



Drought means Cape clubs must now play 'home' matches away

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THE Cape's three National First Division clubs will have to play their home matches away from the comforts of the city for the foreseeable future due to the on-going drought in the Western Cape.

The trio have been using Athlone Stadium but the field no longer meets the playing standards set by the National Soccer League (NSL), so they will have to source grounds outside the city.

Surely there must be one or two venues out there that can accom-



modate the NFD sides at the very least. Not so says the league who demand grounds meet the stiff requirements set by them, such as

fencing for security reasons and other minor requirements.

Parow Park seems a likely choice and a field away sits the NKK Rugby Stadium, home for a number of years of former NFD club FC Cape Town. Or how about Blue Downs and Vygieskraal stadiums? Both could come into the reckoning if given money by their municipalities to do what is required to reach the required standard.

Time will tell.

So for now Stellenbosch, Ubuntu Cape Town FC and Cape Town All Stars will have no choice but to

find venues to play home matches for at the least the next six-and-a-half weeks.

Ubuntu, who are winless and at the foot of the table, travel north for their supposed home tie today with second-placed the University of Pretoria at Tuks Stadium, while former frontrunners Stellenbosch (down to fifth) contest their home fixture with Jomo Cosmos in Durban at the King Zwelithini Stadium.

Ninth-placed All Stars will also be in action on the day, mixing it with hosts Super Eagles at Goble

Park.

Ubuntu go into round 11 in search of a first victory having lost five of 10 outings to date and drawn the others which has netted them a paltry five points.

Ubuntu and their opponents share a win apiece and four stalemates from their previous meetings, so chances of a share of the points looks in the offing.

Stellenbosch will want to get back to winning ways after taking a 3-0 beating last time out from pacesetters Highlands Park in what was a top-of-the-table clash.

The men from the winelands, who have never lost to Tuks, have also not put the ball into the back of the net in their last four outings.

Former PSL side Cosmos have moved seven places up the table to third thanks to just one loss from seven matches, so the smart money is on them to net all three points.

All Stars square off with a Super Eagles team boasting a new head coach in the form of Jesus Antonio Flores. He was brought in after a run of poor form under Tshegofatso Mashego, the ninth coach to lose his job this season.

