



Bulletin for SST members – Autumn term 2026

Greetings, esteemed SST member!

From this year to now

The fall season 2026 is taking its first steps after a great spring season and summer. I hope everyone has had a good time charging their batteries for what's to come.

The year so far has been an active one for our club, with the Finnish Championship and the Finnish Junior and Senior Championships being held in about a month in the spring. These events affect a large number of our members.

This year, the changes in the payment of umpiring fees and the introduction of a new financial management service have added spice to our activities. It is also a positive news that we are pleased to highlight that our membership has increased by several new people since the turn of the year.

Our members have actively represented our club in domestic and international tournaments organized during the beginning of the year:

- **International tournaments abroad:**
 - Eight of the Line judges have represented us in six different tournaments.
 - Three of the Umpires have represented us in seven different tournaments.
 - The Referees have been represented in three tournaments.

- **Domestic YFIC 2026 (BE Future Series):**
 - 9 Umpires included,
 - Twenty or so Line judges on duty
 - As well as other technical Officials

- **In domestic tournaments**
 - Approximately 20 Umpires in 15 different tournaments
 - Approximately 5 Referees in 20 different tournaments
 - An estimated tens of Line judges in half a dozen tournaments
 - Numerous Technical Officials in different positions for different tournaments

Thank you to everyone for your work for our sport and our club!



Level change proposals for the Rules and Umpires Group (STR)

We also want to congratulate our members on their career advancement!

The following proposals for level changes have been forwarded to STR for confirmation during this year::

Referees:

- **Maija Koivula**– To the Finnish Championship level
- **Sami Turunen**– National level
- **Tommi Koskela**– National level

Umpires:

- **Chanaka Maligaspe**– National level
- **Chao Wei**– To the Finnish Championship level
- **Venkat Raaghavan**– To the Finnish Championship level
- **Esa Romppainen**– To the international level

Congratulations to everyone for their hard and successful work!

Hopefully we will have more news in this section during the autumn.

About autumn events

The autumn season 2026 will hopefully bring plenty of tasks in tournaments. There are many events planned in the domestic competition calendar, in which our members will hopefully again actively participate.

Important upcoming events:

- **Next umpire course:** To be held on 19–20 September 2026 in connection with the PuiU national competition. For more information, please contact Maija Koivula
- **Targeted training for referees:** We are planning refresher training for referees during the fall, targeting those who have been in fewer tournaments. A separate targeted message will be sent about this and you can ask Maija Koivula for more information
- **Parabadminton:** During the autumn, cooperation with VaSuPa will begin to launch parabadminton officiating. For more information, please contact Heikki Laaksonen
- **Playing session:** The club has its own scheduled game session in Ruskeasu on Wednesdays at 3-4 pm. For more information, please contact Eino Väisänen
- **Arctic open:** An excellent opportunity to volunteer in several positions, for example as a boundary judge in a top-level international competition. More information from the association



About development and general matters

Training and development of the refereeing and umpiring paths

The Umpire and referee paths and related training are being continuously developed. Updated materials will be published during the autumn.

- **Referees:** We currently have several trainees aiming for the next level, and personal training plans have been defined for them.
- **Umpires:** The Umpire course was not included in the program of the Junior and Senior Finnish Championships this time, but a lot of evaluations and sparring sessions have been successfully conducted during the spring. The umpire course will be organized this year in September.
- **Reminder on maintaining levels:** Please note minimum requirements for umpired matches related to maintaining one's level. A separate message will be sent to those affected. Remember to include the information received from the referee, *Official Statistic*-reports for the RoW (Record of Work) survey to be conducted at the end of the year. These will be updated slightly during the autumn as the umpire paths are updated slightly.

Financial administration, payments and cooperation agreement

- **Umpire compensation:** Due to the change in the payment of umpire and referee compensation, the "umpire accounts" will be paid out empty during this year. If the treasurer has requested additional information regarding the matter, please provide it during the autumn so that payments can be initiated. Further information will be provided upon request by Vappu Santalahti.
- **Financial administration reforms:** The club has developed financial management support processes. **Netvisor** service and electronic forms for travel invoices and reimbursements.
- **Agreement with the Badminton Federation:** A multi-year co-operation agreement will be signed with the Badminton Federation in the autumn, which will cover the development of refereeing activities, determine the operating models of the federation's competitions, and guarantee SST the right to organize the Finnish Junior and Senior Championships.

Annual meeting

The SST annual meeting will be held in November. The exact time, location and details of the meeting will be announced in a separate invitation closer to the event.

On behalf of SST and the Board

Heikki Laaksonen

Chairman, SST