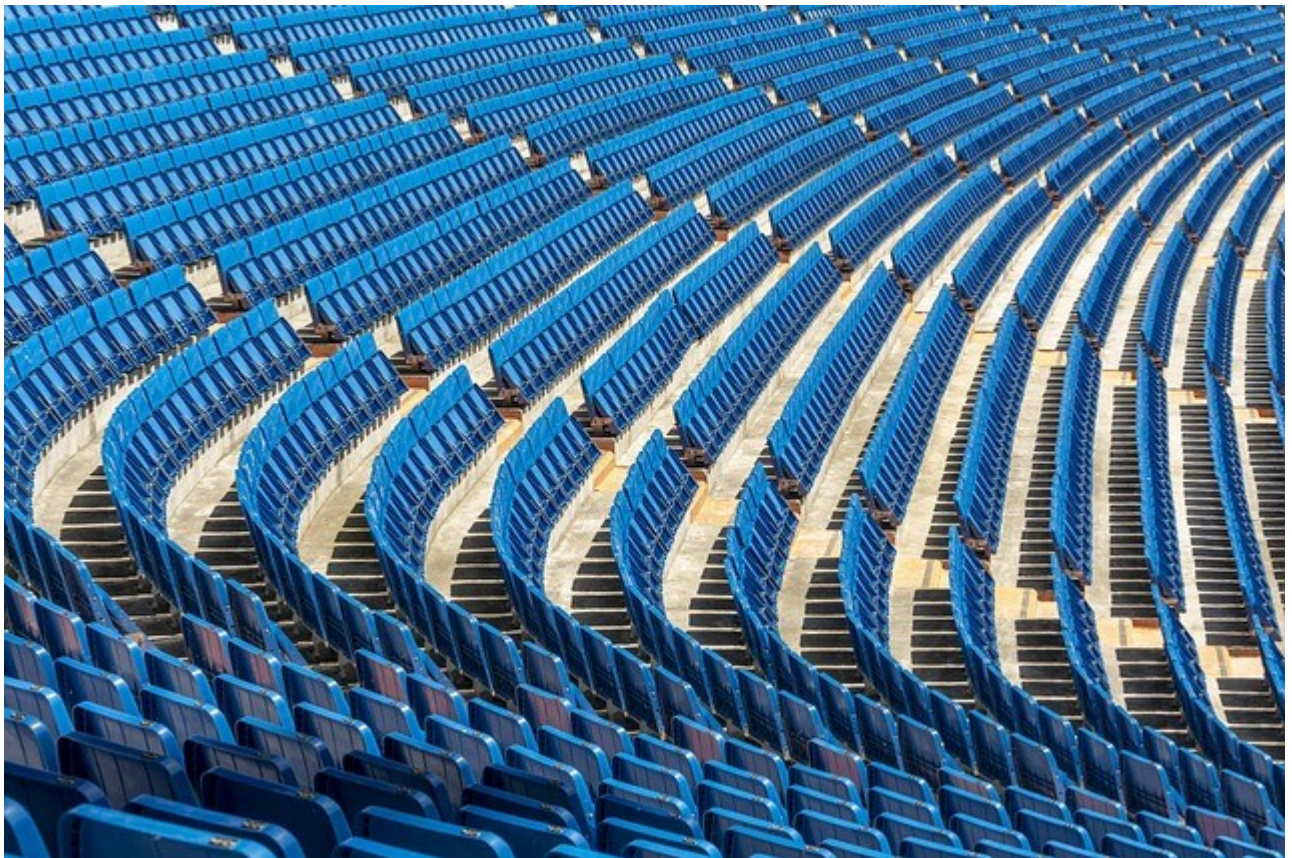


Lion City Sailors Close In On Back-To-Back SPL Title After 3-0 Win Over Geylang

Description

The **Lion City Sailors** moved to the brink of back-to-back **Singapore Premier League** titles with a composed **3-0 win over 10-man Geylang International** at Our Tampines Hub on Sunday 26 April 2026. With only four matchweeks remaining, Aleksandar Rankovic's side now sit eight points clear of **BG Tampines Rovers** at the top of the table, and the title is theirs to lose. For Singapore football fans tracking the local game alongside the Champions League semi-finals this week, the message from Tampines was clear: the Sailors are not slowing down.



Lion City Sailors close in on a second straight Singapore Premier League title. Image: LBRD media library.

Sailors 3, Geylang 0: Title within touching distance

The Sailors arrived at Our Tampines Hub knowing that any kind of win would essentially put a hand on the trophy. They got more than that. After a controlled first half, the visitors carried momentum into the break and broke the game open within a minute of the restart, with **Rui** reacting quickest to a loose ball after Geylang failed to clear a Diogo corner. It was only the second goal of Rui's professional career, and it came at the perfect moment.

From there, the Sailors looked the more likely scorers in every passage of play. **Lennart** rattled the woodwork in the 49th minute, and **Song** hit the same upright shortly after with a clean volley. Geylang's only meaningful response came in the 59th minute when **Fukashiro** tucked the ball into the net, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

The red card that ended it

Any lingering Geylang hopes ended in the 67th minute when **Shahdan Sulaiman was sent off** for handling a Toni header that was bound for goal. Down to ten and chasing a two-goal deficit, Geylang were always going to struggle. The Sailors saw out the rest of the match with the kind of professionalism that has defined this season's title push, with the third goal arriving to confirm the scoreline.

What this means for the title race

The Sailors now sit **eight points clear of BG Tampines Rovers** with four matches remaining, which is a near-impossible gap to close at this stage of an SPL season. With the championship trophy already in their cabinet from last season, a second consecutive title would confirm the Sailors as the dominant force of the current SPL era and would be a huge moment for Singapore football fans backing the club's long-term project.

BG Tampines Rovers, runners-up in both the league and the Singapore Cup last season, came into this campaign with new chairman Shungo Sakamoto and new head coach **Akbar Nawas**, who replaced Gavin Lee. The Stags will need to win their remaining matches and hope for an unprecedented Sailors collapse. Mathematically possible. Practically, very difficult.



Singapore football fans are tracking the SPL title run-in alongside the Champions League semi-finals this week. Image: LBRD media library.

What to watch this week in Singapore football

The next SPL matchweek will be the most-watched yet, with the Sailors potentially needing only a single positive result to mathematically secure the title. The remaining run-in is expected to feature high-profile derbies and a final-day picture in which trophy presentations and relegation concerns may both be settled across the same weekend.

Several local storylines are worth keeping an eye on as the season closes:

Sailors's squad form

The 3-0 win at Geylang is the latest in a strong Sailors run that has included clean sheets and goals from a wide range of contributors. Rui's second career goal is a small statistic, but the kind of detail that often defines a title-winning season - depth coming through when needed.

BG Tampines's rebuild

Even if the league title slips out of reach, finishing strongly is important for Akbar Nawas's project. The Stags want to head into the off-season with momentum, and a top-two finish keeps the squad attractive to incoming signings.

Continental qualification

Beyond the title, AFC continental qualification spots will reward consistency at the top of the table. The Sailors and Tampines have been in continental competition before, and a strong league finish will set up another shot in 2026/27.

Beyond football: Loh Kean Yew and the local scene

Singapore's wider sporting calendar continues alongside the football. Earlier this month, **Loh Kean Yew** made the quarter-finals of the **Badminton Asia Championships 2026** in Ningbo before falling to fourth seed Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei in three games. It was Loh's third successive three-game match of the tournament, and despite the exit it was an encouraging run of form heading into the European tour and the build-up to bigger international targets later in 2026.

Singapore's domestic calendar across swimming, athletics and badminton continues to develop in parallel, and LBRD will continue to highlight local achievements alongside the major football headlines.

Final word

If the Lion City Sailors collect even four points from their next two matches, the Singapore Premier League trophy will be heading back to the club for a second straight season. That is a huge moment for Singapore football, and confirmation of how far the project has come under sustained investment.

For more LBRD coverage of Singapore football, see our previous [Sailors and Loh Kean Yew round-up](#), and our [full LBRD Sports section](#). For the European football week, check our [Champions League quarter-final and semi-final draw piece](#).

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