



Indian Polo Association

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IPA/22

02 Jul 2015

Mr S Buddhachandra Singh
Hony President
Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association
RIMC Ring Road
Lamphelpat – 795 004,
(IMPHAL)

Subject :- Organising of 9th Manipur Polo International 2015

Dear Sir,

1. Please refer to your letter No. 9/MHRPA/2015(A) dated 27 Apr 2015.
2. We are delighted to know that Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association would be organizing the 9th Manipur Polo International from 22 to 29 Nov 2015 as a part of the Manipur Sangai Tourism Festival at Imphal on Manipuri ponies. This will go a long way to keep alive this traditional polo at Manipur.
3. The IPA endorse its approval for conduct of the above international tournament.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,


(Rajesh Pattu)
Colonel
Hony Secretary

9TH MANIPUR POLO INTERNATIONAL 2015

(NOVEMBER 22 – 29, 2015)

Organised by: Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association
Lamphelpat – 795004 (Imphal), Manipur, India

PROSPECTUS

General Information

The Manipur Polo International is the only International Open Invitation Polo Tournament played on the Manipuri Pony (Height 12 to 13 hands), the original Polo Pony, under the Indian Polo Association rules which is same as FIP Rules. The Tournament is organized with the prime objectives of saving the near extinct Manipuri Pony, popularise the game of Polo 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. The Tournament was a grand success with many positive fall outs. 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 of Manipur, Indian Army and Assam Rifles. Financial assistance for the conduct of the tournament 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.

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

After the successful organization of the 6th Manipur Polo International 2012 our Association had organized the 7th Manipur Polo International 2013 during November 23-28, 2013 and 8th Manipur Polo International 2014 during November 22-29, 2014 as a part of Manipur Sangai Tourism Festival.

In the 7th Manipur Polo International 2013, USA, Germany and Thailand participated. Whereas, in the 8th Manipur Polo International 2014, 9 teams – England (HPA), France, Germany, Mongolia, South Africa, Thailand, USA, India-A (IPA) and India-B (Manipur) participated.

1. 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 – the original Polo Pony (Height 12-13 hands).

2. Journey:

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

3. **VISA:**

The players themselves are to arrange for VISA for visiting India. Further, the offices of the Indian Embassy concerned will be intimated of the Tournament which has been approved by the Indian Polo Association.

No separate permission is required for visiting Imphal, Manipur once VISA is obtained.

4. **Number of players:**

Each team will have 6 members including one reserve player and one Manager. Team members, however, can bring their wives/girlfriends (maximum 6) under their own arrangements up to Imphal. Hospitality expenditure of wives/girlfriends of the team during their stay in Manipur will be met by Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association.

5. **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 Plus. It has been locally assessed according to their performances in the last International Invitation Polo Tournaments held at Imphal. A team of 8 to 9 goals are expected from the visiting foreign teams.

6. **Play:**

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

7. **Mounts:**

Each team shall be allotted a group of 10 Manipuri 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.

8. **Trophies:**

- The Manipur Polo International Championship Trophy with Cash Prize of Rs.1,00,000.00
- The Manipur Polo International Runners up Trophy with Cash Prize of Rs. 60,000.00

The Championship and the Runners 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 Runners up teams.

9. **Venue:**

All the matches shall be played at the historic Mapal Kangjeibung i.e. Imphal Pologround, the oldest living Pologround in 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

10. Date of submission of entries:

All entries of participating teams should reach the Hony. Secretary, Organizing Committee or President, Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association on or before 15th October, 2015 along with names of players and their respective handicaps duly authenticated by the concerned authority.

11. Draws:

The draw for the tournament shall be conducted by the Organizing Committee on November 21, 2015. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to alter the date/timings due to administrative or other reasons.

12. Umpires & Referees:

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

13. 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 of the same design and colour with the Chest Nos. as well as boots and Polo caps, etc. In addition to additional Polo shirts will be provided with sponsorer's logo. So, size of shirt and chest number be intimated while furnishing the players' name (In case of inconvenience, the same may be intimated well in advance as the items are to be procured from Delhi.)

14. Facilities being provided:

i. For players:-

- a) Hospitality for players/officials and wives/girlfriends including sightseeing and cultural programme while at Imphal, Manipur;
- b) Polo sticks and whips for all players;
- c) Any other items connected with the tournament as requested by the team.

15. Accommodation:

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

Website of Hotel Classic is www.theclassic.in

16. Transport:

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

17. 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.

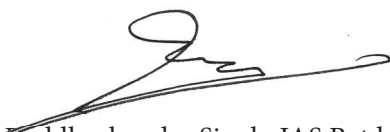
18. All teams are requested to bring two National Flags (Size 6 ft x 4 ft and 5 ft x 3 ft) of their respective country for the ceremonial purposes.

19. The following is the schedule of the tournament:

- November 20 - 21, 2015 - Arrival of the teams.
- November 22, 2015 - Opening Ceremony and First Match
- November 29, 2015 - Closing Ceremony and Final match

20. All queries regarding the conduct of the tournament and any other clarifications may be addressed to any of the office bearers of the Association listed below.
21. Any inconvenience/problem may be intimated without any hindrance.
22. Copy of the Indian Polo Association, New Delhi letter No. IPA/22 dt. 2nd July 2015 intimating approval of the Tournament is enclosed herewith for reference.

Lt Col (Retd.) M Ranjit Singh,
Hony. Vice-President,
Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association and
Hony. Secretary,
Organising Committee,
9TH Manipur Polo International, 2015
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8TH MANIPUR POLO INTERNATIONAL 2014

(November 22–29, 2014)

MAPAL KANGJEIBUNG (IMPHAL POLOGROUND)

IMPHAL, MANIPUR, INDIA



Lady Volunteers receiving the Polo players at Imphal International Airport



Welcome to Manipur, the Birthplace of Polo



Reception at Imphal Hotel, Imphal



Volunteers with Polo players on arrival at Imphal International Airport



Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur hoisting flag at Inaugural Function of the 8th Manipur Polo International 2014



Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur receiving VVIPs from Thailand



Lady Volunteers with *Potlaanba* items - the traditional reception items of Manipuri



Cultural Show at the Inaugural Function (Nov 22, 2014)



Cultural Show at the Inaugural Function (Nov 22, 2014)



England Polo Team



France Polo Team



Mongolia Polo Team



Poland Polo Team



South Africa Polo Team



Thailand Polo Team



United States Polo Team



India-A (Indian Polo Association) Polo Team



India-B (Manipur) Polo Team



Mrs. MC Mary Kom, Olympic Bronze Medallist (Boxing) & 5 times World Champion (Boxing) delivering Welcome Speech as Chief Guest (November 24, 2014)



Releasing of Commemorative Stamp of Sagol Kangjei by Dr KK Paul, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur



Km Mangka presenting the Theme Song - 'Haada Samadon Ayaangba' at the Inaugural Function



Chaogetu XXX (Tsogt) of Mongolia presenting cultural song of Mongolia



Polo Players enjoying boat ride at Loktak Lake, the largest lake of North Eastern India



A fisherwoman catching fish at Loktak Lake



Huts on floating *Phumdi* (floating *Phumdi* is available only at Loktak Lake in the World)



Players enjoying traditional Manipuri Dinner (Nov 27, 2014)



Players enjoying lunch at Sendra Tourist Home, Loktak



Cultural Evening at Sangai Festival, Palace Compound witnessed by the Polo Players



Polo Players with the Artists (Nov 27, 2014) at Banquet Hall, 1st Bn Manipur Rifles



Presenting of Mememto by Genghis Khan Polo Club, Mongolia to the Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association



Manipuri Pony at Manipuri Pony Breeding Farm, Lamphelpat, Imphal



Aerial view of Manipuri Pony Breeding Farm, Lamphelpat, Imphal



Ms Susan Ailsa Letitia Booth great-great granddaughter of the then Lt Joseph Ford Sherer and Mrs Rosemary Pears at Manipuri Pony Breeding Farm



Polo Players dressing up for Traditional Sagol-Kangjei



Polo Players enjoying the Traditional Sagol Kangjei, the Forerunner of Modern Polo



Releasing of Souvenir of the Tournament by Dr KK Paul, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur



Flag lowering ceremony of the Closing Function (Nov 29, 2014)



Runners-Up South Africa with Km Ak Mirabai, Hon'ble Minister



Winner India-B (Manipur) receiving Championship Trophy from Shri Kh Lokeshwar Singh, Hon'ble Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly