



LWD Basket will not register for the 2026-2027 season

LWD Basket has decided not to register for the upcoming BNXT season. Although the club has performed well sportively over the past three years, participating in the BNXT competition next season is too great a financial and organizational challenge. Formal and final registration with the BNXT league must take place before April 1st, and LWD Basket has decided against it. And with that, professional basketball in Leeuwarden comes to an end after 23 years.

When the new organization LWD Basket took over from Aris Leeuwarden three years ago, the ambitions were clear: to join the (sub)top of the Netherlands sportively and secure a spot in the middle of the BNXT league. To achieve this, you need: (rapid) growth in terms of budget, expansion of the organization, and a prospect of a possible new facility. The budget, the facility, and the organization are also important starting points of the BNXT league, which sets increasingly high standards for participation, certainly in terms of budget and professionalism.

From a sporting perspective, the stated ambitions have certainly been realized so far. In the debut season, LWD Basket was ranked sixth in the Netherlands, the best team in the so-called League Silver, and reached the playoffs. Last season, the club experienced a high point in terms of results, finishing second in the Dutch standings, securing a spot in the top half of the table, and qualifying directly for the playoff semi-finals. Additionally, 10 of the 20 matches against Belgian opponents were won, including a historic victory in Ostend. And this year (despite more defeats and a difficult start), we are still tied for fourth place in the Dutch standings, and playoff qualification is once again very realistic.

Financially, however, it is difficult to keep up with the top clubs in the Netherlands and the Belgian clubs. There is a large budget gap in the league, and we are unable to attract more sponsors/partners and fans in Friesland to cover the high-cost structure. The basketball market in the Netherlands is small, and even smaller in Friesland, making budget growth difficult. Additionally, costs over which we have no control (including accommodation, travel, and BNXT expenses) are rising very rapidly.

And that immediately puts pressure on your organization. The rapid increase in costs means you cannot invest in your organization, because you have to use all budget



outside of fixed costs for the squad in order to maintain a competitive group of players. There are many volunteers who do a lot of work, but the necessary growth in professional manpower within the organization is not financially feasible.

The above has led us, with the benefit of hindsight, to unfortunately decide not to register for the new season. It is simply not feasible. That is an unpleasant message, we realize that, for everyone.

Naturally, we will finish this season as well as possible; we have an excellent and great squad and will all continue to fight for the best result until the end. It is important to mention that we will certainly conclude this season in a financially healthy state. LWD Basket is still considering whether to continue the social program LWD Cares, which includes the successful clinic program.

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On behalf of LWD Basket,

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