



**Thanks to Baltic
Jewish Forum
support 13 young
sportsmen from
Estonia
participated in
PGT – 2018 in Oslo**

**Thanks to Baltic
Jewish Forum 4
young sportsmen
and their families
received
additional
scholarship for
participating in
PGT – 2018 in Oslo**

**Thanks for Baltic
Jewish Forum
Maccabi JEWniors
became a real
team!**

10-13.05.2018

PGT - 2018

Maccabi Estonia football division has a long history including participation as a futsal team in European and World Maccabi games, Estonian championship and CUP and various foreign tournaments. We are the initiators and first winners of Estonian futsal cup in 2012. But as an adult team!

Today we can report that with your assistance we have a future!



**JEWISH COMMUNITY
OF ESTONIA
16, KARU STREET
TALLINN ESTONIA**



Formation a group of 04-07 kids a year ago had several principle goals:

- Provide a future growth to existing organisation
- Involve Jewish youngsters into Maccabi activities
- Provide cultural, sport and overall education to young athletes, develop their team spirit
- Involve parents of young players into the life of Estonian Jewish community

Maksim Konovalov (head coach) & Ilya Shterenberg (coach, father):

Within a year thanks for your support we had a chance to participate in PGT tournament twice in Helsinki and Oslo and I must say, that it was an overwhelming experience for our kids, their families and Jewish Community of Estonia in overall. I hope, that our team has become an important part of this tournament.

This year we have formed a team including players born 2004-2007 to participate in PGT 2004-2005 boys competition. The reason was, that our kids insisted to participate as one team under the leadership of our coach. We have anticipated of course, that results would be significantly influenced by the fact that large part of our boys is underaged, but their enthusiasm and eagerness to join a unified team affirmed us in our solution. This year, the team was also supported by a group of parents.

The tournament itself was quite successful for us. I can underline the following most important outcomes in my opinion:

- Competitive level was quite high, which demanded a great effort from our team
- Our players had to show their best qualities, develop as athletes and individuals, support their teammates in tough situations
- Youngsters could again feel a part of a large Jewish community, that covers 5 countries of our region, also kids from Israel were a part of this tournament
- Kids feel quite enthusiastic and expressed a strong wish to participate in this tournament in Copenhagen next year, our vision is to support them in this, and our ultimate goal would be to develop this team to participate in European and World Maccabi games in the future.
- The whole tournament felt like a large family events and this is supporting my expectation to develop our sports activities for younger kids as well.
- We are strongly interested in organising a futsal tournament for children during Hanukkah period and contacts with other participating teams have given us hope we would succeed this year.

In the sense of sports achievements, I need to underline the acknowledgement of our goalkeeper as the best one participating in the tournament this year.

On behalf of our team and Estonian Maccabi I would like to thank you for supporting our goals and causes. We are looking forward for the development on our cooperation in the future.

Jekaterina Kalinitseva (mother):

Thank you, Jewish Community and Baltic Jewish Forum!

I am the mother of two football players, boys 12 and 14 years old. They have been playing football at one of the biggest football clubs in Estonia since the age of 7. But there were very many children and many teams of different ages, and my children were engaged separately and the training took place at different times, which was very inconvenient. So, they eventually left the football.

And to our luck, Maccabi Estonia decided to make a children's football team. My sons joined it last fall. Since the two brothers can be engaged together and be on the same team, going to training is immediately easier and more fun. We are very happy with the coach! The boys immediately liked him!

There is a wonderful team spirit, the boys are very friendly, the coach is calm and patient. Training takes place at a convenient time and in good conditions. Now, after training for almost a year, I see a difference. In a big club, it was competition inside the team, and in our team boys play all together and not each for itself, but they play for Maccabi.

When the coach announced the opportunity to go to the competition to Norway, the boys flew to the training on their wings. Everyone understood that they can't skip training and they must prepare for competition seriously. Six months of training flew unnoticed, and soon parents were standing at the airport sending off our players with blue backpacks with the Maccabi logo to Oslo.

The boys returned from there glad and happy! For them it was an invaluable experience! Nobody remembered that in the first days the luck wasn't on the side of our team, the spirit was positive. More important, that the boys remembered the victory of our team on the last day with a score of 3:0 and the main impression for them was the recognition of the captain of our team the best goalkeeper of the PGT 2018 in Oslo and the Dan Uzana Cup.

Now the boys rest and have a little regret that the training will not be on a summer vacation. But in September, they again will run to the football training with new forces, because there the coach and friends will wait them, as well as new games, competitions and trips will wait!

It was very good news and boys were so excited. But I understood, that I have to pay twice and it was impossible for me to send sons to Norway because of my budget. But community, thanks to the Baltic Jewish Forum, was able to make lower participation price. Our family is very thankful to the sponsors for this support and opportunity!

David Lirisman (goalkeeper):



I am really happy. We played great and we felt as one family. There are some youngest players in our team but we tried to do our best on the field and I feel proud of my personal prize!