On Saturday the Basketball Africa League (BAL) announced the 12 club teams from 12 African countries that will compete in the league's inaugural season, which is set to tip-off on Friday, March 13 in Dakar, Senegal. The announcement was made by BAL President Amadou Gallo Fall at the NBA All-Star 2020 Africa Luncheon in Chicago.

Champions from national leagues in six countries – Angola, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tunisia – were guaranteed representation in the inaugural BAL season.

The remaining six teams, which come from Algeria, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, and Rwanda, secured their participation through BAL qualifying tournaments conducted by FIBA Africa across the continent in late 2019.

The 12 club teams from across the continent of Africa are divided into two conferences, with each conference playing in three cities.

Each team will play five games in the regular season, facing every team in its conference once. The top four teams in each conference will qualify for the single-elimination playoffs.

The inaugural BAL regular season will take place in Cairo (Egypt), Dakar (Senegal), Lagos (Nigeria), Luanda (Angola), Monastir (Tunisia) and Salé (Morocco). Kigali (Rwanda) will host the first-ever BAL Playoffs and Finals.

"This is a historic moment as we welcome the 12 teams that will participate in our inaugural season," Fall said in a statement.

"These teams have earned the opportunity to represent their respective countries and will establish the BAL as a world-class product that entertains fans of all ages when the season tips off March 13."

"The Basketball Africa League is an important next step in our continued development of the game of basketball in Africa," Silver said last year. "Combined with our other programs on the continent, we are committed to using basketball as an economic engine to create new opportunities in sports, media and technology across Africa."

The Basketball Africa League is NBA's first professional basketball league outside of North America.

These are the 12 teams:

Country	Team
Algeria	GSP (Groupement Sportif des Pétroliers)
Angola	Petro de Luanda (Clube Atlético Petroleos de Luanda)
Cameroon	FAP (Forces Armées et Police Basketball)
Egypt	Zamalek
Madagascar	GNBC (Gendarmerie Nationale Basketball Club)
Mali	AS Police (Association Sportive de la Police Nationale)
Morocco	AS Salé (Association Sportive de Salé)
Mozambique	Ferroviàrio de Maputo
Nigeria	Rivers Hoopers BC (Rivers Hoopers Basketball Club)
Rwanda	Patriots BC (Patriots Basketball Club)
Senegal	AS Douanes (Association Sportives des Douanes)
Tunisia	US Monastir (Union Sportive Monastirienne)