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Three more teams enter the Malaysia Hockey League fray

KUALA LUMPUR: Three more teams have signed up for this year's Malaysia Hockey League (MHL), bringing the number to 14.

Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI), who play in the MHC-Milo-NSC Junior Hockey League (MJHL), and Ipoh City Hall (MBI) have joined the tournament.

Former international I. Vickneswaran has registered the Sunday 2030 team and they will make their debut in the league.

Sunday 2030 and the Terengganu Hockey team are the two new outfits in the fray.

The East Coast side, however, have requested to play in the Premier Division. The three entries yesterday will play in Division One.

Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) secretary general Johari Abdul Aziz said that with 14 teams in the fray they would be able to divide the teams into seven teams in each division.

"The decision of whether to put the Terengganu Hockey team in the Premier Division is up to the competitions committee. In the past, we allowed only six teams to compete in the Premier Division. But they were exceptions where a new team like Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in 2010 and Yayasan NS in 2011 were allowed to compete," added Johari.

Terengganu's claim for a Premier Division slot is based on the fact they have hired six

national players and are seen as potential title contenders. Most of their players were recruited from the KL Hockey Club, who won the double last year.

The Premier Division teams that have signed up are KL Hockey Club, UniKL, Sapura, Tenaga Nasional, Maybank and Nur Insafi.

The Division One teams are Uniten-KPT, UiTM, Bukit Jalil Sports School (BJSS) and Thunderbolt.

Armed Forces, who were the Division One champions in 2011, have decided not to take part.

The MHL will start on March 22 and the final is slated for May 12.