

BGFed Introduces Hand-Drawn Member Avatars

We are pleased to announce a new initiative on the BGFed website: the introduction of digitally hand-drawn member avatars.



Figure 1 – Example avatar included thumbnail of RBL live stream on YouTube

These avatars are created entirely by hand, without any AI intervention, and feature the BGFed logo as part of the design. By using avatars instead of traditional photographs, we ensure a consistent and recognizable visual style across all our platforms.

Why avatars?

The first use of these avatars was during the gala livestream introducing the new BGFed YouTube channel. If you didn't check it before, you definitely should:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLQxGdFKIXU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCH34vhIeNQ>

As seen in our streams, the consistent avatar style strengthens our visual identity and makes our YouTube branding easier to follow. The same approach will now gradually expand beyond YouTube.



Figure 2 - Example avatar conversion of grandmaster Marc van Damme

Avatars will be used not only on the RBL live events, but also across the BGFed website. In the future, avatars will appear in tournament winner announcements, rating lists, and other official communications.

Golden Avatars – Symbols of Champions

Two special golden avatars will always exist within BGFed, representing the highest achievements in the federation. One golden avatar will belong to the winner of the Belgian Individual Championship (BIC), and the other to the winner of the RBL (Red Beaver League). These golden avatars will change hands every year, unless a champion successfully defends golden avatar by winning consecutively. Will you be the next member to hold one of BGFed's golden avatars?



Figure 3 – Transition of normal avatar to golden avatar for 2025 BIC champion Csaba Daday. He will hold it at least until next BIC champion is known in 2026

Availability and eligibility

Initially, six avatars were created for RBL events to align the YouTube channel design. We are now opening this opportunity to all BGFed members who meet the following criteria:

- Must be an active BGFed member for at least 2 consecutive years
- Must have more than 1500 experience points in the BGFed rating list

How it works

1. **Check your eligibility**
2. **Fill in the request form**

Provide a high-quality photo and your contact information. Avatars will be created digitally and hand-drawn on a first come, first served basis.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_byaULptrDhh0jj6FkItUkj0PVLikfIwDJzVAAn7WiJYQ/viewform?usp=dialog

3. **Creation process**

Since the avatars are hand-drawn by a single volunteer, there is no fixed timeline for completion. This is an important point to keep in mind.

4. **Draft review**

You will receive a first draft of your avatar. At this stage, you may request 1 or 2 small detail adjustments. You can not request a new picture at this phase or later.

5. **Final approval and storage**

Once finalized and approved by you, the avatar will be stored in the BGFed repository and may be used both by you and by BGFed for official purposes, including website content, announcements, and media.

Who is drawing the avatars?

Firat has been a BGFed member for many years. In December 2025, he began drawing as a personal hobby to find relaxation in his after-work hours, alongside his demanding engineering career. Since then, he has been actively contributing to BGFed's visual direction by helping with art direction, supporting the pilot team, and creating avatars, thumbnails, and livestream backgrounds whenever his time allows.

This is a voluntary contribution. To his point of view, avatar creation process is meant to be an enjoyable and stress-relieving activity, not a time-pressured obligation. Therefore, we kindly ask members to be patient during the process.

Request your avatar

If you meet the eligibility criteria, fill in the form, sit back, relax, and wait for your unique hand-drawn avatar to be created.