



POLO RULES

VALID ONLY FOR

2013

**These Rules apply to
ALL Pony Club and Junior HPA
Polo Competitions**

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PONY CLUB HEADQUARTERS

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As a Member of The Pony Club I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship. I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning and losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being. I shall endeavour to treat my horse with consideration.

All Branch and Team Managers, players, parents and guardians in both Pony Club and Junior HPA Polo must read, understand and comply with the rules.

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1. INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

- 1.1 Pony Club Polo is played by over 300 young people aged 6-21 years old. There are six Pony Club Sections based on age groups: Jorrocks (JOR), Handley Cross (HX), Surtees (SUR), Loriner (LOR), Ledner (LED) and Rendell (REN); and three Sections of Junior HPA polo based on age and handicap: Hipwood (HIP), Langford (LAN) and Gannon (GAN). The best teams in each Section, other than Jorrocks, play the finals at The Pony Club Polo Championships at Cowdray Park over a weekend in early August. The Jorrocks Championships are held at Hurtwood Park on the Wednesday before Cowdray. In addition to a full programme of tournaments and training in the summer holidays, there are arena tournaments and training courses in the Easter holidays. In 2008 Junior HPA Polo was incorporated with Pony Club Polo. The HPA run the Hipwood, Langford and Gannon Sections in conjunction with The Pony Club.
- 1.2 In 2012 there were 77 teams playing. Pony Club Polo is designed, above all, to be fun.
- 1.3 Pony Club Polo is founded upon the principle of one player, one pony, making it widely accessible. It is possible to play polo starting at 6 years old and finishing at 21 with only one pony. However, to cater for those who wish to progress further, and to provide a bridge into adult polo, **five** Sections of junior polo, **Loriner**, Rendell, Hipwood, Langford and Gannon, play two, three and four chukka matches needing two to four ponies per player. The flagship of junior polo is the Gannon competition.
- 1.4 Pony Club Polo has a comprehensive training and coaching system to teach all aspects of the sport: riding, hitting the ball, tactics, umpiring and horse management. Local training is organised by individual Pony Club Branches. In 2012 training courses were held during the Easter and summer holidays in the UK.
- 1.5 Individuals and teams are invited to represent The Pony Club abroad and in the UK. Individuals can also be selected on merit to participate in the HPA Select Teams and HPA Overseas Work Experience Bursary Schemes, which allow talented players to receive training overseas.
- 1.6 **HPA Support.** The Hurlingham Polo Association makes a major contribution to Pony Club Polo in pursuit of its objective to improve the sport. They organise Junior HPA tournaments in conjunction with The Pony Club. They also organise the HPA Select scheme and Overseas Work Experience Bursaries. Players are selected by the HPA Development Committee in conjunction with The Pony Club Polo Committee, Branch Managers and Polo Clubs. Final selection for the Junior Select Teams is made during the Cowdray Championships. Bursaries are decided at a separate selection process. These awards are

highly prized and make a valuable contribution to improving the sport in the United Kingdom.

- 1.7 Pony Club Polo acts within the rules of the governing body of the sport, the Hurlingham Polo Association, except where they conflict with Pony Club Polo rules which will then take precedence.
- 1.8 **Pony Club Subscriptions.** All Pony Club subscriptions for existing Members must be paid to the player's Branch by the 31st January of the current year. Subscriptions for new Members must be paid by 31st March of the current year.

SHORT HISTORY

- 1.9 Pony Club Polo started in 1933 but it was not until 1959 that it emerged in its modern format. Brigadier Jack Gannon and Major Claude Davenport organized five Branch teams to play at the Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot on 8th September 1959 (New Forest, Hampshire Hunt, Old Berkshire, Staff College and Bisley participated). Today Pony Club Polo is run by a voluntary committee and is an independent discipline under the auspices of The Pony Club. There have been seven Chairmen: Col Jacobs 1959-60, Col Cubitt 1961-66, Col Pat Langford 1967-76, Buff Crisp 1977-89, Brigadier John Wright 1990-97, Luke Borwick 1998, David Cowley 1999-2007 and Theresa Hodges is the current Chairman. The Championships have been played at five different locations: Aldershot 1959, Cirencester 1964 and 1974, Kirtlington 1968 and Windsor 1971. Since 1977 the Championship finals have been held at Cowdray Park. Pony Club Polo saw an explosion of interest in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 1985 there were only 23 teams but by 1991 the number of teams competing had grown to 84 with over 100 teams competing in 2003. In 1988 the Gannon competition became four chukka matches and has been a great success. The following year the Loriner Section was introduced and in 1993 the Jorrocks Section. In 1998 the Langford Section, playing three-chukka matches came in and in 2003 the Surtees Section for under 14s on polo ponies. In 2008 Rendell became two chukkas and a new Section call Ledner to provide one chukka polo for under 21s was introduced. Also in 2008, along with the HPA a new Section, Hipwood, was introduced for players under 15 playing three chukka matches. **This year will see the introduction of two chukka polo for Loriner.** Many Pony Club players are registered as junior members of the HPA. Today a large majority of the 50 best players in the United Kingdom played Pony Club Polo. In 2012 all the players in the England teams have played Pony Club Polo.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.10 To provide Members of The Pony Club with an introduction to the game of polo.
- 1.11 Pony Club Polo has four objectives:
- i. Help young players to understand the basic principles of polo; rules, riding, tactics, striking the ball and the care and welfare of ponies.
 - ii. Set high standards of conduct with a competitive spirit in a team sport.
 - iii. Provide a bridge to the adult game.
 - iv. Have fun.

DISCLAIMER

- 1.12 The Pony Club, the HPA and tournament and event organisers or any person acting on their behalf, do not accept liability for loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to competitors, spectators or any person or property whatsoever. The Pony Club, the HPA, Pony Club Polo and tournament and event organisers aim to meet the necessary medical, veterinary and health and safety standards but the responsibility for the players, spectators and supporters rests with the individuals and, if they are under 18 years, with their parents or guardians both on and off the ground. A player with a known medical condition must obtain qualified medical approval before participating in any Pony Club Polo activity.
- 1.13 Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children at all times when their children are participating in any Pony Club Polo event.
- 1.14 Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances or any other issue in connection with Pony Club Polo it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible the intention of these rules. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they are complying with the rules of the competition.

PONY CLUB POLO COMMITTEE

Chairman - Mrs Theresa Hodges

Mob: 07850 546182

Email: tcp.hodges@gmail.com

Gannon/Langford (Junior HPA) - Mrs Jilly Emerson

Tel: 01285 841545 Mob: 07831 463304

Email: jillyemerson@tesco.net

Langford Assistant/Database Manager - Mrs Janie Dear

Tel: 01666 880560 Mob: 07843 273433

Email: jdear@globalnet.co.uk

Rendell/Training - Col Justin Stanhope-White

Tel: 01460 234440 Mob: 07939 598653

Email: jstanhopewhite@aol.com

Ledner - TBC

Loriner - Mrs Clare Musgrave

Tel: 01285 821816 Mob: 07901 820378

Email: ncmusgrave@talktalk.net

Surtees/Arena - Mrs Jo Whittington

Tel: 01235 751236 Mob: 07885 368918

Email: jmw@hillbarn.plus.com

Hipwood (Junior HPA) - Mrs Bridget Baxter

Tel: 01285 831240 Mob: 07720 779456

Email: baxter@calmsden.freereserve.co.uk

Handley Cross - Mrs Amanda North

Tel: 01572 720046 Mob: 07904 270257

Email: amanda@ranksboro.plus.com

Jorrocks/Cowdray Tournament Organiser - Mrs Chris Eaton

Mob: 07889 289201

Email: thornhillbarn@hotmail.com

Health & Safety/Cowdray Championships - Mr Mike Smith

Tel: 02083 660731 Mob: 07956 615151

Email: mikesmith8uk@hotmail.com

Pony Club & HPA Contacts

Area Representative - Mrs Pleasance Jewitt

Tel: 01285 821715

Email: pleasancejewitt@btconnect.com

Area Representative - Mrs Mary Tuckett

Tel: 01296 670305

Email: mary.tuckett@virgin.net

The Pony Club Chairman - Mrs Cherry Michell

Tel: 01580 882179 Mob: 07711 944214

Email: cherry@pcuk.org

Health & Safety Officer - Bill Cook Esq.

Mob: 07768 495918

Email: littledownderry@talktalk.net

Pony Club Tournament Manager - Miss Amelia Pemberton

Mob: 07765 251489

Email: meliepemberton07@gmail.com

Pony Club Polo Secretary - Miss Laura Armstrong

The Pony Club, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2RW

Tel: 02476 698309 Mob: 07882 148429

Email: laura@pcuk.org

Junior HPA - Mrs Amanda Gauntlett & Olly Hughes Esq.

Hurlingham Polo Association, Manor Farm, Little Coxwell, Faringdon, Oxon,
SN7 7LW

Tel: 01367 242828

Email: amanda@hpa-polo.co.uk & oliver@hpa-polo.co.uk

Junior HPA Tournament Director - Jeremy Barber Esq.

Tel: 01647 61315 Mob: 07773 015854

Email: jbpolo@btconnect.com

|| **NOTE: Rules which differ from those of 2012 appear in bold type and
sidelined (as this note).**

2. TOURNAMENT AND CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL SECTIONS

2.1 ORGANISATION OF SECTIONS

Pony Club Polo together with the Junior HPA is organised in nine Sections, some of which may be divided into a number of divisions. Each Section is run by a Section Manager.

Name	Affiliation	Minimum Age	Age on 1st January	Chukkas
Gannon (GAN)	Junior HPA	16	Under 21	4 chukkas
Rendell (REN)	Pony Club	16	Under 21	2 chukkas
Ledner (LED)	Pony Club	16	Under 21	1 chukka
Langford (LAN)	Junior HPA	13	Under 17	4 chukkas
Loriner (LOR)	Pony Club	12	Under 16	2 chukkas
Loriner (LOR)	Pony Club	12	Under 16	1 chukka
Hipwood (HIP)	Junior HPA	11	Under 15	3 chukkas
Surtees (SUR)	Pony Club	10	Under 14	1 chukka
Handley Cross (HX)	Pony Club	9	Under 14	1 chukka
Jorrocks (JOR)	Pony Club	6	Under 11	1 chukka

2.2 SUMMER SEASON

This comprises of four parts: training, friendly tournaments, qualifying tournaments and the Championships. In order to be eligible to qualify for the Championships teams must compete in all qualifying tournaments, except Jorrocks who only need to compete in one qualifying tournament.

2.3 EASTER SEASON

This comprises of arena tournaments and training.

2.4 TRAINING

It is the absolute intent of The Pony Club and the HPA that all players will engage with training at Branch, Area and National level to improve their game and their standard of horsemastership and pony welfare commensurate with the Section in which they are playing, their ability and age. It is expected that players in Gannon, Rendell and Langford will join in with Branch training activities and help less able players whenever is it appropriate and possible.

Training is a Branch based activity. The Pony Club Polo Handbook sets out the curriculum for all training events which include Branch based working rallies, polo rallies, Area/regional courses, overseas training, development courses and dismounted lectures on horse management. Players of 0 goals and below in all

Sections should attend three training events per year.

It is recommended that players 12 years and above should have passed their C Test.

Players in Loriner, Ledner and Rendell as well as Junior HPA Sections must have passed their HPA Rules Test and it is strongly recommended that Surtees players should have as well.

A training event includes the following activities:

- Pony Club Branch instruction, including Working Rallies
- Pony Club polo rallies
- Pony Club/HPA courses organised at Branch, Area or National level
- Pony Club/HPA overseas training
- Pony Club/HPA lectures on horse management
- Pony Club/HPA veterinary talks
- HPA Development Courses

2.5 MEETINGS

There are Committee, Training and Branch Managers' meetings at the beginning and end of the season.

2.6 SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR THE FINALS

Selection for the Championship finals at Cowdray will be based on the placings achieved after the qualifying tournaments. Gannon, Langford and Hipwood are based on the placings at the end of the league competitions.

2.7 CONCUSSION/CONTINUING AFTER A FALL

Any player who has been concussed is not allowed to play again until certified fit by a doctor. The following minimum periods of suspension also apply:

- i. If the player has a short period of unconsciousness, or a period of post traumatic amnesia, or is sent to hospital the suspension is to be for a minimum of six full days.
- ii. A rider must not be allowed to remount after a fall if there is any element of doubt as to their fitness, irrespective of the wishes of the player, parents, trainers etc. Further participation may be possible following medical examination.

2.8 PLAYERS DRESS

a) **General** - At tournaments all players must wear team shirts with numbers and the sponsors logo, white breeches/white jeans, kneepads and proper riding boots (leather or rubber).

b) **Footwear** - Boots and stirrups with interlocking treads are not permitted, nor are the boots or treads individually. This applies to both Pony Club Polo and Junior HPA polo. JOR, HX and SUR players may wear jodhpur boots and half chaps. Shoes may not be worn.

c) **Kneepads** - Players in all Sections, other than HX and JOR, must wear kneepads. It is recommended that HX and JOR players do as well, but it is not compulsory.

d) **Shirts** - A register of team colours for Pony Club Polo is kept at The Pony Club office. Teams wishing to change or select colours should apply to The Pony Club office. In the event of a clash of colours in a match the team to change shirts will be the one lower in the draw (as per HPA rules).

e) **Hats** - It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective polo helmet with a three-point harness manufactured to one of the minimum standards (HX and JOR players may wear crash helmets or riding hats). It must bear the CE mark and a quality symbol, either the BSI Kite mark, the SAI Global symbol, the official Snell label with number of the NOCSAE certificate. The CE symbol on its own is not sufficient to ensure consistent standard of manufacture. The PAS 015:1998 and the Snell E2001 meet higher impact criteria and therefore give more protection. The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased nor should hats be borrowed. See Appendix B.

f) **Hair** - In the interest of safety, long hair is to be secured appropriately.

g) **Spurs** - Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, may be worn. If the spurs are curved the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 3cm in length. Sharp spurs may not be worn. Spurs that have a smooth rotating ball on the shank are permitted. No spurs are allowed in JOR, HX or SUR.

h) **Whips** - Restricted to 48 inches in length, including the tag. Broken whips are not allowed.

i) **Jewellery** - For safety reasons players may not wear jewellery or studs. Members who are contemplating piercing their ears or any other part of their body should be aware that they will not be allowed to participate in any Pony Club mounted activities until such a time as the 'sleepers' can safely be removed. The reason for this is that sleepers have in the past caused injuries following falls.

j) **Faceguards/Goggles/Gum Shields** - The wearing of faceguards or goggles and gum shields are recommended. Gum shields should be properly fitted by a dentist.

k) **Electronic Devices** - Headphone, mobile phones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider are not allowed whilst the rider is playing.

|| **No recording device is permitted.**

2.9 EQUIPMENT FOR PONIES

a) **Boots and Bandages** - Ponies must be bandaged or wear protective boots on all four legs and tails must be put up. In the event of a bandage coming undone play will be stopped. It is at the discretion of the umpire whether play waits while the bandage is done up securely. Undue delay will not be accepted. It is therefore important that all players have the ability to do up bandages quickly and efficiently.

|| b) Bridles - Plain black or brown leather bridles only may be used.

c) **Blinkers** - Are not allowed. Nor is any form of noseband or cheeks that obstructs the vision of the pony such as sheepskin.

d) **Bits** - All bits should fit properly and be suitable for playing polo. If in the opinion of The Pony Club Polo Committee any bits deemed to be excessively thin in the mouthpiece will not be accepted. All synthetic bits must be black, brown or white. Ponies may not be played in a bitless bridle (hackamore). Any misuse of a bit/bridle will be reported to the DC/Centre Proprietor, Area Representative and Training Chairman. Any reported riders will be recorded and monitored. Any abuse of the pony's mouth will be penalised and the player will not be allowed to play.

e) Studs

i. Only one recognised polo stud without a hard centre of 1/2 inch (13mm) cubed can be fitted to the outside of each hind shoe within 1 inch (25mm) of the heel. The studs should not be placed at the widest part of the shoe. This is the recommended method.

ii. Road nails with a hardened tip are allowed on the outside of each hind shoe.

iii. Ponies found with the incorrect studs will not be allowed to play until the studs are removed.



|| f) Standing Martingales - Are to be worn by all ponies **and must be of leather.**

g) **Nosebands** - **Only one may be worn unless using a standing martingale with a combination, kinton, drop noseband or similar in which case the addition of a cavesson is allowed. Nosebands must be correctly fitted and**

- || **should not cause discomfort.** Nosebands must not incorporate chain or rope, but plaited rawhide is allowed.
- h) **Clip on Tack** - Is not permitted.
- || i) **Reins** - Rope reins are not permitted. **Bridge reins are not allowed.**
- j) Incorrectly or badly fitting tack or tack in a dangerous condition is not allowed.
- || **Nosebands and curb chains must be properly fitted.**
- k) It is the player's responsibility to ensure that their tack and equipment is in accordance with the rules and safe. Players must present themselves for inspection as required.

2.10 INSPECTIONS

Ponies and equipment will be inspected, individually or in teams, at tournaments. The decision of The Pony Club Polo Committee, if necessary in consultation with a veterinary surgeon, is final.

2.11 PARKING

No cars or horseboxes may be parked in such a way as to block the access of ambulances, horse ambulances or other emergency vehicles. All cars and horseboxes must be parked with consideration for others and in compliance with Tournament Organisers instructions.

2.12 TREADING IN

All players are expected to tread-in when requested and particularly at the end of a tournament or day's play.

2.13 SPONSORSHIP

In the case of players and ponies, no form of advertising, and this includes a sponsor's name, may appear on the players or pony's clothing and equipment at any Pony Club competition. This does not preclude the wearing of clothing for ponies or riders that has been presented by sponsors of the Championships in the current or previous years.

Sponsors at friendly and qualifying tournaments must not be business competitors of the main sponsors of the discipline, and must be approved by The Pony Club office. Any advertising material that is used by sponsors, whether it is in the form of display banners or programme material, must be tasteful and not inappropriate to the image of The Pony Club.

TOURNAMENT RULES FOR PONY CLUB POLO SECTIONS
(Applicable to Rendell, Ledner, Loriner, Surtees, Handley Cross and Jorrocks)

2.14 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- a) Ages are as at 1st January of the current year.
- b) District Commissioners must certify that all players are paid up Members of The Pony Club.
- c) Players in REN, LED, LOR and SUR with handicaps of 0 goals or below are required to attend three training events based on The Pony Club Polo Handbook curriculum either at Area or Branch level. In the case of HX and JOR, players must attend three Branch rallies with their ponies as from 1st July of the previous year.
- d) A player may only play in one Section in either Pony Club or Junior HPA polo and may not play in more than one team.

2.15 PONIES

- a) The welfare of ponies is given high priority. Ponies in overall poor condition, unsound or which have been tubed, or which are blind in one eye or showing blood from the mouth, flanks or any other part are not allowed to play.
- b) All ponies must have an up-to-date passport and must be vaccinated against influenza and tetanus. Passports will be checked at random and should travel with your ponies to all polo activities. All passports for polo ponies should be registered with the HPA.
- c) All ponies must be fit and should have been regularly ridden before the season.
- d) Ponies may not be ridden unbridled at any time.
- e) Any pony which is considered by an umpire, or a member of The Pony Club Polo Committee, to be unsafe or out of control can be ordered off the ground and may not be permitted to be ridden in further Pony Club Polo events or tournaments for the rest of the season.
- f) Stallions can only be ridden at Pony Club events with the written permission of the District Commissioner and the stallion must wear an identifying disc.
- g) A pony in Pony Club sections may only play a maximum of three 6 minute chukkas or four 4.5 minute chukkas (18 minutes) in one day. In GAN, REN, **LOR**, LAN and HIP a pony may not be played for more than two full non-consecutive chukkas or the equivalent time. A pony that has played in more than half a chukka may not be played again for at least 10 minutes.

2.16 RULES OF POLO

The rules of the HPA shall be observed, subject to alterations for Pony Club Polo as detailed below.

a) **Matches/Chukkas** - In LED, LOR, SUR, HX and JOR chukkas are 6 minute duration ending on the bell. If it is necessary to play four chukkas in a day they will be 4.5 minutes instead of 6 minutes.

b) **Run Down Rules** - In the event of a tie in a REN, LED, LOR, SUR, HX or JOR match, where a result is required, a Pony Club Polo run down will take place:

- The umpire shall place a ball for each team at the same end of the ground on the back line between the goal posts and the corner, one team each side of the goal posts. The team that succeeds first in putting the ball over the back line at the other end wins.
- The goal area for each team will be opposite where it started, between the goal posts and the corner flag, but not including the normal goal area.
- If a team knocks a ball out of play the run down is over and the other team wins.
- On a boarded ground the ball may hit the boards but not go over them.
- No player may impede another player or hit the ball of the opposition. If a team knocks the ball onto the opposite side of the ground from which it started, it may continue to hit the ball provided it does not impede the play of the opposition, which shall have priority on its own side.
- The side of the ground each team plays will be decided by the umpire.
- Play will commence when the umpire calls 'play', both teams being behind the back line and the captains having declared themselves to be ready.
- The umpire will ride down the centre lines of the ground. A tournament official, who must be on the goal line, will judge the winner.

c) **Accident or Injury** - In Pony Club Polo if a pony falls, is injured or goes lame. or if a player falls off or is injured the umpire shall stop the game and will not restart it until the situation has been dealt with.

In the case of broken tack which is considered dangerous (such as a broken girth, broken bit or curb chain, a broken martingale if the end trails on the ground, a broken rein if single, or a loose bandage) the umpire will stop the game. If it can be rectified by the player immediately and quickly the umpire may allow the player to do so on the ground, otherwise the player must leave the ground and the umpire will restart the game immediately when the player has left the ground. A broken or lost stirrup leather is not considered dangerous and the game will not be stopped for this.

d) **Injury During Play** - If an injury occurs during a chukka and a player has to leave

the ground, it is expected that one of the players of a similar standard or handicap from the opposing team will step down for the rest of that chukka.

e) **Substitution** - During a tournament substitution due to injury or illness will only be allowed if they are of no better standard or with the same or lower handicap than the players they are replacing **and may either be from The Pony Club or Junior HPA**. Preferably they should come from the same Branch. The Section Manager must approve all substitutions.

f) **Eligibility Exceptions** - Following the qualifiers, in the event of genuine hardship, injury or illness, the restrictions on players and ponies may be modified by the Section Manager whereby any Junior HPA or Pony Club player who has not qualified for the Championships can be used as a substitute providing they are of the correct standard of play, age and handicap.

g) **Performance Enhancing Drugs** - HPA regulations apply.

i. Equine - Controlled medication. It is clearly essential for the welfare of the horse that it is given appropriate veterinary treatment if and when required and that this should include appropriate medication. Medication however may mask an underlying health problem and horses should not compete when taking medication where such medication may have a detrimental effect on the horse's welfare.

ii. Human - Performance enhancing drugs are forbidden.

iii. Ponies and players are liable to random tests that will be carried out during the season by the HPA. All players aged 18 and over on the day of the test will be required to participate in testing if requested to do so by an authorised official. Players under 18 will be requested to obtain consent of a parent or legal guardian to their participation in testing. Branch Managers will be informed on the procedures for testing.

h) **Suspension from Competing for Medical Reasons** - If a player is banned/suspended from competing in any sport for medical reasons they should not compete in any Pony Club event until passed fit for the sport in which they are banned/suspended. It is the responsibility of the player or parent/guardian to ensure that the rule is adhered to.

2.17 ENTRIES

a) **Preliminary Entry (Form A)** - The names of all players and provisional team numbers are to be submitted to The Pony Club office **at the latest** by 1st April. It is not necessary at this stage to place players in teams.

b) **Declaration of Entry (Form B)** - This should be sent to The Pony Club office by the following deadlines:

- REN, LED, LOR and SUR - 1st May
- HX and JOR - 1st June

The form is to be completed in full. **District Commissioners must countersign the form before it is submitted.** For HX and JOR teams the size of each pony

must be stated. If there is any doubt as to the size of a pony, e.g. it is near to the maximum height, it may be subject to measuring at tournaments in accordance with FEI rules. Final team lists will be issued by Section Managers.

c) **Tournament Entry (Form C)** - This should be sent to The Pony Club office with the entry fee. The closing date for each tournament will be stated on the entry forms. The entry forms are to be completed in full. For HX and JOR teams the size of each pony must be stated. One cheque only should be submitted with each form for entry fees.

d) **Championships** - The closing date for the Jorrocks Championship entry forms is 10 days before the Championship. The closing date for the Cowdray Championship entry forms is the last day of the Cirencester tournament. One separate cheque for each team entered should be submitted with each form for entry fees (if a team should not qualify for Cowdray the cheque can then be returned).

e) **Entry Fees**

i. Pre-qualifying tournaments: JOR, HX, SUR, **LOR (1 chukka)**, LED - £140 per team; **REN and LOR (2 chukka)** - £160 per team.

ii. Qualifying tournaments: JOR, HX, SUR, **LOR (1 chukka)**, LED - £160 per team; **REN and LOR (2 chukka)** - £180 per team

iii. Championships: JOR - £160 per team; HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN - **£360** per team (excluding BBQ and stabling).

f) **Refunds** - In the event of a tournament being cancelled, for whatever reason, a refund of 50% of each team entry fee will be given.

g) **Withdrawals** - In the event of a team entering a tournament and subsequently withdrawing, the expectation must be that the entry fee will not be refunded. However, in some situations some refund may be made at the discretion of the Chairman.

2.18 MIXED BRANCH TEAMS

a) Section Managers have the sole authority to sanction players joining teams from other Branches, even if a player has played for another Branch previously.

b) While umpires are responsible for the safety of play during a match, Section Managers have overall responsibility for all safety of play in their Sections and have the authority to place players in teams on the basis of safety, ability and experience. This allows Section Managers to override the Branch rule where they judge it appropriate on the grounds of safety. The authority to override the Branch rule on safety grounds rests solely with the Section Manager.

c) Branch Managers are to refer to Section Managers if they have too many or too few players to form a team(s) in any Section. They may not place any player outside their own Branch nor may they accept a player from another Branch. A

player who has played outside their own Branch in the past must also be referred to the Section Manager before any commitment is made to continuing to play outside the Branch.

d) When Branches are unable to raise a team from amongst their own Members, or have excess players, the Branch Manager should apply to the relevant Section Manager(s) who will, where possible, arrange a mixed Branch team. Only Section Managers have the authority to arrange mixed Branch teams and in doing so they will take into account the location of the Branches.

e) If there is more than one team in any one Section from the same Branch, the A team must consist entirely of Members from the same Branch.

2.19 TRANSFERS BETWEEN BRANCHES

The Pony Club 14 month rule (Rule 7.III.) applies. Please refer to The Pony Club Year Book.

2.20 JURY OF APPEAL

Two members of The Pony Club Polo Committee and the tournament organiser shall act as a jury of appeal in cases of any dispute over eligibility of players or ponies. For disputes on the ground the umpire's decision is final.

2.21 PROTESTS AND OBJECTIONS

Only Branch Managers or their appointed representatives are entitled to lodge objections or protests. These must be made to The Pony Club Polo Chairman or the tournament organiser on the same day and as soon as possible after the incident. This should be in writing accompanied by a deposit of £50 which will be refunded if the objection is upheld.

2.22 LEAGUES

League competitions will be run for REN and LOR (**one chukka**) sections during **all** the tournaments and the results will be announced at the last qualifier. In REN two points will be awarded for a win and one for a draw. If at the end of the qualifiers teams have the same number of points the goal difference will be taken into consideration. In LOR the first six teams will be awarded points, e.g. 6 for the winners of Division I and so on downwards. **Half points will be awarded at the friendlies and full points as above at the qualifiers.**

TOURNAMENT RULES FOR JUNIOR HPA
(Applicable to Gannon, Langford and Hipwood)

2.23 ELIGIBILITY

a) All players must:

- i. Be a Member of The Pony Club.
- ii. Be a Member of a polo club with a confirmed HPA handicap.
- iii. Hold a British passport and be principally resident in the UK; be in full time education in the UK, **or be invited to play by the HPA, if they are normally resident in England during the summer, such as children of overseas players. Only one overseas player per team.**
- iv. Play in Junior HPA polo as an amateur without any economic benefit.

b) All teams must be entered by an HPA approved Team Manager and include the Pony Club Branch and the club to which each player belongs. A player may only play in one Section of either Junior HPA polo or Pony Club Polo and may not play in more than one team.

c) The only restriction on the teams will be age and handicap as at first January of the current year. Teams should be based on polo clubs, schools or Pony Club Branches and must have the approval of the HPA.

2.24 PLAYERS

The Pony Club rules governing Concussion (2.7) Accidents and Injury (2.15.c) and Dress (2.8) apply.

2.25 PONIES

a) The Pony Club rules governing Ponies (2.14) and Equipment for Ponies (2.9) apply.

b) Teams will have to provide an umpire pony for their matches. If a pony being used for umpiring has been or is to be played it must have a break of at least one chukka between doing so.

2.26 RULES

a) Games will be played according to HPA rules as laid down in the HPA Blue Book.

b) All players must have passed the HPA Rules Test. Players of 0 goals and below should attend Pony Club/HPA approved training events.

c) Each Section will have a Section Manager but games will be scheduled and administered by the HPA Tournament Director.

d) Any player can revert back to playing Pony Club Polo for their Branch the following season.

2.27 ENTRIES

a) Entry Fees

i. Gannon - £240 per team per match

ii. Langford - £240 per team per match

iii. Hipwood - £200 per team per match **and £240 per team in the finals and subsidiary finals at the Championships.**

b) Entry forms are available from The HPA offices or from their website. Closing date for entries will be **1st May** and should be sent to the HPA offices:

Hurlingham Polo Association

Manor Farm

Little Coxwell

Faringdon

Oxfordshire

SN7 7LW

Tel: 01367 242828

www.hpa-polo.co.uk

3. DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOUR

- 3.1 Unseemly behaviour on the part of riders, team officials or team supporters will be referred in the first instance to the Pony Club Polo Committee. It may then be reported to The Pony Club HQ, and may lead to disqualification of individuals or the Branch or Branches concerned for a period of up to three years.
- 3.2 Any player who in the opinion of a Committee Member or Tournament Organiser has been rude or aggressive towards an official or who has behaved in an aggressive or unfair manner to another player or a pony may be disqualified.
- 3.3 The Pony Club Polo Committee have the right to ban a player or a team from a tournament or tournaments in the event of bad behaviour on or off the ground. Players can also be ordered off the ground by an umpire during a match for bad behaviour, bad language, dangerous play or cruelty to a pony.
- 3.4 Any player, team official, visitor or supporter who is ordered to leave the ground at the Cowdray Championships may also be banned from the campsite and the Cowdray Park Estate for the duration of the Championships.
- 3.5 Any complaints about umpiring must be made to Branch Managers and not directly to the umpire or Pony Club Polo Committee. Branch Managers will then take up complaints with the Pony Club Polo Committee and appropriate Section Managers.
- 3.6 Coaching from the sidelines is not allowed.

4. SECTION RULES

4.1 GANNON (Under 21 on 1st January)

a) **General** - There are two divisions of Gannon:

i. **Gannon I** for the Daily Telegraph Trophy for teams with a handicap of 0-5 goals. There shall be no more than two players per team of 2 goals or above.

ii. **Gannon II** for the Jaguar Trophy for teams with a handicap of -2 to 2 goals. There shall be no more than one 2 goal player per team.

The minimum age of 16 on 1st January of the current year.

b) **Handicap** - For players aged 17, 18, 19 or 20 with a handicap of -1 or above and players aged 16 with a handicap of 0 or above.

c) **Matches** - Each match shall be four chukkas and played under HPA rules. Matches will be played under handicap conditions.

d) **Substitution** - HPA rules on substitution will apply but a substitution must be agreed with the Section Manager.

e) **Match Tie** - In the event of a tie in a match where a result is required a tie breaker will take place as follows: A 'sudden death' extra chukka will be played with the whole of the back line being the goal, including between the posts. All players must change ponies. Teams will change ends and the chukka will start from the middle with a 'throw-in'. In the event of there being no goal scored at the end of the chukka, there will be a Pony Club Polo 'run down'.

f) **Umpire** - There will be one umpire for each match, as per HPA rule 7(f) in the Blue Book. The Tournament Committee will appoint each umpire, who shall be an approved HPA Professional Umpire.

g) **Venues** - GAN matches will take place on Junior HPA days. The place, time and venue of matches will be organised by the HPA Tournament Director and the Section Manager.

4.2 RENDELL (Under 21 on 1st January)

a) **General** - Two chukka matches for players 16 and over and under 21 on 1st January of the current year.

b) **Matches/Chukkas** - Matches will be two consecutive HPA timed chukkas of 7.5 and 7 minutes. The five second rule applies.

c) **Handicaps** - The maximum individual handicap is +1. Teams may only include one player with a +1 handicap and that player must play for their own Branch. Matches are played open except where a team includes a player with a +1 handicap in which case they will concede a 1/2 goal per match.

d) **Ties** - Pony Club Polo run down rule 2.16(b) applies where a result is required.

e) **Umpire** - Only one HPA qualified umpire is required for friendly tournaments, but **either two HPA C/B grade umpires or one professional umpire** are required for the qualifiers and the Championships.

4.3 LEDNER (Under 21 on 1st January)

a) **General** - One chukka matches for players 16 and over and under 21 on 1st January of the current year.

b) **Handicaps** - The matches will be played open. The maximum individual handicap is **0 goals**.

c) **Ties** - Pony Club Polo run down rule 2.16(b) applies where a result is required.

d) **Umpire** - Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.

4.4 LANGFORD (Under 17 on 1st January)

a) **General** - For teams with a handicap of -4 to 0. The minimum age is **13** on 1st January of the current year.

b) **Handicaps** - For players **aged 14, 15 or 16 with a handicap of -1 to 1 and players of 13 with a handicap of 0 to 1**.

c) **Matches** - **Each match shall be four chukkas and played under HPA rules. Matches will be played under handicap conditions.**

d) **Substitution** - HPA rules on substitution will apply but a substitution must be agreed with the Section Manager.

e) **Match Tie** - See Gannon rule 4.1(e).

f) **Umpire** - **There will be one umpire for each match, as per HPA rule 7(f) in the Blue Book. The Tournament Committee will appoint each umpire, who shall be an approved HPA Professional Umpire.**

g) **Venues** - LAN matches will take place on Junior HPA days or at Pony Club Polo tournaments. The place, day and time of the matches will be organised by the HPA Tournament Director and the Section Manager.

4.5 LORINER (Under 16 on 1st January)

a) **General** - **There are two divisions of LOR for players of 12 and over and under 16 on 1st January of the current year. Division I will be two consecutive chukka matches and Division II will be one chukka matches.**

b) **Handicaps** - Matches are played open. Maximum individual handicap is 0 and 0 goal players must play for their own Branch.

c) **Chukkas/Matches - Division I matches will be two consecutive six minute chukkas ending on the bell and Division II will be one six minute chukka ending on the bell. The five second rule applies.**

d) **Ties** - Pony Club Polo run down rule 2.16(b) applies where a result is required.

e) **Umpire** - Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.

4.6 HIPWOOD (Under 15 on 1st January)

a) **General** - For teams with a handicap of -7 to -5 goals. The minimum age is 11 on 1st January of the current year.

b) **Handicap** - For players with a handicap of -2 to 0. There shall be no more than one player with a handicap of 0 per team.

c) **Matches** - **All matches shall be three chukkas except for the finals and subsidiary finals, played at the Cowdray Championships, which shall be four chukkas. All matches shall be played under HPA rules and under handicap conditions.**

d) **Substitution** - HPA rules on substitution will apply, but a substitution must be agreed with the Section Manager.

e) **Match Ties** - See Gannon rule 4.1(e).

f) **Umpires** - **There will be one umpire for each match, as per HPA rule 7(f) in the Blue Book. The Tournament Committee will appoint each umpire, who shall be an approved HPA Professional Umpire.**

g) **Venues** - HIP matches will take place on Junior HPA days or at Pony Club Polo tournaments. The place, day and time of the matches will be organised by the HPA Tournament Director and the Section Manager.

4.7 SURTEES (Under 14 on January 1st)

a) **General** - One chukka matches for players **10** and over and under **14** on 1st January of the current year.

b) **Handicaps** - Matches are played open. Maximum individual handicap is -1 and -1 goal players must play for their own Branch.

c) **Ties** - Pony Club Polo run down rule 2.16(b) applies where a result is required.

d) **Umpire** - Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.

4.8 HANDLEY CROSS (Under 14 on January 1st)

a) **General** - One chukka matches for players 9 and over and under 14 on the 1st January of the current year.

b) **Handicaps** - Matches are open. Maximum individual handicap is -1 and -1 players must play for their own Branch.

c) **Pony Restrictions**

i. Ponies must be 148cm (14.2h) or under and be genuine all round Pony Club ponies that have regularly attended non-polo Rallies in the previous twelve months. No polo ponies may be played. In the event of doubt over the eligibility of a pony the onus is on the Branch Manager to clear the proposed pony with the Section Manager. The same pony must be played throughout the season, except in exceptional circumstances verified by the Section Manager. All ponies may be subject to measuring at tournaments in accordance with FEI rules.

ii. A **player and/or** pony playing HX may only play in one team and may not play in any other section.

d) **Ties** - Pony Club Polo run down rule 2.16(b) applies where a result is required.

e) **Umpire** - Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.

4.9 JORROCKS (Under 11 on 1st January)

a) **General** - One chukka matches for players 6 and over and under 11 on 1st January of the current year.

b) **Handicaps** - Matches are open. Maximum handicap is -2.

c) **Pony Restrictions**

i. Ponies must be 138cm (13.2h) or under and be genuine all round Pony Club ponies that have regularly attended non-polo Rallies in the previous twelve months. No polo ponies may be played. In the event of doubt over the eligibility of a pony the onus is on the Branch Manager to clear the proposed pony with the Section Manager. The same pony must be played throughout the season, except in exceptional circumstances verified by the Section Manager. All ponies may be subject to measuring at tournaments in accordance with FEI rules.

ii. A **player and/or** pony playing JOR may only play in one team and may not play in any other Section.

d) **Ties** - Pony Club Polo run down rule 2.16(b) applies where a result is required.

e) **Umpire** - Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.

f) **Finals** - The Championship finals will take place at Hurtwood Park. JOR teams must play at least one of the qualifiers in order to play at the Championships.

5. RULES OF POLO

During play the HPA rules apply as in the HPA Rule Book (available from the HPA office or on the HPA website).

THE HURLINGHAM POLO ASSOCIATION

Tel: 01367 242 828
Fax: 01367 242 829
E-mail: enquiries@hpa-polo.co.uk
Website: www.hpa-polo.co.uk

Chief Executive: David Woodd
Manor Farm, Little Coxwell,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire,
SN7 7LW, England



Pony Club Polo

Do you enjoy riding and team games? Does your pony enjoy an occasional gallop? Have you got a good eye for the ball? If so, you should contact your local Pony Club and find out more about polo.

The Hurlingham Polo Association is the governing body for polo in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Its history goes back to 1874 when the first polo match was played at the Hurlingham Club in London, following which the first set of rules was drawn up in 1875. The HPA makes an annual grant to Pony Club Polo and was delighted that the following Pony Club Branches were represented in 2012:

Atherstone Hunt, Avon Vale Hunt, Beaufort Hunt, Bedale & West of Yore Hunt, Berkeley Hunt, Bisley Hunt, Cheshire Hunt South, Cotswold Hunt, Cotswold Vale Farmers' Hunt, Cottesmore Hunt, Cowdray Hunt, East Sussex, Eggesford Hunt, Enfield Chace Hunt, Garth South, Grafton Hunt, Hampshire Hunt, Heythrop Hunt, Mid Devon Hunt, New Forest Hunt, Newmarket & Thurlow Hunt, North Cotswold Hunt, North Down, North Warwickshire, Old Berkshire Hunt, Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt, Portman Hunt, Puckeridge Hunt, Pytchley Hunt, Royal Artillery Hunt, Seavington, Seskinore Harriers, South Berkshire, South Dorset, South Oxfordshire Hunt (South), South Shropshire, Surrey Union, Taunton Vale, Tedworth Hunt, Vine Hunt, West Kent (Sevenoaks), Wylve Valley.

Alongside the Pony Club teams, Pony Club Members made up a further 15 Junior HPA teams, which were restricted by age and handicap.

6. GUIDANCE TO PARENTS

- 6.1 These notes are designed to help parents, Branch Managers and those new to polo. The Pony Club Polo Committee has a great deal of experience and is more than willing to answer questions.
- 6.2 The Pony Club is a largely voluntary activity and Pony Club Polo is a sport. It is by the enormous goodwill and work of volunteers and the polo clubs that host our tournaments that we play at all. Pony Club Polo is great fun, not only for the child but the whole family. But it is also hard work. Although very competitive Pony Club Polo aims to inculcate good team spirit and good sportsmanship, insisting on high standards of turnout and behaviour both on and off the ground.
- 6.3 Polo is a contact sport. It can be dangerous and there is an inherent risk. Please take note of the disclaimer on page 6 of these rules.
- 6.4 Branch Managers are key to the whole process of organising Pony Club Polo. They should maintain close contact with the parents and players in their Branch, seek and recruit new Members and organise Rallies and other training for Pony Club Polo players. While Branch Managers have an important role, parents remain responsible for the behaviour of their children, both on and off the ground.
- 6.5 **Ponies** - Many enjoy the whole of Pony Club Polo with one pony. However, when committed to GAN, REN, LAN, LOR or HIP, players need to be adequately mounted. This means more ponies. A minimum of two in REN, LOR and HIP and three in GAN and LAN. GAN, LAN and HIP teams also have to supply umpire ponies on the day of their matches.
- 6.6 **Umpiring** - Good umpiring raises the quality of the game and all Pony Club Polo players are encouraged to take the umpire test at about the age of 15 or with a handicap of -1 or above. Those playing GAN and LAN are expected to have passed the test.
- 6.7 **Safety** - The wearing of face guards/goggles and gum shields (which should be fitted by a dentist) are recommended.
- 6.8 **Treading In and Litter** - It is most important that all players and if possible their parents and supporters tread in when required especially at the end of each tournament. Do not leave any litter from picnics or sticky tape at the polo grounds. Remember, Pony Club Polo and Junior HPA are invited to these grounds and we wish to be asked back. Please make sure you leave the place clean and tidy when you leave.

7. COWDRAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.1 GENERAL

The finals of The Pony Club and Junior HPA Championships are held at Cowdray Park Polo Club where a large temporary campsite, washing facilities and tented stables are established to accommodate ponies, players and supporters. It is important that all visitors to Cowdray Park are aware of the campsite rules, especially those concerning fire and health and safety. Branch and Team Managers are required to bring the rules to the attention of the players, accompanying family members, friends and supporters attached to their Branch or Junior HPA teams. The camp commandant and Committee Member responsible for health and safety and security issues is Mr Mike Smith. A security company assists him.

7.2 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are responsible for the conduct and behaviour of their children at all times during the Championship weekend, both on and off the polo ground. Parents must not expect Branch or HPA Team Managers or other adults to know of the whereabouts or the behaviour of their children. That is the responsibility of parents or those acting in the place of parents.

7.3 CAMPSITE RULES

a) **Branch & HPA Team Responsibility** - Each Branch and Junior HPA Team must have one nominated adult over 30 years old sleeping on site (2300 - 0700 hours) and present at all other times; if a Branch has more than one team, one person must be in overall charge of the Branch. In the absence of a Branch or Junior HPA Team Manager a substitute must be appointed and notified to Mike Smith.

b) **Register** - Branch and Junior HPA Team Managers will be forwarded a camp registration form which should be completed by them or their appointed substitute and submitted along with the Cowdray entry forms. These lists should enable us to maintain an accurate list of everyone attached to individual Branches or teams who are on the site between 2300 and 0700 hours. This list should include players, accompanying family members, supporters, friends and grooms. In addition to the original lists any alterations should be submitted to the commentary point prior to the end of play each day. This is a major health and safety point as we must be aware of all people resident on site during the night.

c) **Contact Numbers** - Branch and Junior HPA Team Managers or appointed substitutes must have 24 hour contact numbers of those parents who are not staying on the campsite.

d) **Lights Out** - No music or other noise throughout the campsite from midnight.

e) **Vehicles** - All access for vehicles from 0900 hours on Thursday to 1800 hours on Sunday will be via the Priory entrance. The track through the stables is to be kept clear of vehicles at all times and no cars, lorries or trailers are to be parked on the track or on the stables side of the track.

There is to be no movement of vehicles on the campsite from 1800 hours on Friday to 1400 hours on Sunday. If vehicles are likely to be needed during this period they must be parked outside the campsite.

No one without a full driving license may drive any vehicle either in the campsite, around the polo grounds or anywhere on the Cowdray Estate. Motorcycles, ATVs, 3-wheelers and scooters are not allowed.

f) **Parking** - No cars or horseboxes must be parked in such a way as to block the access of the ambulances, horse ambulances or other emergency vehicles.

g) **Bicycles** - No bicycles are to be ridden near the polo grounds during the hours of play. Bicycles must not be left lying on the ground near the polo grounds, in the campsite or in the stables area. Any bicycles found in the stable side safety zone of ground four will be removed to an area where they will need to be collected once play has ceased.

h) **Designated Paths** - Do not block the public right of way that runs through the campsite, or the access paths laid to ensure emergency services can have swift access. Designated driveways and paths must be kept clear at all times and any stakes removed to gain access must be replaced immediately.

i) **Stables** - Tented stable blocks are erected for the Championships and The Pony Club, through Branch and Junior HPA Team Managers, controls allocation. Stables must be labelled with the name of the player, Branch or Junior HPA team and the name of the pony. At the end of the Championships stables must be left completely clear of all rubbish and straw; any team not doing this will not be allowed to use the stables the following year. Straw is provided for each stable and the use of shavings and paper bedding is strongly discouraged.

NO SMOKING IN THE STABLES AREA

j) **Showers and Washing** - Washing areas are to be left as you would like to find them. The Priory washing facilities and mobile shower unit will be closed for cleaning for a period each morning.

k) **Fires** - Bonfires and campfires are not allowed anywhere on the Cowdray Estate. Raised BBQs may only be used in the campsite area and they must be under adult supervision. Under no circumstances are there to be open fires.

l) **River** - The river in the Cowdray Estate is out of bounds to all visitors and players except during the published times and when supervised by a Pony Club Polo official. The access area and the permitted limits within the river are marked and nobody may go outside this area. Instructions of the official must be obeyed. Ponies may be ridden bareback but always in a bridle and all riders must wear approved riding hats.

m) **Dogs/Pets** - No dogs or any other pets are permitted at the Cowdray Championships for safety reasons. Anyone found bringing a dog to the Championships will be instructed to remove it either home or to a local kennels. **There will be a fine of £100 to the Branch/owner of any dog found on the campsite.**

n) **Pony Care** - Players are responsible for the care of their ponies at all times, ensuring they are regularly fed, watered and have dry bedding. Dehydration is a real risk and playing over three days means that ponies require plenty of fresh water at all times. No pony may be ridden without a bridle and all riders (Pony Club Members and all others) must wear approved riding hats.

o) **Property** - Players and visitors must take care of their property and not leave wallets, clothing, tack, cameras or other valuables in the open or in unlocked vehicles; more importantly bicycles and other valuables which are left around unattended on the campsite. The Pony Club and HPA do not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of the property of any player or visitor to the Championships.

p) **Alcohol and Drugs** - Laws governing the sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol must be obeyed on both the campsite and in Midhurst and surrounding areas. Any unauthorised alcoholic drink in the possession of minors will be confiscated and the child taken back to either their parent or Branch Manager in order that they are aware of what has happened. In the event of any drugs being found at the Championships the police will be informed and the person or persons concerned will be removed from the site and banned from all future Championships.

q) **Smoking - NO SMOKING IN THE STABLES AREA.**

r) **Polo Grounds** - The polo grounds may not be used for stick and ball practise. Lawns I and Lawns II and the area between them are out of bounds at all times.

s) **Emergencies** - In the event of an emergency during the hours of play please contact the commentary point. At all other times contact:
Mike Smith - 07956 615151.

7.4 BARBEQUE AND DISCO

A very popular element of the Cowdray Championships is the barbeque and disco on the Saturday evening when food and drinks are provided. Branch and Junior HPA Team Managers and parents are asked to support the Committee in overseeing the event.

i) Teams of adult helpers are required for the bar. A roster will show the Branches to provide the helpers.

ii) Entrance will be by display of wristbands. **No wristband no entry.**

iii) Tickets for the barbeque can only be purchased by Branch Managers or Junior HPA Team Managers with the name of the persons requiring tickets in order that the numbers of the wristbands correspond with a name. The cost is £12 per ticket and includes food and drink.

7.5 BEHAVIOUR

High spirits apart, any anti-social or unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with severely, and may lead to individuals and/or teams being disqualified from the Championships. Older players are expected to set an example and to behave responsibly in Midhurst. Players, families and supporters must remember that they represent The Pony Club and must at all times be courteous and respect local feelings.

FIRE DRILL FOR COWDRAY

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you discover a fire, however small, alert an adult immediately and alert all those in the area of the fire. Shout FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!
2. Report the fire immediately to the commentary point.
3. Where possible use the fire extinguishers on site. Do not put yourself or others in danger.
4. The official on duty in the commentary box will call the fire brigade on 999 and sound the alarm. After playing hours a Pony Club Polo Committee Member or fire warden or the Tournament Manager will call the fire brigade.
5. When the alarm goes off all those on site must go immediately to Ground 3 and gather in Branches. Do not attempt to collect your pony or possessions.
6. Branch and Junior HPA Managers will check that their teams and supporters are present and report to Mike Smith. At night (2300 hours to 0700 hours) names will be checked against the campsite register.
7. All players, visitors and supporters must remain on Ground 3 until the "all clear" is sounded.
8. No one may enter the campsite or stables area once the fire alarm has been sounded until after the "all clear".
9. Fire wardens, who will wear official armbands, and Pony Club Polo officials must be obeyed immediately in the event of a fire or fire alarm.
10. The fire wardens will release ponies in the event of a fire threatening the stables area. All players, visitors and supporters must vacate the stable area immediately on hearing the fire alarm. Only fire wardens may release ponies from the stables.

NO SMOKING IN THE STABLES AREA

Appendix A - MEDICAL COVER

The following requirements are common to all events:

1. There shall be an Appointed Person and ideally a First Aid Point (e.g. tent, caravan, horsebox etc.) and a Trained First Aider.

It is the responsibility of the Organiser to have the appropriate cover for the type of event, taking into account the number of participants and spectators. The most important thing is that the Organiser carries out a written Risk Assessment.

As part of the Risk Assessment the Organiser will decide the appropriate level of cover required. At the very minimum every event must have an Appointed Person, a Trained First Aider and a mobile phone or other means of communication to the emergency services.

2. PRIOR TO THE EVENT

a) The Organiser **MUST** inform the appropriate County Ambulance Service/Trust. The Organiser should provide details of the event, including dates, types of competition, ranges of ages of the competitors, details of medical/first aid cover, a precise location of the event, to include the postcode and Ordnance Survey grid reference point.

b) A letter of confirmation must be exchanged with any Medical supplier (Appendix C*). The letter will agree the first aid requirement for the day. A copy of the document "Ambulance Personnel and Ambulances" (Appendix D*) should be included with the letter of confirmation when an ambulance is required.

c) The Organiser should prepare a 'Medical Officer's Pack' in advance of the event to include:

- Notes for the Event Medical Officer (Appendix E*).
- Injury Report Forms
- Concussion forms
- Event programme with planned times

3. AT THE EVENT

a) The procedure for contacting the emergency services must be agreed with the Appointed Person, First Aiders and Medical Provider.

b) Appropriate emergency telephone numbers should be listed and a copy attached to the Accident Book lodged at the commentary box.

c) **Accident Reporting.** The appropriate forms as detailed in The Pony Club Health and Safety document **MUST** be completed in the event of any accident.

d) **Insurance** - The Pony Club Third Party Legal Liability Insurance Policy is extended to give cover for all Pony Club Competitions and Championships. Details of this insurance are given in 'Administrative Notes' in the current issue of The Pony Club Year Book. In the event of any accident or damage occurring to a Third Party or the property of a Third Party (including the general public and competitors) no liability should be admitted and full details should be sent at once to Pony Club Headquarters. A copy of the Evidence of Insurance should be displayed.

e) **Basic Standards of Medical Care**

i. **Concussion** - In the event of concussion, which may occur without loss of consciousness, riders are not allowed to ride again and an examination by a doctor is compulsory, immediately at the event, or following transfer to hospital.

ii. **Continuing after a fall** - A rider must not be allowed to remount after a fall if there is any element of doubt as to their fitness, irrespective of the wishes of parents, trainers etc. Further participation may be possible following medical examination.

3. MINIMUM STANDARDS

It should be noted that these are minimum levels of first aid cover; the appropriate level of cover must be decided as part of the organiser's risk assessment for the event.

POLO: At least one ambulance with a paramedic is to be present on the ground.

MINIMUM FIRST AID COVER AT PONY CLUB COMPETITIONS		Appointed Person	First Aid Point	Trained First Aider (EFAW or ESFAC)	Qualified First Aider (FAW)	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	Paramedic or Doctor	Ambulance
POLO	Practices & Rallies	✓	✓	✓				
	Competitions & Championships	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓

A horse ambulance will also be in attendance at all tournaments.

4. DEFINITIONS

a) **Appointed Person**

Someone appointed to take sole charge of communications in the event of an accident. It may be appropriate for a Trained or Qualified First Aider to be the Appointed Person, provided they are part of The Pony Club team organising the activity.

b) **First Aid Point**

An ambulance, tent, caravan or horsebox where first aid can be administered in privacy.

c) Trained First Aider

A person who has an EFAW (Emergency First Aid at Work) qualification gained at a one day course run by HSE registered trainers, re-qualification is required after three years, or the BHS Equine Specific (ESFAC) qualification gained after a two day course, requalification is required after two years.

d) Qualified First Aider

A person who has a FAW (First Aid at Work) qualification gained at a three day course run by HSE registered trainers; re-qualification is required after three years. Or a nurse registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council providing they maintain knowledge of and are able to apply the current standards that HSE accepts for the first aid management of injuries and illness. The old four day FAW qualification remains valid until the three year refresher becomes due.

e) Ambulance Aid

A person who is fully trained in patient handling, medical gases and ambulance equipment.

f) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

A person whose initial training and skills include those of an Ambulance Aid with a higher knowledge of clinical skills in patient handling, patient monitoring and who is able to prime a 'giving set' for a Doctor or Paramedic.

g) Paramedic

A person whose initial training has been accredited through the NHS i.e. holders of NHSTA or IHCD Paramedic qualification or military training. This qualification must be revalidated after not more than three years. NB. To check the validation of a Paramedic see website: www.hpc-uk.org/register.

h) Doctor

It is recommended that the appointed Doctor has been trained in pre-hospital emergency care. A list of Medical Cover providers is available from BE but some Doctors from this list do charge a fee for their services. This qualification must be revalidated after not more than three years.

i) Confidential Injury Report Form

Whenever possible, completed form(s) should be returned to the event organiser.

j) Ambulance

A designated vehicle, appropriately marked and identifiable and conforming to current regulations for the transportation of the injured or seriously ill patients. It must contain necessary resuscitation, immobilisation and transportation equipment. Ambulance providers must be registered with the Care Quality Commission. The provider will be able to give details of their registration or this may be checked on the Care Quality Commission website www.cqc.org.uk. This site also enables a search to be made for registered providers in your area.

k) Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV)


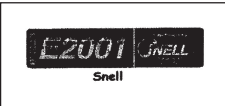


A 4WD vehicle manned by a paramedic and containing all the equipment for the use of the Doctor or Paramedic.

l) Rescue Vehicle

A 4WD vehicle specifically dedicated to the moving of an injured rider to the nearest ambulance. It must be able to carry an injured person lying secured on a stretcher or longboard.

Appendix B - HAT STANDARDS

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet manufactured to one of the minimum standards listed below. It must bear the CE mark and a quality symbol, either the BSI Kitemark, the SAI Global symbol, the official Snell label with number or the NOCSAE certificate. The CE symbol on its own is not sufficient to ensure consistent standard of manufacture. The PAS 015:1998 and the Snell E2001 meet higher impact criteria and therefore give more protection.

<p>PAS 015:1998 or EN 1384:1996, BS EN 1384:1997 with the BSI Kitemark</p> 	<p>Snell E2001 with the official Snell label and number</p> 	<p>AS/NZS 3838 1998 or AS/NZS 3838 2003</p> 
<p>NOCSAE certificate</p> 		

NB: The prefix 'BS' on the EN 1384 standard does not mean that the hat has undergone batch testing by the British Standards Institute - the hat must contain the BSI Kitemark as well.

The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit, the hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.

Hats must be replaced after a severe impact; subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending on the amount of use.

Hats must be worn when mounted with a chinstrap fastened at all times. A Pony Club Polo Committee member or Tournament Organiser may eliminate a player riding without an approved hat or with the chinstrap unfastened. Please see the General Section rules on the hats (Rule 2.8 (b)).

Hats with a vertical plastic/metallic strip are permitted.

Children under 9 years old

Medical advice is that children's neck muscles do not develop adequately to support a fairly heavy helmet until the age of nine. Therefore it may be appropriate for children under nine years of age to wear a lightweight hat made to comply with the above requirements. Hats with long ventilation slits are not allowed for Members over nine years old.

Hat checks and tagging

The Branch DC will appoint two Branch officials (one of whom may be the DC) who are familiar with The Pony Club rule for hats to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the above requirements with a Pony Club hat tag. Hats fitted with a Pony Club tag will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions. Tags may only be fitted by one of the two appointed Branch officials after they have personally checked the hat. Tagging indicates that a hat meets the above standards, NO check of the fit and condition of the hat is implied. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member's parents or guardian to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also to ensure that the manufacturer's guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.

Appendix C - TOURNAMENT FIXTURES 2013

PONY CLUB POLO PROGRAMME

DATE	LOCATION	SECTION
Pre-Qualifiers		
Sun 14 July	Epsom	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR
Mon 15 July	Vaux	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN
Tues 16 July	Taunton	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED
Thurs 18 July	Frampton	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR
Thurs 18 July	Suffolk	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN
Fri 19 July	Rugby	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN
Tues 23 July	Kirtlington	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN
Weds 24 July	Ascot	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN
Thurs 25 July	Hurtwood	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN
Sat 03 August	Ranksboro	JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN
Qualifiers		
Mon 29 July	Cirencester	JOR, LOR 1 & 2, LED
Tues 30 July	Cirencester	HX, SUR, REN
Weds 31 July	Longdole	JOR, LOR 1 & 2, LED
Thurs 01 August	Longdole	HX, SUR, REN
Mon 05 August	Tidworth	JOR, LOR 1 & 2, LED
Tues 06 August	Tidworth	HX, SUR, REN
Championships		
Weds 07 August	Hurtwood	JORROCKS
09 - 11 August	Cowdray	HX, SUR, LOR, LED, REN

The venues and dates of Junior HPA tournaments will be advised at a later date.

**THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE - PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE
(WWW.PCUK.ORG) FOR UP TO DATE FIXTURES.**

THE
AUDI
PONY CLUB
POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS
incorporating
JUNIOR HPA Sections
will be held at

COWDRAY PARK

on
AUGUST 9th, 10th & 11th
2013



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