

Domestic football returns for new season

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Muharraq will begin the defence of both their league and cup crowns after the Bahrain Football Association (BFA) unveiled the fixtures for the 2026-27 domestic season, including the opening 11 rounds of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League and the draw for His Majesty the King's Cup.

The new Premier League season gets underway on August 27, while the King's Cup preliminary rounds are scheduled to begin on December 14.

Double Champions

Muharraq enter the campaign as the team to beat after completing a historic domestic double last season. The Red Wolves secured back-to-back Nasser bin Hamad Premier League titles and a record-extending 35th league crown, edging Al Khaldiya by just a single point after a dramatic final day.

They also lifted their 20th His



Muharraq celebrate winning their record-extending 35th league title last season

Majesty the King's Cup, coming from behind to defeat Riffa 2-1 in the final thanks to goals from Mohammed Al Hardan and Elliot Jorge Simoes Inacio. Meanwhile, Riffa claimed the Khalid bin Hamad Cup after defeating Muharraq on penalties following a 1-1 draw in the final.

Muharraq will head into the new season under new leader-

ship following the departure of Portuguese coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos. Bahraini coach Isa Al Saadoon has taken charge and will look to build on the club's remarkable success.

Fresh Faces

Elsewhere, Riffa continue under the guidance of Kuwaiti coach Mohammed Mashaan, while Vinicius Suarez remains in charge of A'ali. Shokri Al Bajawi leads Al Hidd, Ismail Karami heads Manama, Hisham Al Mahoozi takes charge of East Riffa, Jorvan Vieira is at the helm of Al Ahli, and Fawzi Ayyash and

Hussain Sayed Isa will guide Al Ettifaq and Sitra, respectively.

Al Khaldiya, Al Malkiya and Al Najma are currently the only Premier League clubs yet to appoint head coaches ahead of the new campaign.

The 2025-26 season also saw major movement between the divisions. Al Ettifaq, Manama and East Riffa secured promotion to the Premier League, while Al Najma retained their top-flight status through the promotion/relegation play-offs. Bahrain Club, Budaiya and Al Shabab were relegated to the First Division.



A representative picks out Muharraq during the 2026-27 season draw

His Majesty the King's Cup

2026-27 Draw

Stage	Fixtures
Preliminary Round 1	Al Busaiteen vs Qalali • Al Tadamun vs Ittihad Al Reef • Um Al Hassam vs Isa Town • Al Hala vs Buri
Preliminary Round 2	Winner of Match 1 vs Budaiya • Winner of Match 4 vs Al Ittihad • Al Shabab vs Winner of Match 2 • Winner of Match 3 vs Bahrain Club
Round of 16	Riffa vs Manama • Winner of Preliminary 7 vs Winner of Preliminary 6 • A'ali vs Winner of Preliminary 5 • Al Ettifaq vs Al Khaldiya • Muharraq vs Al Ahli • East Riffa vs Al Najma • Sitra vs Winner of Preliminary 8 • Al Hidd vs Al Malkiya
Quarter-finals	Winners of Round of 16 matches advance
Semi-finals	Winners of Quarter-finals advance
Final	Semi-final winners meet for the trophy

Nasser bin Hamad Premier League	
Rounds 1-11 Fixtures	
Round	Fixtures
1	Al Hidd vs East Riffa • Al Malkiya vs Sitra • Al Khaldiya vs Al Najma • Manama vs A'ali • Al Ettifaq vs Riffa • Al Ahli vs Muharraq
2	Al Ahli vs Al Hidd • Muharraq vs Al Ettifaq • Riffa vs Manama • A'ali vs Al Khaldiya • Al Najma vs Al Malkiya • Sitra vs East Riffa
3	Al Hidd vs Sitra • East Riffa vs Al Najma • Al Malkiya vs A'ali • Al Khaldiya vs Riffa • Manama vs Muharraq • Al Ettifaq vs Al Ahli
4	Al Ettifaq vs Al Hidd • Al Ahli vs Manama • Muharraq vs Al Khaldiya • Riffa vs Al Malkiya • A'ali vs East Riffa • Al Najma vs Sitra
5	Al Hidd vs Al Najma • Sitra vs A'ali • East Riffa vs Riffa • Al Malkiya vs Muharraq • Al Khaldiya vs Al Ahli • Manama vs Al Ettifaq
6	Manama vs Al Hidd • Al Ettifaq vs Al Khaldiya • Al Ahli vs Al Malkiya • Muharraq vs East Riffa • Riffa vs Sitra • A'ali vs Al Najma
7	Al Hidd vs A'ali • Al Najma vs Riffa • Sitra vs Muharraq • East Riffa vs Al Ahli • Al Malkiya vs Al Ettifaq • Al Khaldiya vs Manama
8	Al Khaldiya vs Al Hidd • Manama vs Al Malkiya • Al Ettifaq vs East Riffa • Al Ahli vs Sitra • Muharraq vs Al Najma • Riffa vs A'ali
9	Al Hidd vs Riffa • A'ali vs Muharraq • Al Najma vs Al Ahli • Sitra vs Al Ettifaq • East Riffa vs Manama • Al Malkiya vs Al Khaldiya
10	Al Malkiya vs Al Hidd • Al Khaldiya vs East Riffa • Manama vs Sitra • Al Ettifaq vs Al Najma • Al Ahli vs A'ali • Muharraq vs Riffa
11	Al Hidd vs Muharraq • Riffa vs Al Ahli • A'ali vs Al Ettifaq • Al Najma vs Manama • Sitra vs Al Khaldiya • East Riffa vs Al Malkiya

Muharraq begin pre-season camp in Turkey

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Muharraq are currently in Turkey for their pre-season training camp as they begin preparations for the 2026-27 football season under new head coach Isa Al Saadoon.

The two-week camp, which runs from July 29 to August 13, is focused on improving the team's physical and technical readiness, while strengthening squad cohesion ahead of the new campaign.

Muharraq will play four friendly matches during their stay, starting against UAE side Fujairah on August 2. They will then face Egyptian club



Players take part in running drills during training

ZED FC on August 6 and Algerian outfit ES Sétif on August 9, before concluding their warm-up schedule on August

12 against an opponent yet to be confirmed.

The travelling squad consists of 27 players: Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Waleed Al Hayam, Amine Benaddi, Hussain Jameel, Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Abdulla Al Khulasi, Hasan Al Karrani, Ahmed Rabeea, Mohamed Al Banna, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Soufian Mahrouq, Hussain Abdulkarim, Ashraf Al Sebaei, Juninho, Mohammed Al Hardan, Ahmed Bughamar, Abdulkarim Diarra, Elliott Simoes, Gervasio Oliveira, Abdulwahab Hanan, Vladan Dekic, Arthur Rezende, Ibrahim Sanad, Abdulla Jamal, Anderson Leite, Facundo Tobares and Sami Bassam.



HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed presents Seef with the winners' plaque

Seef capture quest title on home court

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Bahrain's Seef claimed the Bahrain Summer Quest 2026 international 3x3 basketball title yesterday after overcoming China's Hangzhou in the final at Sports City 26, one of the main venues of Youth City 2030 at Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB).

Seef produced a dominant run throughout the tournament, winning all of their matches on the way to the championship. The Bahraini side opened the competition with victories over fellow Bahraini team Amwaj 22-11 and Cedar Squad 22-9 in the pool stage before advancing through the knockout rounds.

They defeated another Bahraini side, Bahrain A, 21-12 in the quarter-finals, edged Bahrain B 16-15 in the semi-finals, and then delivered their best performance of the tournament in the final by defeating

China's Hangzhou 21-15 to secure the title on home soil.

The triumph also served as revenge for Seef, who had lost to Hangzhou in the final of the Bahrain Summer Lite Quest earlier this week.

The championship-winning Seef squad featured Bahraini players Elias Yonis Ghulom Haji Abdulla, Isa Jasim Jasim and Naser Alanzoor, alongside Serbian player Uroš Ilić.

With their victory, Seef secured qualification for the Fiba 3x3 Debreceen Masters in Hungary, scheduled for August 29 and 30. The Masters tournaments represent some of the most prestigious events on the Fiba 3x3 World Tour.

His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, deputy chairman of the General Sports Authority, presented Seef with the winners' plaque following the final.

HH Shaikh Salman congratulated the Bahraini side

on their achievement, describing the title as another milestone for Bahraini sport and a reflection of the continued development of 3x3 basketball in the Kingdom. He praised Seef's performances throughout the competition and wished the team success at next month's Masters tournament in Hungary.

He also commended Bahrain's successful hosting of the event, saying staging international tournaments continues to strengthen the Kingdom's position on the global 3x3 basketball calendar while providing Bahraini players with valuable opportunities to compete against high-level international opposition.

The Fiba 3x3 World Tour is the premier international street basketball circuit, featuring tournaments across different levels around the world.

Masters events sit at the top of the competition pyramid,

followed by Challengers, with teams earning qualification through events such as Super Quest, Quest and Lite Quest tournaments.

With the completion of the Bahrain Summer Lite Quest and Bahrain Summer Quest, attention now turns to the Bahrain Summer Tour 2026 finale, scheduled for August 7 at EWB.

The event will feature the winners of the previous two Bahrain Summer Tour rounds, Team ATTB and Seef, among a strong field of competitors. The champions will secure a place at the Go Too! Group Aichi 2026 Challenger in Japan on October 10 and 11.

The Aichi Challenger will serve as a qualifier for the Manama Masters, one of the premier tournaments on the Fiba 3x3 World Tour 2026, further highlighting Bahrain's growing role as a host of elite international 3x3 basketball events.