



Sailors open SPL title defence with 2-2 draw against Hougang

Description

[Lion City Sailors](#) opened their 2026/27 Singapore Premier League title defence with a 2-2 draw against Hougang United at Bishan Stadium on Saturday 12 September 2026, kick-off 7.30pm.

Hougang led 2-0 inside 22 minutes through Ayman Kassimi and Oakley Cannonier before Antonio Mance pulled one back before half-time. Bobby Adekanye levelled in the 86th minute for a 2-2 finish after a 2-1 half-time scoreline.



Lion City Sailors vs Hougang United. Photo: Lion City Sailors FC

How the goals fell

Kassimi struck in the 17th minute and Cannonier made it 2-0 five minutes later. Mance, a summer signing who had already featured off the bench in the Community Shield, reduced the deficit in the 39th minute. Adekanye, another new arrival, finished the comeback late.



Lion City Sailors coaching staff. Photo: Lion City Sailors FC

Third straight opener against Hougang

The club had billed the Bishan fixture as Matchday 1 of a 21-match triple round-robin season and the third consecutive campaign started against the Cheetahs. Sailors beat Hougang 4-1 and 2-1 on the previous two opening days en route to back-to-back titles. This time both sides left with a point.



Lion City Sailors training. Photo: Lion City Sailors FC

Where the table stands

The Sailors's official league table after Matchday 1 lists Tampines Rovers on three points, with Hougang and Sailors both on one point from a draw, two goals scored and two conceded. Sailors next face BG Pathum United in AFC Champions League Two at Jalan Besar Stadium on Thursday 17 September at 6pm, before their next SPL home date against Young Lions on Sunday 11 October.

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