

“Approved for payment of expenses by the SA Golf Association
Rule 4-2 g SAGA05 /16 – Windhoek Lager International Pairs 2016 SA
Rule 4-2 g SAGA04 /16 – Windhoek Lager African Jacket 2016”

INTERNATIONAL PAIRS 2016

Sponsored by



To be known as

Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa
(WLIPSA)

Incorporating the Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket
Competition



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Preamble

International Pairs Worldwide was created in England in 1999 and started as a regional inter-club “pairs” competition in the Hampshire area to celebrate the Millennium. That was 16 years ago and the tournament has grown into an International event of some significance. The success of International Pairs as a concept has been its simplicity and in enabling participating countries to hold qualifying events through which the process to identify pairs of ordinary club golfers to represent their country at the International Pairs World Final each year.

In 2005 South Africa were added to the list of participating countries as we contested the World Final at Celtic Manor. Old Mutual had taken the Title Rights to the tournament – which became known as OMIPSA. By the time the previous Title Rights Holder decided that a nine-year involvement was sufficient, there were nearly 10 000 participants at close to 150 qualifying events each year.

In 2016 Windhoek Lager stepped up to the plate and have signed a 3-year sponsorship deal.

In addition to the **Windhoek Lager International Pairs Tournament**, an additional tournament will take place – the **Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket Tournament**. The Top A-, B-, and C-division players, as well as the top lady, who do not qualify in the **WLIPSA** regional qualifying event, will qualify for the South African Final of the **Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket** tournament. The winners of the above categories at the SA Final will go through to the **Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket** final in **Namibia**, where up to 10 other African countries partake!

There will thus be two opportunities for the club qualifying pair to reach an international final.

So there is more than enough reason for your club and members to be part of the largest amateur golf competition in the world; one that is highly competitive, cost-effective and provides the opportunity for any club golfer to potentially represent their club, region and country against other golfers from around the country and possibly the world.

Competition Conditions 2016

1. The Sponsors:

- a. **Windhoek Lager** is the Title Rights Holder of the tournament, and they make it possible for the event to remain extremely cost-effective.
- b. **Srixon and Cleveland, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Tasol Solar and The Pro Shop** provide great support to the tournament and the participants, adding significant value to the event.
- c. The Promoters and Tournament Co-ordinators of the **Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa** and the **Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket SA Tournament** is African Sports Management (Pty) Ltd.
- d. **Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa** and the **Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket** are both approved by the South African Golf Association for the payment of expenses under **Rule 4-2g**.

2. Information of importance to The Club:

- a) The objective is to retain the image and reputation of **WLIPSA** as a “tournament of integrity”.
- b) Only golf clubs with a golf course will be eligible to participate in the **WLIPSA** tournament.
- c) It is the aim to make this The Best Amateur Club Tournament in South Africa.
- d) **WLIPSA** is a competitive, cost-effective Betterball Stableford competition.



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- e) Any golf club with a golf course may register and generate qualifying pairs from their **Club Qualifying** events. (See appendix 1 for the registration document)
- f) The tournament is effectively the inter-club “pairs” championship of South Africa.
- g) International Pairs events can be played as men’s, women’s and mixed pairs.
- h) A **Club Qualifier** can be held in conjunction with an existing club competition on the club calendar, where the winners also gain qualification to the Regional Finals.
- i) Visiting pairs are not eligible to qualify for the Regional Finals. The club may allow visitors to register to play in the competition. The club may allow them to win a prize – but they may not receive an invitation to the Regional Finals. (They will need to play in a **WLIPSA** Club Qualifying event at their home club.)
- j) The above also applies to guests who may be playing with a member – they may not represent the club at the Regional Finals.
- k) With **WLIPSA**, all club handicap golfers can compete for the right to represent their club, their Region and possibly even South Africa in an international event.
- l) The simple process is that:
- m) Pairs play at their home **Club Qualifier** and, dependant on the size of the field, a number of players receive invitations to represent their golf club at the Regional Finals:
 - i. In qualifying events, **one pair** qualifies from a field of the minimum number of 20 pairs. **Two pairs** qualify from a field comprising of 40 pairs etc. (as below). (A club may have a morning and an afternoon field or **two qualifying events** in the qualifying window period.)
 - ii. Two 9-hole golf clubs can combine their qualifying event, subject to approval by the Promoter, in order to ensure a larger field.
 - iii. Ladies sections of up to three affiliated golf clubs can combine and host a separate qualifier in order to meet the criteria of a minimum of 20 participating pairs (subject to the approval of the Promoters)
 - iv. If a club has one field for the whole day, then very simply: **20 pairs = 1 Regional Final place; 40 pairs = 2; places, 60 pairs = 3 places and 80 or more pairs means 4 pairs will represent the club/s at the Regional Finals.**
- n) All this for a once-off R60 entry fee at the club qualifier. Each player receives a pair of branded Srixon golf balls.
- o) 20% (twenty percent) of the entry fee will go towards prizes at your Club Qualifier. Clubs can buy prizes from their local Pro-shop. If the Club does not have a local Pro-shop, the Club can purchase prizes from other suppliers.
- p) Players do not pay any further entry fees for the Regional Finals, The SA Final, the Africa Jacket finals or the International Finals. At these finals, all expenses are paid for, including accommodation (Namibia and Spain), breakfast, halfway lunch and dinner snacks (caddies and golf carts are for the players’ accounts). Travel to the Regional event is for the players’ own accounts.

3. When does it all take place?

- a) The **Club Championship Series** qualifying events take place from February 2016.
- b) Club qualifying events must be completed by **7 May 2016**.
- c) The **Regional Finals** will be completed by 29 May 2016.

- d) The **National Finals** will take place 25 and 26 of June 2016. The venue is Windhoek Country Club and Omeya Golf Club in **Namibia**.
- e) The World Finals will take place in September/October in **Spain**.

4. Qualifying Events:

- a) The tournament comprises of a Series of **Club Championship qualifying events**.
- b) The Club Championship Series is open to all members of affiliated golf clubs with a golf course who have an official handicap.
- c) The competition entry fee for all Club Qualifying events is **R60 (sixty Rand)** per player payable to the club.
- d) Only club members may qualify at a **Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa Club Qualifying event**.
- e) The competition shall be played in accordance with the rules of golf as laid down by the R&A of St Andrews, together with any local rules approved by participating club competition committees – the winning pairs will be the pairs as determined by the club competition committee i.e. club count out procedure.
- f) Any disputes in **Club Qualifiers** shall be settled by the relevant club competition committee, whose decision shall be final.
- g) The tournament is **open to all golfers of eighteen years or older** at the time of the Club Qualifying event who are affiliated members of an affiliated Golf Club and have an official handicap.
- h) Only club competitions registered with the Tournament Co-ordinators by the participating clubs will be deemed to be an official club qualifier.
- i) Club winners can only be officially registered for the Regional Finals once the Tournament Co-ordinators have received full payment of all competition entry fees plus the duly completed Players Registration Forms containing the necessary details of each entrant. *(See appendix 2 for the player registration document)*
- j) In addition, all organizers of qualifier events will be obliged to confirm that all competition rules have been complied with.
- k) Once a club has registered their qualifying pair/s and payment has been remitted to the Tournament Co-ordinators, no monies are refundable under any circumstances.
- l) If one player of a qualifying pair is unable to play in the Regional Finals for reasons of health, bereavement, business or education commitments, the remaining player may nominate a substituted partner who **must** have played in the original first stage qualifying event. This then become the qualifying pair.
- m) In the event of an original club qualifying pair not being able to play in the Regional Finals, the club may substitute such a pair. The only stipulation is that any substitute pair **must** have played in the same Club Qualifying event and whose details must be present on the Players Registration Forms. There shall be no further changes to that pair during the competition and any future unavailability of either partner shall result in withdrawal of the pair as a team.
- n) A player may only qualify once for the Regional Finals. If a player has played in two qualifying events with two different partners, and achieved qualification in both events, the first registered

qualification by date will be deemed to be the only qualification by that player for the Regional Finals.

5. Prizes – Club Level:

- a) Club winners – and other qualifiers as determined by the size of the field – will win a place in the Regional Finals as qualifiers. There may be further prizes from the club and/or associated sponsors in accordance with **Rule 4-2g**.

6. Information of importance to The Players:

- a) It is one of the biggest golf tournaments for amateur club golfers in the world.
b) The final stages are conducted along the lines of a professional event, with no count-outs and any “ties” being settled by way of a play-off if possible (see below).
c) Hundreds of thousands of golfers have played in qualifying events around the world.
d) Each qualifying stage is unique and every club golfer should try and experience what it is like.
e) **WLIPSA** is a tournament that facilitates “competitive golf played in a fun way”.
f) The process enables thousands of golfers to represent their golf clubs and to compete for the **Club Championship Series** as well as the opportunity to qualify for the **Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket** finals in Namibia.
g) The qualifying process culminates in two pairs of ordinary amateur club golfers representing South Africa at the World Finals.
h) It is as simple as that, but as you proceed through the qualifying rounds, the pressure intensifies!

7. How much does it cost to enter and what does that cover?

- a) The entry fee is **R60** (sixty rand) per player and there are no further payments required to represent one's club, region or country.
b) **No payment** is required at the Regional Finals, where all costs, including breakfast, green fees, practice balls, players' halfway house, snacks and a couple of drinks – and a couple of other surprises – are covered by **Windhoek Lager** as the Title Rights Holders of the tournament. (Caddies or carts, where applicable are for the players' own accounts, as well as the player's transport to this stage.)
c) **No payment** is required at the SA Finals in Namibia. All costs including air travel, accommodation, all meals, green fees, pair of drinks and other surprises are covered by **Windhoek Lager**. (Caddies or carts where applicable are for the players' own account)
d) **No payment** is required at the SA Finals of the **Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket Final** in SA or the finals in Namibia – all air travel, accommodation, meals, green fees, drinks and other surprises are covered by **Windhoek Lager** (Caddies or carts, where applicable, are for the player's account)
e) Finally, **Windhoek Lager** also covers the costs of our South African representatives attending the World Finals of the **International Pairs** in Spain.

8. Where do I enter?

- a) Simply enter at your golf club. If your club has not registered to hold a Club Qualifying event, encourage them to do so in order that you may participate.

- b) There are no “open events”, one can only qualify to represent the golf club at which one is a member.

9. Handicapping:

- a) All players must have a current official handicap.
- b) Players shall use their handicap according to the handicapping system in operation, as implemented by the South African Golf Association.
- c) During the Final Stages of the Tournament (being the Regional, National and World Finals); golfers will receive a $\frac{3}{4}$ allowance of their handicap, which complies with the international Handicapping Rules of the Tournament.
- d) There is a maximum handicap of 24 for men and 32 for women for the Regional, National and World Finals. (**Note: not at the Club Qualifying events**) (This means an allowance of a maximum of 18 and 24 shots received respectively.) Anyone can enter on the understanding that there are maximum handicaps off which they can play.
- e) It should be noted that there are no Senior Tees, but the Promoters reserve the right to liaise with the Golf Director of any club to adjust the handicap of any golfer qualifying for the Final Stages who may have qualified off senior tees.
- f) The handicaps off which all players qualified for the Final Stages shall be “frozen upwards” – but not down – as at the day of qualification. In other words, if a player’s handicap has increased between a Club Qualifier and the Final Stages, that player may only compete in the Regional and National Finals off the same handicap used in the respective qualifying event; or a lower one.
- g) If a player’s handicap has decreased at any stage between Club Qualifier and Final Stage events, and then increased again, that player shall play off the lowest handicap achieved. Note: The Promoters will not cut a player’s handicap below that of scratch if they played off scratch at their Club Qualifier event.
- h) Furthermore, a player may only play in the Final Stages off a handicap of no more than 20% greater than their lowest handicap over the last 12 months. This is restricted up to a maximum of one shot for single figure handicaps and two shots for all other handicaps. (E.g. if one’s lowest handicap over the last 12 months is 8 and one’s handicap at the time of the Regional Finals is 10, then that player may only play off a handicap of a maximum of 9.)
- i) A player shall always play off the lower handicap as per the above conditions during the final stages.

10. Regional Finals:

- a) The number of National Final places played for at the Regional Final events is based on ratios. For example, if there are 200 qualifying pairs throughout South Africa and Region 'X' has 40 qualifying pairs, then 20% of the places in the National Finals will be available at that Regional Final.
- b) **Windhoek Lager International Pairs SA** takes place at any affiliated golf club in South Africa.
- c) Regional Finals will be held around the country.
- d) Qualifiers from areas outside the designated Regional Finals areas will be allocated to a Regional Final closest to their home club and will be responsible for their own travel arrangements to that location.

- e) A maximum total of 26 (twenty-six) pairs from the Regional finals will travel to the SA finals in Namibia.
- f) The Regional Finals are contested by all qualifying pairs from the Clubs.
- g) Regional Final venues will be determined by the Tournament Co-ordinators, whose decision is final.
- h) Where there may be more than one venue for the Regional Finals in any region, qualifying pairs will be allocated to one of the venues by the Tournament Co-ordinators, whose decision is final.
- i) The event format for the Regional Finals is an 18-hole Betterball Stableford competition with $\frac{3}{4}$ handicap allowance. The maximum handicap is 24 for men and 32 for women (i.e. 18 and 24 shots received respectively). Any competitors with a handicap higher than 24 or 32 will compete off a 24 or 32 handicap and receive 18 or 24 strokes handicap allowance.
- j) The qualifiers for the National Finals will be those players with the highest Betterball Stableford points total along with the next highest points, dependent on the number of places available.
- k) In the event of a tie, a play off as opposed to a count out will determine the winners and any additional qualifying pair/s. In the event of a cessation of play in the play-offs due to unavoidable circumstances such as adverse weather conditions, then a count out will be used to decide the winners/qualifiers. The count out will be based on holes 1 to 9, then holes 10 to 18, then stroke 1 to 9 and lastly, stroke 10 to 18.
- l) In the normal course of play, in the event of a cessation of play due to unavoidable circumstances such as adverse weather conditions and all pairs have not completed the round, the course will be deemed to be the front 9. In the event of all pairs not having completed the front 9, the course will be deemed to comprise the number of holes having been completed by the pair having completed 6 holes as long as at least the same 6 holes have been played by all the pairs competing. In the event of less than six holes of a round having been played, the event will be re-scheduled for an alternative day if possible. The Tournament Co-ordinators' decision is final.
- m) The Promoters reserve the right to nominate a shortened course comprising at least six designated holes as may be appropriate considering the prevailing conditions.

11. Regional Final- General Notes:

- a) All Regional Final qualifiers will receive:
- b) One round of golf, grab-and-go and a prize-giving with snacks.
- c) There may be further prizes from the tournament promoters and / or associated sponsors in accordance with **Rule 4-2g**.
- d) Regional Finals winners will win a place in the National Finals.
- e) The promoters reserve the right to retain two National Final reserve places that may be used in cases where play-off pairs cannot be separated or other such circumstances. Failing use under such circumstances, these places will be allocated according to the aforementioned ratios.
- f) Regional Final events will be held as follows:
- g) In each of the regions in which Club Qualifying events have been held as far as possible as long as there are sufficient players to warrant a Regional Final.
- h) The objective is to have a minimum of 16 pairs in a Regional Final.
- i) As far as possible, the objective is not to have more than 60 pairs contesting any Regional Final.

- j) As far as possible, the objective is to try and ensure no pair play at their home course in a Regional Final. The Promoters reserve the right to allocate any pair/s to play in a Regional Final at their home course where it may not be possible due to financial, logistical or other reasons for such pairs to play in any other regional Final.
- k) The number of Regional Finals held will be determined by the number of qualifying pairs.

12. Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket Final:

- a. *At this stage those players who have not qualified to go through to the next round will qualify to compete in the Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket finals.*
- b. *This competition is based on the highest Stableford points in each of the categories listed below.*
- c. *1 person each from A-, B-, C- Division and a Lady, will go through to the Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket Final in SA (A Division up to 9, B Division 10-16, C Division 17-24 and Ladies 0-32). Conditions of competition will be the same as the Windhoek Lager International Pairs (HANDICAP ALLOWANCE/RULES, PLAY-OFFS AND COUNT OUT PROCEDURE)*
- d. *The 4 Winners of each of the above categories at this event will go on to represent South Africa at the Windhoek Lager Africa Jacket finals, in Namibia*

13. SA Finals (Windhoek Lager International Pairs):

- a) A maximum total of 26 (twenty-six) pairs from the Regional finals will travel to the SA finals in Namibia.
- b) Players are responsible for their own travel insurance as well as required travel documents such as passports and visas. If a player is not able to travel due to inappropriate documents, that pair will have to withdraw and will be replaced.
- c) The National final event format is a 36-hole Betterball Stableford competition with $\frac{3}{4}$ handicap allowance.
- d) The National Final winners will be the pair with the highest Betterball Stableford points total.
- e) If for any reason – such as adverse weather conditions (e.g. bad light) - interfering with the completion of the event itself or any playoff, the winners will be decided by:
 - a. The leaders after 27 holes; or
 - b. If there is no play in round 2 or not all pairs are able to complete a minimum of 27 holes, then the leaders after round 1 will be declared the winners – otherwise, as per the count out procedure as at the Regional finals.
- f) Overall winners of the Club Championship Series will be crowned the Windhoek Lager Club Pairs Champions and receive an invitation to represent South Africa at the World Finals with travel to the venue and accommodation expenses paid.
- g) The second-placed pair at the National Finals will also receive an invitation to represent South Africa at the World Finals with travel to the venue and accommodation expenses paid.
- h) The two pairs participating in the World Finals will need to have passports with a minimum of nine months' validity and will be responsible for arranging their own visas where applicable.
- i) There may be further prizes in accordance with **Rule 4-2g**.
- j) In the Regional and/or National Finals, if two or more teams finish the designated number of holes with the same number of Stableford points, then the following will occur:

- k) A hole-by-hole sudden-death playoff, with the pair having the most Betterball Stableford points being declared the winners.
- l) In the event of two or more teams not being separated by any of the above methods or a last resort count out, the winners will be decided by the toss of a coin or by drawing lots if more than 2 teams are involved.
- m) It is up to the discretion of the Tournament Referee or Tournament Director to determine the suitability – or otherwise – for play to be halted or for the total cessation of play.
- n) All players must have an official club handicap and the Tournament Director reserves the right to request a handicap validation from the player's golf club for Regional and National Finals.
- o) The Tournament Director may over-ride any of these rules if the environment or situation at the time requires him or her to do so.
- p) In the event of a pair having qualified at the Regional Finals being unable to play in the National Finals for any reason, that pair shall be substituted by the Tournament Promoters.
- q) If one player from a pair qualifying at the Regional Finals is unable to play in the National Finals for any reason, that pair's place shall be forfeited and **no substitute player will be allowed**.
- r) Should any player make an error with a score submission for handicapping or fail to submit a score from any round during any stage of the competition in which that player is involved, then that player and their partner will be required to withdraw from further participation in the event – **even if such submission or omission was a mistake**.
- s) As with the above point and as with Professional golfers, should a competitor sign for an incorrect score during any stage of the event, that player and their partner will be required to withdraw from further participation in the event.
- t) If the handicap of a player - who may have played in the event in two consecutive years - increases by more than two shots over the period, the Tournament Co-ordinators reserve the right to access the handicap submission history of that player and to potentially ask the player's club management to substantiate the validity of the handicap increase.
- u) Any player having qualified and played in the World Finals may not qualify for the World Finals again for a period of two years. They may, however, represent their club at the Regional Finals and potentially attend the National Finals to compete for the Windhoek Lager Club Pairs Champions of South Africa title.
- v) Right of admission to the tournament may be reserved.

14. World Finals Spain 2016:

- a) South Africa now has an allocation of **two places** in the World Final. At the 36-hole National Final event, we will crown the Windhoek Lager Club Champion Pair who, together with a second placed club pair, will go on to represent South Africa and compete in the International Pairs World Finals in **Spain** in 2016.
- b) Players are responsible for their own travel insurance as well as required travel documents such as passports and visas. If a player is not able to travel due to inappropriate documents, that pair will have to withdraw and will be replaced.

The organizers – African Sports Management, in coordination with the sponsors, reserve the right to change, amend or add any rules and regulations they deem required necessary to ensure the successful running of the events.

The tournament committee will consist of members of Windhoek Lager and African Sports Management, whose decision shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

By entering the WLIPSA event players confirm that they will abide and accept the rules as set out above.

We trust that you will have fun and enjoy the Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa series of events. Should you have any queries please feel free to contact the tournament Organisers – African Sports Management - Johan Scholtz via email at info@africansm.co.za or by phone on 083 351 8517

Kind Regards
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