

Now a motor racing league!

Organisers are in talks to rope in well-known drivers

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Indian international car racers Armaan Ebrahim (29) and Aditya Patel (29) have joined hands to bring a city-based racing league starting next year called the Xtremel Racing League or XI Racing League.

Sanctioned by the FMSCI, the series will have a custom-made two-seater sports car with eight city-based franchise teams, each comprising two cars and four drivers.

The organisers said they were in talks to rope in well-

known drivers including former Formula One, Formula E, Indy 500, Le Mans and NASCAR drivers.

Each team will comprise one international male driver, one international female driver, one Indian international driver and one Indian domestic driver.

The proposed league will have three 45-minute races on Saturdays and Sundays on four consecutive weekends in early 2019.

Probable venues

Noida's Buddh International and the MMRT in Chennai

are the obvious candidates for the track venues with street races proposed in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, and Mumbai.

Vitantonio Liuzzi, the Italian racing driver who drove in the F1 for Toro Rosso, Red Bull and Force India and British women racer Pippa Mann who drives in IndyCar are likely to get on board soon.

Back in 2011, a similar concept of a franchise-based racing league was floated with Sachin Tendulkar as the brand ambassador but failed to kick off.

The organisers even ran a test session in Abu Dhabi using British company Radical's SR3 car, a two-seater, open top car.

Armaan and Aditya Patel were part of the test session seven years back and Patel said, "we have obviously studied and learnt from that and we are confident our league will be successful."

Armaan added, "At ₹6.5-7crore per year all-inclusive, ownership is priced competitively as all aspects are managed centrally to optimize and streamline the costs."