

Pakistan to Compete in the Federation of International Polo Arena World Polo Championship in Virginia

Pakistan will compete alongside USA, Italy, France, Guatemala, and Argentina in the 2025 II FIP Arena World Polo Championship.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA, UNITED STATES, October 6, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For the first time in its history, the Federation of International Polo (FIP) Arena World Polo Championship will take place in the United States. Scheduled for October 5-12, 2025, the tournament will be co-hosted by [Roseland Polo](#) Club in Crozet, Virginia, and [Virginia Polo](#) Inc., home of the University of Virginia polo club, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Modeled after the FIP World Polo Championship, the second edition of the prestigious event will showcase top-tier international [arena polo](#) as nations from around the globe battle for the title.

The Pakistan National arena polo team includes Jalal Arsalan, Ibrahim Khalil and Muhhamed Saqib Khakwani and alternates Toto Baloch and Abdullaah Etaz.



Pakistan Arena Polo Team - Ibrahim Khalil, Jalal Arsalan, Saqib Khakwani

Arena polo, also known as hockey on horseback, is a ball and mallet sport played on horseback. Arena polo is played in an enclosed arena with two goal mouths set into either end of the 300 by 150-foot dirt or sand arena. The game is played with teams of three players all mounted on horseback. All players are equipped with bamboo cane mallets and attempt to move the ball into their respective goals to rack up points. Arena polo allows spectators to get up-close to the action - feeling the thunder of hooves as the play rushes by. It is a fast-paced sport, and the thrill of international competition will make this event like no other.

"I think arena polo is something all countries should promote. It is a way to introduce the sport

to the masses," says Saqib Khakwani of the Pakistan arena polo team.

"I was at the University of Virginia in 2002-2004 and was introduced to arena polo through their program. It's something very special for me to come back here after 21 years. The tournaments they host here are spectacular. The schools and colleges in the US have done very well introducing students to the sport."

The tournament will feature six teams including the host country, USA, and defending champions France who have automatically qualified for the competition. Guatemala (Zone A – North and Central America), Argentina (Zone B – South America), Italy (Zone C – Europe) and Pakistan (Zone E – Pakistan, India and Iran) have secured the remaining spots in the championship tournament.

On Thursday, September 18, a virtual draw took place for the II FIP Arena World Polo Championship which determined bracket placement and schedule. Defending champions France, and the host country USA, were automatically placed into separate brackets.



Jalal Arsalan carries the ball on the nearside during horse trials at FIP Arena World Polo Championship

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It's a huge honor to represent my country. I am super happy to wear the green jersey and I'm ready to fight for the nation."

Ibrahim Khalil, Team Pakistan

Pakistan will have its first game Tuesday, October 7 at 1:00pm EST.

"It's a huge honor to represent my country. This is my first time representing my country. I am super happy to wear the green jersey and I'm ready to fight for the nation. The tournament is well-organized, and everyone is so helpful and welcoming. I'm very happy to be part of this tournament," Ibrahim Khalil.

All matches are free and open to the public, with optional ticketed seating and tailgating experiences available for the Sunday final at Roseland Polo Club. The ticketed event is marked with an asterisk and can be purchased at kingfamilyvineyards.com. For fans not able to attend in person, every game of the II FIP Arena World Polo Championship will be livestreamed on the USPA Polo Network, providing global audiences the opportunity to watch the international competition.

U.S Polo Assn. is the official apparel brand for II FIP Arena World Polo Championship. "As the official sports brand of the United States Polo Association and the official apparel sponsor of FIP, we are honored to support the FIP Arena World Championships through our custom performance jerseys and other branded keepsakes for the teams. We are honored to host this global event in the United States where arena polo is one of the fastest growing segments of our sport. We wish all the country teams from around the world the best of luck and welcome them to Roseland Polo Club with the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and wine vineyards as the backdrop," stated J. Michael Prince, President & CEO of USPA Global who manages the multi-billion-dollar U.S. Polo Assn. sports brand.

TEAMS AND ROSTERS

Bracket One

Pakistan

Ibrahim Khalil

Saqib Khakwani

Jalal Arsalan

Coach – Shaukat Ali Malik

France

Elouan Badarello

Dorian Bulteau

Louis Jarrige

Ilan Bossard

Lucie Venot

Argentina

Damián Oscar Mondaca

Francisco Crotto

Andrés Lariguét

Coach – Gonzalo Azumendi

Bracket Two



II FIP Arena World Polo Championship
Tournament Draw



Pakistan's Saqib Khakwani in a ride-off
against Italy in a practice for FIP Arena
World Polo Championship in Virginia

USA
Kareem Rosser
Jared Sheldon
Patrick Uretz
Coach – Billy Sheldon

Guatemala
Jose Ignacio Beltranena
Sebastian Aycinena
Jose Miguel Aguilar
Alt/Coach - Antonio Aycinena

Italy
Stefano Giansanti
Giordano Magini
Mariano Raigal
Alejandro Puyana
Coach – Franco Piazza

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 5

Bracket One 1:00pm ET: Game 1 - Argentina def. France
at Virginia Polo Inc.

Bracket Two 3:30pm ET: Game 2 - USA def. Guatemala at Virginia Polo Inc.

Tuesday, October 7

Bracket One 1:00pm ET: Game 3 - Pakistan vs. France at Roseland Polo Club

Bracket Two 3:30pm ET: Game 4 - Italy vs. Guatemala at Roseland Polo Club

Wednesday, October 8

Bracket One 1:00pm ET: Game 5 - Pakistan vs. Argentina at Roseland Polo Club

Bracket Two 3:30pm ET: Game 6 - Italy vs. USA at Roseland Polo Club

Friday, October 10

10:00am ET: Consolation Final at Roseland Polo Club

4:30pm ET: Semifinal 1 - First Place Bracket One Team vs. Second Place Bracket Two Team at Virginia Polo Inc.

6:30pm ET: Semifinal 2 - First Place Bracket Two Team vs. Second Place Bracket One Team at Virginia Polo Inc.

Sunday, October 12

12:00pm ET: Bronze Medal Match at Roseland Polo Club

2:00pm ET: II FIP Arena World Polo Championship Final at Roseland Polo Club*



Ibrahim Khalil gets some help with his equipment during horse trials at FIP Arena World Polo Championship

*Denotes a ticketed event but free admission is available on a first come, first serve basis. In the event of rain, all matches will be moved to the indoor arena at Virginia Polo Inc. For more information and updates, please visit the 2025 FIP Arena World Polo Championship landing page <https://www.uspolo.org/fip-arena-world-championship>

About U.S. Polo Assn. and USPA Global

U.S. Polo Assn. is the official sports brand of the United States Polo Association (USPA), the largest association of polo clubs and polo players in the United States, founded in 1890 and based at the USPA National Polo Center (NPC) in Wellington, Florida. This year, U.S. Polo Assn. celebrates 135 years of sports inspiration alongside the USPA. With a multi-billion-dollar global footprint and worldwide distribution through more than 1,100 U.S. Polo Assn. retail stores as well as thousands of additional points of distribution, U.S. Polo Assn. offers apparel, accessories, and footwear for men, women, and children in more than 190 countries worldwide.

The brand sponsors major polo events around the world, including the U.S. Open Polo Championship®, held annually at NPC in The Palm Beaches, the premier polo tournament in the United States. Historic deals with ESPN in the United States, TNT and Eurosport in Europe, and Star Sports in India now broadcast several of the premier polo championships in the world, sponsored by U.S. Polo Assn., making the thrilling sport accessible to millions of sports fans globally for the very first time.

U.S. Polo Assn. has consistently been named one of the top global sports licensors in the world alongside the NFL, PGA Tour, and Formula 1, according to License Global. In addition, the sport-inspired brand is being recognized internationally with awards for global growth. Due to its tremendous success as a global brand, U.S. Polo Assn. has been featured in Forbes, Fortune, Modern Retail, and GQ as well as on Yahoo Finance and Bloomberg, among many other noteworthy media sources around the world. For more information, visit uspoloassnglobal.com and follow @uspoloassn.

USPA Global is a subsidiary of the United States Polo Association (USPA) and manages the multi-billion-dollar sport brand, U.S. Polo Assn. USPA Global also manages the subsidiary, Global Polo, which is the worldwide leader in polo sport content. To learn more, visit globalpolo.com or Global Polo on YouTube.

About the United States Polo Association® (USPA)

The United States Polo Association® is organized and exists for the purposes of promoting the game of polo; coordinating the activities of its member clubs and registered player members; arranging and supervising polo tournaments, competitions and games; and providing rules, handicaps and tournament conditions for those events. Its overarching goals are improving the sport and promoting the safety and welfare of its human and equine participants. Founded in 1890, the USPA is the largest voluntary sports organization in North America for the sport of

polo. The USPA is currently made up of more than 200 member clubs and over 5,000 registered player members. It annually awards and oversees roughly 50 national tournaments hosted by its member clubs. For more information, please visit uspolo.org.

About FIP

The Federation of International Polo (FIP) is the international federation representing the sport of polo, officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The FIP was founded in 1982 by representatives of eleven national polo associations, and it represents the national polo associations of more than 80 countries. Its principal aim is to enhance the international image and status of polo. In addition to organizing international tournaments, the FIP develops international tournaments for children, conducts umpiring and coaching seminars, encourages participation in the sport at all levels and ages, and makes the international rules of polo through a cooperative agreement with the Asociación Argentina de Polo, the Hurlingham Polo Association of Great Britain and Ireland, and the United States Polo Association (USPA). For more information, please visit fippolo.com.

About Roseland Polo Club

Located in Crozet, Virginia, Roseland Polo Club is an organization of polo players and polo supporters working to increase the number and quality of polo players, clubs, schools and tournaments in Virginia. Aiming to create a sustainable polo community in the Charlottesville area with continuous growth in the number of participants and level of play, Roseland Polo Club supports all levels of polo for its members through polo schools, clinic and outreach programs. Additionally, Roseland Polo Club actively promotes and organizes tournaments to attract intrastate and inter-circuit play in accordance with the rules of the USPA.

About Virginia Polo Center

Home of the distinguished University of Virginia (UVA) polo club, Virginia Polo's training facility sits on 75 spacious acres just five miles from the historic University's main campus. Equipped to support play year-round, top-notch facilities include a 300' by 150' indoor arena building, 400' by 150' outdoor arena and a regulation outdoor polo field.

Led by current coach and general manager, Lou Lopez, the Virginia Polo program at UVA is widely regarded as a powerhouse in intercollegiate polo. Some of their many illustrious achievements include 12 Men's National Championships, 11 Women's National Championships and 18 Polo Training Foundation (PTF) Intercollegiate Player of the Year Awards.

The Virginia Polo Center is host to numerous USPA interscholastic and intercollegiate tournaments, including the 2024 Division I National Intercollegiate Championships. Formed in the early 1950s, the polo club is a student-run organization which strives to instill core values including the merits of responsibility, hard work, dedication, rewards of fellowship, working as a team and the ability to compete in an intercollegiate sport on the national level. Throughout the year, the facility hosts USPA interscholastic and intercollegiate events for players of all ages and skill levels. During the summer months, Virginia Polo Inc. also serves as a premier destination for

high school players to participate in renowned clinics.

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