

# *Voluntarism in student sports*



*“An asset to cherish”*

*By Studentsport Netherlands*

*Hellen Dankers*

*Daan Tel*

*Roeland Cuijpers*

*[www.studentensport.nl](http://www.studentensport.nl)*

*18 October 2003*



# *Goal and content*

## Goal:

The goal of this presentation is to discuss Europe-wide voluntarism issues in students sports and possible solutions

## Content:

- - What's a volunteer?
- - (dis)Advantages of voluntarism in sports
- - Unique Dutch sports structure
- - Student club culture in The Netherlands
- - Trends in Europe
- - Conclusion and discussion

# *What's a volunteer (in sports)?*

*“One who enters into, or offers for, any service of his own free will”*

## 4 types of volunteers

1. operational volunteer
  - a. event
  - b. administrative
  - c. party
2. committee member
3. board member
4. trainer/coach



# *Volunteer in a one day event*



# *Volunteer in an administrative job*





# *Volunteer at a party*





# *What's a volunteer (in sports)?*

*“One who enters into, or offers for,  
any service of his own free will”*

## 4 types of volunteers

1. operational volunteer - no major responsibility, being part, fun
2. committee member - partial responsibility, social, fun
3. board member - overall responsibility, educational, fun
4. trainer/coach - technical responsibility, fun

## with 4 characteristics/motivations:

# *(dis-)Advantages of volunteers*

## *Advantages*

- Cheap
- Flexible (no contract, perform voluntarily)
- Enjoyment in the work, because of own choice...
- .....

## *Disadvantages*

- No legal obligation to perform work
- Difficulty of recruiting 'the best' due to lack of reward (Quality)
- Hard to find. (Quantity)
- .....



# *Advantages of student volunteers*

- Students are creative, they change function every year
- Students broaden horizons; different areas of study
- Students are intelligent
- Students are also the main customer
- Students are your future board members
- .....

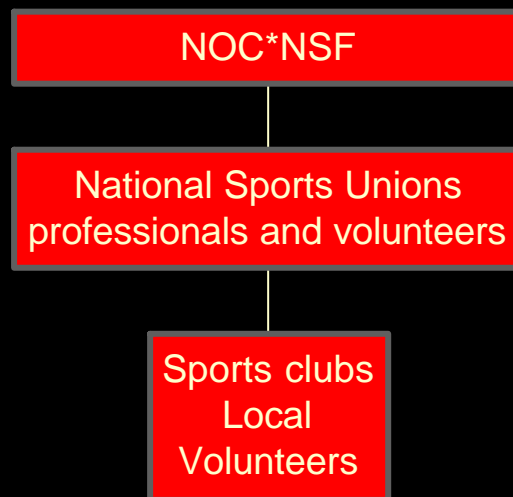
# *Disadvantages of student volunteers*

- Every year new students (discontinuity)
- Students are inexperienced, therefore unprofessional
- Students sometimes are a "pain in the ass"
- .....

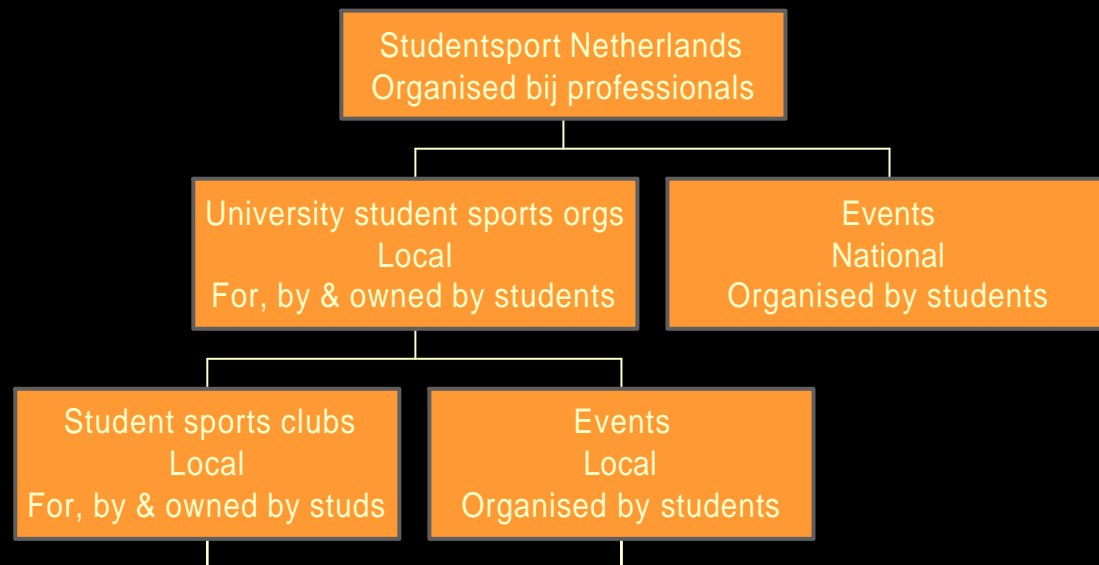


# *Sports structure in The Netherlands*

## National Sports structure



## National Students sports Structure



# *The Dutch Sports Volunteer*

## Nation-wide (17 million people):

4,6 million Dutch people practice sports in 29.000 sports clubs of which 1 million volunteers in sports (21,7%)

## Studentensport.nl (450.000 students):

> 70.000 Dutch students practice sports on University grounds in over 500 sports organisations of which 15.000 volunteers (21,4%)



## *Student sports club “by and for” students*

- Low fees through University funding
- Clubs in every sport, club competition
- Clubs owned by students
- Clubs managed by student volunteers
- Sports as a mean
- Social student environment: “Gezellig”
- Non-existent without volunteers



# *Trends in the Netherlands (and Europe?)*

- Individualisation in society
- Sport is getting more commercial/professional
- Study pressure takes away student's time
- Increasing market economics in sports
- Bad economical climate
- .....





# *Dutch student voluntarism: conclusion*

- Dutch student sports cannot exist without student participation. The Dutch student volunteer in sports is an asset to be cherished!



# *Discussion: how to conduct/maintain students?*

In the discussion group we would like to:

- Compare voluntarism in the different countries in Europe. What are trends, structures, and statistics in your country?
- Talk about possible solutions improving student sports voluntarism on all levels
- Activating the student network in Europe and exchanging knowledge...
- .....

# *Voluntarism in student sports*



“An asset to cherish”

Questions?

*Thank you for the attention!*