

STAY · GROW · PLAY

**TECHNICAL
GUIDE**

**WATERSLEY
XCO
CHALLENGE
2026**

Saturday April 11 & Sunday April 12
at Watersley Sports & Talentpark



**SPORTS &
TALENTPARK**

WATERSLEY

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. General information	4
1.1 Organization	4
1.2 Race information	6
2. Program	14
3. The Tower	17
4. Course & eventsite	18
5. Watersley Sports & Talentpark	20
6. Eventpartners	23



**ARE YOU
READY
TO STAY,
GROW &
PLAY?**



1. GENERAL INFORMATION

On Saturday April 11 & Sunday April 12 2026 the Watersley XCO Challenge takes place at Watersley Sports & Talentpark, Sittard, The Netherlands. The XCO is qualified as a UCI Class 1.

1.1 Organization

As “Stichting Watersley Topsports”, responsible for the organization of the Watersley XCO Challenge, we declare that the races as described in this technical guide are conducted according to the regulations of the KNWU & UCI.

The Watersley XCO Challenge is part of the 3 Nations MTB Cup 2026 and the Landelijke Jeugd Competitie (LJC).

3 Nations MTB Cup 2026

Belgian Cycling, the KNWU and Radsport Verband (Germany) will organize the appealing 3 Nations Cup again in 2026! The cup contains 8 races, the maximum UCI allows in a race serie, in Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. The goal of the 3 Nations MTB Cup is to give mountainbikers a platform to perform on a level between the National Races and the World Cups. Young talent can work it's way to the top, in between the World Cup pro's can join, to keep sharp and collect UCI points.

Landelijke Jeugd Competitie (LJC)

The Landelijke Jeugd competitie is especially for youth. This low-threshold competition allows youth to compete more often (and more easily). At all LJC competitions an overall ranking is kept. The competition is for youth U8 through U15.

Contact organization

Stichting Watersley Topsports, Watersley 31, 6132 KA Sittard, The Netherlands

Email: info@watersley-topsports.com

Website: www.watersley.com

Organization committee

Role	Name	Telephone	E-mail address
Chairman	Joop Petit		
Eventcoördinator	Raymond Beeren	+31 6 30 06 99 67	raymond@watersley.com
Eventcoördinator	Jeroen Niessen	+31 6 34 19 37 64	jeroen@watersley.com
Course development	Erik Willems	+31 6 14 68 75 74	erik@watersley.com

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.2 Race information

Registration

XCO <https://time-and-voice.com/en/mtb/sittard-2026>

LJC <https://mijn.knwu.nl/calendar/events/17125>

Start & Finish

The start and finish not located at the same location. The start is located at the bottom of an asphalted climb. The finish is located in front of the Plaza, where the permanence is as well. A visual representation of the start/finish location can be found in the map, chapter 4 in this technical guide.

Starting position XCO

The starting positions of the XCO races will be determined according to the standard UCI rules.

Technical and feed zone

There will be two technical/feed zones, which are each passed once in every lap. These zones will be clearly indicated with signposting and can also be found in chapter 4 of this technical guide. For the LJC on Saturday there will be a separate tech/feed zone.

It's only allowed to use these zones for technical assistance and feeding. The zone is only accessible to people with the wristband issued for this purpose. Two wristbands per rider will be handed out the permanence. Not following these rules will be reported to the commissioner.

Team spots

At Watersley Sports & Talentpark it is possible to book your own team spot. The team spots are 4 x 4 meter and are located next to the start/finish. The spots can be booked via booking@watersley.com.

To access your teamspot you can check in at the permanence. Here you receive a map and the number(s) of the teamspot that have been assigned to you.

Protocol award ceremonies

The award ceremony will take place at Plaza Watersley for numbers 1, 2 and 3 of every race. The estimated times of the ceremonies are shown in chapter 2, they will take place as soon as possible after the finish of the race.

Permanence

The permanence is located in the Plaza, which is the main building during the event at Watersley 31, 6132 KA, Sittard. Opening times can be found in chapter 2.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Bike wash

Near the Watersley Plaza and finish is a bike wash where you can clean your bike free of charge.

Medical support

During the event “Sportdokters” will take care of the medical support. The nearest hospital, Zuyderland Medical Centre, is located within 3 kilometers of Watersley. Adres: Dr. H. van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG Sittard-Geleen
Phone number: 088 - 459 7777

Food and drinks

Competitors and their teams can book meals during their stay at Watersley Sports & Talentpark. More information about the meals and booking the meals can be collected by mailing to booking@watersley.com.

Camping

Watersley Sports & Talentpark offers the possibility to stay overnight with a camper. There are no electricity or water facilities. Showers and toilets are available nearby between 9h and 18h.

Parking

Unfortunately the regular parking fields at Watersley Sports & Talentpark are not available during the event. Which means that participants can not park at Watersley Sports & Talentpark.

As an alternative there is a clearly indicated “Kiss and ride” zone on the road called “Watersley”. After going through the “Kiss and ride” traffic controllers will guide you away from Watersley Sports & Talentpark.

You’re able to park your car for free at the parking space on the following address; Rijksweg Zuid 216, 6134 AG Sittard. More information can be found on the event **website**.

Doping control

The doping test will take place in the main building. During the event the location of the doping control will be clearly indicated by means of signposting. In addition, the location of the doping control can also be found in this technical guide. Athletes who have to attend the doping control will be guided to the location by a chaperon immediately after the finish.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Prize money XCO

UCI rider categories will be awarded cash prizes in accordance with the UCI regulations. All prizes will be wire transferred after the event. If you are entitled to prize money you will receive an email in the week after the race asking you to provide your bank details to the organization. All prizes are in euros.

Rank	Elite men & women	Junior men & women	U17 Men & women	Masters & Amateurs
1	€600,-	€130,-	€65,-	€60,-
2	€500,-	€100,-	€50,-	€40,-
3	€400,-	€80,-	€30,-	€25,-
4	€300,-	€65,-	€35,-	€20,-
5	€250,-	€55,-	€20,-	€15,-
6	€200,-	€45,-		
7	€150,-	€40,-		
8	€125,-	€30,-		
9	€100,-	€25,-		
10	€50,-	€20,-		

UCI Points

The UCI rider categories will be awarded points according to the UCI regulations.

Rank	Elite men & women XCO	Junior men & women XCO
1	60	20
2	40	18
3	30	16
4	25	14
5	20	12
6	18	10
7	16	8
8	14	6
9	12	4
10	10	2
11	8	
12	6	
13	4	
14	2	
15	1	

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Jury

Role	Name
UCI President	Dražen Oreščanin
Chairman KNWU	Hubert Emans
Race Commissaire	Armand van Mulken
Race Commissaire	Stan Cordang
Race Commissaire	Wim Herberichs
Commissaire arrival	Jeroen van Summeren
Computer processing	Joris Smitsmans
Registration	Wiel Senden
Speaker	Ger Hermans



2. PROGRAM

Saturday, April 11

Category U8 = Male and Female under 8
 Category MU8 = Male under 8
 Category VU8 = Female under 8

Time	Activity	Location
9:30 - 10:15	Training Youthcategory U8 to U12 & VU13	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
10:15	Race Youth category U8	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
10:30	Race Youth category U9 & VU10	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
11:00	Race Youth category MU10 & VU11	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
11:30	Race Youth category MU11 & VU12	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
12:05	Race Youth category MU12 & VU13	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
12:45-13:15	Training Youth category MU13, U14 & U15	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
12:45	Ceremony Youth category U8 to U12 & VU13	Watersley Sports & Talentpark Plaza
13:30	Race Youth category MU13 & VU14	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
14:15	Race Youth category MU14 & VU15	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
15:15	Race Youth category MU15	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
16:15 - 17:00	Training Masters & Amateurs	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
16:30	Ceremony Youth category MU13, U14 & U15	Watersley Sports & Talentpark Plaza
17:00	Race Masters & Amateurs	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
18:15	Ceremony Masters & Amateurs	Watersley Sports & Talentpark Plaza

2. PROGRAM

Sunday, April 12

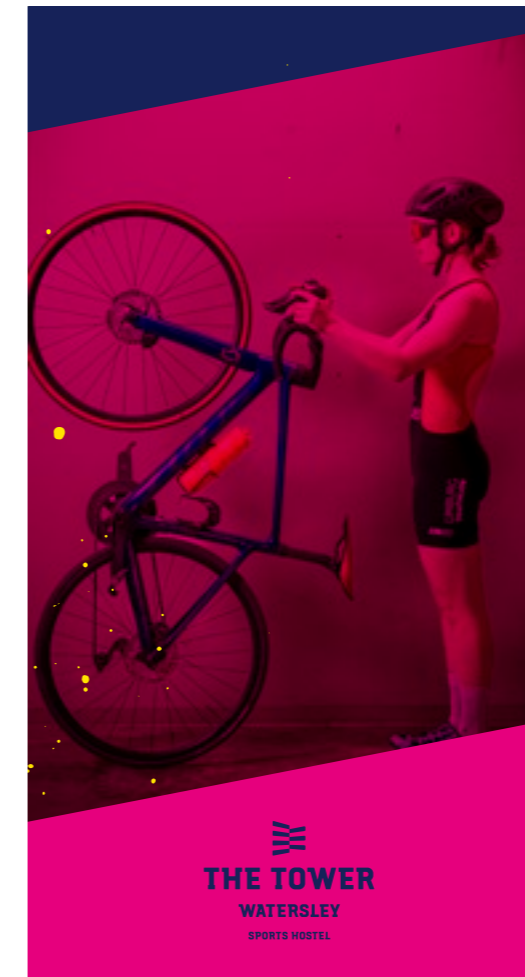
Time	Activity	Location
9:00 - 9:45	Training U17 & Junior men	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
10:00	XCO Race U17 Men	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
11:30	XCO Race Junior Men	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
12:45 - 13:45	Training all categories	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
13:15	Ceremony U17 & Junior Men	Watersley Sports & Talentpark Plaza
14:00	XCO Race Elite women	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
14:01	XCO Race Junior women	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
14:02	XCO Race U17 women	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
15:30 - 15:45	Training Elite Men	Watersley Sports & Talentpark Plaza
15:30	Ceremony U17, Junior & Elite women	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
16:00	XCO Race Elite Men	Watersley Sports & Talentpark
17:45	Ceremony Elite Men	Watersley Sports & Talentpark Plaza

2. PROGRAM

Opening hours Permanence

Day	Time slot	Open for category
Saturday, April 11	9:00 - 11:50	Youth category U8 to U12
Saturday, April 11	12:30 - 15:00	Youth category U13 to U15
Saturday, April 11	15:45 - 16:45	Masters, Amateurs, U17 & Junior men
Sunday, April 12	8:30 - 11:15	U17 & Junior men
Sunday, April 12	12:00 - 13:45	U17, Junior & Elite women
Sunday, April 12	14:30 - 15:45	Elite men

3. THE TOWER SPORTS HOSTEL



It's time to make those (sporty) dreams come true! Together with your (sports) buddies, you will work on your shared goals during your stay. Whether you are looking for a base for your team weekend or you want to be well prepared for an important match, The Tower offers exactly what your team needs.

Facilities:

- Rest and relax
- Single rooms
- Store your gear
- Bike Fitting
- Laundry room
- Bike repair
- Pump track
- Car parking
- Bike wash
- Shuttle service

Ready to book a room?

More info about The Tower Sports Hostel:

[TheTower-Watersley.com](https://www.thetower-watersley.com)

4. COURSE & EVENTSITE

Detailed map of Watersley Sports & Talentpark

— NC Mountainbike route

- - - Visitor walking route

☰ Crossing

▶ Start

⊠ Finish

● Tech area

● Waste zone

● Bike wash

Ⓟ Checkpoint

● Hotspot

ⓘ Info + Permanance

⊕ First aid

● Parking campers

● Parking staff + volunteers

WC Toilet

☆ Stage

● Team area

⊗ Foodtruck area

1 S-climb

2 Downhill Rockgarden

3 Pumptrack

4 The Bunker

5 Drops

6 Uphill Rockgarden



5. WATERSLEY SPORTS & TALENTPARK

The event takes place at Watersley Sports & Talentpark, which is a residential campus for both international and national top sports talents located in Sittard, The Netherlands. A unique location, centrally located in Europe and close to Belgium and Germany, where living, training, education, work and leisure are connected.

The Watersley principle, STAY – GROW – PLAY, is our trinity in guiding and facilitating our top sports talents and is primarily based on housing, development and competing.

Stay

Watersley Sports & Talentpark offers extensively accommodation options to teams and individual athletes and for both long and short stay.

Depending on your wishes, there are different options to consider. Together we choose the perfect fit to make your stay at Watersley as good as possible.

During the Mountainbike XCO UCI Class 1 race you can stay near the course with everything you need at the park, so you can focus on your performance and have nothing to worry about.

Grow

Physical and mental growth is the key to success. Watersley Sports & Talentpark offers talent packages that include facilities and service to contribute to the growth and development of our talents. The main focus contains physical & mental training, recovery, nutrition and social development.

‘We also have our own cycling teams for U19 & U23 women, U19 men and an UCI offroad team, which uses all our facilities to grow and develop as optimal as possible; Watersley R&D Team. With more teams to follow!

Play

To develop yourself optimally and to stimulate growth the competition element is indispensable. In collaboration with ‘Stichting Watersley Topsports’ various top sport events are organized at Watersley Sports & Talentpark every year.

In the past years various mountainbike and road cycling events took place at the park including the Dutch national championships Mountainbike.

Interested?

Are you interested to find out more about Watersley Sports & Talentpark? Ask your questions to one of our employees during the event, visit the website www.watersley.com or send an e-mail to info@watersley.com. Together we will make your dreams come true!

5. WATERSLEY SPORTS & TALENTPARK

Elevate your performance to the next level with a training camp at Watersley Sports and Talentpark!

Watersley Sports and Talentpark offers the ideal setting for athletes looking to prepare for their upcoming season, race or event. Team chemistry plays a major role in achieving success, and at Watersley, teams can stay together without any distractions. The park is nestled in the heart of nature and tranquility, offering a serene environment where players can concentrate on themselves, their teammates, and their training. This creates an optimal setting for the rapid development of team chemistry.

To achieve success, it's crucial to train, compete, analyze, prepare and improve. At Watersley Sports and Talentpark, all of these aspects are possible. Grow, play and stay at Watersley Sports and Talentpark to take your performance to the next level!

To learn more about our training camps and explore the possibilities, please email us: info@watersley.com!

6. EVENTPARTNERS



Scherper. Slimmer. Schoner.



Contact

Interested in booking your stay at Watersley Sports & Talentpark, or do you have any questions? Please contact us, and we will help you further. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our park!

Team Watersley

STAY · GROW · PLAY

booking@watersley.com

+31 (0)46 460 01 33

www.watersley.com

Watersley 31, 6132 KA Sittard

Limburg, The Netherlands



**SPORTS &
TALENTPARK**

WATERSLEY