



PRESS RELEASE
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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

THE RHINO-TURF ELITE CLUB CHALLENGE



Rhino-Turf Elite Club Challenge Returns With Top-Tier Talent And Rising Clubs Ready To Make A Mark

The wait is over — the Rhino-Turf Elite Club Challenge is back this July at the world class Riverside Sports facility, and South Africa's premier club competition is ready to deliver another chapter of high-quality, high-stakes hockey.

Clear your calendars. The Rhino-Turf Elite Club Challenge is coming. And it's going to be big. Running from Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th July, the Elite Club Challenge will once again bring together the country's top men's and women's non-tertiary clubs in a battle for bragging rights and club glory. Alongside it, the Elite Club Qualifier will take place from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th July, offering rising teams their shot at stepping onto the big stage.

A New Chapter with Rhino-Turf

The event welcomes Rhino-Turf South Africa as the new title sponsor, with the competition now officially named the Rhino-Turf Elite Club Challenge. While the sponsor name brings a fresh look, the heart of the event remains unchanged — a celebration of the country's strongest clubs, a platform for quality hockey, and a spotlight on the depth of South African talent. Other supporting sponsors such as WeBuyCars, Excellerate Services Group, SA Breweries, Custom Apparel and Jonsson Workwear among others will be adding their special touches to this prestigious event in the heart of the north Durban community.

The Main Event: Best of the Best

The Challenge itself features eight men's and eight women's teams who've earned their place through previous performances — a mix of seasoned contenders and hungry challengers. The Crusaders from Gauteng return in the women's tournament having secured their second title in 2024 with a Sylvia van Jaarsveldt inspired win against Phoenix in the final. Three time winners Riverside, and one-time winners Crusaders and WPCC all are expected to compete gainfully for the title.

Central men made it two in a row in 2024 and will be looking to secure the first ever three in a row in tournament history. Who can forget the classic final that saw newly selected national star Reuben Sendzul steal a last minute win against WPCC after trailing 3-2 with just a few minutes remaining in the game. Previous winners Riverside (3), WPCC (2), Wanderers (2) and Beaulieu (1) all return to compete in a tournament where picking a winner will be tough.

Men's Elite Club Challenge Teams	Women's Elite Club Challenge Teams
Central	Crusaders (Jhb)
WPCC	Phoenix
Riverside	WPCC
Beaulieu	Riverside
Kearsney	Kearsney
MCC Hockey	Beaulieu
Wanderers	Harlequins (Pta)
Old Eds	MCC Hockey

The Qualifier: Eyes on the Prize

The Qualifier is always full of storylines – hungry clubs designed around sustainable high performance and participation models looking to prove that their teams belong, up-and-comers eager to cause a stir, fighting for promotion.

Men's Qualifier Line-Up	Women's Qualifier Line-Up
PHSOB	Gelvandale
Umhlali	Shumbas
Shumbas	Benoni Northerns
Crusaders (Jhb)	Khosa HC

Expect a fierce three-day battle, where every point matters and every goal could shift a team's future.

What's Coming Up?

We'll be revealing the main draw teams, fixtures, and key players in the build-up to the event. From there, it's all about the hockey.

Expect full coverage on Supersport Schools as always together with daily wrap-ups and all the content you've come to expect – stories, stats, and standout moments, delivered straight to the hockey community.

About Rhino Turf



Will Allen the co-owner of Rhino-Turf International and Rhino-Turf SA said: *"The Rhino-Turf UK designed products have been in the South African market for many years now, mainly via local contractors but an important fact is that more than 50% of the current FIH certified hockey fields in South Africa are with the Rhino-Turf designed product. Hence the reason to establish our own company pushing our own brand and making sure we control our own charge onwards and upwards! When the opportunity came about to sponsor this great hockey event at my old club then I jumped at the opportunity!"*

Rhino-Turf is a global leader in the supply and installation of high-performance artificial turf sport systems, proudly supplying sustainable and innovative surface solutions to forward-thinking markets around the world. With proven expertise across hockey, soccer, rugby, padel, tennis, cricket, golf as well as artificial turf running tracks, Rhino-Turf products are engineered to meet the highest international standards but at the same time designed for durability, player safety and player satisfaction. Rhino-Turf South Africa was established to offer sustainable and innovative turnkey sport solutions throughout Southern Africa.

At Rhino-Turf, we believe sport should leave a legacy, not just a footprint. We're ready to support South Africa's ambitions with world-class artificial turf solutions that meet the future—today.

***Your Field – Our Turf* with STRENGTH IN PERFORMANCE**

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