



**KENYA
GOLF
UNION**

KGU QUARTERLY BULLETIN

June - August 2024



**Get all the
Latest updates including;**

Karanga joins the world's best at The Amateur Open,
David Kihara appointed as new KUHC Chairman, KAGC Players Ranking After Karen Challenge

State of the sport



Welcome to this quarter's Union bulleting highlighting some of the key activities and successes that we have had. The new team elected to serve in the Kenya Golf Union Executive at the end of May 2024 hit the ground running. The Union's calendar continues to run smoothly with various aspects of the game including golf development, tournaments, rules training, coaching and environmental sustainability being among the key activities.

The period between July and August has been especially busy. With children from both the National and International curriculum schools on a long break, many tournaments and training camps were scheduled to allow them to participate during this window. The regular KAGC tournaments were also ongoing in the same period making the last few weeks very busy.

Learn more about the various activities, events and initiatives in the next few pages including which amateurs have qualified for the 2025 Magical Kenya Open, enhancing coaching capacity for golf in schools, information on the Rules of golf among other interesting news and features.

David Ndung'u
Chairman

Happy Golfing!



2024/2025 KGU Executives (from left); Bob Ngugi, Peter Mwaura , Weldon Mutai, Karugu Macharia, Brian Akun, David Ndung'u, Chris Kinuthia, Jonathan Marucha , Liban Roba, James Gitonga , Imm. past Chairman Philip Ochola

International Pairs 2024.

The 2024 International Pairs qualifying series concluded with remarkable success, highlighted by the grand finale at scenic Migaa Golf Club. The Par 70 course provided a unique challenge to the 50 pairs that qualified. The season featured 10 qualifier events, where golfers from clubs across the country battled it out for the enviable trip to the World finals.

The following players have earned the honor to represent Kenya in Tenerife, Spain from 30th September to 4th October:

Geoffrey Yego
Moses Cheboi
Evans Kipyego
Lydia Jebichii
Kimeli Mutai
Goretti Mutai

The three pairs will be flying the Kenyan flag at the island resort of Golf del Sur and will be looking to improve on the performance of last year's qualifiers Sam Chepkwony and Anthony Korir who finished second at the World finals. We wish them the best as they compete on the global stage.

The pair comprising Njane Kimani and Victor Waiyaki were initially placed second during the grand finale. However, in an exemplary display of sportsmanship and integrity the duo promptly pointed out an error in their score which meant they had signed for an incorrect score. This unfortunately led to their disqualification. Their action underscores the essence of golf as a game rooted in honesty and fairness, reaffirming that the spirit of the sport is as much about character and ethics as it is about competition.

We would like to thank **Zanna Leather Crafts** for their sponsorship throughout the series.





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William Odek- Winner Kenya Amateur Strokeplay Championship

The 2024 NCBA Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC)

The NCBA KAGC series continues to be a cornerstone of Kenyan amateur golf, with thrilling competitions and impressive performances marking the season so far. The two flagship event in the KAGC calendar were held within the last quarter.

The NCBA Kenya Amateur Matchplay Championship was held between 11th and 14th July and attracted a field of 78 golfers from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, and India. The final was an intense battle between Ugandan golfers Joseph Cwinyai and Michael Alunga, with Alunga claiming victory on the 38th hole of the final round. Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club hosted this prestigious championship and provided top-notch hospitality. Avenue Healthcare partnered with KGU, providing medical and emergency assistance during the event.

The NCBA Kenya Amateur Strokeplay Championship took place between 1st and 4th August at the Nyali Golf & Country Club in the coastal city of Mombasa. The event was a nail-biting affair, with 99 players competing. Home player William Odek emerged victorious after a dramatic three-hole playoff, edging out Michael Karanga by just one shot. Both players were tied at 293 (+9) after 72 holes. The fierce competition and sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournament highlighted the high standards of Kenyan golf. Besides NCBA, the event was also supported by Inuka Africa Properties Limited

The winners of these two events become the first two amateur qualifiers for the 2025 Magical Kenya Open, subject to meeting Kenya Golf Union and DP World Tour requirements.

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Karanga joins the world's best at The Amateur Open



Kenya's leading amateur golfer, Michael Karenga, made his mark on the international stage by making a second appearance at The Amateur Open. This prestigious event is one of 5 events that are part of The Open, the world's most coveted Major. The others include the Junior Open, the Senior Open, the Ladies

Open and of course the main event, The Open

Championship. At this year's junior Open, we also had two players representing Kenya – Junaid Manji and Bianca Ngecu.

The Amateur Open is played by a maximum of 288 of the world's top male amateurs from across the world. These players are selected based on their world ranking or qualifying through continental amateur championships. The event provided Karanga with invaluable experience and exposure to top-tier competition.

His attendance highlighted Kenya's presence in the global golf arena and continues to inspire many other up and coming amateur golfers in the country and the region. Karanga is currently ranked 64 th in the World Amateur Golf Rankings.



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KAGC Player Ranking After Mt. Kenya Championship

Following the Mt. Kenya Championship, the top 10 players rankings are as follows:

Position	Points	Name	Home Club
1	591.9	Michael Karanga	Kiambu Golf Club
2	578.9	John Lejirma	Kenya Railway Golf Club
3	415.5	Elvis Muigua	Kiambu Golf Club
4	236.0	Adel Taufiq Balala	Nyali Golf & Country Club
5	187.8	Felix Dusabe	Kigali Golf Resort & Villas
6	182.7	Michael Alunga	Uganda Golf Club
7	147.7	Josphat Rono	Golf Park Golf Club
8	138.2	William Odek	Nyali Golf & Country Club
9	137.9	Joseph Cwinyaai	Uganda Golf Club
10	137.2	Sammy Mulama	Golf Park Golf Club



KGU's Regional Representatives



Nyaga Nderitu
(Mt Kenya Region)



Robert Obondy
(Central Rift Region)



Wycliffe Ayienda
(Western Region)



Ezekiel Mutai
(North Rift Region)



Erick Nyongesa
(Coastal Region)

In line with KGU's commitment to strengthening the governance and operational structure of golf across Kenya, new Regional Representatives have been appointed. These individuals will play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of KGU activities within their regions and fostering closer relationships between the Union and affiliate clubs.

- Coastal Region: Eric Nyongesa
- Western Region: Wycliffe Ayienda
- Mt Kenya Region: Nyaga Nderitu
- North Rift Region: Kimeli Mutai
- Central Rift Region: Robert Obondy

Their enthusiasm and dedication are already making a positive impact, and we anticipate significant growth in regional golf development.

Kenya Unified and Handicapping Committee Chairman



David Kihara took over the mantle as Chairman of the Kenya Unified Handicapping & Course Rating Committee (KUHC) on 1st June 2024 upon appointment by the Kenya Golf Union. He takes over from David Ndung'u who served in the position for three years.

While announcing the appointment, the KGU Hon. Secretary, Brian Akun said, "David Kihara brings a wealth of experience and passion for the game, and we are confident that his leadership will help enhance the development of golf in Kenya and improve our handicapping system."

David Kihara is a passionate Level 3 Tournament Administrator, has been the Captain of Vet Lab Sports Club. He is certified in Course rating and also serves on the KGU Tournament's Committee.

The KUHC was established jointly by KGU and the Kenya Ladies Golf Union (KLGU) in November 2007 and is mandated to manage all aspects relating to the Rules of Golf, handicapping and course rating systems and activities..

Unleash Your Drive Coaches Training

In order to improve the uptake of golf by younger players, the Kenya Golf Union in conjunction with R&A facilitated the training of three golf professionals as coaches under the Unleash Your Drive program. The first session was held in mid-June with a second session to be held in mid-September. The three who are already accomplished trainers, are John Wangai, Nelson Mudanyi and Shem Orwenyo.



The program provides a platform for children to experience golf, learn fundamental golf skills and develop mental toughness tools in a fun and meaningful way. The program is part of the R&A's Junior Golf pathway, created to provide organisations with a framework for developing Junior Golf at grass roots level.

Download golf rules and regulations



Rules of Golf

Are you well acquainted with the Rules of Golf?

Central Principles of the game

Rule 1 introduces these central principles of the game for the player:

- Play the course as you find it and play the ball as it lies.
- Play by the Rules and in the spirit of the game.
- You are responsible for applying your own penalties if you breach a Rule so that you don't gain any potential advantage over your opponent in match play or other players in strokeplay.

Conduct Expected of All Players

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

1.

Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all applicable penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.

2.

Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player. If a player plays a ball in a direction where there might be a danger of hitting someone, they should immediately shout a warning, such as the traditional warning of "fore"

3.

Taking good care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers,

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