



Dutch Masters 2026

What: A casual gathering of Diplomacy players open to everyone

When: 7&8 November 2025

Where: Denksportcentrum Leiden, Robijnstraat 4, Leiden, the Netherlands

Who can help: TD Jelte Kuiper, reachable at +31 6 11854463 or jelte.kuiper@upcmail.nl

1. Preamble

The purpose of this tournament is to create an event where everyone has a good time. While competing to win is admirable, it does not define the success of the tournament and we deeply encourage it not to define whether you as an individual have a good time either. Some of this is on you and the attitude you bring to the event; but some of it is on the organisers. This overview is designed to give you an idea of how we do that.

When reading this overview, it is most important to understand the hierarchy of importance that motivates the tournament:

Highest: The safety of attendees (and other people we may share the space with).

Second: The community of Diplomacy players.

Third: The fairness and competitiveness of the event.

There is a code of conduct ([NDA Code of Conduct](#)). Read it.

I also draw your attention to the full rules ([Dutch Masters 2026 Tournament rules](#)).

While these rules are laid out for clarity and fairness, fairness is a third-order consideration. The tournament director will not hesitate to override any or all of the rules if it is to ensure a safe environment and the safety of attendees.

2. Introduction

On 7 and 8 November 2026, the Netherlands Diplomacy Association (NDA) will organise the Dutch Masters. The event is open to people of all nationalities and experience levels, from first time player to world champion, and there is an optional €10 entrance fee. You can register via <https://forms.gle/XSp5X3hcTfVmNhb16>

2.1 Other international events

On 17 and 18 October, Robert Schuppe will organise [Hechtstechen 2026](#) in Dresden and on 28 and 29 November, Alex Lebedev will organise [Veronacon](#). I trust both events will be lovely and well organised. I greatly recommend players travelling to attend these events, even if it means missing out on the Dutch Masters.

2.2 Venue, accommodation, food

The tournament will take place in *Denksportcentrum Leiden*, in the *Robijnstraat 4*, in *Leiden*. There is a parking lot in front of the venue and is about 150 meters away from the bus stop *Halte Opaalstraat*. Buses from *Leiden Centraal* to *Halte Opaalstraat* and vice versa go thrice an hour. Accommodation is the responsibility of players. The recommended hotels are *Ibis* ([Goedkoop Hotel Leiden Centrum - ibis - Bij Leiden Centraal - ALL](#)), which provides two person rooms for 6-8 November starting from €208, *Vic* ([Hotel VIC Leiden Centraal](#)) which provides the same from €303 and *Hilton*, which is located more on the fringe of the city, ([Hotels in Leiden - Hilton Garden Inn Leiden](#)) provides the same for €231. There are no good hostels in Leiden, but there are plenty of options in the nearby cities of The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

If you cannot afford a hotel stay for two nights or wish not to do so based on your economic situation, please contact the Tournament Director to look at alternative options for accommodation.

Food and drinks can be ordered at the bar next to the playing space. While it is not mandatory, I encourage every attendee to have a traditional Dutch lunch in Denksportcentrum Leiden at least once, as they allow us to make use of their space for the tournament. The lunch costs €10 and is available on both Saturday and Sunday. If you are unable to afford this, please contact the Tournament Director.

We are looking to organise different social events such as a guided tour, shared dinner and a pub quiz on Friday and Saturday, more information on such events will be published over time.

3. Tournament Setup

The tournament follows a three-round setup. On Saturday, we ask players to arrive in the venue by 09:30.

- Round 1 start: Saturday 7 November, 10:00. Expected end time: +/- 14:00
- Round 2 start: Saturday 7 November, 15:00. Expected end time: +/- 19:00
- Round 3 start: Sunday 8 November, 09:30. Expected end time including awards: +/- 14:00

When tables do not have 7 players, some may be asked to play two games simultaneously, or to forego one of the games. During round 1, beginner boards will be hosted for players new to tournament play.

4. Tournament scoring

The best two games of a player count fully towards the tournament score while the third best game only counts half. Individual games are scored by C-diplo Namur scoring, overview tables of which will be provided at the tournament, whose incentives are summarised as follows:

- A first place is always better than a shared first place
- A shared first place is always better than a second place
- A second place is always better than a third place
- If you do not finish with a third place or better, your score depends on the number of centres you survive with

5. Adjudication

Spring turns are 17 mins, Fall turns are 15 mins. Retreats and adjustments are on the clock. There is a 2 minute no-negotiation phase for writing orders at the end of each phase. Adjudication is done by the table when possible, by a TD when requested by any of the players. For full details of regulations, please read the complete rules. The games end either when:

- A player achieves an 18-centre victory (solo).
- After fall of 1907
- The tournament director determines a game must end for safety reasons.
- All players who still hold a centre agree to a draw via a public vote.

6. International travel recommendations

By plane: Amsterdam (Schiphol) is the closest major airport to Leiden. A one way train ticket from Schiphol-Leiden costs €7,80 and can be booked via <https://www.ns.nl/en>. I sincerely recommend buying a physical or downloadable ticket rather than something which has to be connected to a 'travel product'.

By train: If you would be travelling through Germany, I recommend finding a ticket using <https://int.bahn.de/en> since they have the best website for booking tickets. If you are not, compare the offers of the Dutch, Belgian and - depending on where you are coming from - French and Spanish railway companies and choose the best option. In general, it is cheaper to buy one big ticket for the journey than several small ones.