



Standard Bank Private International Pairs

INTERNATIONAL PAIRS SOUTH AFRICA 2024
Sponsored by



To be known as
Standard Bank Private International Pairs

TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS

All rules for previous seasons are hereby cancelled and replaced by the current season's rules. (January 2024 – September 2024)

INDEX:

- 1) TIME FRAME
- 2) PREAMBLE
- 3) SPONSORS
- 4) CLUB INFORMATION
- 5) CLUB QUALIFYING
- 6) PLAYER INFORMATION
- 7) HANDICAPPING
- 8) REGIONAL FINALS
- 9) SA FINAL
- 10) WORLD FINAL
- 11) SPECIFIC CONDITIONS
- 12) PHOTOGRAPHS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Welcome to the [Standard Bank Private International Pairs](#).

Important Notice: All Clubs may have up to 4 qualifying events during the new season (January 2024 to July 2024).

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

1) **TIME FRAME:**

- a. The **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** qualifying events take place from **January 2024**.
- b. Qualifying events will be completed by **July 2024**.
- c. The **Regional Finals** will take place from **July** and will be completed by **August 2024**.
- d. The **National Final** will take place from **TBC**. The venue will be **announced in due course**.
- e. The **World Finals** will take place from **TBC** – The venue will be **confirmed**.

2) **PREAMBLE:**

2024 sees the International Pairs South Africa under the brand new and exciting sponsorship of **Standard Bank Private**.

International Pairs Worldwide was created in England in 1998 and started as a regional inter-club “pairs” competition in the Hampshire area to celebrate the Millennium. That was 26 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 amateur club golfers to represent their country at the International Pairs World Final each year.

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

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

By entering the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs event players confirm that they will abide and accept the rules as set out in the TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS.**

We trust that you will have fun and enjoy the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** series of events.

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact the Tournament Coordinators – African Sports Management - info@ipgolf.co.za or by phone on 081 378 9817.

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

3) SPONSORS:

- a. **Standard Bank Private** 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, and Rhode Island** provide great support to the tournament and the participants, adding significant value to the event.

4) CLUB INFORMATION:

- a) The objective is to retain the image and reputation of **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** as a “tournament of integrity”.
- b) International Pairs has been the largest amateur pairs event in South Africa since 2016.
- c) **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** is a competitive, cost-effective Better ball competition.
- d) Any SAGA/GOLFRSA affiliated golf club may register and generate qualifying pairs from their **Standard Bank Private International Pairs Club Qualifying** events.
- e) The tournament is effectively the inter-club “PAIRS” championship of South Africa.
- f) International Pairs events can be played as men’s, women’s, and mixed pairs.
- g) 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.
- h) 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. **With below exception of Rule 6-m.**
- i) The above also applies to guests who may be playing with a member – they may not represent the club at the Regional Finals. **With below exception of Rule 6-m.**
- j) With **Standard Bank Private International Pairs**, all club handicap golfers can compete for the right to represent a Club, their Region and possibly even South Africa in an International event.
- k) **The Organizers reserve the right to host additional qualifying events to cater for those players whose clubs do not participate in the club qualifying events.**
- l) The simple process is that:
Pairs play in a **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 15 pairs. **Two pairs** qualify from a field comprising of 30 pairs etc. (as below).

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

- ii. A club may have morning fields, afternoon fields with a maximum of four **qualifying events** in the qualifying time frame/window period (January 2024 to July 2024).
 - iii. Two 9-hole golf clubs can combine their qualifying event, subject to approval by the Organizers, to ensure a larger field.
 - iv. Women's sections of affiliated golf clubs can combine and host a separate qualifier to meet the criteria of a minimum of 10 participating pairs (subject to the approval of the Organizers)
 - v. The organizers reserve the right to have separate Women's Only qualifying events where women from the same club will be able to enter as a pair.
 - vi. If a club has one field for the whole day, then very simply: **15 pairs = 1** Regional Final place; **30 pairs = 2** places, **45 pairs = 3** places and thereafter 1 place for every additional 15 pairs will represent the club/s at the Regional Finals.
- m) All this for **R100 (one hundred rand)** entry fee at every club qualifier. Each player receives a pair of branded **Standard Bank** golf balls.
- n) **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.
- o) Players do not pay any further entry fees for the Regional Finals, The SA Final, or the World Final.

5) CLUB QUALIFYING:

- a) The tournament comprises of a Series of **Club Qualifying events**.
- b) The competition entry fee for all Club Qualifying events is **R100 (one hundred rand)** per player per event, payable to the club.
- c) Only golfers with an official handicap index may qualify at a **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** Club Qualifying event.
- d) The competition shall be played as any Better ball format 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.
- e) The use of tees will be decided as per the handicap rules of Golf. Should 1 player decide to play of a certain tee the player's partner can play off a different tee (This is subject to the Club's local Rules).
- 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 a SAGA/GOLFRSA affiliated Golf Club and have an official handicap index.
- h) Only club competitions registered with the Tournament Organizers 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 Organizers have received **full payment of all competition entry**

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

fees due and the duly completed Players results Form containing the necessary details of winners which can be found on www.ipgolf.co.za

- j) **It is a condition of qualifying that the club pay all fees related to the event and return the Players Results form within 7 working days after completion of the qualifying event to African Sports Management.**
 - k) Clubs will receive the Player Registration QR Code Form that needs to be displayed at the club's registration area on the day. Players will need to scan and register to be invited to the next stage. Players will also be entered into the **Standard Bank Private** and **International Pairs SA partners** Monthly Lucky Draws for exclusive prizes.
 - l) In addition, all organizers of qualifying events will be obliged to confirm that all competition rules have been complied with.
 - m) Once a club has registered their qualifying pair/s and payment has been remitted to the Tournament Organizers, no monies are refundable under any circumstances.
 - n) 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. This then become the qualifying pair.
 - o) 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 with the next pair in line. 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.
 - p) 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.
 - q) **NOTE: IT IS NOT COMPULSARY FOR ALL PLAYERS IN YOUR NORMAL CLUB COMPETITION TO PARTAKE IN THE QUALIFYING EVENT.**
- 6) **PLAYER INFORMATION:**
- a) It is one of the biggest golf tournaments for amateur club golfers in the world.
 - b) The SA Final is 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) **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** 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 **Standard Bank Private International Pairs Championship**.

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

- g) The qualifying process culminates in two pairs of ordinary amateur club golfers representing South Africa at the World Finals, and one pair of women.
- h) The entry fee is **R100** (100 hundred rand) per player per qualifying event and there are no further payments required to represent the club, region, or country.
- i) **No payment** is required at the **Regional Finals**, where all costs, including green fees, players' halfway house, and snacks are covered by **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** 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 SA Finals. All costs including air travel from the nearest international airport, where stipulated, accommodation, all meals, green fees, and other surprises are covered by **Standard Bank Private International Pairs**. **(Caddies or carts where applicable are for the players' own account)**
- k) Finally, **SBIPSA** also covers the costs of our South African representatives attending the World Finals of the **International Pairs**.
- l) 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.
- m) A golfer can only qualify to represent the golf club at which that golfer is a handicap member. **Exemption:** A golfer can qualify to represent the golf club at which that golfer is a **full** member. **(If the club where he/she is handicapped, does not host a club qualifying event.)**
- n) A player may only qualify once for the Regional Finals during the season. 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.
- o) **Partners who participated together in the SA Final in the previous season, may not** participate together again in the next 3 years/seasons of the SA Final, and a new partnership/team must be formed in order to be eligible for SA Final qualification.
- p) Any **player** having qualified and played in the International Pairs SA Final **may** qualify for the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** final again the following year/season, as long as the player's LOW-HI (lowest handicap index over the last 365 days) does not increase by 10% or more as indicated on the HNA system.
- q) If a **player** has qualified for **2 x International Pairs SA Finals**, he/she may not qualify for the next 2 years/seasons of the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** Final.
- r) If a **player** has qualified for **3 x International Pairs SA Finals**, he/she may not qualify for the next 5 years/seasons of the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** Final.
- s) **Players** that have qualified for the International Pairs SA Finals **twice or more**, may still play in the club qualifiers and qualify for the Regional Finals but will not be able to qualify for the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** Final, in conjunction with the rules above.

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

- t) Any **player** having qualified and played in the World Finals may not qualify for the International Pairs SA Final and World Final again for a period of **FIVE YEARS/SEASONS**.
- u) Right of admission to the tournament may be reserved.
- v) **All participants playing in the National Final will be required to sign a Code of Conduct.**

7) **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 (**Regional, National and World Finals**); golfers will receive 85% allowance of their Course Handicap, which complies with the International Handicapping Rules of the Tournament and Rule 6.2a as per the Rules of GOLFRSA/SAGA-**(Playing Handicap=Course Handicap X 85%)**.
- e) The handicap index off which all players qualify for the Final Stages shall be the "LOW HI" achieved in the preceding 365 days (85% of Course Handicap as per 7(d) above).
- f) **There's no maximum handicap for club qualifiers.**
 - a. **1) However, players will have a maximum playing handicap for regionals and SA Finals, which should not exceed 30 for men and 36 for women irrespective of the tee they are playing from.**
- g) It is the responsibility of the player to ensure that he /she plays off the correct handicap as indicated above. The organizers do not take any responsibility for possible incorrect information in this regard.
- h) **Should any enter a higher gross 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 disqualified from further participation in the event during the current season – *even if such submission or omission was a mistake.***
- i) **Scores must be submitted within the time frame stipulated by the SAGA/GOLFRSA handicapping system (before a penalty score is recorded).**
- j) **It is the players responsibility to open a round and enter their score after every round completed, on the handicap system.**
- k) **Rule 3.3b of Rules of Golf: If a player returns a scorecard with a wrong score for any hole, the following is part of the Rule—Returned score Higher than actual score, the higher returned score for the hole stands, Returned Score Lower than Actual Score or No Score returned, the player and his partner is disqualified.**

8) **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.

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

- b) Standard Bank Private International Pairs** Regional finals 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)** Players are responsible for complying with all pandemic protocols in place at the time and venue of this event, as well as any associated costs.
- f)** A maximum total of 30 (thirty) pairs from the regional finals will travel to the SA finals.
- g)** The Regional Finals are contested by all qualifying pairs from the Clubs.
- h)** Regional Final venues will be determined by the Tournament Organizers, whose decision will be final.
- i)** 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 Organizers, whose decision is final.
- j)** The event format for the Regional Finals is an 18-hole Better ball Stableford competition as per Rule 6.2a (85%)
- k)** 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.
- l)** In the event of a tie, 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).**
- m)** If there is still no winner after the above, the count out will be per hole starting from 17 back to 1.
- n)** 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.
- o)** 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 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 Coordinators' decision is final.
- p)** The Tournament Organizers reserve the right to nominate a shortened course comprising at least six designated holes as may be appropriate considering the prevailing conditions.
- q)** At the regional and SA finals, all Women's Pairs will compete in the women's division whether they qualified through their club or through the women's only qualifying events where possible.

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

General Notes:

All Regional Final qualifiers will receive:

- a) One round of golf grab-and-go and after round snacks.
- b) Regional Finals winners will win a place in the National Finals.
- c) Regional Final events will be held as follows:
 - 1) In each of the regions in which Club Qualifying events have been held, as far as possible, if there are sufficient players to warrant a Regional Final.
 - 2) The number of Regional Finals held will be determined by the number of qualifying pairs.

9) **SA FINAL:**

- a) Players are responsible for their own travel insurance as well as required travel documents. If a player is not able to travel due to inappropriate documents, that pair will have to withdraw and will be replaced. This is applicable to the World Finals as well.
- b) The National final event format is a 36-hole Better ball Stableford Competition with 85% handicap allowance (Rule 6.2a).
- c) The Organizers will check the "LOW HI" index **(for the previous 365 days)** 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.
- d) It is the responsibility of the player to ensure that he /she plays off the correct handicap as indicated above. The organizers do not take any responsibility for possible incorrect information in this regard.
- e) All players **must** enter their score **after round 1.**
- 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 l),**
 - 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:
 1. The leaders after 27 holes; or
 2. 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.
 3. In the event of two or more teams not being separated by any of the above methods or a last resort **count out (8 l & m),** the winners will be decided by the toss of a coin or by drawing lots if more than 2 teams are involved.
- g) 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.
- h) Overall winners of the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** will be crowned the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs Champions** and could receive an

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

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.

- i) The second-placed pair at the National Finals as well as 1 women's pair could also 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.
- j) The 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 and medical insurance and/or any other required documents for travel where applicable.

Notes:

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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 next pair in line, by the Tournament Organizers.
 - 1) If one player from a pair qualifying at the Regional Finals is unable to play in the National Finals for any reason, that pairs' place shall be forfeited, and **no substitute player will be allowed.**
 - 2) Right of admission to the tournament may be reserved.

10) WORLD FINAL

- a) South Africa now has an allocation of two places plus one women's pair in the World Final.
- b) Players are also responsible for their own cost with regards to any pandemic testing requirements and/or any quarantine protocols as set out by the government of the applicable countries.
- c) If a player is not able to travel due to inappropriate documents, that pair will have to withdraw and will be replaced.
- d) You can also request a copy by sending an email to info@ipgolf.co.za .

11) Specific Conditions:

- a) By entering the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** qualifying events players agree that they may be contacted by the **Standard Bank Private International Pairs** tournament sponsors and associated partners.
- b) By entering players confirm that they have read the TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS and agree to abide and accept the rules as set out in the TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS DOCUMENT, a copy of which is available at participating clubs and can be viewed online at www.ipgolf.co.za
- c) You can also request a copy by sending an email to info@ipgolf.co.za

Standard Bank Private International Pairs

12) Photographs and Social Media.

- a) By entering the tournament, players hereby grant the tournament organizers and media parties involved the irrevocable right and permission to photograph or videotape (or to use any similar medium) to record yourself and others involved identified below, for all purposes, including advertising and promotional purposes, in any manner without any further approval and without payment.
- b) By entering the tournament players understand that all photographs, motion pictures, video recordings, and/or likenesses captured during any Airtime Activity, its affiliated entities, or contractors, and/or the media become the sole property of the tournament organizers and media parties involved.
- c) Players hereby grant the right, permission and authority to tournament organizers and media parties to use and license others to use your name and any such photographs, motion pictures, recordings, and/or likenesses (the "Recordings") in any manner. The Tournament Organizers and media involved wishes and, in all media, now known or hereafter discovered or developed, in perpetuity, without geographical limitation, including but not limited to promoting, advertising, and marketing activities.
- d) Players further understand that the tournament organizers and media, as sole owner of the recordings, has the full right to sell and/or profit from the commercial use of such recordings or to transfer or assign the rights to use such recordings to any entity without restriction.
- e) Players hereby agree not to sue and irrevocably and unconditionally release, waive and forever discharge the tournament organizers and media Released Parties, together with any commercial television or media company, and their respective past, present and future parents, subsidiaries (whether or not wholly owned), affiliates, divisions, agents, representatives, employees, successors and assigns, jointly and individually, from any and all manner of liabilities, claims and demands of any kind or nature, whatsoever, in law or equity, whether known or unknown, which I (or my assigns, agents and/or representatives) ever had, now has, or in the future may have against the tournament organizers and media Released Parties.