Newsletter SPR July 2026

Dear SPR member,

This newsletter contains information about the opening hours of the Sports Centre's and other venues during the summer period. We also look back on the two additional General Meetings that took place on 24 June and 1 July. We will be discussing the current status of the Multi-Year Policy Plan, the range of sports on offer from September 2026 onwards, and the new Sports Centre building.

Sports Centre opening hours for the summer:

- **Monday 6 July to Sunday 16 August:**
  - Monday to Friday 2.00 – 9.00 pm
    (Wednesday 12 August: different opening hours due to KEI Week)
  - Closed on Saturdays and Sundays

- **Monday 17 to Sunday 23 August**:
  - Monday to Friday 1.00 pm – 11.00 pm
  - Saturday 9.00 am – 10.00 pm
  - Sunday 10.00 am – 9.00 pm

- **Monday 24 to Sunday 30 August:**
  - Monday to Friday 11.00 am – 11.00 pm
  - Saturday 9.00 am – 10.00 pm
  - Sunday 10.00 am – 9.00 pm

The other venues will remain closed until 30 August:

- ACLO City Bloemstraat
- Willem-Alexander Sports Centre (swimming pool)
- AMD (Visserstraat 49)
- Balans (Blauwborgje 8)

The regular timetable has been suspended, but a number of activities organised by ACLO will continue (see: **https://aclosport.nl/en/roosters/** details of what's on, when, and available places

The new timetable will come into effect from 1 September; as soon as the timetable is finalised, it will be sent to members in a newsletter and published on the SPR website **https://www.sprsport.nl/schedule.**

Extraordinary General Members Meetings

Two extra General Members Meetings were held on 24 June and 1 July. A second General Members Meeting was necessary to adopt **the amended Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure**. Both documents were significantly out of date and no longer met the requirements specifically set for association articles of association. For a valid vote on amendments to the Articles of Association to take place, two-thirds (2/3) of the membership must be present at a General Members Meeting. It was

realistically expected that we could not count on two-thirds (2/3) of our more than 2,000 members being present. Hence, a second General Members Meeting was announced at the same time, at which this requirement for the presence of two-thirds (2/3) of members does not apply in order to achieve a valid vote.

The proposal to amend the Articles of Association was unanimously adopted, with a number of minor amendments, at the General Meeting of Members held on 1 July. The Rules of Procedure were also unanimously adopted at the same meeting. The next step is for the Articles of Association to be formalised by a notary. The Articles of Association and the Rules of Procedure will then be published on the SPR website.

The agenda for the General Members Meeting held on 24 June also included the **2025 Financial Report**. As an omission had been identified in the annual report in the run-up to the General Members Meeting held on 1 April, discussion of this item was postponed. The omission relates to unpaid membership fees for one period (June 2025). In other words, too few membership fees were collected in 2025 in relation to the number of members. An immediate investigation was carried out by the Sports Centre, the FSSC (Financial Shared Service Centre) of the University of Groningen and the treasurer. The members of the Audit Committee have also been informed of the situation that has arisen. The collection of the so-called direct debit batch has now been initiated. The members concerned have been informed.
As the collection of these membership fees will take place in 2026, they will be included in the 2026 Financial Report.

The 2025 Financial Report was discussed at the General Members Meeting on 24 June, and the Audit Committee reported on its findings. The Board was granted discharge by the General Meeting on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

Multi-Year Policy Plan (MYPP) for Staff Sports 2026–2030

At the General Members Meeting held on 1 April, the members approved the board's proposal not to increase the budget allocated in the 2026 budget for the work on the MYPP, and that the board should take the initiative to draw up the MYPP itself as SPR.

Progress:

- A sounding board group has been set up comprising SPR members from both the University of Groningen (RUG) and Hanze University of Applied Sciences, a member of staff from the Sports Centre, and an external expert (policy adviser to Groningen City Council). The sounding board group provides feedback on and advice regarding drafts of deliverables
  The sounding board group met on 13 and 21 May.
- The Sports Centre has produced an internal and external analysis.
  This identifies the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats relating to the sports concept and organisation, as viewed from the perspective of the Sports Centre.
- The internal and external analysis was presented to the members of the sounding board group.
  Members of the sounding board group asked clarifying questions in response to the analysis. The board explained how the analysis had been compiled and answered the questions. In addition, clarification was provided regarding the relationship between the Sports Centre, SPR and ACLO.
- The SPR board then set out the various topics/principles, derived from the internal and external analysis, in a matrix in relation to *Members/the association* and *Organisation/the association's board.*
  The matrix indicates the priority assigned to each topic by the board, viewed from the perspective of the members/the association and from that of the organisation/the association's board.

Based on input from the sounding board group, the matrix was adjusted on a number of points.

- The next step is to develop the guiding principles into objectives for the coming years and to draw up an implementation agenda for the coming years.
- Work has begun on drafting the Multi-Year Policy Plan. It will not be possible to finalise a draft of the Multi-Year Policy Plan before the summer holidays. The board expects to be able to produce a draft of the MYPP immediately after the summer holidays and to present it to the members as soon as possible.
- Service Level Agreement (SLA) between SPR and the Sports Centre.
  At the meeting between the Sports Centre and SPR on 1 July, the Sports Centre indicated that the current agreements will be extended until 1 January 2027. The rates will be index-linked.

Sports Programme

At the General Members Meeting held on 1 April, the SPR 2026/2027 sports programme was discussed. Based on the SPR's proposal, we will investigate whether the programme can actually be implemented during the 2026/2027 sports year. Implementation depends on the availability of instructors and facilities, and the rates for the use of instructors and facilities.
The timetable for the period from September 2026 onwards will be published as soon as possible in a newsletter and on the SPR website **https://www.sprsport.nl/schedule**.

New Sports Centre Construction

Construction of the new sports centre has begun. The site on the north side of the existing sports centre has recently been prepared for building. Now that the preparatory work has been completed, pile driving began on Friday 3 July. The piling will take place in two phases: three weeks until the start of the construction industry holiday and three weeks thereafter. Around 750 piles (!) will be driven into the ground.
Throughout the construction period, the footpath along Blauwborgje will be partially closed. The diversion route runs past the Knickerbockers' sports pitches and alongside the I-building (Hanze).

Have a lovely summer

We wish you a very lovely summer and look forward to seeing you again after the summer holidays to make use of the revamped sports facilities.