NFL
NEPAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Owner's brief
SEASON ONE, 2027



OWN A CLUB IN NEPAL'S TOP FLIGHT

Three new club licences are open to bidders in Nepal's club-owned top flight.

Bids close
20 NOV 2026, 3 PM

Season one kicks off
13 FEB 2027

A TOP FLIGHT THAT RUNS EVERY YEAR, OWNED BY THE CLUBS THAT PLAY IN IT

The Nepal Football League is a franchise league owned by its member clubs. Seven founding clubs, all with top-flight experience in Nepal, are opening three new club licences for season one.

The season kicks off in Kathmandu on 13 February 2027 and travels as a caravan through Dhangadhi, Pokhara and Biratnagar before returning to the capital for the final. Bids close on 20 November 2026 at 3:00 PM.

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Nepal Football League Pvt. Ltd. 4th Floor, UWTC, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu. Items marked "to be confirmed" are subject to a board decision. The full A4 prospectus has every detail, including board biographies and the bidder checklist.
Photography Dasharath Rangasala, Kathmandu: Nirjal stha, CC BY-SA 4.0; Machhapuchhre: Bijay Chaurasia, CC BY-SA 4.0; Nepal fan, SAFF Championship 2013: Krish Dulal, CC BY-SA 3.0; Nepal national team, SAFF Championship 2021: The President's Office, Maldives, CC BY 4.0; Pokhara Rangasala: Bhupendra Shrestha, CC BY-SA 4.0; Pokhara Rangasala stands: Bhupendra Shrestha, CC BY-SA 4.0; Annapurna range: Ali Sabbagh, CC0; Dhangadhi Parkchowk: Janak.sitaula.54, CC BY-SA 4.0; Sahid Rangasala, Biratnagar: Bijay Chaurasia Photography, CC BY-SA 4.0; Wikimedia Commons. Board portraits and NFL marks: Nepal Football League. Club crests: the respective clubs.



TEN CLUBS. FOUR CITIES. ONE LEAGUE OWNED BY ITS CLUBS.

A Nepal fan at Dasharath Rangasala

7
Founding clubs, all with top-flight experience in Nepal

3
New club licences open to bidders now

4
Host cities: Dhangadhi, Pokhara, Biratnagar, Kathmandu

2027
First season kicks off on 13 February

Why now

BIG DEMAND. NO REGULAR LEAGUE.

45

A Division editions in over 70 years.
None since 2023.



Annapurna range, Gandaki Province

NEPAL'S MOST POPULAR SPORT

The fan base is already there. What has been missing is a top flight that runs every year, on schedule.

A GAP AT THE TOP

45 A Division editions in over 70 years, none since 2023. Clubs and players need a league they can count on.

OWNED BY THE CLUBS

Owners shape the league, backed by an independent committee that keeps competition fair.

League structure

THE LEAGUE AT A GLANCE

10	94	4	4–5
Clubs in season one	Matches in total	Host cities	Months, max season

Clubs	10 in season one: 7 founding clubs plus 3 new licences
Season	Kicks off 13 February 2027 in Kathmandu, up to 4–5 months
Model	Caravan league: all clubs move city to city together
Format	Double-leg league: every club plays every other club twice
Governance	Board of directors, League Commissioner, independent committee
Bidding	3 licences, 8 potential cities, no minimum bid



The caravan

A CARAVAN LEAGUE ACROSS FOUR CITIES

Kick-off and final in Kathmandu. In between, every club moves city to city together, with 4–5 days between legs.





1 Kick-off
KATHMANDU



2 Leg 2
DHANGADHI



3 Leg 3
POKHARA



4 Leg 4
BIRATNAGAR

League structure

SEASON FORMAT

90 — **DOUBLE-LEG LEAGUE**
18 matches per club, across the four city legs.

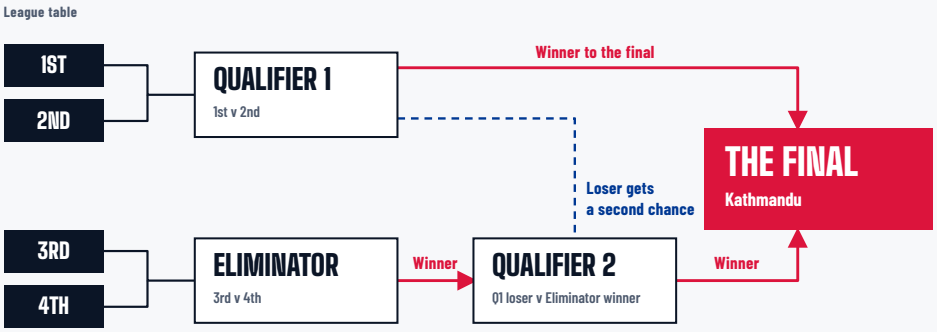
+ 3 — **PLAYOFFS**
Top four qualify: Qualifier 1, Eliminator, Qualifier 2.

+ 1 — **FINAL**
Played in Kathmandu to close the season.

= 94 — **MATCHES IN TOTAL**
Playoff structure to be confirmed by the board.

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

Top four after the league stage TBC



The clubs

SEVEN FOUNDING CLUBS, THREE OPEN PLACES

All seven founding clubs bring top-flight franchise experience, squads and fan bases from day one.

KATHMANDU RAYZRS FC
Kathmandu, Bagmati Province

LALITPUR CITY FC
Lalitpur, Bagmati Province

FC CHITWAN
Chitwan, Bagmati Province

POKHARA THUNDERS FC
Pokhara, Gandaki Province

BUTWAL LUMBINI FC
Butwal, Lumbini Province

DHANGADHI FC
Dhangadhi, Sudurpashchim Province

JHAPA FC
Jhapa, Koshi Province

YOUR CLUB
New licence, one of 8 potential cities

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New licence, one of 8 potential cities

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The board

WHO RUNS THE LEAGUE

The seven founding club owners form the board, with the League Commissioner running operations day to day.



Chairman
KALYAN GURUNG
Lalitpur City FC



League Commissioner
RAJU GHISING
Nepal Football League



Director
SACHIN DHAKAL
FC Chitwan



Director
SUBASH SHAHI
Dhangadhi FC



Director
VISHNU KUMAR AGARWAL
Kathmandu Rayzrs FC



Director
NIRAKAR SHRESTHA
Pokhara Thunders FC



Director
NITESH MALPANI
Butwal Lumbini FC



Director
ARPAN BIKRAM KHADKA
Jhapa FC

Governance

HOW THE LEAGUE IS RUN

1 MEMBER CLUBS
10 clubs, each a member of the NFL

2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The 7 founding club owners and the Commissioner

3 LEAGUE COMMISSIONER
Fixtures, venues, match operations

INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE

Sits outside the clubs and makes sure the competition is organised impartially.



Ownership

WHAT CLUB OWNERS GET

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP
Full member of the NFL with a voice in how the league is run.

A NATIONAL STAGE
Your club plays in four cities, in front of fans in four provinces.

CENTRAL POOL REVENUE
A share of league sponsorship and broadcast income. The share is not fixed.

LONG-TERM OWNERSHIP
Own the club for a set term, built on your 10-year plan. TBC

SQUAD BUILDING
Access to the league player draft or auction. TBC

COMMERCIAL RIGHTS
Club name, kit and club-level sponsorship income. TBC

Ownership

WHAT OWNERS COMMIT TO

NO MINIMUM BID

Bidders name their own ownership fee for each city. Among qualified bids, the highest wins.

Payment schedule

40%	50%	10%
At signing	30 days before the season	After it

Bid amount	Your own figure in NRs, per city you bid for
Bidding form	Rs. 50,000, non-refundable
Club company	Register the club as its own company in Nepal
10-year plan	Squad, youth academy, women's football, ground and finances
Rules	NFL rules, ANFA regulations, club licensing; no tobacco or alcohol brands

Bidding

EIGHT POTENTIAL CITIES, THREE NEW CLUBS



Potential city Founding club

BIRATNAGAR	DHARAN	JANAKPUR	BIRGUNJ
HETAUDA	BHAKTAPUR	NEPALGUNJ	SURKHET

1 CLUB PER CITY

No two new clubs go to the same city.

1 CLUB PER BIDDER

Bid for several cities, win only one.

WHO CAN BID

Nepali citizens, Nepal companies, consortiums.

Evaluation

HOW BIDS ARE EVALUATED

Step 1, Envelope A

TECHNICAL BID

Scored out of 100. Pass mark 60.



Financial strength	30
10-year club development plan	30
Social credibility and reputation	20
City and market fit	10
Management team	10

Step 2, Envelope B

FINANCIAL BID: HIGHEST WINS

1. Price envelopes open only for bidders who pass.
2. The highest bid across all cities wins first.
3. That bidder and city drop out; the next highest wins.
4. This repeats until 3 clubs are awarded.

Tied bids for a city re-bid higher on the same day.

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BID FOR ONE OF THREE NEW CLUBS

Key dates

2 NOV	Bidding forms on sale
20 NOV	Bids due by 3:00 PM
20–22 NOV	Technical evaluation
23 NOV	Price bids opened, 3 clubs named
24 NOV	Agreements signed
13 FEB 2027	Season one kicks off

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