



# WORLD'S FASTEST SKATE SHOW

**INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FRIDAY 15/03**  
**ELFSTEDENHAL LEEUWARDEN**

On behalf of the Organising Committee of De Zilveren Bal we have the honour and pleasure to invite you for the fourth edition of De Zilveren Bal, which will be held on the following date and location:

**MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

**LEEWARDEN (THE NETHERLANDS)**

**IISTEDENHAL  
FRYSLÂNPLEIN I  
8914 BZ**



## Competition

De Zilveren Bal, "The Silver Ball", is the world's fastest skate show. It is an event where the combination of high level sports and entertainment gives a unique experience to both participants and spectators. Each time three skaters will race against each other over 100m. Eventually, after three elimination rounds, the three fastest men and women will go through to the final races. There they will determine who takes the win! Between the races the audience will be entertained in a modern and innovative way. There is never a dull moment! For this event the IJStedehal in Leeuwarden will be transformed into a real sports theatre with lights, sound and visual effects.

The previous editions of De Zilveren Bal were a huge success. In 2016 the Canadians Gilmore Junio and Heather McLean took the win. In 2017 the victors were Dai Dai Ntab and Floor van den Brandt from the Netherlands. During the last event (2018) the winners were Karolína Erbanová (CZE) and Michel Mulder (NED).

The name of this event is based on the rich Frisian skating history. In 1784 Joseph van Lingen, proprietor of the hostel De Gouden Bal, "The Golden Ball", announced the first speed skating race on the canals of Leeuwarden. Eventually, this resulted in the true tradition of the race De Gouden Bal, which still exists today. This race for women is still organised whenever Mother Nature is favourable. Unfortunately this doesn't happen very often. In consultation with the board of De Gouden Bal, the name De Zilveren Bal has been chosen for this indoor speed skating show.

## Organising Committee (OC)

The race is hosted by the foundation De Zilveren Bal. The board of the foundation is as follows:

- Rieks Hemmen (chairman)
- Sjoerd van der Boom (treasurer)
- Matthijs van Zeijl (secretary)

The Tournament Director is Jan Ykema, winner of the silver medal in the 500m at the 1988 Olympic Games in Calgary.



## Regulations

The competition will be held under the ISU rules and conditions included in this announcement.

## Liability

In accordance with ISU Rule 119, the Organising Committee assumes no responsibility with respect to medical, bodily or personal injury or property loss or damage sustained or caused in connection with this competition. Each member is solely responsible for providing insurance coverage thereto.

## Track

A standard indoor speed skating track of 400 meters to the lap laid out at the IJStedenhal, an artificially frozen indoor skating rink in Leeuwarden, in accordance with ISU Rule 203 and Rule 227.

## Participants

There will be 33 male and 33 female participants. Spots are filled as follows:

	Women	Men
General classification Sprint League	8	8
International participants (X = max. 10)	X	X
Dutch participants	12	12
Additional Dutch participants	10-X	10-X
Wild cards	3	3
<b>Total amount of participants</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>

The Organising Committee has the right to change the number of participants from 33 to 30 per category. In this case, this will affect the spots for the Dutch participants.

## Entries

### Dutch participants

Dutch participants are divided in three groups.

1. Numbers 1 – 8 of the general classification after three races of the Sprint League.
2. 12 skaters based on the 100m VANTAGE list - Dutch times - (**until 25-02-2019**) and on the 100m opening times of the 500m during the World Cup Qualification Tournament, National Distance Championship and National Sprint & Allround Championships.
3. Additional skaters (max. 10) for unfilled international spots. Selection criteria are equal to group 2.

Dutch skaters will be invited by the Dutch federation (KNSB). Dutch participants can confirm or decline their invitation on [www.inschrijven.schaatsen.nl](http://www.inschrijven.schaatsen.nl). Entry opens on **February 25th 2019 at 12:00** and closes on **March 11<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 24:00**.

## International participants

International participants can enter the competition if they meet the time limits for De Zilveren Bal. Limits for participation for international participants are: 10.40 (male) and 11.30 (female). This can be a 100m race, or opening during the 500m. The time must be skated during the current season.

International participants can only be registered by the ISU Member who represents them. This can be done by email to [info@dezilverenbal.nl](mailto:info@dezilverenbal.nl) with their name, country, age and fastest season 100m time. The first 10 registrations per category will be accepted. Unused international spots will be given to Dutch skaters. Entry closes on **February 24th 2019 at 24:00**.

## Entrance fees

There are no entrance fees for competing in De Zilveren Bal.

## Races

Three competitors skate in every race. The warming up lane will also be used as a race lane. There will be four rounds. After each round skaters will be eliminated. Eventually, three skaters will make it to the fourth and final round. The form of this competition is in accordance with ISU Rule 253, paragraph 4.a.

	Participants		Races	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Round 1	33	33	11	11
Round 2	21	21	7	7
Semi Finals	9	9	3	3
Finals	3	3	1	1

## Elimination procedure

After each round some skaters will be eliminated. This goes as follows:

- After round 1 the fastest 21 skaters will make it to round 2.
- After round 2 the fastest 9 skaters will make it to the semi finals.
- The winner of each semi final will make it to the final.

## Timekeeping

Timekeeping will be done using transponder times, photo finish and manual timekeeping. This is in accordance with ISU Rule 247.

## Race information and results

Race information will be posted on [www.schaatsen.nl](http://www.schaatsen.nl) and will also be sent to international participants by email. Results of De Zilveren Bal are in accordance with Rule 265, paragraph 1.a. and will be posted on the website above and also on [www.dezilverenbal.nl](http://www.dezilverenbal.nl).

## Accreditations

Participants, staff, officials and media each receive an accreditation. This accreditation gives entry to restricted areas. There is one (1) accreditation for a coach available per team. Coaches must apply for their accreditation via email to [info@dezilverenbal.nl](mailto:info@dezilverenbal.nl).

### **Preliminary program**

18:00	Registration open for participants
18:40-19:00	Warming up on ice
19:00-19:15	Ice preparation
19:30	Start Round 1
20:00	Start Round 2
20:45-21:05	Ice preparation
21:05	Start semi finals
21:45	Start finals
22:00-22:15	Prize winning ceremony

### **Prizes**

There is prize money for both men and women.

1 <sup>st</sup> place:	€1000,-
2 <sup>nd</sup> place:	€500,-
3 <sup>rd</sup> place:	€250,-

The winners also receive a unique silver ball and there can also be extra prizes that would be presented by the event sponsors.

### **Livestream**

The event will be broadcasted live on [www.schaatsen.nl](http://www.schaatsen.nl).

### **Medical Assistance**

Doctors and paramedics will be present on the day of competition. There will be an adequate response time for ambulances to be on site in case of need.

### **Parking**

Parking facilities for competitors and visitors are on the parking area directly next to the IJStedenhal ice rink. Parking is free.

### **Transportation**

The Organising Committee will arrange transportation for all international participants to and from the airport and between the hotel and the ice rink for the competition and other activities.

### **Hotels**

The organising committee will arrange accommodation (including meals) for all international participants from March 11<sup>th</sup> until March 16<sup>th</sup>. Coaches and staff are responsible for their own accommodation and meals. The Organising Committee can recommend the following hotel:

#### **Van der Valk Hotel Wolvega-Heerenveen**

[www.hotelwolvega.nl](http://www.hotelwolvega.nl)

27 minute drive to the ice rink

### **Contact information**

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