



## SPL 2025/26 Season Review: Albirex Niigata Seal Third Place With Final-Day 3-0 Win As Singapore's Big Three Eye Asian Football

### Description

The curtain has come down on the 2025/26 Singapore Premier League season, and what a finale it was. Albirex Niigata FC Singapore delivered their finest performance of the campaign when it mattered most – a commanding 3-0 victory over Young Lions on 16 May 2026 at Jurong East Stadium to seal third place and cement their claim for Singapore Premier League 2025-26 season recognition as the season's most improved side.

### Mamat Fires Albirex To A Perfect Farewell At Jurong East

The match was electric from the off. In just the 5th minute, veteran attacker Mamat reacted first to a loose ball from a corner kick, calmly slotting home to give Albirex the ideal start they desperately needed. The goal set the tone for an afternoon of composed, purposeful football from a team that refused to let the season peter out without a statement.

Albirex went on to add two more goals, running out convincing 3-0 winners in front of a lively crowd at Jurong East Stadium – the atmosphere enhanced by a special hololive production Special Day event that brought additional fans through the turnstiles. It was fitting that a season of consistent effort concluded with the club's supporters in fine voice.



Source: Albirex Niigata FC Singapore official website (albirex.com.sg)

The significance of the result ran deeper than three points. Going into the final weekend, Albirex needed maximum points to keep alive their hopes of securing a coveted AFC Cup berth – a place in Asian club football that would represent a landmark achievement for the club. That they delivered under pressure, and in style, speaks volumes about the mentality in the Albirex camp.

## A Season That Showcased Albirex's Depth And Determination

The 2025/26 campaign was one of Albirex Niigata FC Singapore's most competitive in recent memory. The Japanese-linked club pushed the pace throughout, never allowing the two heavyweights – Lion City Sailors and BG Tampines Rovers – to pull away completely. Key to their campaign was the blend of technical quality from their Japanese players and the hunger of their locally developed talent.

Zulqarnaen Suzliman's form was particularly noteworthy. The midfielder earned a well-deserved call-up to the Singapore national team squad in May, a testament to the platform Albirex have provided for local players to shine at the highest domestic level. It is precisely this kind of development – producing Lions-quality talent – that makes the club such a vital part of the SPL ecosystem.



Source: Albirex Niigata FC Singapore official website ([albirex.com.sg](http://albirex.com.sg))

The 2-0 victory over champions Lion City Sailors in May â?? which ended the Sailorsâ?? unbeaten run â?? was the seasonâ??s most dramatic result and one that kept Albirexâ??s third-place ambitions very much alive heading into the final week.

## Lion City Sailors Retain The Crown, Tampines Runners-Up

At the top of the table, Lion City Sailors completed a remarkable back-to-back title triumph, becoming SPL champions for the second successive season despite a dramatic final-day defeat to Tampines Rovers. The Sailorsâ?? consistency across the full 22-match campaign proved the difference, with a squad depth and quality that no other club in the division could match.

BG Tampines Rovers finished as runners-up, providing the Sailors with their stiffest competition throughout. Tampinesâ?? final-day win over the champions showed exactly why they remain the most dangerous challenger in Singapore football. Their AFC aspirations remain firmly intact heading into 2026/27.

## What Singaporeâ??s Big Three Means For Asian Football

With the SPL season concluded, Singapore footballâ??s focus turns to Asia. Lion City Sailors will enter the AFC Champions League Two as SPL champions â?? continuing their journey as the islandâ??s flag-bearers in elite Asian club competition. Tampines Rovers will also be in the mix for continental football, with Albirexâ??s own AFC qualification story to be confirmed in the coming weeks as club licensing decisions are finalised.

It is a sign of Singapore footballâ??s growing ambition that all three of the SPLâ??s top clubs are preparing to compete on the Asian stage. For Albirex â?? who are in the process of transitioning to the name Albirex Jurong Football Club from the 2026/27 season â?? the final-day victory was a perfect way to close one chapter and open another.

For more on Singaporeâ??s football season, read our full report on [Lion City Sailorsâ?? back-to-back SPL title triumph](#) and how [Albirex ended the Sailorsâ?? unbeaten run in May](#). All the latest Singapore sports is at our [Sports section](#).

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