

# Polo Cup India



Volkswagen. Das Auto.

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### **Volkswagen India announces the starting grid of drivers for the debut race of the Polo Cup India 2010**

**From more than 1,100 registrations received, 20 drivers will rev their engines for this first single-make manufacturer-backed series in India / First race on May 30, at Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune / Joerg Mueller, Volkswagen Group Chief Representative India: "Polo Cup is the boost that the young drivers in India deserve and have been waiting for"**

**Pune, May 19, 2010 – Volkswagen India will flag-off of the first ever Polo Cup India 2010 with the first race of the season to be held on May 30, 2010 at the Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi in Pune, the hometown of Volkswagen India. The final 20 drivers will compete in a series of six races held between May and December 2010.**

"Volkswagen India is happy and proud to announce the final 20 aspiring racers who have been short listed for the first-ever Polo Cup India 2010. These final drivers represent the best raw talent the country has to offer. Polo Cup is the boost that the young drivers in India deserve and have been waiting for. We are thrilled as this is the first year of Polo Cup in India and we are really convinced that this first single-make manufacturer-backed series in India will become a new milestone in the success story of Volkswagen India", expressed Mr. Joerg Mueller, Volkswagen Group Chief Representative India, President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India Private Limited on the occasion of a media briefing today at the race track at Balewadi Sports Complex.

Over 1,100 motor sports enthusiasts from across the country registered to compete in the Polo Cup India 2010 and become a part of Indian motor sport history. After a strict selection process 20 young talents were chosen to form the starting grid in the first race in Pune. The selection process ran from the last week of March to mid of May. The aspiring racers were divided into 2 groups – first-timers and experienced racers, and were put through two rounds of selection. The young racers were narrowed down to 45 drivers through an adrenalin-pumping go-kart selection. The short listed drivers were then placed behind the wheel of the Race Polos, for the second round of selections held in Coimbatore, to earn their place in the final 20 candidates for the races.

The candidates were selected with the support of the expert selection team. The team of selectors consisted of one driver selector & coach from Germany Polo Cup, two Indian driver coaches (experienced drivers from Volkswagen & JK Tyre) and one FMSCI representative, including some of the doyens of Indian motor sports like Akbar Ebrahim, India's only principle instructor in racing, Farhan Vora, India's guest F1 steward and Rayomand Banerji, six times National Champion. They personally followed the international structures and conducted the coaching camps to select the best young talent.

# Polo Cup India



Volkswagen. Das Auto.

The 20 short listed drivers will celebrate their world debut at the Polo Cup India 2010 as part of the JK Tyre-FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship 2010. They will compete in six races across the country, the first in Pune, and then followed by five races on the race courses in Coimbatore and Chennai. Below is the starting line-up:

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>City</b>
1	Saran	Vikram	06/08/1990	Chennai
2	Parth	Ghorpade	20/08/1993	Kolhapur
3	Sahil	Shelar	11/02/1989	Pune
4	Karthik	Shankar	20/12/1986	Hyderabad
5	Sailesh	Bolisetti	28/09/1988	Vishakhapatnam
6	Vishnu	Prasad	18/08/1993	Chennai
7	Alisha	Abdullah	24/07/1989	Chennai
8	Mohammad	Fahadkutty	27/09/1988	Mumbai
9	Samyak	Shah	17/01/1992	Pune
10	Mohit	Ahuja	18/11/1992	Mumbai
11	Jayprasanth	Venkat	08/08/1987	Coimbatore
12	Anthony	George	20/11/1985	Kochin
13	Gurniaz	Mann	09/12/1987	Mumbai
14	vikash	Anand	13/06/1994	Chennai
15	Gokul	Krishna	01/12/1987	Chennai
16	Munjali	Savla	11/09/1988	Mumbai
17	Ameya	Bafana	21/12/1994	Mumbai
18	Oshan	Kothadiya	27/01/1988	Pune
19	Saurav	Bandopadhyaya	28/06/1989	Mumbai
20	Imran	Majid	24/05/1987	Mumbai

The first race of the Polo Cup India at the Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex at Balewadi in Pune will be the first major four-wheeler racing event to be held in Pune. The 20 short listed drivers, divided into two batches, will 'burn rubber' for the first time in a practice session at the circuit on Friday, May 28. Saturday, May 29 will witness a Free Practice session for the drivers followed by the Qualifiers. The fastest laps in the Qualifiers will determine the starting grid for the races to be held on Race Day, May 30.

Spectators will get a chance to see the final line up of the drivers in the drivers' parade, marking the start of Race Day. This will be followed by two race sessions of 20 laps each. The final podium standings will be announced with a prize distribution the same evening. This weekend format will be followed for all the remaining races of the Polo Cup India 2010.

# Polo Cup India



Volkswagen. Das Auto.

Like the spark that breathes life into a dormant combustion engine, the Polo Cup India was but a tiny idea conceptualised in October 2008. The journey of this thought into one of the biggest single-make touring car series in India is truly inspiring. The process of Volkswagen's internal discussions in Germany and prospecting of Indian partners culminated in signing of the Letter of Intent with JK Tyre in October 2009. This is when the hard work truly began. Months of grease and sweat lead to unveiling of the Race Polo in the Delhi Auto Expo 2010. A fierce grill and clean lines form the perfect shell to the 1.6-liter R4 common rail diesel (CRD) engine, which can produce a top speed of 180 km/h.

Motor sports enthusiasts interested in getting further information can log on to the website, [www.polocup.in](http://www.polocup.in). This website will display information about the format of the Polo Cup India, race updates and driver profiles.

## **About Volkswagen Motorsport**

*Volkswagen is committed to broad-scale motor sport as in internationally staged cross-country rally racing programmes in countries including Germany, Europe and the United States apart from other countries in Asia and has a long tradition of promoting young talent. Following the legendary Formula V as of 1966 the brand, in 1976, sponsored a one-make touring car cup for the first time. Among others, the Scirocco Cup produced drivers like the subsequent Formula 1 racer Manfred Winkelhock. In 1977 the first-generation Golf GTI replaced the Scirocco as the cup vehicle and remained the popular competition car for a generation of young racers up to 1982. In 1983, the second-generation Polo followed as the cup vehicle – initially using the 88-hp normally aspirated engine version and, from 1986, the 112-hp compressor engine. At the relaunch in 1998, Volkswagen presented the Lupo, which offered top-class sport at fair prices, as well as the Volkswagen New Beetle Cup.*

*The year of 1998 stands for an all-new concept in the world of racing. To this day, this new concept featuring centrally fielded vehicles and car swapping among the drivers guarantees maximum equality of opportunity. In 2004 the 150-hp Polo replaced the small Lupo as the cup vehicle and the concept was subjected to further refinement. The Polo Cup's success story is closely linked to the DTM-Deutsche Tourenwagen Meisterschaft. The premier league of touring car racing has evolved into a real crowd-puller and is envisaged as a concrete career goal by many junior racers.*

## Volkswagen Group Communications

Contact: Kurt Rippholz

Phone: +91/9930455597

E-mail: [kurt.rippholz@volkswagen.co.in](mailto:kurt.rippholz@volkswagen.co.in)

Pradnya Joshi

+91/9764999349

[pradnya.chaudhury@volkswagen.co.in](mailto:pradnya.chaudhury@volkswagen.co.in)

## 20:20 Media

Contact: Atul Shah

Phone: +91/9960255829

E-mail: [atul@2020india.com](mailto:atul@2020india.com)

David Vaz

+91/9322652611

[david@2020india.com](mailto:david@2020india.com)