

KINGDOM CURLING ASSOCIATION (SAUDI ARABIA)



National Curling Associations

Kingdom Curling Association
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia

email: curling.bookings.riyadh@gmail.com

tel: +966 503095212

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Dear National Curling Association

Invitation to the inaugural Saudi Arabian Open Curling Competition (Bahrain)

Please pass this invitation on to curlers in your country that might be interested in the following new event.

The Kingdom Curling Association (Saudi Arabia) is delighted to announce that we will be hosting the very first open entry curling competition to be held in the Middle East / Africa part of the world.

Competition details

The event will take place at the Funland Bowling & Ice Skating Centre in Manama, Bahrain, on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th October 2019. The entry will be limited to 12 teams participating, with 4 of these places reserved for teams from Saudi Arabia. Teams must consist of male and female players, either in ratio 2:2 or 3:1 or 1:3. Substitutes/alternates will be permitted as long as the gender mix is maintained on the ice. Stick-delivery and wheelchair curlers will be welcome, although there may be a few steps to be negotiated.

The format will be Shenkel system, with two pools of 6 teams, each pool playing 2 matches on both days. On the Saturday the teams will be split into "High Road" and "Low Road" sections with prizes for the best teams.

Teams entering are advised that this competition will be a competitive social event and it is not aimed at elite curlers. The ice at the venue is skating ice, and whilst we will make every effort to prepare it to a good standard, please adjust your expectations accordingly.

The playing length is slightly shorter than regulation sheet length, so some local rule variations will be applied. The stones will be supplied from our 3 sets in Riyadh, and standard rink brushes will be available.

Event participant pins will be provided.

Entry fee and booking conditions

The entry fee per team of 4 will be:

- 210 Bahraini Dinars (BD) and
- four unused standard Olson club brush head pads*
- A club or country pin per person

Please contact the organisers on curling.bookings.riyadh@gmail.com to register interest. The event will not be confirmed until all 12 of the entry places have been filled. At that point, the organisers will contact the entrants and offer confirmed places, or a place on the reserve list. Teams offered a confirmed place will be required to deposit a non-refundable 50% of the entry fee by 15th June, and the remaining 50% will be payable by 30th September. The brush pads and pins will be received on arrival. Teams that have been offered places who do not pay the deposit by 15th June will lose their place and that will be offered to reserve list teams. Teams do not need to declare all 4 players at the time of entry, however at least one person must be named, and the team's home country must be stated.

* The brush pads will be held in stock and offered to replace any excessively worn pads during the competition. Unused pads will be retained for future use by the KCA.

Event Dinner

On the Friday evening there will be a Curler's Dinner at the Bahrain Rugby Club, This club is located about 25 minutes drive from the ice rink and event hotel. An additional charge of approximately 20 BD (excluding drinks) will be paid by those attending the dinner. The final charge and dinner booking arrangements will be advised to registered teams later. Non-curlers who have travelled to Bahrain for the event are also welcome to attend.

Hotel

We have negotiated a competitive rate for participants at the nearby "Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel Residence and Spa", a luxury hotel which is 15 minutes walk from the ice rink (5 minutes taxi). The nightly rate will be 55.50 BD for a double room (48.50 BD for single room), including breakfasts. Participants are free to make their own booking arrangements elsewhere, should they prefer. The curler's booking code for the nominated hotel will be given to registered teams, and the reduced rates are also available for non-players who wish to come and spectate, or indeed just want to soak up the late autumn sun. October daytime average in Bahrain is 34 deg C / 93 deg F. The hotel will extend these rates for any additional nights booked prior to or following the event.

Travel and visas

Whilst hosted by the KCA, the event is being held in Bahrain due to the administrative difficulties perceived in athletes obtaining a visit visa for Saudi Arabia. It is hoped that this

competition will become an annual event, and will eventually move to a suitable location within the Kingdom when visit requirements are relaxed. Bahrain has a more open visit policy, and for many passport holders it is possible to obtain a visa on arrival. See www.evisa.gov.bh for eligibility and costs.

Flights should be booked to Bahrain Manama airport (BAH). The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel Residence & Spa can arrange airport transfers at 5 BD per car per journey. Saudi participants can of course choose to drive to Bahrain via the causeway.

Expressions of interest

We welcome expressions of interest from adventurous pioneer curlers for this inaugural event. However please do not make any travel or hotel bookings until teams have been offered places.

Details to be provided must include:

- Team or skip's name
- Country
- Email address
- Telephone number, including international code

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Fyfe

Alastair Fyfe
President, Kingdom Curling Association
Saudi Arabia