



WHERE LEGENDS
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MEDIA RELEASE

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RECIPIENT/S: **BROADBASE MEDIA (ALL)**
 SOURCE: **BPC LOC –**
 SUBJECT: **RE: Bayhill Premier Cup 2026 – Tournament Proper**
 STATUS: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
 CONDITIONS: **PHOTO CREDIT**
 REQUEST/S: **SPONSOR MENTIONS**

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAYHILL PREMIER CUP 2026 – TOURNAMENT PROPER

After months of waiting the Bayhill Premier Cup 2026 tournament is upon us. Scheduled for the 1 – 6 April 2026, the tournament will take place over two venues: Erica Park, Belhar from 1 – 5 April and at the iconic Athlone Stadium on the 6th of April for the final day. Tournament organisers have made a big deal about the final day over the past few years, aptly naming it “THE FINALS”. The day comprises of entertainment, exhibitions and 3 official matches representative of the Bruyns Plate Section Final, the Pat Connolly Mid-Section Final and the Roger Clayton Championship Final which is the most coveted prize of them all.

All the fuss didn’t come without effort – and both the Organisers of the event as well as the Western Cape participants have had a long hard slog at it over the past few months. Since October last year to February this year, up to 226 local Western Cape teams went head-to-head against each other in lieu of qualifying for the prestigious Bayhill Premier Cup over the Easter period. These matches, better known as the BPC Play-offs, lasted over 3 months and played out in 6 phases or weekends of football. The ultimate phase being the Round-Robin, determined the eventual best 12 teams from the Western Cape to qualify for BPC 2026.

Tournament Director, Rayaan Alie said – “As tournament organisers we are extremely grateful for the support received from the City of Cape Town in the build up to BPC2026. Several COCT owned venues were used for the play-offs and aided us in taking the event to various communities across the Cape Metro. We started off at the William Herbert Sports Complex in Wynberg and the moved to Manenberg, Langa, Matroosfontein and back to Wynberg for the final phase of the play-offs. It is important for us as a football event; to be accessible to the communities and the use of these facilities aids in taking the event to areas which are in dire need of intervention and rehabilitation. It is a known fact that sport brings people together, and were left in awe at all the venues, seeing the number of supporters coming to the event in numbers. Using the play-offs as a positive distraction and alternative to social ills doesn’t only mobilise communities but also gives football players in these areas a bird’s eye view of the career possibilities the game has to offer.”

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Bayhill Premier Cup 2026 is the 37th edition of the tournament since its inception in 1989. “We are extremely proud of our association with the City of Cape Town and their on-going support of the BPC event. It is extremely difficult for us as an amateur club to organise an event of this magnitude without the support of sponsors and partners and the COCT have been holding our hand in this regard for over 20 years. It is re-assuring knowing that you have the backing of big hitters in order to get the event off the ground annually, and the COCT is arguably the biggest hitter of them all. This year, the COCT once again announced their support of the event through a SPEVCO sponsorship for which we are extremely grateful.” – Alie added.

“Now in its 37th year, the Bayhill Premier Cup continues to provide a valuable platform for young footballers to showcase their talent and compete at a high level. This year’s tournament will bring together 32 teams from across the Western Cape, the rest of South Africa and abroad, highlighting both the depth of local talent and the opportunities the game can create. The City of Cape Town is proud to support an event that not only brings communities together through sport but also helps open doors for young players who aspire to play professionally” said Mayoral Committee member, Cllr Francine Higham.

Fans can hold their breath for what looks like a spectacle never to be repeated. The 32-team tournament will comprise the best 12 qualifying teams from the BPC play-offs, 5 automatic qualifiers from the Western Cape and the balance of 15 teams travelling in from outside the province and abroad. The names of all the teams will be revealed at the annual Launch and Groups draw which will take place on the 14th of March 2026.

Annually there are several players scouted at the event that go onto play for our national teams and sign professional contracts both locally and abroad. This year, we make special provision with a new scouting and analytics platform especially developed for the BPC event and we include a live practical workshop which will see scouts and analysts from across the country compile player data specific to the Bayhill Premier Cup. These initiatives aid in the advancement of the game and gives potentially interested clubs an in-depth view of the scouting metrics, criteria, measurables and actual performance data of the participants at the event. This ultimately helps potential buyers make informed decisions and drives the BPC event to create exportable products in the players who are showcased at the event.

“We are excited for BPC 2026, and our supporters can look out for the new themed collateral and some changes to offerings inside the venues at both Erica Park and Athlone Stadium. We would also like to use this opportunity to communicate to our supporters early, that there is limited space at the Erica Park venue, and they are encouraged to purchase their tickets early, either online or at the venue depending on availability. No food and drink will be allowed into the venues, and no pass-outs will be granted. Our opening day, Good Friday, has become increasingly popular and over the last few years people have gathered in their thousands to gain entry to the event. Unfortunately, only 3300 people will have access to the present at one time

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and therefore we have opted to sell Friday opening day tickets online. No tickets can be bought at the gate for the Friday unless otherwise communicated on the day. We have come under extreme pressure from an event organising standpoint, and we appeal to our supporters to understand our position and assist us by following the rules. Difficult as it may be for all of us; supporters and organisers alike, we have to adapt and change with the times. Let's have a safe and incident free event and may football be the ultimate winner." – said Rayaan Alie

Ends



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