NFL
NEPAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Club ownership prospectus
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, 3:00 PM

Season one kicks off
13 FEB 2027

Welcome

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.

This prospectus sets out how the league works, who runs it, what owners get and commit to, and how bids are evaluated. Bids close on 20 November 2026 at 3:00 PM.

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Cities, evaluation, timeline and checklist

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Items marked "to be confirmed" are subject to a board decision.

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

A Nepal fan at Dasharath Rangasala, Kathmandu

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

Annapurna range, Gandaki Province

Why now

BIG DEMAND. NO REGULAR LEAGUE.

45

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

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

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

OWNED BY THE CLUBS

The NFL is the clubs' own organisation. Owners shape the league, backed by an independent committee that keeps competition fair.

League structure

THE LEAGUE AT A GLANCE

A franchise league owned by its member clubs: ten clubs, one caravan season, and a final in Kathmandu.

Nepal national team, SAFF Championship 2021

10
Clubs in season one

94
Matches in total

4
Host cities

4–5
Months, maximum season

League	Nepal Football League (NFL), a franchise league owned by its member clubs
Clubs	10 in season one: 7 founding clubs plus 3 new licences
Season	Kicks off 13 February 2027 in Kathmandu and runs up to 4–5 months
Model	Caravan league: starts and ends in Kathmandu, with all clubs moving city to city
Format	Double-leg league: every club plays every other club twice
Host cities	Dhangadhi, Pokhara, Biratnagar and Kathmandu
Governance	Board of directors, League Commissioner and an independent committee
Bidding	3 licences across 8 potential cities, no minimum bid, closes 20 November 2026



The caravan

A CARAVAN LEAGUE ACROSS FOUR CITIES

The season starts and ends in Kathmandu. In between, every club moves city to city together, playing in front of fans in four provinces.



1 Kick-off

KATHMANDU

Bagmati Province



2 Leg 2

DHANGADHI

Sudurpashchim Province



3 Leg 3

POKHARA

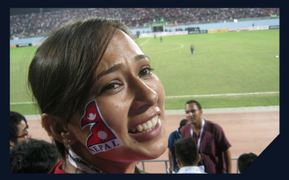
Gandaki Province



4 Leg 4

BIRATNAGAR

Koshi Province



5 Finale

KATHMANDU

Bagmati Province



The route

KATHMANDU → DHANGADHI → POKHARA → BIRATNAGAR → KATHMANDU

Four to five days between legs give clubs time to travel and venues time to set up.

4–5 MONTHS
Maximum season length

4–5 DAYS
Between legs for travel and venue set-up

EVERY CLUB
Plays in every host city, reaching fans nationwide

League structure

SEASON FORMAT

90

DOUBLE-LEG LEAGUE

Every club plays every other club twice: 18 matches each, spread across the four city legs.

+ 3

PLAYOFFS

Top four qualify. Qualifier 1, Eliminator and Qualifier 2 decide the two finalists.

+ 1

FINAL

Played in Kathmandu to close the season.

= 94

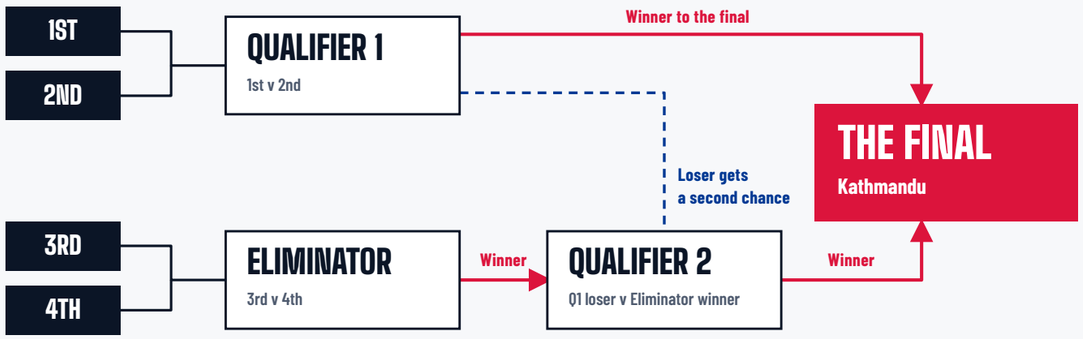
MATCHES IN TOTAL

Playoff structure to be confirmed by the board.

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

Top four after the league stage — To be confirmed

League table



The clubs

SEVEN FOUNDING CLUBS, THREE OPEN PLACES

All seven founding clubs have top-flight franchise experience, bringing squads, fan bases and match know-how 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

YOUR CLUB
New licence, one of 8 potential cities

YOUR CLUB
New licence, one of 8 potential cities

The board

SEVEN CLUB OWNERS

The seven founding club owners run the league as its board of directors, with the League Commissioner managing day-to-day operations.

KALYAN GURUNG	Chairman, Lalitpur City FC
RAJU GHISING	League Commissioner
SACHIN DHAKAL	Director, FC Chitwan
SUBASH SHAHI	Director, Dhangadhi FC
VISHNU KUMAR AGARWAL	Director, Kathmandu Rayzrs FC
NIRAKAR SHRESTHA	Director, Pokhara Thunders FC
NITESH MALPANI	Director, Butwal Lumbini FC
ARPAN BIKRAM KHADKA	Director, Jhapa FC

The board

WHO RUNS THE LEAGUE



Chairman
KALYAN GURUNG
Bhat-Bhateni Group
Lalitpur City FC



League Commissioner
RAJU GHISING
Nepal Football League



Director
SACHIN DHAKAL
IME Group
FC Chitwan



Director
SUBASH SHAHI
Dhangadhi FC



Director
VISHNU KUMAR AGARWAL
MAW Group
Kathmandu Rayzrs FC



Director
NIRAKAR SHRESTHA
Laxmi Group
Pokhara Thunders FC



Director
NITESH MALPANI
Yashoda Foods
Butwal Lumbini FC



Director
ARPAN BIKRAM KHADKA
Tulu Flora
Jhapa FC



Chairman

KALYAN GURUNG

Bhat-Bhateni Group
Lalitpur City FC

Kalyan Gurung is Executive Director of Bhat-Bhateni Group, the supermarket and retail group, and chairs the Nepal Football League. He leads the group's work in sport, from owning a football club to backing Nepali athletes.

LALITPUR CITY FC	Co-owner of the Lalitpur club, run by Bhat-Bhateni Group since 2021.
EDUCATION	Postgraduate in Business Administration from Queen Mary University, UK, and a graduate of Ohio University, USA.
NFL CHAIRMAN	Chairs the board of the club-owned league as it launches its first season.

League Commissioner

RAJU GHISING

Nepal Football League

Raju Ghising is one of Nepal's most experienced sports journalists, with years covering Nepali and international sport for Kantipur Media Group, including The Kathmandu Post. As League Commissioner he runs NFL operations day to day.

AWARD WINNER	Named Best Journalist in Print at the Nepal Olympic Committee awards.
JOURNALISTS' FORUM	Former Secretary of the Nepal Sports Journalists Forum.
AWARDS SELECTOR	Headed the selection committee for the forum's national sports awards.





Board director

SACHIN DHAKAL

IME Group
FC Chitwan

Sachin Dhakal is President of FC Chitwan and leads the hospitality business of IME Group, the conglomerate behind Nepal's leading remittance company and Global IME Bank. He works across sport, tourism and hospitality.

FC CHITWAN	Owner and President of the Chitwan club since 2021.
HOSPITALITY	Runs IME Group's hotel business, including Ela Comfort Hotels.
EDUCATION	Schooled in Delhi, with a postgraduate degree in entrepreneurship from the US.

Board director

SUBASH SHAHI

Dhangadhi FC

Subash Bahadur Shahi turned Dhangadhi into a sports city. He started the SPA Cup in 2010, founded the Dhangadhi Cricket Academy, and built the Dhangadhi Premier League, Nepal's first auction-based T20 league. He founded Dhangadhi FC in 2021.

DHANGADHI FC	Founder and director, with the club now backed by Sudurpashchim Sports Ventures.
FRANCHISE PIONEER	Ran the first player auction in Nepali sport, through the Dhangadhi Cricket League.
FAPLA STADIUM	Chairs the committee developing the Fapla International Cricket Ground and Sports Village.





Board director

VISHNU KUMAR AGARWAL

MAW Group
Kathmandu Rayzrs FC

Chairman and Managing Director of MAW Group, which works across automobiles, heavy equipment, petroleum, education, investments and music. A former footballer, he backs Kathmandu Rayzrs FC, the capital's founding club.

KATHMANDU RAYZRS FC	Represents the Kathmandu club on the NFL board.
INDUSTRY LEADER	Former President of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries.
DIPLOMACY	Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic to Nepal since 2011.

Board director

NIRAKAR SHRESTHA

Laxmi Group
Pokhara Thunders FC

Nirakar Shrestha represents Laxmi Group and Pokhara Thunders FC on the board. Laxmi Group owns the Pokhara club through Laxmi Motors, bringing one of Nepal's established business houses into the league.

POKHARA THUNDERS FC	Founded in 2021 and owned by Laxmi Group through Laxmi Motors.
HOME GROUND	Plays at Pokhara Rangasala in Gandaki Province.





Board director

NITESH MALPANI

Yashoda Foods
Butwal Lumbini FC

Nitesh Malpani is co-owner of Butwal Lumbini FC and Managing Director of Yashoda Foods Pvt. Ltd., one of Nepal's leading makers of premium noodles and snacks. He has led the company's growth beyond Nepal, taking its products to markets abroad.

BUTWAL LUMBINI FC	Co-owner of the Butwal club, representing Lumbini Province since 2021.
YASHODA FOODS	Managing Director of a food maker employing nearly 2,000 people in Nepal.
GLOBAL GROWTH	Led the brand's expansion abroad as CEO of Yashoda Foods India.

Board director

ARPAN BIKRAM KHADKA

Tulu Flora
Jhapa FC

Arpan Bikram Khadka is Founder and President of Jhapa FC, representing Nepal's eastern Koshi Province. Based in Qatar since 2004, he founded Tulu Flora, a leading flower and plant wholesale and retail company in Qatar that imports from global markets.

JHAPA FC	Founder and President of the club, established in 2011.
TULU FLORA	Founder of a leading flower and plant wholesale and retail company in Qatar.
COMMUNITY WORK	Chairs the Leela Maya Khadka–Aadarsha Foundation, supporting 30 students across 3 community schools in Jhapa.



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 the central pool from league sponsorship and broadcast income. The share is not fixed.

LONG-TERM OWNERSHIP
Own and operate the club for a term to be set, built on your 10-year plan. To be confirmed

SQUAD BUILDING
Access to the league player draft or auction.
Format to be confirmed

CLUB COMMERCIAL RIGHTS
Club name, kit and club-level sponsorship income.
Scope to be confirmed

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

The NFL will not award two new clubs to the same city.

1 CLUB PER BIDDER

Bid for several cities on one price schedule. You can win only one.

WHO CAN BID

Nepali citizens, Nepal-registered companies and consortiums.

Evaluation

HOW BIDS ARE EVALUATED

Step 1

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

FINANCIAL BID: HIGHEST BID WINS

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

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

Timeline

FROM BID TO KICK-OFF

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

Envelope A

TECHNICAL BID

Forms A and B, Rs. 50,000 fee receipt, company and audited financial documents, references, and the signed 10-year plan.

Envelope B

FINANCIAL BID

Form C letter of bid and Form D price schedule. The bid amount goes here only.

Bidder checklist

- [ ] Buy the bidding form (Rs. 50,000, non-refundable) and keep the receipt
- [ ] Choose your cities from the eight potential cities
- [ ] Envelope A: the signed 10-year plan
- [ ] Keep the bid amount in Envelope B only
- [ ] Be ready to register the club as its own company
- [ ] Confirm eligibility: Nepali citizen, Nepal-registered company or consortium
- [ ] Envelope A: Forms A and B, fee receipt, company and audited financials, references
- [ ] Envelope B: Form C and Form D, with your figure in NRs per city
- [ ] Plan payments: 40% at signing, 50% pre-season, 10% after
- [ ] Submit by 20 November 2026, 3:00 PM

NFL
NEPAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BID FOR ONE OF THREE NEW CLUBS

Bids close 20 November 2026, 3:00 PM. Season one kicks off 13 February 2027 in Kathmandu.

NEPAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PVT. LTD.

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