



POLO JOURNAL

HERITAGE



AFRICAN POLISTAS

CONNECTING
A CONTINENT
THROUGH POLO



A NEW GENERATION.
A SHARED VISION.
A UNITED FUTURE.

CONNECTING PLAYERS | CONNECTING CLUBS | CONNECTING AFRICA

ONE GAME . ONE CONTINENT. ONE FUTURE



There are polo schools that teach the mechanics of the game, academies that produce capable riders and then there are institutions that seek to reshape what polo can become.

Institutions like *African Polistas*.



At its heart, African Polistas is not simply an equestrian school or polo academy but a vision for African polo, one built upon the belief that the continent's greatest strength lies not in individual clubs or nations, but in the connections between them. That vision is reflected throughout its stated mission to connect players, patrons, professionals, horses, clubs, sponsors, countries and cultures, while creating pathways for young Africans through education, mentorship and employment.



For decades, Africa has quietly produced remarkable horsemen, talented players, committed grooms, knowledgeable professionals and passionate patrons. Yet these stories have often remained isolated, separated by geography, opportunity and limited collaboration.



African Polistas asks a different question.

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What happens when Africa's polo communities begin growing together instead of apart?

That question has become the foundation upon which the academy is being built.

Nana Awuah-Darko Ampem II

Founder & Patron, African Polistas



Located in Ghana and supported by an expanding Pan-African network that includes South Africa and beyond, African Polistas has created an environment where learning extends far beyond riding technique. Students develop horsemanship, communication, teamwork, discipline and respect, understanding that becoming a polo player begins long before the first swing of a mallet. Every lesson becomes part of a larger philosophy. The horse is not merely an athlete's partner but is a teacher of patience, empathy and responsibility. The academy's ambition reaches well beyond producing competitive players, seeking to create coaches, horse professionals, managers, grooms, farriers, entrepreneurs and future custodians of the sport. In doing so, it recognises something many sporting institutions overlook.



Polo is an ecosystem. When every role within that ecosystem is valued, entire communities flourish. One of the most compelling aspects of African Polistas is its understanding that connection itself can become a form of social impact. Through horses, training, competition, technical development, shared experiences and relationships, the organisation aims to create opportunities that extend into livelihoods, sponsorship, skills development and meaningful careers. Its framework positions polo as a catalyst for broader economic and social progress, not simply recreation.



That philosophy was vividly demonstrated during the 2026 Dawule Baba Memorial Invitational in Plettenberg Bay, where Ghanaian, Nigerian and South African patrons, players, professionals and grooms came together under the African Polistas banner. It was a tournament that represented the kind of Pan-African collaboration the organisation hopes to foster across the continent. This is where African Polistas begins to distinguish itself where its ambition & success is ultimately be measured by how many doors it opens, how many young people discover careers through horses, how many clubs begin working together. Also in how many countries exchange knowledge instead of competing in isolation and how many African players find themselves welcomed onto international fields carrying not only their nation's colours, but the confidence that comes from belonging to a continental community.



For Heritage Polo Journal, African Polistas represents something increasingly important within modern polo. It demonstrates that heritage and innovation can move together. The sport's traditions remain respected, while its future becomes more inclusive, collaborative and distinctly African. As polo continues to evolve globally, initiatives such as African Polistas remind us that the next great chapter of the game will not be written by one country alone. It will be written by communities prepared to invest in people, partnerships and in shared purpose.



African Polistas is helping write that chapter.

**One rider.
One horse.
One connection.**

And ultimately, one united African polo community at a time.