

## Sports on Main Square: The Agorathlon Nouveau is here.

*Agorespace, the specialist in proximity leisure sports facilities introduces to you – together with the dozens of communities and youths involved: its new “Agorathlon” season – a multi-sports meets concept, throughout the whole of France. And so it is that 2009 marks, to the great satisfaction of participants and organisers, its 14th season.*

This year, as it has been for the last 13 years, Agorespace (inventor of multi-sports fields and leader in the sector) continues offering this sports events concept to communities. Thus thousands of young and not so young people match their strength in total brotherhood throughout France. In all the cities, towns and villages equipped with multi-sports fields and that wish to take part, 2009 appears poised to become a very good year despite the crisis, insofar as expending energy on a sports field always turns out to be a winning investment for a healthy body, a healthy mind and a healthy society.

In total brotherhood we would not say this in England, again to emotional match their skills throughout France may sound better. Strength sounds a bit war like

Agorathlon Challenges are exceptional events for sports meets happening in the highest spirit of friendship. Municipalities equipped with multi-sports fields invite their youths and those of neighbouring towns and villages to take part in a series of friendly multi-sports matches – Relay tournaments of 3 to 5 sports (football, basketball, volleyball, handball, tennis, football-tennis, badminton, lawn hockey) are held town by town on the occasion of a field's inauguration, or on a regional level between municipalities that have multi-sports facilities and wishing to set up an inter-communal Agorathlon.

Agorespace sponsors and supports all Agorathlon Challenges through providing equipment (ball kits, sports equipment kits, communication equipment) and consulting on the organisation of the event, as well as by involving its teams, who assist and advise local authorities while co-organising the sports events by their side. The Agorespace delegate – usually the sales account manager who was in charge of carrying out the town's multi-sports facility's installation – offers all his know-how and his passion for sports on that occasion. He monitors the entire event.

It is worth remembering that all Agorespace members boast substantial personal sports experience (sports enthusiasts, sometimes former professionals, or else club instructors or performing supervision in sports clubs or within a social sports context). They believe in their mission and they trust in sports values and virtues as a means to shape the individual, as social cement and as a highway to social integration. Yet above all, they love party event sports and fun sports, to be shared by as many people as possible.

Together with the Agorathlon Challenge's organising municipality(ies), the Agorespace delegate will help ensure that this wonderful sports celebration is a success and that the field will demonstrate all of its attributes as a sports facility, as a place to meet and experience simple, popular and joyful social togetherness, in a spirit of respect towards sports rules and ethics for all, players and spectators alike.

To Agorespace, sports are a humanistic language, fostering relationships and understanding between human beings. A true Esperanto of mind and body, practising sports helps go beyond cultural and generational differences without ignoring or erasing them. Sports are a vital element helping human beings understand each other. In that way, they act as a barrier against gang rivalry, promoting the sharing and inclusion of all within a spirit of mutual respect, the surpassing of oneself, sharing. And so, for this season, as we did for the previous ones and as we shall do for the next, let us practise multi-sports, let us celebrate multi-sports... Society as a whole will benefit.

As we enter the year 2009, over 2,500 Agorathlon Day events have been held, with over 45,000 youths from 700 municipalities taking part since these multi-sports meets were created.

## The programme of an AGORATHLON (Regional):

A REGIONAL AGORATHLON® Challenge is held over one day in the shape of sports meets between participating municipalities.

### Prior to D-day:

- Selections: selections are held freely within each participating municipality
- Team composition: Each team includes 4 to 7 players (including 1 substitute), depending on the size of the Agorespace.

### D-day: (a typical day)

- 10:00am: All parties gather on the Agorespace
- 10:30am: Administrative procedures: each team's documents are handed in (players' list, name of the captain, name of the referees, list of accompanying persons, parental authorisations, individual commitment to sportsmanship)
- 11:00am: Municipality A plays Municipality B in sport n°1
- 11:30am: Municipality A plays Municipality C in sport n°1
- 12:00pm: Lunch
- 02:00pm: Municipality B plays Municipality C in sport n°1
- 02:30pm: Municipality B plays Municipality A in sport n°2
- 03:00pm: Municipality B plays Municipality C in sport n°2
- 03:30pm: Award ceremony
- 04:00pm: Close

### Where to celebrate sports in 2009 with Agorespace and the Agorathlon Challenges:

The programme is changing and growing; we suggest you request the programming schedule from [info@agorespace.com](mailto:info@agorespace.com). To date, the following Agorathlon Challenges have already been scheduled:

- Arles sur Tech (Eastern Pyrenees): April 11th, 2009
- St Vincent du Lorouer (Sarthe): date TBA
- St Pois (Mayenne): date TBA
- Juvardeil (Maine-et-Loire): date TBA

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### Agorespace multi-sports fields, "fields in which to experience sports together":

In 1989, Agorespace created the open-access, multi-sport field concept. Today there are close to 3,000 Agorespace multi-sports fields up and running, every one a positive experience, every one an attractive, lasting and quality facility designed for sports experienced in a spirit of health, sharing and fun. The Agorespace are designed so that every youth may have fun performing great sports moves, learning and developing his self-confidence (fields adapted to the young, height-adjustable basketball hoops, "game-partner" fences that bounce the balls back into play, genuine nets in the goals, genuine sports flooring, etc.). Practising sports implies accepting common rules of play, and Agorespace has developed exclusive multi-sports line markings that are easy to understand and clearly visible, helping play by the rules even as one learns them.

Unsupervised physical activities must be practised in places that are very safe and secure, to ensure total physical safety for the young. Agorespace has developed its fields paying special attention to avoiding hazardous situations (wooden slats pointing in such a way as to prevent one's limbs getting stuck and preventing anyone from scaling the pediments, injury-proof materials) and to promoting a conflict-avoidance "ambiance" (soft, friendly materials, fields that are easy to share, cropped angles to avoid jammed situations, etc.).

Leisure sports are obviously a means towards social bonding, integration and "positive gregarious living", and increasingly demonstrate their irreplaceable capacities as such. They also provide answers to issues of public health and wholesome living. Faced with the high importance of such issues, Agorespace is working tirelessly to raise the level of proximity leisure sports by constantly fine-tuning and improving its fields and services (it is certified ISO 90001 2008 throughout the products and services chain), and by a stringent approach towards the good practice of its trade (it took part in the work on French and European standardisation – NF 52-901 and EN 15312 standards were initiated by Agorespace).

To Agorespace, creating leisure sports facilities never means selling "land by the square metre". It means defining a community's needs for its youth and for all; it means programming the right quality equipment with respect to all of the community's constraints; it means providing empowering support throughout the lifespan of the facility.

In order to follow through on that ambition, Agorespace is alone in offering local authorities the COMMITMENT CONTRACT before/during/after the field installation. Organising Agorathlon Days, in which for 13 years 45,000 youths from 700 municipalities have taken part over 2,500 day events, stands as one of the contract's key components, one which the brand is strongly attached to.

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## Agorespace in a few figures (2009)

- Close to 3,000 equipped sites in Europe and worldwide
- Installations in over 35 countries
- Over 85,000 hours worked by young people on our fields
- Over 1,500 youth meetings held
- Over 45,000 young participants in the Agorathlon Challenges
- Agorespace® was the driving force behind the following certification standards:
  - NF 52901 French certification standard regarding proximity sports facilities
  - EN 15312 European standard regarding open access sports facilities (EN 15312 cancels and replaces NF 52901)
- The AGORESPACE AB2 range was developed with the support of the French Ministry of Finance and Industry.

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