

INTERNATIONAL PAIRS SEASON 5 (LADIES)

Sponsored by



To be known as

**Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa
(Ladies Division)
(WLIPSA)**

TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS

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Welcome to the Windhoek Lager International Pairs Season 5 (Ladies).

TIME FRAME:

Note: Due to Covid the dates and venue has changed

The **Windhoek Lager International Pairs SA (Ladies)** qualifying events take place from **1 September 2019**

Qualifying events will be completed by **31 December 2020**.

The **Regional Finals** will be completed by **end of April 2021**.

The **National Finals** will take place in **June 2021**. The venue is Devonvale Golf and Wine Estate in Stellenboch.

The **World Finals** - TBC

1. PREAMBLE:

2016 Saw the launch of the 1st season of the Windhoek Lager International Pairs. It has been an amazing success. 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 20 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.

The Coordinators and Organizers – African Sports Management (Pty) Ltd, in coordination with the sponsors, reserve the right to change, amend or add any rules, regulations, and conditions they deem required necessary to ensure the successful running of the Tournament.

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 in the TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS, AND CONDITIONS.

Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa is approved by the South African Golf Association for the payment of expenses under **Rule 4-2 g SAGA05/2019**



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 Coordinators – African Sports Management -Deetleff Scholtz via email at ds@asmgolf.com or by phone on 081 378 9817

2. SPONSORS:

- a. **Windhoek Lager** is the Title Rights Holder and Main Sponsor of the tournament, and they make it possible for the event to remain extremely cost-effective.
- b. **The Pro Shop, Legacy Hotel Group, Callaway, Kulula and Orange Whip** provide great support to the tournament and the participants, adding significant value to the event.

3. Objective

1. To create more opportunities for Ladies' Pairs to participate in the WLIPSA events and possibly win their way through to the ladies' division of the International Pairs World Finals.
2. This offers ladies pairs the opportunity to qualify on more than 1 occasion for a place in the Regional ladies' division. Ladies pairs can now qualify at their club qualifying events and/or at the Ladies Only qualifying event in their Region.
3. In previous seasons we did not have dedicated ladies' pairs going through to the Regionals, SA or World finals, this is now available, thanks to our headline sponsors, Windhoek Lager.
4. Ladies pairs who win through at club qualifying events will have the option at Regional level to decide if they want to play in the Ladies division or the Open division, but not both.
5. Ladies pairs who win through Ladies Only events will compete in a Ladies Pairs Division at the Regional qualifying events if there is a Ladies Division available.

4. CLUB INFORMATION (Ladies Qualifying Event):

- a. The objective is to retain the image and reputation of **WLIPSA** as a "tournament of integrity".
- b. It is now the largest amateur pairs event in South Africa.
- c. **WLIPSA** is a competitive, cost-effective Better ball competition (**Any better ball competition if both player's/partner's/pair's score qualify for handicapping purposes**).
- d. Any SAGA/GOLFRSA affiliated golf club may request to host a Ladies regional Qualifying event, but the Organisers will allocate the Qualifying tournament to selected clubs per region.
- e. With **WLIPSA (Ladies)**, all club handicap golfers can compete for the right to represent their Club, their Region and possibly even South Africa in an International event.
- f. The simple process is that:

Pairs play at the WLIPSA (Ladies) qualifying event in their region and, dependant on the size of the field, a number of players receive invitations to represent their golf club at the Regional Finals:

- a. *In ladies only qualifying events, **one pair** qualifies from a field of the minimum number of 10 pairs. **Two pairs** qualify from a field comprising of 20 pairs etc. (as below).*
- b. *If the WLIPSA (Ladies) qualifying event has one field for the whole day, then very simply: 10 pairs = 1 Regional Final place; 20 pairs = 2 places, 30 pairs = 3 places and thereafter 1 place for every additional 10 pairs will represent the club/s at the Regional Finals.*
- c. All this for a **once-off R100 (One hundred Rand)** entry fee (excluding club fees) at the Ladies qualifying event. Each player receives a pair of branded Windhoek Lager golf balls
- d. Players do not pay any further entry fees for the Regional Finals, The South Africa Final or the World Final.



6. LADIES QUALIFYING EVENTS:

- a. The tournament comprises of a predetermined Series of Ladies **Qualifying events**.
- b. The competition entry fee for all Qualifying events is **R100 (One hundred Rand)** per player.
- c. Only club members with an official handicap index may qualify at a **Windhoek Lager International Pairs South Africa (Ladies)** Qualifying event. PAIRS ENTERING FOR THE LADIES QUALIFYING EVENT **MUST** BE FROM THE SAME CLUB WHERE THEY ARE HANDICAPPED.
- d. 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 hosting club competition committees – the winning pairs will be the pairs as determined by the competition count out and playoff procedure.
- e. The tournament is **open to all lady golfers of eighteen years or older** at the time of the Qualifying event who are affiliated members of a SAGA/GOLFRSA affiliated Golf Club and have an official handicap index.
- f. Only qualifying events registered with the Tournament Coordinators will be deemed to be an official qualifier.
- g. Qualifying event winners can only be officially registered for the Regional Finals once the Tournament Coordinators have received **full payment of all competition entry fees plus the duly completed Players Registration Forms containing the necessary details of each entrant**.
- h. **It is a condition of the qualifying event that the club pays all fees related to the event and return the Players Registration Forms within 7 working days after completion of the qualifying event to ASM.**
- i. In addition, all organizers of qualifier events will be obliged to confirm that all competition rules have been complied with.
- j. If one player of a qualifying pair is unable to play in the Regional Finals for reasons of health, bereavement, business or any other reason, the remaining player may nominate a substituted partner who **must** have played in the same qualifying event (with the proviso that the substituted partner **MUST** be from the same club). This then becomes the qualifying pair.
- k. In the event of an original qualifying pair not being able to play in the Regional Finals, the Tournament Coordinators may substitute such a pair. The only stipulation is that any substitute pair **must** have played in the same 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.
- l. Qualifying event winners – and other qualifiers as determined by the size of the field – will win a place in the Regional Finals (Ladies Division) as qualifiers. There may be further prizes from the club and/or associated sponsors in accordance with **Rule 4-2g**.

7. PLAYER INFORMATION:

- a. **WLIPSA** 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 Tournament, with no count-outs and any “ties” being settled by way of a play-off if possible.
- 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 hundreds of golfers to represent their golf clubs and to compete for the **Windhoek Lager International Pairs SA Championship (Ladies Division)**.



- g. The qualifying process culminates in one pair (Ladies) of ordinary amateur club golfers representing South Africa at the World Finals.
- h. The entry fee is **R100 (one hundred rand)** per player and there are no further payments required to represent one's club, region or country.
- i. **No payment** is required at the **Regional Finals**, where all costs, including arrival drinks, green fees, players' halfway house, snacks, and some drink/s 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/travel to this stage.)**
- j. **No payment** is required at the South African Finals. 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)**
- k. Finally, **Windhoek Lager** also covers the costs of our South African representatives attending the World Finals of the **International Pairs in Portugal**.
- l. Simply enter your qualifying event. (Either at your club's qualifying event/s and/or at the Ladies Only qualifying event in your region) If your region has not registered to hold a Qualifying event, encourage somebody/club to do so in order that you may participate.
- m. 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.
- n. 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 **BUT MAY NOT** attend the South Africa National Finals for a period of **ONE YEAR**.
- o. The right of admission to the tournament may be reserved.
- p. **All participants playing in the National Final will be required to sign a Code of Conduct.**

8. HANDICAPPING:

- a. All players must be in good standing at their club.
- b. All players must have a current official handicap index.
- c. Players shall use their handicap index according to the handicapping system in operation, as implemented by the South African Golf Association/GOLFRSA.
- d. During the Final Stages of the Tournament (**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.
- e. There is a maximum handicap of 36 for the **National and World Finals. (Note: not at the REGIONAL Qualifying events)** (This means an **allowance** at the **National and World Finals** of a maximum of 27 shots received.) Anyone can enter on the understanding that there are maximum handicaps off which they can play.
- f. The handicap index off which all players qualified for the Final Stages shall be "frozen upwards" – but not down – as at the day of qualification. (see point h below) In other words, if a player's handicap index has increased between a Qualifier and the Final Stages, that player may only compete in the Regional and National Finals off the same handicap index used in the respective qualifying event; or a lower one.
- g. If a player's handicap index has decreased at any stage between Qualifier and Final Stage events, and then increased again, that player shall play off the lowest handicap index achieved.
- h. Furthermore, a player may only play in the Final Stages off a handicap index of their lowest handicap from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 unless their handicap index is lower on the day of the SA final competition.



- i. A player shall always play off the lower handicap index as per the above conditions during the final stages.
- j. **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. Scores must be submitted within the time frame stipulated by the SAGA/GOLFRSA handicapping system (before a penalty score is recorded - currently 24 hours).**
- k. 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.

9. WLIPSA REGIONAL FINALS:

- a. At least one Ladies Pair will qualify from the predetermined WLIPSA REGIONAL FINALS (ONLY IF THAT REGION HAD A LADIES ONLY QUALIFYING EVENT) to participate at the South African Finals.
- b. In a region where no ladies only qualifier has taken place, ladies pair/s who qualified at their club qualifier and who qualify at the regional event will go to the SA final, where they need to decide if they will be competing in the Ladies or Open division.
- c. **Windhoek Lager International Pairs SA** Regional finals take place at any affiliated golf club in South Africa.
- d. Regional Finals will be held around the country.
- e. 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.
- f. A maximum total of 6 (six) pairs from the Regional finals will travel to the SA finals with the proviso that at least 1 (one) pair from each predetermined Ladies Qualifying event/region will qualify to play in the Regional finals.
- g. Regional Final venues will be determined by the Tournament Coordinators, 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 Coordinators, whose decision is final.
- i. The event format for the Regional Finals is an 18-hole Better ball competition (**Any better ball competition as long as both players'/partners'/pairs' score qualify for handicapping purposes**).
- j. The **qualifiers** for the National Finals will be those players with the highest Better ball Score along with the next highest score, dependent on the number of places available.
- k. In the event of a tie, a **playoff** 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 playoffs due to unavoidable circumstances such as adverse weather conditions or bad light, then a count out will be used to decide the winners/qualifiers. **The count out will be based on holes 10 to 18, then holes 13 to 18, then 16 to 18 and lastly hole 18 (as recommended by the R&A).**
- l. If there is still no winner after the above, the count out will be per hole starting from 17 back to 1.
- m. In the event of two or more teams not being separated by any of the above methods or a last resort, the winners will be decided by the toss of a coin or by drawing lots if more than 2 teams are involved.
- n. In the normal course of play, in the event of a cessation of play due to unavoidable circumstances such as adverse weather conditions or bad light 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 having been played by all the pairs competing. In the event of fewer than six holes of around having been played, the event will be re-scheduled for an alternative day if possible. The Tournament Coordinators' decision is final.

- o. The Tournament Coordinators reserve the right to nominate a shortened course comprising at least six designated holes as may be appropriate considering the prevailing conditions.

10. General Notes:

All Regional Final qualifiers will receive:

- a. One round of golf grab-and-go and a prize-giving with snacks.
- b. There may be further prizes from the tournament promoters and/or associated sponsors in accordance with **Rule 4-2g**.
- c. Regional Finals winners will win a place in the National Finals (subject to all the above).
- d. Regional Final events for Ladies Pairs will be held as follows:
- e. In each of the regions in which Ladies Only Qualifying events have been held, as far as possible, if there are enough players to warrant a Regional Final.
- f. As far as possible, the objective is to try and ensure no pair play at their home course in a Regional Final. The Tournament Coordinators 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.
- g. The number of Regional Finals held will be determined by the number of qualifying pairs.

11. SOUTH AFRICAN FINALS:

- a. A maximum total of 6 (six) pairs (Ladies) from the Regional finals will travel to the South Africa finals.
- 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 Better ball Competition with $\frac{3}{4}$ handicap index allowance.
- d. The Coordinators will check the handicap index **from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020** of all players who are participating, and players will play of their **lowest handicap index achieved** during this period, up to and including the morning of the 1st round.
- e. All players **must** enter their score **after round 1** of the competition and the Organizers will check all handicaps on the morning prior to round 2. Should a player's handicap index be lower at this stage, the player will play off the **new lower handicap index in round 2**.
- f. If two or more teams finish with the same Score, then the following will occur:
 - I. A hole-by-hole sudden-death playoff,
 - II. Count out procedure as prescribed for the Regional Finals **(8 k)**,
 - III. 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:
 - IV. The leaders after 27 holes; or
 - V. If there is no play in round 1 OR 2 and not all pairs are able to complete a minimum of 27 holes, then the leaders after the completed round 1 OR 2 will be declared the winners.



- VI. In the event of two or more teams not being separated by any of the above methods or a last resort **count out (8 k & l)**, the winners will be decided by the toss of a coin or by drawing lots if more than 2 teams are involved. 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.
- g. Overall winners of the **Windhoek Lager International Pairs SA Championship (Ladies Division)** will be crowned the Windhoek Lager Ladies Pairs Champions and receive an invitation to represent South Africa at the World Finals with travel to the venue and accommodation expenses paid. – Subject to all rules, regulations, and conditions as described in this document being adhered to.
- h. The pair 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**.

12. Notes:

- a. All players must have an official club handicap index and the Tournament Director reserves the right to request a handicap index and membership validation from the player's golf club for Regional and National Finals.
- b. The Tournament Director may over-ride any of these rules if the environment or situation at the time requires them to do so.
- c. 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 Coordinators.
- d. 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**.
- e. The right of admission to the tournament may be reserved.

13. WORLD FINAL:

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.

So, there is more than enough reason for you 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.

