

Golden Year for Bahrain Sports

Record-breaking 2025 builds momentum for Kingdom's future in sport

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From continental football glory to hosting Asia's biggest multi-sport event, 2025 was a year that Bahrain will not soon forget. It was a season of triumphs, festivals, and defining moments that brought the Kingdom to the centre of the global sporting stage.

January 4

National Team Success

The year began with a familiar thrill for Bahraini football fans. On 4 January, memories of the golden 2019 campaign returned as Bahrain lifted the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup, defeating Oman 2-1 in a closely contested final. The national team's success reignited celebrations across the Kingdom and set the tone for a year defined by ambition and excellence.

January 30 - February 2

Bahrain Championship Tees Up Community



Bahrain also made its mark on the fairways early in the year. The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship at the Royal Golf Club, held 30 January - 2 February, saw England's Laurie Canter triumph in a three-man playoff, with free admission promoting community engagement. Building on this success, the 2026 edition is set to return from 29 January - 1 February, promising another showcase of elite competition and community involvement.

February 17

Community and Sporting Initiatives

Sport in Bahrain is about more than elite competition. Bahrain Sports Day, held on 17 February,



Opening ceremony of 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain

brought communities together with activities promoting health and fitness. A charity football match featuring legends like John Terry and Roberto Carlos combined entertainment, sport, and social engagement, linking grassroots participation to national achievement.

April 11-13

Formula 1 in Sakhir



By April, the roar of engines took over. The Bahrain Grand Prix, held at the Bahrain International Circuit—a staple on the F1 calendar since 2004—delivered drama under the desert lights. McLaren's Oscar Piastri claimed victory, with George Russell second and Lando Norris third. His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa presented the trophy, praising McLaren's performance as a reflection of Team Bahrain's dedication. McLaren later secured the Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship, completing a historic double and cementing Bahrain's reputation as a hub for elite motorsport.

May 18

Football Supremacy

Muharraq carried momentum onto the pitch, dismantling Manama 6-1 on 18 May to seal the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League title. Their consistent excellence across sports highlighted both club ambition and the depth of talent in Bahraini football.

June 15

Basketball Brilliance

As engines cooled, attention turned to indoor arenas. Muharraq Club thrilled fans in the Zain Bahrain Basketball League Finals, edging Al Ahli 80-76 in a dramatic Game 5 on May 31, and followed up with a Khalifa bin Salman Basketball Cup win to complete a celebrated double. Bahrain also hosted the Arab Basketball Championship in late July, drawing top regional teams and reinforcing the Kingdom's reputation as a hub for competitive basketball. Muharraq's simultaneous success in football and basketball showcased a rare level of multi-sport excellence.

June 24

Local Silverware

Later in June, Bahrain's vol-



leyball national team, as hosts, won their first AVC volleyball title by defeating Pakistan in the final. The landmark victory energized fans across the Kingdom and highlighted Bahrain's growing strength in regional sport, complementing achievements in football, basketball, and other disciplines.

October 22-31

3rd Asian Youth Games

In October, Bahrain successfully hosted the 3rd Asian Youth Games (BAYG 2025). Delivered in just over ten months from planning to execution, the Games welcomed over 4,000 athletes from 45 nations, held at world-class venues including Exhibition World Bahrain and Isa Sports City. Under the motto "Inspire Dreams, Build a Legacy," the event showcased Bahrain's commitment to youth and women's sports, earning praise for excellent organization and sportsmanship. The successful delivery reinforced Bahrain's reputation as a leading sports destination capable of

staging major competitions at short notice.

November 6-8

Endurance Racing



November proved packed with excitement. Motorsport continued at the Bahrain International Circuit with the Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain, the FIA World Endurance Championship season finale from 6-8 November. Hypercars and LMGT3 machines raced under floodlights, with championship titles decided in dramatic fashion. Supporting events such as the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East added to the festival atmosphere, drawing record crowds

November 14

Bahrain International Trophy

On 14 November, Royal Champion captured the Bahrain International Trophy at the Rashid Equestrian & Horseracing Club, ridden by James Doyle and trained by Karl Burke. The horse surged late to deny Galen in the \$1 million Group 2 feature,

the most valuable race run in the Kingdom, drawing a high-quality international field and global attention

November 7-21

Islamic Solidarity Games

Also in November, Bahrain delivered a historic performance at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh. The Kingdom achieved a record 34 medals—16 gold, 11 silver, seven bronze—finishing sixth overall. Bahrain excelled across athletics, para-athletics, wrestling, weightlifting, volleyball, table tennis, and esports. Standout moments included the men's handball gold medal victory over hosts Saudi Arabia and Winfred Yavi's 5,000m gold, reflecting Bahrain's depth in both team and individual disciplines.

November 21-22

FIBA 3x3 Final



Manama also hosted the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Final later in November, delivering fast-paced basketball action and packed stands. High-energy games and global stars turned the capital into a celebration of urban sport, reinforcing Bahrain's versatility as an international host.

A Year to Remember

From lifting the Arabian Gulf Cup in January to record medal success in Riyadh and hosting the Asian Youth Games in October, 2025 was a year of triumph, ambition, and national pride. Bahrain did not simply host sport—it excelled in it, invested in it, and inspired through it. As the final whistle blew on a remarkable year, one message was clear: Bahrain shaped sport in 2025, and its legacy is only just beginning.



Bahrain opens 2025 with Gulf Cup victory



McLaren's Oscar Piastri lifts Bahrain Grand Prix trophy