

National League kicks off Sunday

Written by Administrator

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The Nigeria National League's 2010/2011 season will kick off on Sunday with sixteen matches across the two divisions.

At the Draw ceremony held inside the FIFA Technical Centre, Abuja yesterday, Jimeta FC of Adamawa was pitched against FC Abuja for the Week 1, with Jigawa Golden Stars billed to face former premiership club, Wikki Tourists of Bauchi, while El-Kanemi Warriors of Maiduguri will be up against Ranch Bees of Kaduna.

Before the draw, NFF's Assistant Secretary General (Competitions), Dr. Mohammed Sanusi delivered a paper on 'Challenges of Operating Professional League in Nigeria', and posited that the problems of funding, technical and administrative deficiencies, poor facilities and equipment, interference, win-at-all-cost syndrome, ignorance and hooliganism were the bane of the domestic league.

However, he urged corporate organisations and philanthropists to take over ownership the National League teams, even as he advised teams to strive to win fairly. Further, he dissuaded officials against offering or taking bribes to influence results, while club managers were admonished not only to be honest and accountable in the payment of sign-on fees, allowances and players' salaries, but pay them when due.

WEEK ONE (DIVISION A)

Jimeta FC vs FC Abuja

Jigawa Stars vs Wikki Tourists

El-Kanemi vs Ranch Bees

Dalkat FC vs Mighty Jets

FRSC FC vs Jarma FC

FC Taraba Vs Nasarawa Utd

Sportlight vs Babanawa FC

Supreme Court vs Adamawa Utd

WEEK ONE (DIVISION B)

First Bank vs OUK FC

UNICEM Rovers vs Gabros fc

Bayelsa Utd Vs Akwa Utd

36 Lions vs Prime FC

Ebedei vs Bridge Boys

Bendel Insurance vs Rising Stars

Enyimba Feeders vs Gateway FC

Okpe Utd vs FC Dender