MEDIA RELEASE

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GAUTENG DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

# GFA and NextXI Africa announce five-year partnership for the Gauteng Development League

*The federation has chosen one operating platform for South Africa's elite youth league, from competition and production to distribution and performance data*

**CAPE TOWN, 20 November 2026.**

The Gauteng Football Association (GFA) and NextXI Africa have confirmed a five-year commercial partnership for the Gauteng Development League, running from 2027 to 2031. NextXI becomes the league's production, broadcast and commercial partner, and the term opens with the GDL Top 8 in February 2027.

The GFA chose NextXI for the operating model. NextXI brings competition, production, distribution, commercial participation and talent context into one platform, so coverage, audience, partners and the player pathway develop against each other. A federation that brings those in as separate services carries the integration risk itself.

> *The league needed one partner who could carry production, distribution and commercial development together. Bringing those separately would have left the Association managing the joins between them. NextXI presented a single platform, and that is what we considered before we signed.*
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> **Pius Nqandela**, Chairman, Gauteng Football Association

The platform runs on Spiideo. Enhanced S-Line cameras go into GDL venues and capture every fixture automatically, the first arrangement of this scale using Spiideo in Africa. Spiideo Play produces the coverage, League Exchange distributes it to the league's clubs and approved users, and Perform gives coaches and analysts their review tools.

> *We are pleased to be doing this with the GFA, bringing a suite of tools that leading competitions around the world already work with into a South African league. The opportunity that creates for the talent coming through here is what drew us to it. A player's season can be captured, measured and followed inside one ecosystem, and the pathway beyond it is visible to everyone who needs to see it.*
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> **Mandla Mapondera**, Director, NextXI Africa

AutoData attaches performance data to every match. A fixture that once left nothing behind becomes a measured record, and the league accumulates that record across five age groups and five seasons. A competition that can be studied and compared improves faster than one that has to be remembered.

> *Data is the part of this that compounds. A camera captures a match, and that match becomes a data set a coach can query and a scout can compare across a season. Five years of it across five age groups is the asset we are building for the league.*
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> **Mandla Mapondera**, Director, NextXI Africa

Clubs receive footage of their own matches across every filmed age group, for coaching, analysis and player review. A player's matches are captured from under-13 upward and kept, so a body of work follows them through the pathway. Coaches, selectors and scouts assess a player from footage and data across a season.

Sponsors buy into a measured property that brings an established following. Inventory runs across broadcast, digital and the matchday environment, and the reporting behind it shows what was delivered against what was bought.

Broadcasters receive a consistent season. Automated production captures fixtures without a crew at every ground, and coverage holds one standard from venue to venue.

Families follow the season as it happens, including the relatives who cannot travel to a ground. Commercial value returns to the clubs and the development structure.

The GFA oversees the league and stays involved in the decisions that shape how the league is presented, where its coverage goes and how its commercial value develops across the term. One presentation standard runs through the season, and the league holds a consistent identity from venue to venue.

The GDL exists to develop players and strengthen football in Gauteng. A stronger league produces a clearer pathway, and the clubs and families around it depend on that pathway.

> *Our duty is to the player coming through, and a competition serves that duty when it is visible and when it is measured. Every GDL fixture will now leave a record that a coach, a selector or a parent can look at. That changes what a Gauteng pathway means in practice.*
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> **Pius Nqandela** Chairman, Gauteng Football Association

## About the Gauteng Development League and the Gauteng Football Association

The GDL is South Africa's youth league and the GFA's flagship youth development competition. It brings together clubs and academies from across Gauteng and across the age groups, and is one of the province's principal routes into the national youth structures. The GFA is the governing body for football in Gauteng, affiliated to the South African Football Association. It administers the provincial game from grassroots level through to the development structures that supply the national teams.

## About NextXI Africa

NextXI is a South African youth sports media company working to reimagine how youth football is produced, followed and valued, with a wider African horizon. The company brings competition, production, distribution, commercial participation and talent context into one orchestrated model, working with leagues, federations, sponsors, broadcasters, clubs, academies and families across the region. NextXI is built in South Africa and made to travel.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Issued by the Gauteng Football Association and NextXI Africa · Media release