cup in Chile. "The Chileans" returned as World Champions, and Belišće proved to be a pleasant host and a high-quality destination for national team preparatory training camps.

Thanks to the excellent cooperation between the Town of Belišće and Football Club "Belišće" with the Croatian Football Federation, Belišće hosted two national football teams again in 2015. Croatian National Football Team U-17 did a test game against Football Club "Belišće" before going to the European Championship in Bulgaria. Women's Senior National Team played a friendly international game against the National Team of Albania. The game was a test for the qualifications game to qualify for the European Championship and Croatia recorded a landslide victory of 7:0.



European Universities Football Championship

In 2015, the 11th European Universities Football Championship was held in Osijek. Football Club "Belišće" hosted teams from Group D. Three games were played at the Town Stadium, between the university teams of Kuban State University from Russia, University of Bochum from Germany, and Abo Akademi University from Finland.

International Tournament in Sports and Combat Sambo "Belišće sambo open"

Although relatively new in our town, the members of the Sambo Club Belišće record a number of great results at national and international competitions. For the first time, in 2015, the International Tournament in Sports and Combat Sambo was held in the Sports Hall in Belišće. The tournament had 88 registered competitors, and the representatives of Belišće won 4 gold, 5 silver and 8 bronze medals. After numerous performances and excellent results, as well as the organization of the National Championship in Belišće, Sambo Club Belišće became recognized in the International Sambo Federation.

Sport sambo is a skill in which there are no punches. That part motivates children and young people to get involved in this martial art. It encourages self-confidence, develops motor skills and competitive spirit, helps with socializing with peers, develops tolerance and teaches persistence that can be applied to all aspects of life.

Streetball Belišće

Basketball Club "Belišće" and the Youth Council of Belišće, with the help of many volunteers, have been the organizers of the traditional street basketball tournament for many years. The tournament takes place at the main town square, and each game is played on one basket. The specificity of the tournament is that all age groups are included, from kindergarten to primary school to secondary school to older players. The organizers provide medals and awards for all three teams in each category. There are also special awards for the winners of the amateur show, who perform free throws and the best slam dunks.

Aquatic Games



Aquatic Games is a traditional recreational event that has been held for over 20 years in the summer months at Belišće town pool. In the last few years 9 teams have been competing: one from Belišće and eight from the suburbs: Bistrinaci, Bocanjevci, Gat, Gorica Valpovačka, Kitišanci, Tiborjanci, Veliškovci and Vinogradci. In the previous years, some of the teams came from all over Croatia, such as from Split, Slavonski Brod, Virovitica, Valpovo and other areas. The teams do not have it easy when it comes to winning, as the competition gets

stronger every year. Some of the most popular games are certainly the water quoit, water football, rowing on makeshift boats, swimming with tractor tires and many more.

Not to forget the visitors of the event, interesting games get organized for them as well, where the bravest and smartest also get to win prizes. Although this is primarily a sports and recreational event, every year it includes an increasing number of gastronomic and oenological exhibitors.

Cycling Races

Many cycling races have been held in the area of Belišće, such as Tour de Slavonia in 2008. In cooperation with friends from neighbouring Hungary, in 2009-2011, a leg of Tour de Pécs was ridden through Belišće. In 2016, the first leg of Tour of Croatia went through the suburbs of Kitišanci, Veliškovci and Gat. The Tour was one of the major sporting events of the year in Croatia.



Open-Air Ice Rink apropos the manifestation "Advent in Belišće"

Since 2013, as a part of the manifestation "Advent in Belišće", all the children and residents have the opportunity to ice-skate at the open-air ice rink in the centre of the town from late November to mid-January. Since there are no professional ice-skating clubs in Belišće, the Town has established a collaboration with Skating Club "Medveščak" from Zagreb. Skaters, who have repeatedly been awarded at national competitions every year, show off their talent and skating skills in performances with approx. 10 numbers in figure skating.



TOURNAMENTS AND SPORTS EVENTS IN 2017

	ORGANIZER	TIME	SPORTS EVENT
1.	Football Club "Belišće" Belišće	January 2017	Veteran tournament in indoor football
2.	Sports Association Board of Belišće, Bowling Club "Belišće"	January-May / November-December 2017	Town Bowling League for Amateurs
3.	Association of Sport Fishermen "Belišće"	April 2017	21 st Cup in Sport Fishing apropos the Day of the Town
4.	Basketball Club "Belišće" Belišće	April 2017	23 rd International Basketball Tournament for Young Cadets
5.	Bowling Club "Belišće"	April 2017	Traditional meeting of bowlers apropos the Day of the Town
6.	Bowling Club "Željezničar" Belišće	April 2017	Traditional meeting of bowlers apropos the Day of the Town
7.	Adventure Sports Club "Baraber Extreme Team" Belišće	April 2017	Baraber X Duathlon
8.	Coordiation of Croatian War of Independence Associations from Valpovo area	April 2017	Memorial Race "Life for Life" Valpovo-Belišće
9.	Football Club "Podravac" Bistrinci	April 2017	3 rd Easter Pioneer Tournament
10.	Volleyball club "Belišće"	April 2017	Tournament apropos the Day of the Town
11.	Sambo Club "Belišće"	April 2017	4 th National Senior Championship
12.	Croatian Mountaneering Society "Belišće"	April 2017	International meeting of mountaneers and a walking tour through the "Belišće - Drava River Walking Trail" – 11,5 km
13.	Tennis Club "Belišće"	April/May 2017	23 rd Tennis Tournament apropos the Day of the Town
14.	Association of Sport Fishermen "Virje" Gat	May 2017	11 th Cup in Sport Fishing
15.	Adventure Sports Club "Baraber Extreme Team" Belišće, Sports Association Board of Belišće, Belišće Youth Council	May 2017	5 and 10 km Race "Beliščanski cener"
16.	Football Club "Belišće"	May 2017	International veteran meeting
17.	Pensioner Association	May 2017	Sports meeting of pensioners
18.	HVIDR-a Association Belišće	May 2017	Sports games of war veterans
19.	Kajak Club "Belišće"	May 2017	46 th International Regatta in Kayak and Canoe "Majski turnir gradova"
20.	Club "Belišće" Bocce	May 2017	6 th Memorial Tournament in Bowls "Marijan Jakšić"
21.	Croatian Olympic Committee, Sports Board of Osijek-Baranja county, Sports Association Board of Belišće	May 2017	16 th Olympic Festival of Kindergartens in Osijek-Baranja County
22.	Hunting Society "Vepar" Belišće	May 2017	Competition in clay pigeon shooting - trap discipline

23.	The Town of Beliše, Sports Association Board of Beliše	May 2017	Celebrating May 29 - International Day of Sport
24.	Tennis Club "Beliše"	May-October 2017	Amateur tennis tournament – Piramida
26.	Basketball Club "Beliše", Beliše Youth Council	June 2017	Streetball Beliše 2017
27.	Football Club "Hrvatski Sokol" Bocanjevci	June 2017	Indoor Football Tournament apropos the National Day of Croatia
28.	Volleyball Club "Beliše"	June 2017	Mini-Volleyball Tournament
29.	The Town of Beliše, Sports Board of Osijek-Baranja county, Sports Association Board of Beliše	June-August 2017	Training program of non- swimmers
30.	Beliše Tourist Board	July 2017	11 th "Čiklijada" – traditional amateur competition in river boat driving
31.	Chess Club "Beliše"	July 2017	Rapid Chess Tournament "Beliše open – bazen 2017"
32.	The Town of Beliše, Beliše Tourist Board Sports Board of Osijek-Baranja county, Adventure Sports Club "Baraber Extreme Team" Beliše	July 2017	Aquatic Games Beliše 2017
33.	Football Club "Mladost" Tiborjanci	July 2017	Memorial tournament "Franjo Mihaljević – Fibo"
34.	Football Club "Gat" Gat	July 2017	Football tournament
35.	Football Club "Podravac" Bistrinci	July 2017	3 rd Indoor Footbal Tournament apropos the celebration of St. Anne
36.	Volleyball Club "Beliše"	July 2017	Volleyball summer school
37.	Basketball Club "Beliše"	August 2017	Basketball summer school
38.	Adventure Sports Club "Baraber Extreme Team" Beliše	August 2017	Rowing regatta Beliše-Aljmaš
39.	Football Club "Croatia" Veliškovci	August 2017	Memorial Tournament "Franjo Zajec – Emil Čosić"
40.	Football Club "Zrinski" Vinogradci	August 2017	Indoor Football Tournament
41.	Football Club "Hrvatski Sokol" Bocanjevci	August 2017	17 th Memorial Tournament "Kruno Ratković-Gavro"
42.	Association of Sport Fishermen "Podravac" Bistrinci	September 2017	Communal competition in hook on bobber sport fishing – "Dragana Fumić" Memorial
43.	The Town of Beliše, Sports Association Board of Beliše	September 2017	Celebration of the 3 rd European Week of Sport
44.	Adventure Sports Club "Baraber Extreme Team" Beliše	November 2017	Community Bike Ride from Beliše to Vukovar
45.	Volleyball Club "Beliše"	December 2017	International Christmas Volleyball Tournament
46.	Sambo Club "Beliše"	December 2017	3 rd International Tournament in Sport and Combat Sambo "Beliše Sambo Open 2017"

The planned activities for 2017 are planned to be held in the coming years as well, especially events with a several-years-long tradition. The Town of Belišće will continue to be the main sponsor and logistics operator in their realization.

47.	The Town of Belišće, Belišće Tourist Board	November/ December 2017	Open-air Ice Rink apropos the manifestation “Advent in Belišće”
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ATHLETIC COOPERATION

The Town of Beliše has an excellent cooperation with sports clubs, organizations and associations at both regional and national levels. Quite a number of sports professionals from Beliše are involved in the work of national associations, such as the president of Kayak Club “Beliše”, Mr. Stjepan Krznarić, who is a member of the Supervisory Board of the Croatian Olympic Committee.

Some of the best examples of successful athletic cooperation are the following: joint cooperation with the Croatian Paralympics Committee and the Civil Shooting Society “Osijek 1784” during the organization of the IPC World Cup Shooting; cooperation with Croatian Sambo Federation on the occasion of the National Championship in Sambo; cooperation with the Croatian Football Federation during the organization of international football matches and development camps for children; cooperation with the sports community of Osijek-Baranja county in the realization of the project of setting up the open-air gym; cooperation with Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in the organization of the European Universities Football Championship; cooperation with Secondary School “Valpovo” and Primary School “Ivan Kukuljević” Beliše on the organization of the Memorial Race in honour of the fallen Croatian war veterans.

The Town also helps clubs during traditional meetings that are held by individual clubs with their friend clubs from Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina and during the participation of young players in the traditional INTERSPORT Youth Football Festival, which is held every year in Kaposvár in Hungary.

BELIŠE – “EUROPEAN TOWN OF SPORT 2017”

Gaining the title of “European Town of Sport” will confirm a decades-old epithet that Beliše has been bearing as a town of sport. With our athletic tradition and achieved success, we are confident that we will enrich the family of European cities that have earned this title in previous years.

In order to contribute to the successful work of the ACES Europe organization, Beliše will continue to take care of its athletes from those of a young age to those retired residents who enjoy sports at a recreational level. Through the organization of various national and international sporting events we are going to promote the 5 main objectives of the ACES Europe manifesto:

- enjoyment in exercise,
- willingness to achieve,
- sense of community,
- learning fair play,
- improvement of health.

These goals, which have already served as our guides and aspirations, will now gain additional importance, especially in the development of children and young athletes.

The Town of Beliše would like to establish successful cooperation with other cities, members of the “European Town of Sport” family, to create strategic partnerships, to jointly realize projects with national and international, scientific, professional and economic institutions, associations and businesses with regards to sports, physical education, active free time and health. But most importantly, to take care of each fellow citizen, every athlete, **BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS!**



BELIŠĆE

candidate for

EUROPEAN TOWN OF SPORT 2017

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Belišće, June 2016