



SINT MAARTEN

| SPORTS FACILITIES POLICY |

2021



Department of Sports
Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport

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Abbreviations, Acronyms & Terminology

Acronyms and Abbreviations

DOS	Department of Sports
IOC	International Olympic Committee
MECYS:	Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sports
NDP	National Development Plan
NSI	National Sports Institute
UN	United Nations
SMSOF	St. Maarten Sports & Olympic Federation
QOL	Quality of Life
VROMI	Ministry of public housing, spatial planning, environment and infrastructure
LBham	Landsbesluit, houdende algemene maatregelen

Terminology

Multi-purpose sports facility	A indoor space, featuring a playing surface suitable for a variety of field and court sports.
Quality of Life	The general well-being of an individual or a society
Quality Sports	Organizations which promote innovations, social cohesion, national pride, and health.
Well-being	Condition of an individual or group in relation to the social, economic, psychological, spiritual, medical or health status.
Social capital	The networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.
Sports facility	Big enclosed facility for competitive sports, where sports are played, where sports events can be hosted and that is constructed with government funds.
Sporting organization	Organizations, which have been notarized, are registered at the Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance's Tax Administration Office and with the St. Maarten Sports & Olympic Federation.
Open recreational areas	In- or outdoor areas used for single or multi-use leisure activities.

Foreword

The Government of Sint Maarten is determined to cultivate an environment that stimulates the participation of the public in sports as a valuable activity improving the overall quality of life. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport promotes the facilitation of initiatives that ensure that all citizens of Sint Maarten have an equal opportunity to engage in sporting activities whether for leisure, recreation, amateur, or professional purposes. In keeping with this aim, the government takes into consideration the necessity for adequate sporting facilities and public sports spaces. This Sports Facilities Policy is developed to assure access to government-owned sporting facilities and public spaces for all citizens of Sint Maarten.

The Department of Sports within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is charged with the development and maintenance of sports facilities for Sint Maarten in a sustainable manner. As mandated by the Landsbesluit, houdende algemene maatregelen from January 6th, 2021 to amend the Organisatiebesluit Onderwijs, Cultuur, Jeugd en Sport, the Department with its execution arm the “National Sports Institute” (NSI) aims to manage and maintain adequate sports facilities in a manner that ensures a safe and enjoyable sporting experience for all citizens of Sint Maarten.

The Government is aware that active societies mean stronger, healthier, and happier citizens, therefore the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and the Department of Sports in its Strategic Plan 2016-2026 has highlighted the need to; encourage the implementation of health awareness programs within the community, which will inspire and motivate persons to become more involved in sports; facilitate and mobilize initiatives that encourage the participation of women and girls in sports and physical activities; facilitate and mobilize initiatives that encourage the elderly and persons with disabilities to exercise, and facilitate and mobilize opportunities for all citizens to participate in sports.

This Sports Facilities Policy highlights the stakeholders involved in sport and their rights and responsibilities. This policy draws on 1) the Constitution of Sint Maarten, 2) the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 3) the United Nations International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport and 4) the Olympic Charter.

While the Sports Facilities Policy reflects the Department’s commitment to developing sports on Sint Maarten, the Policy provides guidelines that will assure adequate access, usage, quality, and quantity of facilities and public spaces for sports participation.

The Government of Sint Maarten remains committed to providing opportunities for all that seek to engage in sports and looks forward to cooperating with all segments of society to ensure that sports participation becomes a possibility for everyone.

Honorable Minister of Education,
Culture, Youth and Sport

Rodolphe Samuel



1. Introduction

Sport represents an integral part of the lives of more than 40.000 Sint Maarten'ers. Throughout the world, sports has played a critical role in the development of social cohesion, youth empowerment, academic development, reduction of truancy, crime prevention, mental, physical & emotional health, and patriotism. With this in mind, it can be stated that sport plays a vital role in the production and perpetuation of Sint Maarten's society and leads to an enhanced sense of Sint Maarten's identity. Engaging in sports, whether formal or informal, creates a sense of inclusion and develops social capital over time by means of involvement. Across the Caribbean region, sport remains a unifying factor in communities and countries, both on grassroots and competitive levels. Taking note of the influence of sports on society and society on sport, ***the Government has a responsibility in the development of sports in Sint Maarten, particularly as it pertains to access, usage, quality, and quantity of sporting facilities and public (sport) spaces.***

International organizations such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace have recognized sport as being an influential tool to stimulate education, culture, health, sustainable development, and peace. Indicators for sport include social networks; collective identities; health-enhancing environments; well-being; and human capital development (United Nations, 2016). These bodies and others have encouraged governments to stimulate sport as a means for recreation, health, cohesion, and unity within their borders. Supra-national bodies such as the United Nations view the practice of sport as a fundamental right of all human beings, regardless of race, gender, nationality, age, language, class, etc (United Nations, 2015).

United Nations, International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport The Article 1 ***"The practice of physical education, physical activity and sport is a fundamental right for all"***

Article 8 ***"Adequate and safe spaces, facilities, equipment, and dress options must be provided and maintained to meet the needs of participants in physical education, physical activity and sport mindful of different needs associated with climate, culture, gender, age, and disability"***.

Ensuring access to sports facilities is a fundamental right for all and considered a central element of sport participation policy by governments. 'Access for all' has become the rallying cry as it pertains to sport and sporting facilities in the last decades. It is from this premise that the Sint Maarten Sports Facilities Policy is crafted to further strengthen the strategic long-term Sint Maarten National Development Vision on 'nation-building and resilience. It also underlines the National Sports Policy on 'developing and strengthening the environment that will enable all citizens to achieve the highest quality of life, by experiencing, practicing, and developing top sports, competitive sports, and recreational sports/activities. Through the Sports Facilities Policy,

direction and coherence are provided on the usage, quality, and quantity of sports facilities and public sporting spaces to facilitate access to safe and enjoyable sporting facilities for all residents; national team development; hosting of national and international competitions; sports tourism and sustainable usage.

2. Background

2.1 Establishment of the NSI

In 2014 the National Sports Institute (NSI) was officially established as a nonprofit foundation to semi-privatize the execution of sports. This was in response to the need for there to be more of a concerted effort in the execution of sport-related programs and the need for more finances to manage and maintain the Government-owned sports facilities. Through a Ministerial Decree, the NSI is annually subsidized and mandated with the management and maintenance of all Government-owned sports facilities. Furthermore, the articles of incorporation mandate the Foundation with the maintenance and management of the facilities. The division of responsibilities creates the necessary balance between governmental and non-governmental action and ensures the complementarity of responsibilities. The NSI's responsibility for the execution and promotion of sports enhances performance, efficiency, productivity and unlocks resources to support the development and implementation of sport on a national level. The transference of management and maintenance responsibilities also allows the Department of Sports to refocus its efforts on policymaking and its legislative roles. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport and by extension the Department of Sports remains ultimately responsible for ensuring that all public sports facilities are well maintained and adequate provisions are made for sports facilities islandwide.

2.2 Sports participation

Sports participation on Sint Maarten occurs in both formal and informal ways. Formal sporting activities refer to sporting activities, which occur under the authority and supervision of an organization registered with the relevant authorities for said purpose (affiliation). Formal sporting activities are both on amateur and professional levels. Informal sporting activities refer to unorganized sports which may be initiated and engaged in by persons of all ages within communities. Informal sports are often practiced in public urban spaces that are often predesignated areas for sports. Due to societal changes like individualization, social media/connection, greater autonomy, lifestyle, and the resistance to a constrained form of participating in sports, a considerable shift/trend is noticeable towards participation in informal sports. This shift calls for policy development by recognizing the trend of informal sports on Sint Maarten.

According to a survey in 1999 from the Central Bureau of Statistics on sports participation, 28.5% of the Sint Maarten population engaged with sports. While there is no statistical data to support the assertion, observation leads those involved with sports on the island to believe that these numbers have increased in the last decade. However, contrary to this assumption, there has been a stagnation in sports participation due to the passing of hurricane Irma in 2017. This

event has caused catastrophic damage to the sporting facilities on Sint Maarten resulting in considerable concern due to its direct impact on sports participation.

Age	Men	Women	Total
6-14	52.2%	41.9%	47.0%
15-24	56.6%	24.6%	40.8%
25-34	42.5%	14.7%	28.5%
35-44	28.8%	14.1%	21.4%
45-54	26.4%	12.4%	19.6%
55-64	21.0%	4.4%	13.2%
65+	9.8%	6.8%	8.1%
Total	38.0%	19.1%	28.5%

Graph 1. Sports Participation in Sint Maarten - CBS Sports research, 1999

An upcoming Census Counts survey (2021) from the Department of Statistics should provide more insights on sports participation in Sint Maarten. In the meantime, the Department of Sports relies heavily on data from the various local governing sports bodies under the umbrella of the St. Maarten Sports & Olympic Federation.

2.3 Sports Facilities

According to the Constitution of Sint Maarten, the government must promote the right to education, welfare, good health, cultural development, and leisure activities for its people (Constitution, 2010).

The Constitution of Sint Maarten highlights the need for policy to assure that:

Article 18

1. **“The government’s constant concern is directed at the protection of children and young people and the promotion of their right to education, welfare, cultural development and leisure activities”.**
2. **“The government’s constant concern is directed at the protection of elderly and persons with a disability and the promotion of their health and welfare.**

Article 21

1. **“The government shall take steps to promote the health of the population”.**
3. **“The government shall create conditions for social and cultural development and leisure activities and the preservation of cultural heritage.**

To promote good health and access to leisure activities, the Landsbesluit, houdende algemene maatregelen from January 6th, 2021 to amend the Organisatiebesluit Onderwijs, Cultuur, Jeugd en Sport mandates the Department to “promote the development and conservation of optimum

facilities for sports and recreation” (Government of Sint Maarten, 2021). The practice of sport, whether it be for leisure and recreation, health improvement, or enhancing performance, is stimulated by the Department for all parts of the population through the provision of appropriate facilities and programs. ***Adequate facilities, recognized urban public sports spaces and equipment are a prerequisite for promoting participation in physical education, sports, and recreation.*** Therefore, the Department sees the need to ensure that adequate sports infrastructure is in place to activate both formal and informal sporting activities through policy development. (Formal) sports facilities and (informal) urban public spaces are different to each other, and a distinction is made to structure stable parameters within which this policy is developed. For this policy, sporting facilities are any enclosed facility for competitive sports, where sports are played, where sports events can be hosted and that is constructed and maintained with government funds. Currently, five sport facilities are recognized as formal sporting facilities and fall under the full and direct responsibility of the Government. Five district courts are managed under the authority of the NSI and the remaining facilities are owned by private individuals and/or organizations (see appendix 1). Urban public sports spaces are areas in the community that facilitate sportive interactions between people but are not linked to formal clubs, traditional competition, or representative sport structures.

The facilities have been in a vulnerable state in the last decades as being exposed to various natural disasters (Luis, Lenny, Omar, Irene, Maria, Gonzalo, and most recently Irma in 2017) that has resulted in the destruction of the facilities. Also, a lack of preventive/periodic maintenance and budgeting for expected problems has had a negative impact on the facilities' safety, aesthetic appeal, and in creating a positive user experience. At this moment the facilities are not in an adequate state, affecting the overall experience and participation in sports.

In recognizing the Constitution on promoting the health of the population (Constitution, 2010), sports has a crucial role as the scale of participation in sports is dependent on the accessibility, variety, and state of facilities. This policy ensures that facilities are available to the public in a structured manner by incorporating measures designed to ensure good management and safe and sufficient use. The Department also continues to explore areas where additional multi-use facilities and public spaces can be developed to sustainably stimulate sports within the communities.

2.4 Facility use and trends

Trends in participation due to societal changes and facility usage have been observed to provide information and context for policy development. Trends in the sporting environment are identified to align government objectives or represent specific problems and opportunities. The policy is subsequently made to exploit these opportunities or to minimize their negative effects. The following sport participation and facility usage trends have been identified.

TREND	IMPACT	INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLICATIONS
Population growth of 9.4% from 2014 to 2018. Continued expected Population growth of +/- 3% per year (Department of Statistics, 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher participation in physical education - Challenged to manage spatial development - Aging population 	Insufficient public/ sports facilities (SMSOF)
Gap from recreational sports to competitive sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for adequate facilities 	Upgrade facilities to international standards
Investments in football (organization & coaching) (SXMFF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved structure - Increase in coaches/members/teams 	Insufficient capacity, need for a 2nd pitch
Increase in school swimming participation due to rise of population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited hours for swimming practice - Low passing rate / limiting the ability to swim 	Insufficient capacity, need for a 2nd pool
Max capacity reached for scheduling (football, futsal, basketball, volleyball and baseball)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited time slots for training sessions - Limiting the development of an athlete 	The need for a second facility
Facilities do not comply with international standards for Football, Basketball and Volleyball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not possible to host international tournaments 	The roof is too low, court spacing not sufficient
Deferred maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unpleasant sporting experience - Decrease in participation - Limiting access - Increase of safety risks 	Facilities in an overall mediocre state
The majority of facilities are more than 30 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in ad hoc maintenance - Refurbishment in 2013 	Upgrades and repairs more frequently necessary
Lack of means of (public) transportation to facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youths not being able to choose “their” sport - Dependent on offer in the community 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in participation 	
Proximity and variety of sports offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inconsistent structural presence 	Lack of facilities / public sport spaces
Associations vulnerable on continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of capacity building - Structure of association - Non-recurring programming & tournaments - Decrease in participation 	Decrease in income from rental charges
Athletes making more use of public spaces to practice sports, partly by in-access to facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in informal participation - Decrease in association membership - Public spaces being utilized - Safety and experience 	Decrease in income from rental charges for facilities
Damaged district courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in Basketball/netball participation 	Courts damaged
Decrease of purchasing power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facility rental fees have minimally increased - Decrease in association members due to monthly fee 	Fewer funds available for maintenance
Rapid urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sports not being fully integrated into special planning 	Lack of (flat) space for sports facilities
Vandalism/loitering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various neighborhoods are known for deliberate destruction or damage to the sport facilities 	Facilities not being usable or affecting the overall user experience

3. The Policy

3.1 Scope of the Policy

The Sint Maarten Sports Facilities Policy encompasses all sporting facilities to be built, developed, maintained, and upgraded by the Government of Sint Maarten (see appendix 1 for full list). The policy does not cover sporting facilities owned by private individuals and/or organizations.

Besides the established sporting structures and due to the uprise of informal sporting, this policy aims to conceptualize informal sport participation through the guided usage of urban public spaces for sporting activities.

3.2 Key Principles

As mandated by the Landsbesluit, houdende algemene maatregelen from January 6th, 2021 to amend the Organisatiebesluit Onderwijs, Cultuur, Jeugd en Sport, the Department of Sport desires to further develop the access, usage, quality, and quantity of sports facilities to facilitate access to safe and enjoyable sporting facilities for; all residents; national team building; hosting of national, regional and international competitions; sports tourism; and sustainable usage. To do so the Department takes into consideration several key principles in creating the policy guidelines:

Key principles:

- establish a facility user agreement with the conditions for usage;
- enable access to sporting facilities and recognized urban sports spaces for all;
- develop, maintain and upgrade multi-use facilities;
- sufficient presence, proximity, and variety of facilities;
- to ensure that everyone with the interest and ability to improve their standard of performance in sport can reach levels of personal achievement and/or publicly recognized levels of excellence;
- ensure affordable facility rental charges;
- fair and even usage scheduling;
- prioritize access fairly;
- directives on facility advertising;
- develop sustainable facilities;
- assure the ability to host national, regional, and international competitions and events;
- ensure the safety and health of users and audiences according to safety regulations;
- provide an enjoyable sporting experience;
- outline the various rights and responsibilities concerning government-owned and managed sporting facilities and areas;
- integrate sports in spatial planning;
- recognize public spaces for sports usage.

3.3 Facility usage

General use guidelines

The use of the sports facilities owned by the Government of Sint Maarten and managed by the National Sports Institute is aimed at sports programs, school programs, (international) sporting events, and non-sporting events. Each facility must have a facility user agreement in place that reduces the risks for all involved in sports; users and spectators. The facility user agreement lays

out the roles and responsibilities of all users engaged with sports at the facility in order to reduce risk and adverse outcomes. It is the responsibility of the NSI to administer user policies and procedures in an equitable and fair manner. Facility rules and regulations set forth by the NSI can be site-specific. A facility usage contract is signed by the NSI and the user agreeing to the stated usage conditions. The following regulatory measures must be included in the agreement and communicated to all users:

- A.** The user is inclusive of all people of varying ages, race, religion, interests, gender, identities, abilities, and cultures and is provided safe, supportive, and meaningful opportunities to participate, free from discrimination and fear of violence;
- B.** Appropriate steps should be taken by the NSI to enable disadvantaged persons including those with physical or mental disabilities to have access to facilities;
- C.** All training must be undertaken under the supervision of certified coaches/trainers;
- D.** Use of facilities must not compromise the integrity of the premises, especially the surfaces of fields, courts, etc;
- E.** Protective covering must be placed on all surfaces that are being used for non-sporting events and the cost of this is for the event promoter. Destruction of surfaces or other damages must be paid by the event organizer;
- F.** Persons using the various facilities must be outfitted in the relevant regulation gear and footwear;
- G.** All facility incidents (injuries, accidents, property and equipment damage, health and safety issues, security breaches, and misconducts) must be documented, users must report all injuries resulting from activities;
- H.** No structures are to be erected at any facility without the expressed permission of the Department of Sports;
- I.** It is the responsibility of each user to remove any waste or sports equipment at the facility after play has ended;
- J.** Unauthorized persons and vehicles are expressly prohibited from all facilities;
- K.** All sports facilities are drug and smoke-free;
- L.** Alcohol consumption is restricted to the designated areas, alcohol is served and consumed responsibly. All usage and sales must be in keeping with existing laws regulating alcohol and must be approved by NSI prior to sale;
- M.** No gambling or the installation of gaming equipment on Government-owned or managed facilities is permitted;
- N.** Political materials, including posters, pamphlets, shirts, etc., are strictly prohibited in and/or around all government sports facilities;
- O.** The NSI has the right to close the facilities as a precautionary measure when natural disasters are expected;

- P. The NSI is responsible for the closing and opening of a facility for usage;
- Q. ``house rules`` should be visually communicated at each facility;
- R. Violations of any of the above may result in temporary or permanent bans from one or all government sporting facilities or the forfeiture of current reserved facility time as well as future consideration for facility use.

The aforementioned guidelines form the terms and conditions upon which the Government's facilities are used and users are obliged to comply with. To ensure the guidelines continue to be relevant for all users it is advised that a comprehensive review is conducted by the NSI of the user guidelines every three (3) years.

3.4 Scheduling

To assure proper scheduling, all requests for facility use and/or changes must be submitted in writing to the NSI, which would then be followed by a signed user agreement. Priority is given to annual usage over incidental usage (deviation is possible in line with chapter 3.5 "priority ranking") as some facilities have limited availability for reservations due to the large demand of ongoing programs. Facilities are reserved for school physical education classes until 15:00 pm. The remaining hours are scheduled with the youth during the early hours and the adults at the latest hours.

- *Annual:* Annual facility usage is requested before July 1st prior to the start of the athletic season. Hours are allocated by the NSI in a fair and even way for all parties requesting ongoing annual usage.
- *Incidental:* All other usage will be on a first come first serve basis and is based upon availability. Requests for use of facilities for tournaments must be made thirty (30) days prior to the booking date. Requests for use of facilities for training or other activities must be made fourteen (14) days in advance. Any deviation of this will be at the sole discretion of the NSI.
- *Public use/open hours:* Consideration must also be given to provide public use hours to stimulate access for all, provided that usage and safety can be regulated. A fee can be levied.

The following scheduling guidelines must be followed:

- All requests/proposals are submitted to the NSI for approval;
- All request must be properly processed, documented, and approved by the NSI;
- Once user requests are approved, scheduled times cannot be subleased to other organizations unless pre-approval is given by the NSI;
- The NSI has the right to decline any organization request for usage if in bad financial standing due to overdue charges with the NSI.

Non-sporting events

Based on availability, facilities may be scheduled for non-sporting events. Organizations requesting usage of any facility for non-sporting events must submit a written plan, including a site layout, with their request. The priority is the preservation and protection of the facility, any event (with the potential of) negatively affecting the facility will not be considered. The approved host organization must assume all responsibility for attendees.

3.5 Priority use ranking

In line with the development of top sports athletes and national teams, priority usage of all facilities goes to the national team. In this regard, national teams also have the first preference for use of all facilities. National teams, associations, and clubs must make bookings for facilities via email to the NSI to secure usage of the space. National team preference, however, in the case of training must acquiesce to international, regional, and national sports tournaments.

As a general rule, once space has been reserved and confirmed, users will not be rescheduled or moved. However, the NSI reserves the right, at its discretion, to move any user to another facility or reschedule an event to accommodate the needs of groups assigned a higher use priority by this policy or to maintain venue-specific needs or due to safety and/or security reasons.

3.6 Sponsored use

The practice of sports at the national level shall be supported and encouraged by the sponsoring of four (4) hours per calendar month per sport. The priority areas of sport are developed annually in consultation with the St. Maarten Sports & Olympic Federation based on future development expectations and approved via the annual subsidy agreement

Priority ranking

1. International / Regional Sports events
2. National Sports Tournaments/league
*SMSOF constitutes if an event is a “national event”.
3. Training of National Teams before a tournament to be held at the venue and for regular training for future tournaments
4. Sports associations and clubs holding structural participation-oriented sports activities, in particular, those focusing on vulnerable groups such as girls and women, disabled persons, and the elderly
5. Sports associations and clubs holding participation-oriented sports activities
6. Non-sport organizations hosting International / Regional events which necessitates a large patron capacity
7. Non-sport organizations hosting events of National Significance which necessitate a large patron capacity
8. Non-profit Community Organizations hosting events that necessitate a large patron capacity



The four (4) sponsored hours will be provided to the respective sports local governing bodies once a request has been made in writing to NSI within the stipulated time frame.

3.7 V.I.P. Areas

Areas designated as V.I.P. by event organizers in consultation with NSI are reserved for persons identified as:

1. Head of State
2. Heads of Government
3. Other Dignitaries identified by the Protocol Office
4. Ministers of Government
5. Representatives of the Department of Sports
6. Board of NSI
7. Persons identified by the promoter of an event

During National events, assigned seating in the V.I.P. area will be done in consultation with the NSI. Use of the V.I.P. area by an event organizer will be granted on the agreement of the following:

- Seating in the area will be controlled by the event organizer;
- Seats will be designated by name or indicator, the provision of which will be furnished by the organizer;
- Security for the area will be the responsibility of the organizer;
- All ushering of dignitaries and guests will be the responsibility of the organizer;
- Smoking is strictly prohibited in this area;
- A dress code is in effect for all persons assigned to this area.

3.8 Fees and rental charges

The operational costs for the provision of sports facilities are partially subsidized by the Government to create accessible and inclusive opportunities for all. The NSI sources additional income for its operations through its user rental charges. The NSI must provide an unambiguous pricing system that has equitable and affordable rental charges per sports facility which encourages shared use and a place of community connectedness. Prices must be re-evaluated every three (3) years and transparently communicated to the public. The pricing system must contain the following measures:

- an additional charge is levied on rental with lights
- “secondary users” / non-sports related events pay a higher rental fee
- a fee is levied for exploitation of the parking area and the playground
- events requiring additional supervision, security, set up/ take down or related services will be assessed fees

3.9 Advertising

The NSI holds the position to secure additional funding through the offering of interior and exterior advertising space at the facilities. The income obtained by advertising is used to further develop sports in line with NSI's outlined annual business plan, articles of incorporation, and the program recommendations attached to the annual subsidy agreement. The following guidelines must be considered before a partner enters into an advertising agreement/contract with the NSI:

- advertising is only allowed in the designated areas and according to the uniform sizing requirements outlined by the NSI;
- signage must not contain direct product advertisements for alcohol, tobacco products, unhealthy food and drink choices, gambling, or adult services;
- messages must not be offensive or discriminatory;
- political advertising, including posters, pamphlets, shirts, etc., are strictly prohibited in and/or around all government sports facilities;
- the partner has to ensure that the advertisement is made "weatherproof" and remains in good condition and per the NSI's general safety measures;

3.10 Parking

To ensure sufficient parking spaces at each facility, one must comply with the parking standards policy outlined by Vromi (VROMI, 2016):

- Sports field; 0.25 per 100 m² terrain
- Indoor facility; 2 per 100 m² GF with a minimum of 4
- Stadium; 0.15 per seat

If an entity wants to make use of the parking (incidental or long term) for other purposes, an official request must be made to the Department of Sports.

Additionally, every facility must assign accessible parking space for visitors with a disability that ensures ample space to allow a wheelchair to comfortably exit the vehicle and assure the shortest route of travel.

3.11 Maintenance and upkeep

With the facilities being in a vulnerable state in the last decades due to being exposed to various risk factors and operating with a challenging budget for preventive maintenance, guidelines are created in line with the NDP 2020 - 2030 to create more economic resilience and to be proactively inspecting all assets on a routine basis (Government of Sint Maarten, 2020). This encompasses the ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand future disasters that

have a direct effect on access to facilities and ultimately sport participation. Eliminating deferred maintenance and upgrading all facilities to their normal state is a prerequisite for this policy. With Government's responsibility to facilitate access to **safe sporting facilities for all**, the following regulatory measures need to be incorporated to reduce risk and build resilience:

1. **Annual maintenance planning;** an annual maintenance plan outlining periodic/preventive/expected maintenance activities per facility is developed and executed yearly by the NSI. The planning leads to budgeting for routine care, determining upcoming capital expenses, and examining the life cycle of the current assets. The planning must outline in detail the activity, service provider, frequency, and the forecasted budget. e.g. equipment is checked/serviced with a checklist on a monthly basis by the NSI maintenance staff to ensure that it is operating properly and safely and the cost is calculated based on the expected hours. Any issues noted during these activities are reported and actioned accordingly. Larger maintenance activities must be planned in the off-season when facility usage is at its lowest.
 - Accountability is shown through a follow-up in the bi-annual progress reporting regulated in the subsidy agreement to the Department of Sport.
 - All immovable assets must be registered with the Asset Registration System to monitor their depreciation and plan for capital investments.
2. **Condition report;** an annual condition report is performed detailing the state of each facility. The report evaluates a facility's structural condition and the assets and systems necessary to perform its intended function. The report is executed prior to the start of the athletic season.
3. **Safety Audit report;** an audit will be undertaken by Vromi or a third party for all sports facilities on a biennial basis. The audit is a more in-depth inspection of the facilities compared to the annual safety inspection. A facility must comply with regulations covering safety, health, environmental and other issues.
 - A follow-up report must be provided by the NSI to the Department of Sport within ninety (90) days outlining the performed or planned activities.

The Department of Sports aims for all facilities to operate throughout minor works and repairs undertaken by the NSI. Should a facility be compromised due to unforeseen weather, vandalism, misuse, or emergency maintenance, the NSI will try to accommodate the user's activity at the facility or relocate activities to the closest facility for the period of closure. In extreme cases that a ground is deemed unfit for use, the NSI may decide to close the ground in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

3.12 Safety

With a high participation of children at the sports facilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child highlights the need for a safe and nurturing environment. This policy recalls on the UN charter, as adequate and safe spaces, facilities, and equipment must be provided to meet the needs of quality sports (United Nations, 1978). The responsibility for safety and security at all facilities lies with the NSI. Management must ensure that facilities are deemed safe and secure in keeping with **national and international safety standards** for sporting facilities. The following standards must be enforced:

- A. Risk management** - annually the NSI is obliged to identify (potential) hazards on and around the facilities to make informed decisions and rectifications.
- B. Emergency Relief** - a designated area must be activated for the provision of emergency relief. An adequate first aid kit (and if applicable a defibrillator) are available and are replenished on a regular basis. A certified Basic Life Support responder must be present during opening hours.
- C. Incident reporting** - all facility incidents (injuries, accidents, property and equipment damage, health and safety issues, security breaches and misconducts) must be documented. Reporting identifies the root cause and corrective actions to eliminate the risks involved and prevent similar future occurrences.
- D. Emergency Evacuation Plans** - a safe and orderly evacuation plan must be in place for all facilities and these must be made available to event organizers and users of the facilities. Staff must be trained and roles must be clear.
- E. Emergency fire equipment** - each facility provides and maintains emergency equipment such as fire hoses and fire extinguishers. Equipment is inspected by the Fire department yearly and included in the annual maintenance planning.
- F. Safety signage** - communication on safety designed to warn of hazards; indicate mandatory actions or required use of personal protective equipment; prohibit actions or objects; identify the location of firefighting or safety equipment, or marking of exit routes must be visible on-premise.
- G. A max capacity** - the max capacity in the tribune must be identified by the Fire Department and enforced during events or competitions.
- H. Heat exposure and dehydration** - provisions must be implemented to reduce the risk of heat exposure and dehydration.
- I. Disaster Preparedness Plan** - facility management will ensure that there are special disaster procedures in place for all facilities. These plans must be developed in

collaboration with the Emergency Operations Centre (10 Emergency Support Functions ESF's) for disaster preparedness. Conditions must be stated prior to the re-opening of the facility.

- J. Vector and disease control** - Vector control in preventing and controlling vector-borne diseases must be carried out. The Integrated Vector Management strategy of the World Health Organization can be used for facility policy (World Health Organization, 2020).
- K. Waste Management and hygiene** - All facilities must have sufficient waste bins with a recycling program. Facilities are cleaned daily according to the usage cycle. Expectations must be outlined in the cleaning schedule and contract.
- L. Insurance** - Each facility is collectively insured via the Government. An inquiry will be done to consider insuring the sports facilities independently. Event promoters must provide additional insurance coverage for their event. Contents purchased or supplied by users and not considered fixtures of the facility remain the property of the users and are not insured by Government.
- M. Security** - The organizers of events have the responsibility to supplement existing security personnel at all facilities or provide security at facilities where there are none; In the case of facilities with high-value assets, security is considered in non-operational hours.

The government, via the Department of Sports, will hold a minimum of two walk-throughs (visual assessments) per year to ensure that all facilities are kept up to standard and that there are no violations of maintenance and safety expectations. The NSI will report through the bi-annual progress reporting on its performed actions.

3.13 Renovation and new facility standards

The Department of Sport believes that adequate facilities are fundamental to developing sporting opportunities for all, from the disabled to the elite athlete. Sporting facilities whether large or small can encourage national pride and assist the process of revitalizing deprived neighborhoods. Facilities that are built to last and well maintained are a pleasure to use and give an ample return on the time and money invested in their construction and day-to-day use. In line with the NDV 2020 - 2030, the Department of Sport aspires that all future sport facility developments meet the standards of sustainability and resilience (Government of Sint Maarten, 2020). Standards for facility improvements and new construction are as followed:

- **Multi-purpose facilities** - due to our small size of communities and limited land space, new sports facilities should be built as multipurpose, which is based on a collaborative discussion with user groups, community stakeholders, and inhabitants in order to cater to the specific needs of the community. In theory, every space in the facility should house

multiple uses, creating an ever-changing, modular space. Multi-use facilities will encourage greater community participation in sport and recreational programming and result in healthier, happier, and more cohesive communities.

- **International standards** – this should be the starting point when integrating or renovating sports facilities; these are the requirements established by international and national sports federations. Facilities must be at a level capable of hosting national, regional and international level sporting competitions.
- **Sustainability** - sustainable solutions must be considered during renovations and new developments. Structures must be hurricane and flooding resistant to enhance durability, functionality, and safety.
- **Capacity to raise income** - to make a facility more self-sufficient, a commercial plan must be made on generating additional revenue. E.g. social / meeting rooms, kiosk, bar facilities, company outings, advertising space etc.
- **Spatial integration** - connect sport with Vromi; Spatial Development strategy, the opportunity to reserve space for sports and daily movements/physical activities. See chapter 3.15.
- **Distribution of facilities** - for new facilities, a study and advance planning must be conducted on availability, variety, and proximity, and its balanced distribution. Proximity is directly related to accessibility, how easy is it to access a sports facility, in relation to physical distance. Availability refers to the number or density of destinations and is utilized as a measure of “exposure” to resources in physical activity. Lastly, the types of sports offered must be analyzed in order to guarantee a good variety of sports.
- **Accessibility for FOR ALL** - when altering or designing a facility, it is essential that the project is developed with a clear aim of achieving a truly inclusive-for-all facility. Equal access must be provided to local sports user groups and people with disabilities. Disabled access groups can be useful points of contact in the development phase.
- **Needs analysis** - a study on the needs of the community must be undertaken to design, manage and operate a new facility according to user expectations and allow all groups of people to participate.
- **Vandalism prevention** – to prevent destructive behavior, the community is involved to develop community identity, pride, sense of ownership, advocacy, and reduce vandalism and antisocial behavior. Security fencing (while keeping visibility), sourcing vandalism-resistant materials, and vandalism prevention signage must be used at each facility.
- **Provisions for maintenance & management** - a comprehensive plan must be made to ensure proper maintenance and management of the facility and in line with the

maintenance and safety guidelines presented in this policy. The planning must be reflected in the annual budget.

- **Furnishings** - new facilities must be equipped with changing rooms, restrooms, lighting, seating, recycling bins, parking, and drinking fountains.
- **Safety measures** – the safety measures described in chapter 3.12 apply to all new and renovated facilities.

3.14 Sustainability

The Department of Sport believes that sport has an essential role to play in Sint Maarten's society and the department has a responsibility to promote a sustainable future for the island. In line with the UN charter on physical education, activity and sport, the Department aims to prevent any negligent behavior risking danger to bystanders, noise, waste, use of chemicals, and other potential damage to nature (United Nations, 2015). The development path of the facilities' usage, quantity, and quality is guided by the principles of sustainability through effective environmental management. In supporting sustainable developments, the Department of Sports aims to meet the needs of the current generation, without compromising the needs of future generations through the following initiatives:

- Energy preservation - Using solar energy systems according to Vromi's energy policy (VROMI, 2014) limits the impact on the environmental footprints and also cuts cost on the facilities energy bill. The sports facilities' rooftops lend themselves perfectly for on-site solar power generation.
- Replace used lights with LED lighting, install room occupancy sensors, motion sensors, dusk-to-dawn lights, and electric timers on outside LED lights.
- Recycling garbage - Recycling bins must be placed in designated areas. Glass, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans will be recycled.
- Using environmentally friendly cleaning products.



3.15 Public sport spaces development

Following the UN, the department aims to support, develop and maintain an active and healthy lifestyle for all citizens through integrating opportunities for physical activity and sport into urban, rural and transportation planning (United Nations, 1978).

With the department's "sport for all" vision, the Government has an important responsibility to include and promote all sorts of sport types that can be practiced by the large majority of the population. Public space can be seen as the largest playing field for sports activities due to its easy and free access. With the trend of more and more Sint Maarten'ers using public spaces for their daily sporting activities, a connection between public space and sport is essential. Therefore, Vromi's Spatial Development Strategy has outlined the need for sports and recreational spaces in consultation with the Sports Department. To stimulate informal sport participation, ***the Department of Sport aims to conceptualize the wide spectrum of spatial sport typologies through activating the usage of urban public spaces for sporting activities.*** By developing the spatial integration of public spaces and integrating sport with other functions in the community, the Department seeks to further develop sports as a social meeting place within the community. By recognizing and taking full advantage of the unique opportunity that public spaces have, the quality of life within the communities is enhanced. The following two objectives are created for policy: *Integrating public sports spaces within the communities and recognizing and activating public spaces as sports destinations.*

3.15.1 Integrating community public sport spaces

Sport, leisure, and urban development are closely intertwined, creating an attractive and safe design of public space for sports participation. Sports spaces must be integrated into spatial planning and the development process. Next to the technical and programmatic sport requirements, this policy seeks a *collaborative network approach* through interaction, intermingling, and symbioses with other community programs and functions. The Department aims to combine sport with education, recreation, and health to stimulate social cohesion and inclusion and make our communities stronger, healthier, and happier.

- **Multipurpose courts** - to utilize limited available space and satisfy multiple needs, multipurpose courts are established offering a variety of sports like Basketball, Football, Netball, volleyball, hockey, and badminton within one court.
- **Develop Synergies among departments** - working in a multi-department innovative manner through a dynamic partnership with the Department of VROMI to integrate sports into spatial planning can be beneficial. In the provision of recreational grounds, there must be a designated area that is flat for physical activity.
- **Collaboration/partnerships** - align efforts with individuals, businesses, and non-governmental organizations in developing public sports



spaces. Promoting their livability and attractiveness will increase the desire to live, work and visit these communities and create economic development within the community.

- **Community driven process** - the community will be involved from the start in the designing of public sports spaces to develop community identity, pride, sense of ownership, advocacy, and reduce vandalism and antisocial behavior. The result must resemble the needs and expectations of the community.
- **Access and connectivity** - public sports spaces will be open, inviting, vibrant, and fulfill the role as a “physical focal point” and “see and be seen” to everyone in the community. Spaces are created in a central area to increase visibility and in walking distance with easy access.
- **Low maintenance** - the space is created with low maintenance materials to enhance durability and keep maintenance costs at a minimum.
- **Vandalism/hurricane proof** - the space is designed and built to resist vandalism, theft, and hurricanes.
- **Socially inclusive design** - public spaces must be integrated, welcoming, safe, comfortable, inviting, and easily accessible for all, promoting community building and encouraging stewardship of our public spaces.
- **Sustainable design** - the implementation of sustainable design practices in public sports spaces will support the island’s desire to promote community resilience.
- **Ownership/responsibilities** - ensure that ownership is taken by the community and adequate resources are available for management and maintenance of the space.

3.15.2 Recognizing and activating Public Sports Spaces as sport destinations



In the urban environment, spatial characteristics and structure define the spatial and programmatic transformations, bringing a new range of possibilities. Public spaces can be used for sports with small interventions, improving walking/biking routes, empty buildings, open waters, mountain paths, parking areas, or open courts/playgrounds. “Re-using” public space promotes healthy physical activity while stimulating growth and reducing crime in at-risk communities. Good examples are New York’s High Line, Chicago’s Bloomingdale Trail, Denmark’s Streetmekka, and Bogota’s building of a sustainable city.

This policy aims to map out public spaces for sporting activities. To activate the physical architectural features of public spaces, the most actual trends in urban sport and recreation among our residents have been identified, selecting the following focus sports to activate using public space: **walking, hiking, (trail) running, cycling, swimming, and outdoor fitness.**

Instead of 'bringing' the inactive citizens to the sports facilities, public space lends itself to be turned into a low threshold space inviting all citizens to be physically active. Street layout, land use, location of recreation facilities, parks, and public buildings can all encourage physical activity. Public spaces will be activated for sporting purposes based on suitable design principles being at the core of developing public spaces. The following two principles function as the playing field for the development of public spaces:

SAFE: To increase the comfort of participation, a public space must offer a physically and socially safe environment. E.g. separating cycling and walking paths can increase a user's sense of safety; sufficient lightning; access to drinking water taps (vandalism proof) or support structures for hiking paths.

FUNCTIONAL: A public area needs to have the characteristics to be pragmatically transformed into a sport destination.

Step 1 - The most popular and accessible informal sports have been identified as walking, hiking, (trail) running, cycling, swimming, and fitness.

Step 2 - Locate spaces that have the physical architectural features to accommodate the identified sports.

Step 3 - Perform a feasibility study on the selected spaces to ascertain the likelihood of execution.

Step 4 - Partner with the business community and sport practitioners to upgrade spaces to promote sport participation.



4. Implementation cycle 2022 - 2026

The implementation and success of this Policy will require the participation and cooperation of the National Sports Institute, the Sint Maarten Sport & Olympic Federation, the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure, the business community, sporting associations and federations, community-based organizations and users of sports facilities and public spaces on Sint Maarten. The implementation of the policy will take place through the alignment with the annual strategic plans and budgets of the Department of Sport and the NSI as the executive arm in the sports sector.

4.1 Key stakeholders and their roles

Directions for the development and delivery of access, usage, quality, and quantity of sports facilities and public sports spaces in the period 2022 – 2026 for all government ministries and subsidized organizations are established by the Sports Facilities Policy. The Government of Sint Maarten recognizes that there are multiple stakeholders who contribute to the development and delivery of adequate sports facilities and public sports spaces on the island.

Identifying the roles and responsibilities played by each stakeholder is critical to ensuring that all citizens understand the level of collaboration that goes into ensuring that all Sint Maarten'ers have access to adequate sporting facilities and public sports spaces.

- ***Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport***

As the owner of the major sports facilities and public spaces on the island, the Government of Sint Maarten, via the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport, via the Department of Sports is ultimately responsible for ensuring that all public sports spaces and facilities are well maintained and adequate provisions are made. The Ministry will work through the National Sports Institute and other organizations to ensure access to safe and enjoyable sporting facilities. The government recognizes that an active population is a stronger, happier, and healthier population and will thus ensure that the policy guidelines outlined in this Sint Maarten Sports Facilities Policy are safeguarded via supplemental policies and legislation. The Ministry will also maintain close relationships with the sports associations and federations, community-based organizations, schools, and institutions involved in the delivery and development of adequate sporting and recreational facilities in all communities either existing or planned.

- ***Ministry of Public housing, Spatial planning, Environment and Infrastructure***

With the ministry of VROMI responsible for spatial planning, the policy department aims to enhance human capital and strengthen social values, institutions, and equity to improve the resilience of social systems. Within this goal of the Spatial Development Strategy, the department collaborates with the Department of Sports on reserving and integrating space for sports

participation within communities in the sustainable spatial social development pillar. In addition, the department can provide support and policy in ensuring that facilities are equipped with environmentally friendly technology to reduce the carbon footprint from participation in sport and facilitate recycling.

- ***The National Sports Institute***

The National Sports Institute, as the execution arm of the Department of Sports, has the responsibility for the day-to-day management and maintenance of all facilities and facility guidelines. The NSI will work with all partners to ensure that access to facilities is guaranteed and that facilities can be used in a safe and enjoyable manner. Being responsible for the facilities, the NSI plays a central role in the implementation and enrollment of the facility policy.

The NSI will also ensure that operational policies are enacted for all facilities and that protocols and projects are developed, implemented, and safeguarded to inform the various sports organizations and the public of the guidelines concerning sports facilities. The NSI is responsible for executing the annual maintenance planning, performing safety checks, and cooperating with audits. The NSI will liaise with the Department of Sport regularly during the implementation phase and report on a biannual basis its progress related to all facilities under their direct management.

- ***Business Community***

With the business community providing necessary sponsorships and investments through direct contributions, endorsements, and public/private partnerships, the Government seeks to involve the business community to partner on developing community sports spaces.

- ***Sporting Organizations & Federations, coaches, and athletes***

The sports associations and federations represent a myriad of sporting disciplines on Sint Maarten. These associations, federations, coaches, and athletes attract broad participation among various age groups, genders, educational institutions, clubs, and community groups. Input from the sporting organizations at every level including coaches and athletes; must be sought and considered when developing policy, executing implementation, and conducting an evaluation to ensure that a holistic picture is advanced. The rights of persons to leisure and exercise and the access necessary for this must not be undermined by any entity.

- ***The inspectorate***

The Inspectorate for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport will execute site visits and inspections of the various facilities to ensure that the various locations have the necessary documentation for awareness, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting and are conducting daily operations in compliance with the Sports Facilities Policy.

- **Sint Maarten Sports and Olympic Federation**

The St. Maarten Sports & Olympic Federation, as a core partner in sports, has the responsibility of communicating with all associations and federations under its umbrella the importance of the proper use of the facilities. They are also expected to work with the National Sports Institute to ensure that all guidelines on usage are enforced to keep facilities in a safe and enjoyable condition.

4.2 Monitoring & evaluation

To assess the extent to which the set objectives and their social impact has been achieved, it is important to monitor the outcomes of the policies and actions. The Department will provide oversight for the technical coordination and monitoring of the Policy and report to the Minister on the progress of the implementation. The Department will work closely with the NSI to analyze outputs and measure the social impact. The monitoring of the Policy will require the development of suitable social indicators to measure and track progress toward the achievement of the policy goals and outcomes. The collected data will be analyzed in 2026 for its effectiveness to make amendments to the policy. In 2027 the improvements will be implemented and monitored for evaluation.

4.3 Development goals 2022 - 2026

Engaging in sports, whether formal or informal, creates a sense of inclusion and develops social capital over time by means of involvement. For Sint Maarten, sports remains a unifying factor in communities, both on grassroots and competitive levels. With the influence of sports on society and society on sport, **thirteen (13) Development Goals (DG)** have been created to further develop the access, usage, quality, and quantity of sporting facilities and public (sport) spaces on Sint Maarten. The objectives are mapped out for each goal and describe what actions will be undertaken in the coming years.

<i>Development GOAL</i>	<i>OBJECTIVES / ACTION POINTS</i>	<i>RESPON SIBLE</i>	<i>PLANNING</i>
1. Reduce risk and unfavorable situations at the sports facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a facility user agreement stating the “terms and conditions” of usage tailored to each facility 	NSI	2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inform users on user agreement and sign prior to the start of the season or usage 	NSI	2022
2. Prioritize access to sports facilities in a fair manner, providing preference to users of higher importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comply with user ranking policy in scheduling of facility usage 	NSI	2022

<p>3. Stimulate National Teams development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor the use of facilities for 4 hours per month for the identified sports 	<p>SMSOF</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p>4. Ensure special seating for dignitaries during national events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a VIP seating area or an outline at each facility 	<p>SMSOF / Sport Federation/ Association</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p>5. Ensure equitable and affordable facility rental charges to all sport users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create fair and affordable prices per facility and per user type Communicate pricing via various mediums Re-evaluate pricing every three (3) years 	<p>NSI NSI NSI / DOS</p>	<p>2022 2022 2025</p>
<p>6. Secure additional funding through offering interior and exterior advertising space at facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an advertising agreement integrating the stated policy guidelines Develop an advertising strategy per facility with practical guidelines Research the possibility to outsource to a third party 	<p>NSI NSI / third party NSI</p>	<p>2022 2022 2022</p>
<p>7. Ensure sufficient parking space to all users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish new facility's parking schema according to Vromi's parking standards policy Assign accessible parking space at each facility for visitors with a disability 	<p>NSI / VROMI NSI/ VROMI</p>	<p>2023 2023</p>
<p>8. Facilitate access to safe and enjoyable sporting facilities for all (Maintenance perspective)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a maintenance plan per facility that outlines all annual preventive maintenance tasks Execute planning on an annual basis Provide a follow-up report in the biannual progress reporting Conduct an annual condition report on the state of each facility Perform an audit on all facilities on a biennial term 	<p>NSI Vromi / third party</p>	<p>2022 2023 - '27 2023 2023</p>
<p>9. Facilitate access to safe and enjoyable sporting facilities for all (Safety perspective)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and mitigate potential hazards in and around the sports facilities Activate an area at each facility for emergency relief and guarantee the availability of first AID Create an incident report file 	<p>NSI NSI NSI</p>	<p>2022 - '27 2022 2022</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform an inquiry on insuring the facilities on their own 	DOS	2022
10. Adequate facilities are established in a sustainable and resilient manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research what facilities adhere to international standards and if improvements are feasible to comply 	NSI / DOS	2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas, based on availability, variety and proximity of sport facilities, for future development 	DOS	2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform a study on the needs of the community as the basis of designing a multi-use facility with the capacity of being self-sufficient 	DOS	2023
11. Play an essential role via sports in the development of sustainable solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the use of solar energy systems on current and new facilities 		T.B.D
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace lights with LED lighting 	NSI	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put a garbage recycling structure in place at all facilities 	NSI / VROMI	
12. Integrate sports spaces into spatial planning to stimulate social cohesion and inclusion and make our communities stronger, healthier, and happier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the Department of Vromi to integrate sports in the spatial planning policy 	DOS / VROMI	2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify communities that are in need of community sport spaces 	DOS	2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop with the community multipurpose facility designs in accordance with the policy guidelines 	DOS	2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network and engage with the business community on establishing community sport spaces 	DOS	2023
13. Activate public spaces for sports purposes increasing participation and access to sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate public spaces to accommodate the identified sports 	DOS	2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform a feasibility study on each location 	DOS	2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with stakeholders for realization 	DOS	2023

4.4 Grievances and disciplinary procedures

All grievances concerning the use of government-built, owned and maintained facilities will be presented to the National Sports Institute in a timely manner. If redress is not found, complaints should be directed to the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth & Sports for further investigation. Responses, including disciplinary procedures to these complaints, will be made in writing via the Department of Sports and returned to persons and/or organizations.

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Appendixes

Table 1: List of Sports Facilities

FACILITY	SPORT	CAPACITY
Raoul Illidge Sports Complex <i>Welgelegen Road Cayhill</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football + (NT) ▪ Flag football ▪ Basketball ▪ Track and Field ▪ Tennis ▪ Swimming ▪ Netball 	Owned by: Government Managed by: the NSI Maintained by: the NSI
Great Bay Sports Auditorium <i>Long Wall Road, Philipsburg</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Basketball + (NT) ▪ Volleyball + (NT) ▪ Futsal 	Owned by: Government Managed by: the NSI Maintained by: the NSI
Jose Lake John Cooper Ball Park <i>L.B. Scot Road, Cul-de-Sac</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseball ▪ Softball ▪ Softball ▪ Basketball 	Owned by: Government Managed by: the NSI Maintained by: the NSI
Melford Hazel Sports Complex <i>Soualiga Road, Suckergarden</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Tennis ▪ Volleyball ▪ Futsal ▪ Hockey 	Owned by: Government Managed by: the NSI Maintained by: the NSI
Belvedere / Cruijff court <i>Low Estate Road, Belvedere</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football ▪ Baseball ▪ Basketball ▪ Hockey 	Owned by: Government Managed by: the NSI Maintained by: the NSI
Simpson Basketball Court <i>Sr Modesta Road, Simpson Bay</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Netball 	Owned by: Government Managed by: Simpson Bay Community Council Maintained by: the NSI

<p>Dutch Quarter Basketball Court</p> <p><i>Zorg and Rust Road, Dutch Quarter</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Netball 	<p>Owned by: Government</p> <p>Managed by: NSI</p> <p>Maintained by: the NSI</p>
<p>Milton Peters College Court</p> <p><i>L.B. Scot Road, South Reward</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Netball 	<p>Owned by: Government</p> <p>Managed by: Milton Peters College</p> <p>Maintained by: Milton Peters College</p>
<p>St. Peters Basketball Court</p> <p><i>St Peters Road, St. Peters</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Netball 	<p>Owned by: Sint Maarten Youth Council (long lease)</p> <p>Managed by: St. Maarten Youth Council</p> <p>Maintained by: the NSI</p>
<p>Middle Region Basketball Court</p> <p><i>Middle Region Road, Middle Region</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Netball 	<p>Owned by: Private land</p> <p>Managed by: Sister Marie Laurence School</p> <p>Maintained by: the NSI</p>
<p>Leonald Connor school Basketball court</p> <p><i>Venus Drive, Cay Bay</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Netball 	<p>Owned by: Government</p> <p>Managed by: the NSI</p> <p>Maintained by: the NSI</p>
<p>Little League Ball park</p> <p><i>Soualiga road, Philipsburg</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseball ▪ Netball 	<p>Owned by: Little league Association (long lease land)</p> <p>Managed by: Little League</p> <p>Maintained by: Little League</p>