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MHL Premier Division to complete in six weeks

By S. RAMAGURU

KUALA LUMPUR: The Premier Division of the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) will be completed in six weeks.

It will start in late August and ends on Sept 25.

"We need to complete the fixtures by Sept 25 as the national men and women's players (development and senior teams) will be competing in the Australian National League (which starts on Sept 29)," said George Koshy, the competitions committee chairman of the Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC), yesterday.

The Division One and women's league will start earlier. The two leagues will begin one week after the completion of the Sukma (Malaysia Games) in Sarawak from July 22-31.

George said they hoped to have eight teams in the Premier Division this season.

In the past few years, only six teams – Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC), Terengganu, Sapura, Maybank, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) and Tenaga Nasional – took part.

"We hope that the two Division One finalists – TNB Thunderbolt and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) – last year will agree to play in the Premier Division.

"Right now, only Nur Insafi, who had previously played in the top flight, have agreed to move up. We will make a decision on this once we have received all the entries," said George.

A total of 19 men's teams – six in the Premier Division and 13 in Division One – competed last year. The inaugural women's league attracted nine sides.