

# Newsletter February 2026



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Panthers,

The season is flying by — we are already entering the final phase of this ice hockey year. With about a month and a half to go, the season will soon come to an end. Time really does fly!

The season will finish at the end of March, and the **last training day will take place on Thursday, March 26**. And: **there will be no more cancellations for the rest of the season!** All training sessions will continue as scheduled.

Our last newsletter was published back in November, so it is definitely time to update you on the developments within our club.

### **Future plans**

Despite these challenges, we certainly haven't been standing still. Behind the scenes we have been working hard on both the current season and the preparations for the next one. More about that later in this newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience, involvement, and enthusiasm. Thanks to your efforts — players, parents, coaches, team staff, and volunteers — we can continue building a strong and supportive club every single day.

For now, we wish everyone an enjoyable and sporty final stretch of the season!

With sporting regards,

The Board



# Important update from the Zoetermeer Panthers Youth Board – Team line-ups Youth for next season!

We know many players and parents are eager to find out which team they or their child will be placed in next season. Understandably so — everyone wants clarity about the structure, development paths and team compositions.

We want to assure you that the board has been **working on this for quite some time**. At the same time, we recently had to deal with **several complex matters that required immediate attention**.

But even with those challenges, we certainly haven't been sitting still!  
Here's a more detailed overview of the decisions made so far:

## **Eredivisie**

Although the Eredivisie is a separate foundation and not officially part of the youth program, it plays a **crucial role** for our young players. It represents ambition, visibility, and a clear pathway to top-level hockey.

 **Great news: the Eredivisie team will continue next season!**

## **U23 – a new development step**

To create a stronger pathway between youth players and the Eredivisie, **we are launching a new U23 team**.

This team will be an important bridge toward senior top-level hockey.

## **U17 – continuation despite a small age group**

For the U17 team things were a bit uncertain. Because of the limited number of players in this age category, it wasn't clear whether we would be able to keep the team.

But:

✓ if the current team is fully committed **and** we can add a few players from outside, then we definitely want to go for it.

👉 That's why we decided this week: **the U17 will stay!**

### 💛 **U15 – smaller group, solid team**

Although not large in numbers, this age group will once again have a **complete U15** team next season.

We will continue developing and strengthening this group.

### 💛 **U13 – strong and enthusiastic**

This category is full of **enthusiastic young players**. Everything is looking very positive here.

### 💛 **U09/U11 – rapid growth**

The question here isn't *whether* we will have teams, but *how many*.

✉️ We will soon send parents an email with our proposal for their child.

🌱 After that, we will know how many players will move up from the hockey school.

Only then can we determine whether there will be one or even two teams per age group.

### 💛 **Juniors**

We will again have a **Junior team** next season, potentially supported by players moving up from the Hockey School.

### 📅 **Next steps**

We are working hard to finalize and share the **provisional team line-ups** as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience, trust and enthusiasm — together we're heading towards another fantastic season! 🎯💛



## Try outs U23 and Eredivisie scouting

Dear members,

Do you have the ambition to play in our U23 selection next season? Then you are very welcome to take part in the U23 try-outs of the Zoetermeer Panthers.

The try-outs are open to all members within the U23 age category (2002–2009) who wish to continue developing within our club. This is your chance to show your skills on the ice.

## 1 Try-out sessions

- Tuesday, March 3: 22:00 – 23:30
  - Monday, March 9: 20:30 – 21:30
- 📍 SilverDome Zoetermeer

The assessments will be conducted by our experienced coaches and staff from the Eredivisie and Youth Academy. Selection is based on commitment, skills, team mentality, and potential.

## i Important information

Taking part in the try-outs is a great opportunity to show what you can do. Please note: participation does **not** automatically guarantee selection. We ensure a fair and transparent process in which every player receives equal opportunity.

## ✉ Registration

Please send an email **before the first try-out session** to: [secretariaat@panthers.nl](mailto:secretariaat@panthers.nl)  
Include: your name, date of birth, position, and current team.

We look forward to seeing you on the ice!



**ZOETERMEER PANTERS  
JEUGD U23 TRY OUTS  
& SWEETLAKE PANTERS  
EREDIVISIE SCOUTING**

DE TRY OUT SLOTS ZIJN:  
Dinsdag 3 maart 22:00 - 23:30 uur  
Maandag 9 maart 20:30 - 21:30 uur

LOCATIE:  
SILVERDOME ZOETERMEER

LEEFTIJDJAREN:  
2002 - 2009

ASSESSMENT DOOR:  
**SAM HAYES**  
Speler ZMP Ere Divisie &  
Hoofdtrainer ZMP Jeugd

**JOY TURPIJN**  
Speler ZMP Ere Divisie  
(Oud Speler CEHL HUS)

**HUGO BRANN**  
Goalie ZMP Ere Divisie  
(Oud Speler 2<sup>e</sup> Divisie Finland)

**RICHARD BORGMAN**  
Coach ZMP Ere Divisie

AANMELDEN VIA:  
[secretariaat@panthers.net](mailto:secretariaat@panthers.net)  
ovv postitie, geboortjaar,  
huidige team en club

# VOLUNTEERS

## **Volunteers make the difference!**

We can't say it enough: our club runs on volunteers. Luckily, we have many dedicated people – thank you all!

## **New Sponsor Coordinator Wanted**

Gijs has fulfilled this role passionately for years but wants to pass the baton.

Do you enjoy maintaining contact with current sponsors and attracting new ones? Then we're looking for you! Let us know if you're interested.

## **Help during Premier League games**

The Premier League often needs help behind the bar. Do you enjoy serving drinks and want to contribute? Sign up!

The best part: you can still watch the game. We only ask you to go to the bar 2 minutes before the end of a period, and after the break, you can enjoy the game again.

If several people sign up, we'll create a pool so you don't have to help every game – unless you want to!

We also need help setting up for Premier League games. If you're at the Silverdome on Thursday evening and Gert-Jan is setting up, lend a hand!

Together we make the club stronger. Will you join?

# Mission Statement



At our club, we strive to create an inclusive and inspiring environment where everyone feels welcome. Our mission is to grow, learn, and enjoy sports together.

## Our Strategy House

Our strategy house is built on six pillars: see above. These pillars form the foundation of all our activities and initiatives. Together, we work towards a future where everyone can participate and contribute to our shared goals.

This past season, we have made great strides as a club. We have organized various events that have brought the club closer together. Thanks to the dedication of our members and volunteers, we have laid a solid foundation for future growth and success.

# ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

As already shared in the ZMP INFO App, we want to bring this to your attention once again.

The incidents on the ice this past season have shown that transgressive behavior affects not only players but also referees, coaches, parents, guardians, family members, sponsors, and the board. This has negative consequences for our club as a whole.

Therefore, we reiterate: we enforce a **Zero Tolerance Policy**. Violence and threats, both physical and verbal, and disrespectful behavior – on or off the ice – are unacceptable and will have immediate and serious consequences for those involved.

**What we want to emphasize is the following:** events or decisions made by referees during a match are never an excuse to fight after the match. It is not allowed for adults (parents, guardians, family members of players) to be in the players' areas (locker rooms, player tunnel, player benches). It is also strictly forbidden for adults to go on the ice, especially with the intention of confronting someone. Only adults with an official role and the proper credentials are allowed in these areas.

In future incidents, we will, in close consultation with IJNL, decide to suspend all involved players and family members who engage in **violence, threats (physical and verbal), and disrespectful behavior** for a certain period. This underscores that such behaviors will not be tolerated and that we, as a club, take responsibility to ensure a safe and sporting environment.

Everyone is hereby **warned**: we can no longer afford such incidents. Those who do not comply not only endanger themselves but also the club and our sport.



FAIRPLAY  
& RESPECT

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Insta Zoetermeer Panters Jeugd

Follow us on Insta: [zoetermeerpantersjeugd](#)

And if you have something fun, a photo or video of the team or a match that you want to share, tag [zoetermeerpantersjeugd](#), and we will post it here as well.

## Sponsors

Are you interested in sponsoring the club? As a sponsor, you can choose from various packages. For more information, please visit the website: <https://panthers.net/sponsoring/sponsor-mogelijkheden/>

So, if you have a warm heart for the club and are willing to sponsor an amount, or if you know someone who would like to sponsor: let us know! [sponsoring@panthers.net](mailto:sponsoring@panthers.net)

## Sponsorkliks

This can be done with SponsorKliks! Go to the special Zoetermeer Panthers site via this link: [SponsorKlikspagina van Panters](#)

The site also explains how it works. But you go to your favorite webshop via this site, order what you need, and a portion of the amount from your purchase goes to the Panthers' club fund.

## ZMP INFO app

A lot of information is shared in the ZMP Info app, including this newsletter. But also all sorts of other fun and important info. If you are not yet a member of the app group, sign up quickly: [ZMP INFO appgroep](#)

# Important dates

**Friday evening March 6:** Sponsor activity Youth

Time really flies: the season will end at the end of March. The last training day will be on Thursday, March 26.

But the good news: there are no more cancellations until the end of the season!



## ONZE SPONSOREN



## ONZE SPONSOREN

