

Scouting for talents

Five-leg netball league aims to identify players for Asean University meet

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THE inaugural five-leg Higher Learning Institution Netball League, offering a total cash purse of RM40,000, will begin at Universiti Malaya (UM) tomorrow.

The league culminates with the grand final at UM from May 8 to 12.

UM Sports Centre director Dr Mohd Salleh Aman said the league would serve as a platform for students from higher learning institutions to be active in the sport.

"UM has been appointed as the centre of excellence for netball. We want to play an active role in the promotion and development of netball in the country.

"The league has been divided into five zones — Northern, Central North, Southern, Central South and East — and each zone will have a minimum eight teams," said Dr Mohd Salleh after launching the league at UM recently.

The Southern Zone leg will be held at Politeknik Nilai (March 14 to 17) followed by Northern Zone (UniMap — March 28 to 31); East (UniSZA — April 11 to 14); Central South (UPM — April 24 to 28).

The top four teams from each of the five zones will qualify for the grand finals. The champions in each zone will receive RM2,000; runners-up RM1,500 while the third- and fourth-placed teams will receive RM1,000 and RM800 respectively.

The champions in the grand final will get RM5,000, runners-up RM3,000; third RM2,000 and fourth RM1,000.

There will also be awards for the top scorer, best defender, promising player and best player.

UM Sports Centre deputy director Dr Mohamad Faithal Hassan said they had limited three national players and two foreign players in each team.

"The league will also be a platform for us to identify a pool of players to represent Malaysia in the Asean University Netball Championships in Kuala Lumpur later this year.

"We are confident that the league will be an exciting and interesting affair," added Dr Mohamad Faithal.



Going for it: Dr Mohd Salleh launching the Higher Education Institution Netball League.



Way to go: The organising committee with the challenge trophy.