The first event held at Papendal was the 1980 Summer Paralympics, from June 21 to July 5. However the site was formally adopted and developed from 1993, after the merger of the Dutch National Olympic Committee (NOC) and the Nederlandse Sport Federatie (NSF). NOC*NSF have 90 affiliated national sports organizations, representing about 2700 individual sports clubs. A center for Education and Elite Sport, the chairman is Andre Bolhuis. There are facilities for various sports, including athletics, cycling and horse riding. Papendal is also the training location of football club SBV Vitesse, and the clubs youth development system. Supporting facilities include a conference centre and hotel.

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