

10TH MANIPUR POLO INTERNATIONAL 2016

(NOVEMBER 22 - 29, 2016)

Organised by: Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association, Lamphelpat (Imphal), Manipur

PROSPECTUS

General Information

The Manipur Polo International is the only International Open Invitation Polo Tournament played on the Manipuri Pony, the original Polo Pony, under the IPA rules. The Tournament is organized with the prime objectives of conserving the Manipuri Pony and preventing its extinction, popularize the game in its place of origin and making Manipur a Polo Tourist destination. It is also intended to remind the world that the present day Polo originated from Manipur's traditional "Sagol Kangjei" (hockey on horseback),

The first Tournament was organized in the year 1991 where teams from Australia, Germany, UK and Zimbabwe participated. Till 2000, the Association had organized 5 (five) International Invitation Polo Tournaments on Manipuri Pony where teams from Australia, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Switzerland, USA, UK and Zimbabwe participated. Further tournaments could not be organized by the Association due to many constraints, financing being the main hurdle.

However, our Association conducted the 6th Manipur Polo International, 2012 with wide and unexpected international support including State Government. The Tournament was a grand success with many positive fallouts. Teams from UK, Germany, France and Thailand participated in the Tournament. Other countries who intimated their willingness to join the tournament could not be accommodated because of accommodation problem and limitation of time.

The success was because of generous financial and physical support extended by the State Government, Indian Army and Assam Rifles. In addition to financial assistance had also been extended by the North Eastern Council, Government of India, Ministry of Tourism, National corporate houses like State Bank of India, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Simplex Infrastructure Ltd., Power Grid, NPCC, Life Insurance Corporation of India and local business houses, etc.

At the end of the tournament, some of the foreign Polo players donated for breeding and preservation of Manipuri Ponies.

After the successful organization of the 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th Manipur Polo Internationals our Association is organizing the 10th Manipur Polo International 2016 at Imphal Pologround (also known as Mapal Kangjeibung) during November 22 to 29, 2016. Now the Tournament has become an integral part of the Sangai Festival - the State's Tourism Festival organized every year during November 21 to 30 at Imphal.

1. **Participating teams.**

Eight teams will participate in the tournament:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| (A) | Team India A | <i>Indian Polo Association to nominate the team.</i> |
| (B) | Team India B | <i>To be nominated by Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association.</i> |
| (C) | 6 (six) Foreign Teams | <i>To be finalized by the Organising Committee, 10th Manipur Polo International 2016</i> |

2. Conduct of tournament:

The Tournament will be conducted under rules of Indian Polo Association with some local amendments. As a unique feature of the tournament, the players shall be mounted exclusively on Manipuri Pony (Height 12-13 hands).

3. Journey:

The players are to meet the to and fro journey expenses up to Imphal by themselves.
In case of any inconvenience, the same may be intimated.

4. VISA:

The players themselves are to arrange for VISA clearance for visiting India. No separate permission is required for visiting Imphal, Manipur (India) once VISA is obtained.

5. Number of players:

Each team will have 5 players including one reserve player and one Manager/Coach.

6. Handicap:

The tournament will be an open one and no handicapping rules shall be applied. Manipuri players are not officially assessed for handicapping by the IPA. However, the total handicap of the Manipur players is about 8+. It has been locally assessed according to their performances in the last International Invitation Polo Tournaments held at Imphal. A team of '8-Goal' is expected from the visiting foreign contingent.

7. Play:

- a. The tournament shall be played on league cum knock-out basis.
- b. Each play of the Tournament shall be of 4 Chukkers of 7 minutes each.

8. Mounts:

Each team shall be allotted a group of 10 Ponies before every match by lot. To give equal opportunities to both the opponent teams, the ponies shall be exchanged at the half time. No ponies will be permitted to play two Chukkers consecutively. A veterinary team shall inspect the ponies to check their fitness before and during the matches. The ponies shall be numbered.

9. Trophies:

- The Manipur Polo International Championship Trophy with Cash Prize of Rs.1,00,000.00

- The Manipur Polo International Runner up Trophy with Cash Prize of Rs. 60,000.00

The Championship and the Runner up Trophy shall **be rolling trophies** and trophies shall not be carried off by the teams. Instead, replicas shall be given to the Winner and Runner up teams.

10. Venue:

The matches shall be played at the historic Mapal Kangjeibung i.e. Imphal Pologround, Imphal, the oldest living Pologround of the world, the present size of the Pologround is 190 meters x 90 meters. Imphal is the Capital of Manipur State in India and is well connected by flights from New Delhi/Kolkata/Guwahati as well as by road via Kohima, Nagaland.



Mapal Kangjeibung (Imphal Pologround) - the oldest living Pologround in the World

11. Date of submission of entries:

All entries of participating teams should reach the Hony. President, Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association on or before 1st October, 2016 along with names of players and their respective handicaps duly authenticated by the concerned authority.

12. Draws:

The draw for the tournament shall be conducted by the Organizing Committee on November 21, 2016 in presence of Teams. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to alter the date/timings due to administrative or other reasons.

13. Umpires & Referees:

An Umpiring Panel shall be drawn by the Organizing Committee from amongst the officials and players.

14. Dress code:

- (a) Players and Umpires will be required to strictly adhere to the dress code on the field and at the time of Prize distribution.
- (b) Players are to bring their own Polo shirts which should be of the same design and colour with the Chest Nos. as well as boots and Polo caps, etc. (In case of inconvenience, the same may be intimated well in advance as the items are to be procured from Delhi / Kolkata)

15. Guests:

Guests of players are welcome. They include family members and their girlfriends. The number of the team is limited to six. They are to bear travel expenses for to and fro journeys.

16. Facilities provided:

- i. For players:-
 - a. Polo sticks and whips
 - b. Additional Polo shirts
 - c. Polo caps on advance intimation as caps are to be procured from Kolkata/Delhi.

17. Hospitality

Hospitality including sightseeing at Keibul Lamjao National Sanctuary for the "Brow Antlered Deer", "Loktak Lake", "Traditional Manipuri Dinner" and cultural programme while at Imphal, Manipur will be provided to the teams and guests.

AC vehicles will be provided to each team.

18. Accommodation:

All foreign teams will be accommodated at Hotel Classic Grande or Hotel Imphal (both run by the Management of Classic Hotel).

Website of Hotel Classic is www.theclassic.in

19. Transport:

The requirements of transports for all teams for the duration of stay at Imphal will be met by the Organizing Committee.

20. Weather:

Day temperature at Imphal during last week of November will be around 19 to 21 Degrees Celsius. However the night temperature will fall to 6 - 8 Degrees Celsius. For a comfortable stay warm clothes are advisable.

21. All teams are requested to bring two National Flags (Size 6 ft x 4 ft and 5 ft x 3 ft) of their respective country for the March Past as well as for flying on Poles.

22. The following is the schedule of the tournament:

- November 20 - 21, 2016 - Arrival of the teams.
- November 22, 2016 - Opening Ceremony and First Match
- November 29, 2016 - Closing Ceremony and Final match

23. All queries regarding the conduct of the tournament and any other clarification be addressed the undersigned.



(S. Buddhachandra Singh, IAS Retd.)

Hony. President,
Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association
Cells: +91-9436021468 / 9856089831
mhrpamanipur@gmail.com
jumpers2001@rocketmail.com