

Annual Activity Report 2025



1. Competitive Sports

Overview of competitions organised or participated in, including leagues, championships, events and tournaments including key facts (size, lengths and no. of participants).

- **Dutch national competitive league:**
 - End of **season 2024/2025**
 - Competition period: October 2024 - March 2025
 - 4 competition days for the women's/men's leagues & 4 competition days for the mixed league
 - Team sizes vary per club (usually between 6-12 participants)
 - Women's league
 - 1 division
 - 4 teams (39 participants)
 - Men's league
 - 2 divisions
 - 5 teams in 1st division (43 participants)
 - 3 teams in 2nd division (31 participants)
 - Mixed league
 - 2 division
 - 6 teams in 1st division (45 participants)
 - 3 teams in 2nd division (38 participants)
 - Start of **season 2025/2026**
 - Competition period: October 2025 - May 2026
 - 4 competition days for the women's/men's leagues & 4 competition days for the mixed league
 - Team sizes vary per club (usually between 6-12 participants)
 - Women's league
 - 1 division
 - 4 teams (34 participants)
 - Men's league
 - 2 divisions
 - 5 teams in 1st division (36 participants)
 - 4 teams in 2nd division (35 participants)
 - Mixed league
 - 2 division
 - 6 teams in 1st division (60 participants)
 - 4 teams in 2nd division (41 participants)
 - 1 additional match is between the Haarlem Women's team and a different 2nd division men's team every competition day

Participation in tournaments is organised at club level. An overview of tournaments attended by Dutch teams consisting of players from one or more clubs are:

- **Brussels International Tournament**
 - 2 day tournament
 - 3 Dutch mix teams competed (mix only)
 - Dutch players in 2 other multinational teams

- **Vienna Calling**
 - 3 days tournament
 - 1 mix team competed
 - 1 men's team in collaboration with the Tirol Turtles from Innsbruck (AT) competed
 - 1 women's team in collaboration with the Tirol Turtles from Innsbruck (AT) competed

- **Ravens Tournament Portugal**
 - 2 day tournament
 - 1 mix team competed (mix only)
 - Dutch players in 1 other multinational team

2. National Teams

Activities, training camps, and competitions of national representative teams.

- **European Championships 2025 in Ireland**
 - 4 days tournament
 - National team in the women's, men's and mixed categories.
 - Delegation size: 24 Players, 6 assistants
 - In preparation:
 - National team training days:
 - Women's 4 training days
 - Mixed 5 training days
 - Men's 6 training days
 - 1 training camp (2 days)
 - Training matches against Belgium and Luxembourg

- **Preparation for Western European Championships 2026 in Belgium**
 - Selection process ongoing
 - 55 player applications received
 - Participation:
 - Women's competition: 2 teams
 - Mixed competition: 2 teams
 - Men's competition: 3 teams
 - Preparation activities:
 - 1 selection training day
 - Planned in 2026:
 - 2 national team training days
 - 2 training camps (both 2 days)

3. Grassroots Projects

Initiatives to promote the sport at the community level, including school programs, open days, and beginner activities.

Grassroots development is a key pillar of the Dutch Dodgeball Federation's strategy to promote dodgeball at the community level and to ensure sustainable growth of the sport. Initiatives focus on accessibility, visibility, and community building, targeting new and existing participants through a variety of entry points.

All affiliated clubs within the Dutch Dodgeball Federation organise **open days** to attract new players. These are typically held at the beginning of the academic year, a period in which many university and secondary school students actively explore new sports and extracurricular activities. Open days are structured similarly to regular training sessions but are specifically adapted to accommodate larger groups and participants with little to no prior dodgeball experience. Clubs are responsible for organising these activities and providing appropriate equipment, while the Federation remains available to offer support and guidance when required.

In addition to sport-specific activities, several clubs organise **non-dodgeball social events**, such as social evenings or informal gatherings. These activities play an important role in strengthening social cohesion, lowering entry barriers for new members, and fostering a strong and inclusive community around the sport.

At both club and national level, the Federation actively supports and hosts **member events** aimed at developing technics and tactics, but also team spirit and cross-club connections. Federation-wide events are open to all registered members, while club-specific events primarily target local player bases. However, players from other clubs are always welcome, reinforcing the open and collaborative culture within Dutch dodgeball.

Grassroots development is further supported through institutional and educational links. Several clubs are closely **connected to local universities or student sports organisations**, enabling cooperation in recruitment, facility use, and promotion. These partnerships significantly increase visibility among young adults and contribute to steady membership growth.

The Federation also **benefits from the professional background of its members**. A number of members work as physical education teachers and actively introduce dodgeball within school PE curricula. Through these school-based activities, pupils are introduced to dodgeball at an early stage, increasing awareness of the sport and creating a potential pathway towards club participation.

Finally, dodgeball is promoted beyond the existing community through **external clinics and workshops**. Members of the Federation regularly provide dodgeball clinics to companies, schools, children's groups, and physical education professionals. These activities help position dodgeball as an accessible, dynamic, and inclusive sport, while simultaneously expanding its reach to new audiences outside the traditional club structure.

Together, these grassroots initiatives contribute to a strong foundation for the continued development of dodgeball in the Netherlands, both in terms of participation and community engagement.

4. Courses

Training, education, and certification activities for coaches, referees, and officials.

Training, education, and certification activities form an essential part of the Dutch Dodgeball Federation's efforts to ensure fair play, safety, and consistent application of the rules across all levels of competition.

The Federation organises a national **refereeing course**. Participation in this course is mandatory for all clubs competing in the national competition, with each club required to delegate a minimum of two participants. This approach ensures that every club contributes to a sufficiently large and well-informed pool of referees and that officiating standards are consistently upheld throughout the competition structure.

The refereeing course focuses on the official dodgeball rules, practical refereeing situations, match management, and communication on court. By combining theoretical instruction with practical application, the course prepares participants to officiate matches confidently and competently within the national competition framework.

At present, the Federation does not yet offer formal coaching or official development courses for trainers or officials beyond refereeing. However, the **establishment of additional educational pathways**, particularly in the area of coaching development, is recognised as an important area for future growth and professionalisation of the sport within the Netherlands.

5. Cooperations

Partnerships with other organisations, clubs, schools, or sponsors as well as current business relationships and/or potential future business relationships.

Cooperation with external partners plays an important role in the development, visibility, and professionalisation of the Dutch Dodgeball Federation. These partnerships support both competitive performance and grassroots engagement and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the sport.

During the reporting year, the Federation established **two new sponsorship partnerships** supporting the national team apparel. **Hero** acts as the Federation's main sponsor and is prominently visible on the national team shirts. **De Selectie** is represented in a smaller capacity on the apparel and additionally receives an annual clinic and tournament, delivered by players from TeamNL. These partnerships strengthen the connection between elite sport and corporate engagement while increasing the visibility of dodgeball beyond the existing community.

In addition to commercial partnerships, the Federation actively cooperates with educational and sport organisations. The Dutch Dodgeball Federation **supports the school tournament TeamNL Moves**, organised by the Royal Association for Physical Education (KVLO) in cooperation with NOC*NSF. Through this programme, dodgeball is introduced to a wide range of secondary school students across the Netherlands. For each TeamNL Moves dodgeball finals day, the Federation assigns two lead referees to ensure correct rule application, match safety, and organisational quality.

Together, these cooperative efforts contribute to **increased exposure of dodgeball** and support the Federation's objectives in participation growth, quality assurance, and national visibility.

6. Organisation Development

Steps taken to improve the structure, governance, sustainability and capacity of the organisation as well as steps taken towards gender balance on all aspects of the organisation.

During the reporting year, the Dutch Dodgeball Federation took several steps to strengthen its organisational structure, governance, and long-term sustainability.

A key development was a change in the composition of the Federation's board, **improving gender balance at governance level**. The board transitioned from six men and one woman to three men and four women, reflecting a more balanced distribution of representation and responsibilities within the organisation's leadership.

In addition to governance, the Federation actively works to **improve gender balance within the sport itself**. To encourage increased participation of women, the Federation supports women-only training sessions organised by affiliated clubs. These sessions aim to create a safe and accessible environment for women to enter the sport or further develop their skills.

Visibility and representation are also addressed through communication and competition practices. The Federation places specific emphasis on ensuring that **women are sufficiently represented** in promotional materials and public communications. Within the competition structure, women's league matches are prioritised by being scheduled on Court 1, increasing visibility for players and spectators. Furthermore, women's leagues are consistently named and referenced first in official communications and publications, reinforcing equality in presentation and status.

Since 2021, **youth training** (ages 12+) has been organised in Hengelo. In addition, weekly youth training sessions have recently been launched in Amsterdam. These sessions are intended to be expanded to other clubs across the country.

To further professionalise the organisation, the Federation has **developed and implemented formal bylaws**. These bylaws provide a clear framework for internal governance, decision-making processes, and organisational responsibilities. The Federation continues to actively work on refining these structures as part of an ongoing effort to improve professionalism, clarity, and operational efficiency.

Together, these developments contribute to a more structured, inclusive, and sustainable organisation, supporting the continued growth and credibility of the Dutch Dodgeball Federation.

Prepared by: Léon Dijkema de Grooth

Signature: 

Approved by: Executive Board and/or AGM

Date: 16-12-2025