

Polo Cup India



PRESS RELEASE

Vishnu Prasad on Pole for the first race of Round 6 of Volkswagen JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010 at Irungattukottai Race Track in Chennai

Sailesh to start ahead of Parth as they both battle it out to become India's first Polo Cup Champion / Round 6 to be flagged off on Sunday, December 19, 2010 here at Irungattukottai Race Track, Chennai

Chennai, December 18, 2010 – Chennai lad Vishnu Prasad put in an impressive lap to claim the Pole Position for the 1st race of the 6th and Final Round of the Polo Cup India 2010, at the Irungattukottai Race Track, Chennai. The ace driver covered the 3.717 km track in a best lap time of 2:03.117. Only a mere thousandth of a second separates the Championship contenders Sailesh Bolisetti and Parth Ghorpade. With the championship on the line tomorrow, it will be a race to the finish for both drivers.

The qualifying session for the final round of the Polo Cup India 2010 was a very close battle with the top 3 split by less than one-tenth of a second. At the end of the session, it was Vishnu who had the upper hand, closely followed by Sailesh and Parth. Tomorrow's championship finale promises to be one of the closest, with everything to play for, for the championship contenders.

Speaking about winning Pole Position, Vishnu Prasad said, "I am very happy to be starting from Pole position for the final round as I am keen to ensure I finish in the 3rd position in the championship. Even though the championship contenders are behind me, I am here to win and will try and make sure I finish my season on a high."

Sailesh Bolisetti, second on the grid, said, "After last race weekend's troubles, I am really happy to be on the front row. With Parth right behind me it is going to be a very close race. It's been a long season and I will give it my best to ensure that I am India's first Polo Cup Champion."

The qualifying grid for Race 1 is as follows:

Driver	Best Lap
Vishnu Prasad	2:03.117
Sailesh Bolisetti	2:03.136
Parth Ghorpade	2:03.195
Anthony George	2:03.498
Gurniaz Mann	2:03.504
Oshan Kothadiya	2:03.684
Karthik Shankar	2:03.876
Sahil Shelar	2:04.028

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Vikash Anand	2:04.571
Munjal Savla	2:04.637
Mohd Fahad Kutty	2:04.919
Suraj Bhagat	2:05.195
Saurav Bandopadhyay	2:05.585
Alisha Abdullah	2:05.740
Prateek Dalal	2:06.654
*Saptarishi Shukla	2:06.731
Sneha Sharma	2:06.872
*Muntaser Mirkar	2:09.705
Shrivatasa Sinha	DNQ
Imran Majid	DNQ

*Guest driver

The highly successful Volkswagen JK Tyre Polo Cup India is in its debut year in India and runs over 6 race weekends. Parth Ghorpade, the 17-year old from Kolhapur, leads the Championship as the racers enter the series finale of the first-ever Polo Cup India.

The current driver standings after 5 rounds of Polo Cup India 2010 in are as below:

Position	Driver	City	Points
1.	Parth Ghorpade	Kolhapur	359
2.	Sailesh Boliseti	Vishakapatnam	333
3.	Vishnu Prasad	Chennai	277
4.	Sahil Shelar	Pune	270
5.	Mohd Fahad Kutty	Mumbai	241
6.	Gurniaz Mann	Mumbai	195
7.	Imran Majid	Mumbai	187
8.	Karthik Shankar	Hyderabad	184
9.	Anthony George	Kochi	171
10.	Alisha Abdullah	Chennai	158
11.	Vikash Anand	Chennai	149
12.	Oshan Kothadiya	Pune	145
13.	Munjal Savla	Mumbai	139
14.	*Gokul Krishna	Chennai	136
15.	*Samyak Shah	Mumbai	93
16.	Saurav Bandhopadhyaya	Mumbai	91
17.	**Prateek Dalal	Bahadurgarh	84
18.	**Suraj Bhagat	Ahmednagar	64
19.	**Shrivatsa Sinha	Pune	44
20.	*Ameya Bafna	Mumbai	42
21.	**Sneha Sharma	Mumbai	40
22.	*Saran Vikram	Chennai	31
23.	*Jayprashant Venkat	Coimbatore	15

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* No longer competing in the Polo Cup India 2010

**New drivers on the grid

Motor sports enthusiasts interested in getting further information can log on to the website, 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.

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