POLO RULES

PONY CLUB

Valid for

2017

THESE RULES APPLY TO ALL
PONY CLUB POLO COMPETITIONS

EL REMANSO

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Issued by
THE PONY CLUB
Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2RW
www.pcuuk.org

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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 Pony Club Polo must read, understand and comply with the rules.

THE POLO COMMITTEE
All Rules are made by the Pony Club Volunteer Committees including consultation with others.

The Pony Club Office provides administrative support and any queries or questions relating to these rules must be directed to the Chairman of the relevant sport and copied to the Secretary.
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide Members of The Pony Club with an introduction to the game of polo.

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

iii. Provide a bridge to the adult game.

iv. Have fun.

DISCLAIMER

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.

Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children at all times when their children are participating in any Pony Club Polo event.

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.

NOTE: Rules which differ from those of 2016 appear in bold type and sidelined (as this note).
PONY CLUB POLO COMMITTEE

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1. INTRODUCTION

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 2016:


GENERAL

1.1 Pony Club Polo is played by over 300 young people aged 6-21 years old. There are five Pony Club Sections based on age groups: Jorrocks (JOR), Handley Cross (HX), Surtees (SUR), Loriner (LOR) and Rendell (REN); and two Sections based on age and handicap: Langford (LAN) and Cannon (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. From 2014, Junior HPA will be separate from, but cooperate with, Pony Club Polo.

1.2 In 2016 there were 54 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, two Sections of Pony Club Polo, Langford and
Gannon, play two, three or four chukka matches needing two to four ponies per player. The flagship of Pony Club 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.

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 (HPA) makes a major contribution to Pony Club Polo in pursuit of its objective to improve the sport. They provide the structure for training and accrediting coaches. They 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 are overridden by Pony Club Polo rules which will then take precedence.

SHORT HISTORY
1.8 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 sport 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 2008-2013. Charles Whittington 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 called 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 section is now run by the HPA independently to The Pony Club. 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 2016 all of the members of the England team in the Coronation Cup played Pony Club Polo.

SATS

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2. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL SECTIONS

2.1 ORGANISATION OF SECTIONS
Pony Club Polo is organised in seven Sections, some of which may be divided into a number of divisions. Each Section is run by a Section Manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Abbreviation)</th>
<th>Min Age on 1st Jan 17</th>
<th>Age on 1st Jan 17</th>
<th>Min HPA Handicap</th>
<th>Max HPA Handicap</th>
<th>Chukkas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gannon (GAN)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Under 21</td>
<td>-1*</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2/4 chukkas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rendell (REN)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Under 21</td>
<td>See section</td>
<td>1 chukka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langford (LAN)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>-2**</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2/3/4 chukkas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loriner (LOR)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Under 16</td>
<td>See section</td>
<td>1 chukka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surtees (SUR)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 chukka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handley Cross (HX)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>1 chukka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jorrocks (JOR)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Under 11</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>1 chukka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* -1 players under the age of 16 may play at the discretion of the Section Manager.
** -2 players under the age of 14 may play at the discretion of the Section Manager.

2.2 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. 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 helmet at all times when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall. This rule defines the quality of manufacture that is required. The individual Sports also have additional requirements with regard to colour and type. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.

The hat standards accepted are detailed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hat Standard</th>
<th>Safety Mark</th>
<th>Allowed at the following activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAS 015:1998 or 2011* with BSI Kitemark</td>
<td>🌽</td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VG1 with BSI Kitemark</td>
<td>🌽</td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snell E2001* with official Snell label &amp; number</td>
<td>🌽</td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTM-F1163 2004a with the SEI mark</td>
<td>🌽</td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS/NZS 3838 1998, 2003 or 2006</td>
<td>🌽</td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOCSAE certificate</td>
<td>🌽</td>
<td>Polo ONLY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The PAS 015: 1998 or 2011 and the Snell E2001 meet higher impact criteria and therefore give more protection

- For cross-country riding (over fences 0.80m high and above), including Eventing, Tetrathlon and Horse Trials and also Pony Racing (whether it be tests, rallies, competition or training) and Mounted Games competitions, a jockey skull cap must be worn, with no fixed peak, peak type extensions or noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front and should have an even round or elliptical shape with a smooth or slightly abrasive surface. A removable hat cover with a light flexible peak may be used if required. It is also strongly recommended that a jockey skull cap is worn for cross-country riding over lower fences.
- No recording device is permitted (e.g. hat cameras) as they may have a negative effect on the performance of the hat in the event of a fall.
- 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.

- Hats must be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use.
- Hats must be worn at all times (including at prize-giving) when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall.
- For Show Jumping and Mounted Games the cover, if applicable, shall be dark blue, black or brown only.
- For Dressage, hats and hat covers must be predominately black, navy blue or a conservative dark colour that matches the rider’s jacket for Area competitions or above. The Pony Club Hat silk is also acceptable.
- The Official Steward / Organiser may, at his discretion, eliminate a competitor riding in the area of the competition without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened or with a hat that does not comply with these standards.

Hat Checks and Tagging
The Branch District Commissioner will appoint two Branch Officials (one of whom may be the District Commissioner), who are familiar with The Pony Club hat rule, to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the requirements (as explained in Section 10A Hats) with a white Pony Club hat tag or a red British Eventing (BE) hat tag. Linked Centre Members’ hats may also be tagged by Centre Proprietors and Regional Co-ordinators. Hats fitted with a Pony Club tag or British Eventing (BE) will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions. However, the Pony Club reserves the right to randomly spot check any hat regardless of whether it is already tagged.

White hat tags are available to purchase from The Pony Club Online Shop.

Tags may only be fitted by one of the two appointed Branch Officials, Area Representatives, the Health and Safety Committee Chairman, Centre Proprietors or Centre Co-ordinators after they have personally checked the hat.

Tagging indicates that a hat meets the accepted standards, NO check of the fit and condition of the hat is implied. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member’s parent(s) / guardian(s) to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also, they are responsible for ensuring that the manufacturer’s guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.
Please note that NO PLAYER will be allowed onto a Polo ground or into a training session with a hat which has not been tagged. Any players without a tagged hat will be sent off the field immediately and their Branch Manager informed. There is not always a person qualified to tag hats at Pony Club Polo tournaments and training sessions, so the onus is on Branch Managers to ensure that hats have been tagged before tournaments start.

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

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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, apart from medical jewellery. 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. **This rule will be strictly enforced.**

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) Body Protectors - may be worn, see Appendix A.

l) Electronic Devices - Headphones, mobile phones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider are not allowed whilst the rider is playing. No recording device is permitted.

m) Medical Armbands - are advised if members are not accompanied by a responsible adult, including hacking on roads and are compulsory for Pony Racing and for Endurance rides.

2.3 **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. Any bits deemed by The Pony Club Polo Committee 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, kineton, 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) Humane Girths are NOT permitted. A humane girth is described as having non-independent straps that will loosen if one of the straps were to break.

k) Incorrectly or badly fitting tack or tack in a dangerous condition is not allowed. Nosebands and curb chains must be properly fitted.

l) 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.

2.4 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. Players must have been Members of The Pony Club since at least 28th February in the current year except for Members who are completely new to The Pony Club, who may join up until 31st March and still be eligible for Qualifiers and the Championships. Players in Gannon and Langford may join or rejoin up to 31st May.

c) Players 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, at least two of which with their ponies, as from 1st July of the previous year. Attendance at camp counts as one rally.

d) A player may only play in one Section and may not play in more than one team, except for SUR and HX (see Rules 3.6 and 3.7).

e) All players who play in HPA invitation or Junior Polo events are eligible to play in Pony Club Polo provided they are Members of The
Pony Club and adhere to these rules. Players and Section Managers must satisfy themselves that players intending to play in both Junior HPA or Club Polo as well as Pony Club tournaments have sufficient ponies for the number of matches involved. After the schedule for LAN and GAN has been agreed, and the dates for the Qualifiers for other Sections have been fixed, the Pony Club Polo Committee will not alter times or venues on demand from players or teams, but will allow substitutions within the rules if there is no alternative.

f) All players in Gannon, Rendell, Langford and Loriner MUST have passed the HPA Rules test by 31st May. Guidance on how to arrange a test is given in Guidance to Branch Managers (Section 7).

2.5 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 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 and LAN 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.
2.6 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 Pony Club player who has not qualified for the Championships can be used as a substitute provided the preferences in Rule 4.4 are taken into account. Such modifications will be advertised to Branch Managers.

2.7 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 at least three training events per year.

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

Players in Gannon, Langford, Loriner and Rendell 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

2.8 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.

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.

2.9 ACTION AFTER A FALL
Any competitor who has a fall or sustains a serious injury anywhere at the competition site should see the medical personnel on the day and be passed fit to ride before riding that horse in a further chukka or before riding any other horse.

2.10 HEAD INJURIES & CONCUSSION

a) General Advice

Head injuries and concussion are life threatening and potentially life changing incidents. Serious head injuries are usually obvious, but concussion can be very subtle and not always immediately apparent.

Head injuries result from a mechanical insult to the head, and can cause traumatic brain injury, possibly leading to permanent disability or death.

Concussion is a disturbance in brain function caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head. Some people describe concussion as mild traumatic brain injury. Concussion should be seen as part of a spectrum of brain injury with traumatic brain injury at one extreme and no injury at the other. Typically concussion cannot be seen on standard brain scans, which makes it difficult to diagnose objectively. Repeated injury to the head can worsen an already pre-existing concussion, even if the time between injuries is counted in days or weeks.

The Pony Club wants to ensure members / riders attending Pony Club activities enjoy themselves and get the most out of riding. At the same time, they must also balance that enjoyment with members’ / riders’ safety. This may mean on occasion that members / riders are asked not to ride by officials who believe they may have sustained a concussion either at the time of injury or from a previous injury (which may not have been sustained whilst riding). Parents / guardians, members, officials and other
riders must respect this decision. It is a decision sometimes made without having objective evidence, but it is made in good faith and in the pursuance of avoiding further harm.

b) Incidents that could cause head injuries or concussion
Any member / rider who, at a Pony Club activity, suffers an incident that could cause head injury or concussion (for example, a fall from their horse / pony) should be assessed. Who does this assessment will depend on the first aid cover that is in place for that activity. Depending on the level of first aid cover then the exact process of diagnosing whether the member has suffered no head injury / concussion, a suspected head injury / concussion or a confirmed head injury / concussion will be slightly different. The process for diagnosing each option is talked through in more detail below.

From the assessment being carried out it may be immediately obvious that there is no cause for concern. In the course of Pony Club activities, the Pony Club is well aware that there are different kinds of falls and that assuming every fall leads to a head injury would be counterproductive to the aims of the organisation. We ask that reasonable care is taken to ensure members / riders have not sustained a serious head injury or concussion.

c) Unconsciousness
If a member / rider is unconscious following an incident they should be treated as if they are suffering with a confirmed concussion and the steps in points vii) below should be followed.

d) Who can diagnose head injury or concussion?
Diagnosis of a head injury or concussion (both confirmed and suspected) can be carried out by any level of first aid cover officiating at a Pony Club activity. These could be a trained or qualified first aider (including a coach), a paramedic or a doctor. If there is any doubt as to the diagnosis the member / rider should see the highest level of first aid cover that is present and they should make the diagnosis. If the first aid cover at the activity cannot reach a definite diagnosis then they should refer the member / rider to a hospital or a doctor off site for them to make a diagnosis.

It would be more usual for a trained or qualified first aider to say they suspect a head injury or concussion than to diagnose it themselves. If they are the highest level of first aid cover available at the activity that will mean the member / rider has to go off site to have the diagnosis made by a doctor.
The member / rider should not ride again until they have been seen by a doctor. This may mean that the rider will miss any part of an activity or competition.

d) Actions to be taken in the event of a suspected head injury or suspected concussion diagnosis

If a diagnosis of a suspected concussion or head injury is made by a first aider, they should advise the parents / guardians to take the member / rider to hospital.

Any member / rider who has been diagnosed with a suspected or confirmed head injury or concussion should not be left alone and must be returned to the care of their parents / guardians where appropriate.

Once a diagnosis of suspected head injury or concussion is made by the highest level of official first aid cover present at the activity, then that decision is final. No one may overrule that decision on the day if it is made in good faith. If a member / rider is advised to see a doctor because of suspected head injury or concussion and the parents / guardians decide not to allow the member to be examined (either at the activity or in hospital), the member will not be allowed to ride again on the day and will be treated as if they have sustained a confirmed head injury / concussion. Depending on the circumstances, the decision not to allow further examination may be considered a safeguarding issue.

Where a member / rider is diagnosed with a suspected concussion by a first aider or paramedic and that member / rider subsequently sees a doctor who is sure that they do not have a concussion and did not suffer a concussion and will provide evidence that they are satisfied that the member / rider is well, that member / rider will be treated as if they did not sustain a concussion.

e) Actions to be taken in the event of a confirmed head injury or confirmed concussion

In the event of a diagnosis of a confirmed head injury or confirmed concussion, the doctor will advise the member not to ride or take part in any activity that potentially involves hard contact for three weeks. They will advise the member that they could, after 10 days, ask a doctor, who is experienced in assessing concussion (including in children where appropriate), whether they have any concerns about any ongoing concussion problems. If that doctor is happy to certify that the member is not suffering with a concussion, the member may ride again, providing evidence regarding that decision is provided. If no evidence that such an
assessment has been made, the member should not take part in any Pony Club riding activity and/or any unmounted activity that may involve any hard contact for at least three weeks after the initial injury.

f) Actions to be taken in the event of a diagnosis of a confirmed or suspected head injuries/ concussions outside of Pony Club activities

The Pony Club has no official way of automatically knowing about members who sustain a confirmed or suspected head injury / concussion outside of Pony Club activities. A concussion may be sustained outside Pony Club activities, for example at riding activities organised by other BEF member bodies or at school football / rugby / hockey matches. It is for parents / guardians ultimately to make a decision about the welfare of their child.

However, if a Pony Club official in charge of any Pony Club activity becomes aware that a member has sustained a suspected or confirmed head injury / concussion and has been advised not to take part in any potentially hard contact activities for three weeks, they should not allow the member to take part in any mounted activities and/or any unmounted activities that could potentially involve hard contact for three weeks, unless the member or their parents / guardians can produce appropriate medical evidence of fitness to ride dated at least 10 days after the initial injury.

See Appendix B for Head Injury and Concussion Flowchart

2.11 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.

2.12 PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

a) 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.

b) Human - Performance-enhancing drugs are forbidden.

c) All competitors should be aware that random samples may be taken for testing from both themselves and/or their horse. The protocol used will be that of the relevant adult sport.
2.13 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES FOR PLAYERS AND PONIES
In accordance with The Pony Club policy, the framework for the adult sport shall apply. For Polo this means the HPA Blue Book regulations on prohibited substances for players and ponies shall apply, in addition to the laws of the country in which the competition is taking place. Players and parents are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with these rules, which are published on the HPA website and in the Blue Book. They are there for safety reasons, and lack of knowledge of these rules, or the law of the land, will NOT be accepted as an excuse in disciplinary proceedings, either by the HPA or by The Pony Club. Ponies and players are liable to random tests that will be carried out during the season in accordance with the above regulations. 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. In the event that a player or pony fails a HPA drug test, or any Committee Member or Tournament Organiser has grounds for suspicion that HPA regulations or the law have been infringed, a disciplinary hearing will be convened under rule 3. In addition, in the event of suspicion that the law of the land has been broken, the police will be informed immediately, together with a parent if the player is under 18 years.

2.14 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 qualifier tournaments must not be business competitors of the main sponsors of the sport, 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.

2.15 INSURANCE
The Pony Club Third Party Legal Liability Insurance Policy is extended to give cover for all official Area Competitions and the Championships. Details of this insurance are given in the “Administrative Notes” in the current issue of The Pony Club Year Book.

In the event of any accident, loss or damage occurring to a Third Party or to 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 The Pony Club Office.
2.16 LEGAL LIABILITY (inc. Health, Safety & Welfare)
Neither the Organiser, nor any person acting on their behalf, accept any liability for any loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to horses, riders, spectators, or any other persons or property whatsoever.

Health, Safety and Welfare - The Organiser of the event has taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health, safety and welfare of everyone present. For these measures to be effective everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the Organiser and all the Officials and Stewards.

2.17 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.

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

2.19 MEETINGS
There are committee and Branch Managers’ meetings at the beginning and end of the season and as required. A meeting or email exchange for prospective Gannon and Langford teams is held pre-season to arrange dates and places of play.

2.20 INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES
When a situation arises where these rules are not applicable or ambiguous, or if in the opinion of the committee the circumstances are exceptional, the committee’s decision on a course of action will be final.
3 **SECTION RULES**

3.1 **CANNON (Under 21 on 1st January)**

a) General - For teams with a handicap of -2 to 2 goals. Teams with an aggregate handicap of less than -2 goals must play off -2 goals. The Section will be divided at Cowdray. Gannon I will be played for the Daily Telegraph Trophy and Gannon II will be played for the Jaguar Trophy. Depending on the number and level of entries, the Section Manager may also decide to divide the qualifying tournament.

b) Handicap - For players with a handicap of -1 or above. -1 players under the age of 16 may play at the discretion of the Section Manager.

c) Ties - Pony Club Polo rule 4.7 b) applies where a result is required.

d) Matches - Each match shall be two or four chukkas and played under HPA rules. Matches will be played under handicap conditions.

e) Umpire - The Tournament Committee will appoint the umpires, who shall be approved HPA Umpires. Players will be expected to act as second umpire for GAN and LAN on their own pony, and umpire other Pony Club Sections as required not necessarily on their own pony.

f) Venues - GAN matches will usually take place on Qualifier tournament days. **In case of severe congestion they may be scheduled on other days or grounds.** Teams must attend a pre-season meeting or email exchange organised by the Section Manager which will confirm the draw and days and places of play. After this meeting, no requests by teams or players to alter dates or venues will be entertained. In the event of unavoidable unavailability, a substitute may be played according to the substitution rules.

g) **Teams MUST have a nominated Branch Manager and** it is strongly recommended that Gannon teams are advised by an HPA coach.

h) **Rules Test - Gannon players must have passed the HPA Rules Test.**

3.2 **RENDELL (Under 21 on 1st January)**

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

b) Matches/Chukkas - Matches will be one chukka of 6 minutes.

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 chukka.
d) Ties - Pony Club Polo rule 4.7 b) applies where a result is required.

e) Umpire - Only one HPA-qualified umpire is required for friendly tournaments, but either two HPA C grade umpires or one B grade umpire or above is required for the Qualifiers and the Championships.

f) Rules Test - Rendell players must have passed the HPA Rules Test which can be obtained even if not a member of the HPA.

3.3 LANGFORD (Under 18 on 1st January)
a) General - For teams with a handicap of -6 to -2. Teams with an aggregate handicap of less than -6 goals must play off -6 goals. The Section will be divided at Cowdray; Langford I will be played for the Jack Gannon Trophy and Langford II will be played for the Martin Trotter Trophy. Depending on the number and level of entries, the Section Manager may also decide to divide the qualifying tournament.

b) Handicaps - For players with a handicap of -2 goals or above (i.e. not S). -2 players under the age of 14 may play at the discretion of the Section Manager.

c) Matches - Each match shall be two, three or four chukkas and played under HPA rules. Matches will be played under handicap conditions.

d) Match Tie - Pony Club Polo rule 4.7 b) applies where a result is required.

e) Umpire - The Tournament Committee will appoint the umpires, who shall be approved HPA Umpires. Players will be expected to act as second umpire for GAN and LAN on their own pony, and umpire other Pony Club sections as required not necessarily on their own pony.

f) Venues - LAN matches will usually take place on Qualifier tournament days. In case of severe congestion they may be scheduled on other days or grounds. Teams must attend a pre-season meeting or email exchange organised by the Section Manager which will confirm the draw and days and places of play. After this meeting, no requests by teams or players to alter dates or venues will be entertained. In the event of unavoidable unavailability, a substitute may be played according to the substitution rules.

g) Teams MUST have a nominated Branch Manager and it is strongly recommended that Langford teams are advised by an HPA coach or senior player.

h) Rules Test - Langford players must have passed the HPA Rules Test.
3.4 **LORINER (Under 16 on 1st January)**

a) **General** - One chukka matches for players of 12 and over and under 16 on 1st January of the current year.

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

c) **Chukkas/Matches** - Matches will be one chukka of 6 minutes.

d) **Ties** - Pony Club Polo rule 4.7 b) applies where a result is required.

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

f) **Rules Test** - Loriner players must have passed the HPA Rules Test which can be obtained even if not a member of the HPA.

3.5 **SURTEES (Under 14 on 1st January)**

a) **General** - One chukka matches for players 9 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 rule 4.7 (b) applies where a result is required.

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

e) May play HX on a HX pony (see Rule 3.6c)

3.6 **HANDLEY CROSS (Under 14 on 1st January)**

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 Joint Measurement Board 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 rule 4.7 b) applies where a result is required.
e) Umpire - Only one HPA-qualified umpire is required.

f) May play SUR on a SUR pony

3.7 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 Joint Measurement Board 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 rule 4.7 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 two of the Qualifiers in order to play at the Championships.

g) At some tournaments in 2017, play with an arena polo ball or similar will be trialled.
4 TOURNAMENT RULES

4.1 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 22nd April. It is not necessary at this stage to place players in teams, but this form will be used as the basis for the Section pools, so players may only appear in one Section. Pools will be discussed at the Spring Branch Managers’ meeting. Pool players allocated to a Branch for a Section will be removed if players who are Members of that Branch are subsequently declared for that Section. Form A is optional for Gannon and Langford.

b) Declaration of Entry (Form B) - This should be sent to The Pony Club Office by 31st May and no late entries will be accepted.

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 Joint Measurement Board rules (see thejmbonline.co.uk). 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 does not qualify for Cowdray the cheque can then be returned).

e) Entry Fees - Entry fees for pre-qualifying and qualifying tournaments and the championships will be advised.

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.

4.2 SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR THE FINALS
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. Selection for the Championship finals at Cowdray will be based on the placings achieved after the qualifying tournaments and as required. Gannon and Langford are based on the placing at the end of the league competitions. Gannon may have two divisions at Cowdray depending on the levels of the entries.

4.3 MIXED BRANCH TEAMS - THE POOL SYSTEM
In JOR, HX, SUR, LOR and REN:

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, or if players from different Branches train together.

b) 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. Under no circumstances may Branch Managers place any player outside their own Branch nor may they accept a player from another Branch.

c) 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.

In LAN and GAN, Section Managers will operate a pool of players available and give advice if requested. Branch Managers may arrange teams, but Section Managers will check that teams comply with eligibility rules and will approve team entries. Players may not change Branches and the 14-month rule will apply.

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 rules, and exceptionally the age 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. Where such an exception is made, all
Branch Managers in Sections affected will be informed.

4.4 SUBSTITUTION

a) Players

There are no restrictions on substitutions or replacements during Friendly Tournaments except that the player be qualified to play in the section concerned.

From the first Qualifier, or in the case of Gannon and Langford the first qualifying match, the substitution of an entered player will only be allowed in the event of injury or other unavoidable circumstances. The substitute must be a Member of The Pony Club and of no better standard than the player he or she is replacing. Players with a higher handicap (-2 being higher than 5), or players who have played in Qualifiers in this or previous years in a higher section than the player being substituted, will be deemed better players. The same substitute will normally be expected to play through the Qualifiers into the Championships as long as the injured player continues to be unavailable or unfit. The original player will be expected to play if available and fit.

Subject to the above, the preferences for substitutions, in order of priority, are:

- A player who is eligible to play in the Section but has not played in any tournament (e.g. a pool player with no team).
- A player who has not played in the tournament but who is eligible, over one who has played in the tournament.
- A player who has been knocked out of the same tournament over one who is still involved.
- A player from the same Branch over one from a different Branch.
- A player from the same Section over one from a different Section.

The Section Manager or, if not available, a Committee Member or Tournament Organiser, must approve all substitutions and ensure that no pony would be played more than the rules allowed. If the substituting player is from a different Section, that Section Manager, or, if not available, a second Committee Member, must also approve the substitution. Matches may be delayed until a suitable substitute can be found.

b) Ponies

If a pony goes lame during a chukka or is otherwise unable to continue, it may be replaced by another qualified pony. The chukka may be delayed until after the next chukka to allow the replacement
pony to be tacked up and warmed up.

If there is no qualified pony available within one or two chukkas, each team will nominate any one of their players to stand down so that the chukka can be completed, starting from the point at which play was stopped, with three players on each team. Teams may resume with four players as soon as a qualified pony is available.

4.5 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.

4.6 VETERINARY
a) Branch Activities & Competitions - If a vet is required the Member’s parent will normally call their own vet and arrange treatment.

b) Friendly Tournaments - Arrangements should be made for a Veterinary Surgeon to be on call and able to attend the site in a reasonable time. The telephone should be noted at the commentary point.

c) Qualifier Tournaments - Arrangements should be made for a Veterinary Surgeon to be on site.

A tarpaulin should be available to cover a horse should one be killed, and the telephone number of the Hunt Kennels or Knacker noted at the commentary point. See the Health, Safety & Safeguarding Rule Book for further information.

4.7 RULES OF POLO
The rules of the HPA shall be observed, subject to alterations for Pony Club Polo as detailed below. NB: Coaching from the sidelines is not allowed.

a) Matches/Chukkas - In REN, 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) Tie Break Rules - In the event of a tie in a REN, 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.

In the event of a tie in a GAN or LAN 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’. The first team to score will be the winner. In the event of there being no goal scored at the end of the chukka, there will be a Pony Club Polo ‘run down’.

4.8 LEAGUES
League competitions will be run for REN and LOR 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.

4.9 THE LEDNER TROPHY
The Ledner trophy is specifically to encourage Branches to recruit players from their own Branch who will play together all through The Pony Club. It will be awarded for the team from Gannon, Rendell and Langford, in that order, which is not a mixed Branch team (i.e. a team which comprises players all from one Branch) which finishes the Championships highest ranked in its Section. In the event of a tie, the team finishing higher at the final Qualifier will be awarded the trophy.
and in the event that there is still a tie, the team finishing higher in the previous qualifier.

4.10 JURY OF APPEAL
The Chairman, or his or her nomination, one other Member of the Committee who has not previously been involved in the matter at hand, and any relevant Tournament Organiser, or his or her nomination, always to be three people, shall act as a jury of appeal in cases of any dispute, protest or objection over eligibility of players or ponies. Their decision shall be final. For disputes on the ground, the umpire’s decision is final. HPA rules regarding the appointment and authority of umpires will apply.

4.11 COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS AND OBJECTIONS
No complaint may be raised directly with an opposing team, player or official.

Only Branch Managers, or their appointed representative notified to a Member of the Committee, 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 and they will be heard by a Jury of Appeal. Protests should be in writing accompanied by a deposit of £50 which will be refunded if the objection is upheld. Players, team managers or parents who approach any official with a protest or objection will be referred to their Branch Manager. No photographic evidence will be accepted in support of a complaint, protest or objection.

Any complaints about umpiring must be made to Branch Managers and not directly to the umpire or Pony Club Polo Committee. Branch Managers may then take up complaints with the Pony Club Polo Committee and appropriate Section Managers, but as per the HPA rules of Polo, the umpires’ decision is final, and results of matches cannot be altered after the match has completed.
5 DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOUR

5.1 UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOUR
Unseemly behaviour on the part of riders, team officials or team supporters, whether to each other or to tournament officials or umpires, or any suspicion or complaint that these rules, or the laws of the land, have been broken, will be referred in the first instance to the Pony Club Polo Committee Disciplinary Panel which will comprise the Chairman, or his or her nominee, one other member of The Pony Club Polo Committee not previously involved in the matter at hand, and the Tournament Organiser or his or her nominee, if the incident was at a tournament, otherwise a second Committee Member, always to be three people. The Disciplinary Panel will consider the matter in the context of these rules, and may call witnesses who, if under the age of 18, will be accompanied by an appropriate adult. Failure of a Pony Club Member to attend when requested to do so will be taken into consideration.

The Disciplinary Panel has the power to suspend players from competition while further investigation takes place. In the event of the suspension of a single player in a team, a substitute will be allowed. If more than one player in a team is suspended concurrently, the team will automatically be suspended. The incident may then be reported to the DC of the Branch of the player or supporter for disposition. The Disciplinary Panel shall decide whether the player will be suspended until the DC concerned can deal with the matter.

Where team officials, supporters or parents are found by the Disciplinary Panel to have broken these rules or abused officials or umpires, the Disciplinary Panel has the power to suspend or disqualify teams, or ban individuals from attending tournaments.

5.2 DISQUALIFICATION
The Pony Club Polo Committee Disciplinary Panel may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition:
   i. for dangerous riding, or
   ii. if, in their opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted, or
   iii. for misuse of whip, spur or bit, or ill-treatment of the horse, or
   iv. for any breach of the rules, or
   v. for unseemly behaviour, including bad language.

5.3 COWDRAY CHAMPIONSHIPS
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.
6 GUIDANCE TO PARENTS

6.1 These notes are designed to help parents of Pony Club Polo players and prospective players.

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. Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children, both on and off the ground and should set an example to their children of how to respect those who organise their polo.

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 and are the primary point of contact for parents - see separate section, Guidance for Branch Managers. Please support your Branch Manager.

6.5 Ponies - Many enjoy the whole of Pony Club Polo with one pony. However, when committed to GAN and LAN players need to be adequately mounted. GAN and LAN players also have to supply umpire ponies on the day of their matches.

6.6 Rules of Polo - It is important that all players know and understand the rules. The HPA rules test is recommended for all players and compulsory for certain sections. It can be taken even if the player is not a member of the HPA. Contact your Branch Manager for details.

6.7 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 HPA umpiring test.

6.8 Safety - The wearing of face guards/goggles and gum shields (which should be fitted by a dentist) are recommended.

6.9 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 is 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  GUIDANCE TO BRANCH MANAGERS

7.1  The Branch Manager will be the person appointed by The Pony Club Committee of the Branch. **A close relationship with the Branch Committee should be maintained, particularly when the Branch Manager is not a member of that committee.**

7.2  **Whilst recognising that Branch Managers are valued volunteers, there are certain activities which Branch Managers are responsible for to ensure the smooth running of Pony Club Polo:**

- Encouraging new players by, for example, staging demonstrations at rallies, camps etc, and encouraging Members to come and watch tournaments and matches.
- **Ensuring that hats have been tagged before tournaments start.**
- Organising appropriate training and courses for players, and making sure players and parents are aware of any appropriate polo courses, as well as suitable Pony Club rallies.
- Ensuring players are eligible to play in the Section for which they are entered, and have completed the relevant training, rallies, tests, HPA rules and umpiring test etc. for the section in which they intend to play and are Members of the Pony Club by the appropriate date. Guidance on taking HPA tests when not a member of the HPA can be obtained from the HPA liaison committee member.
- Submitting entry forms and stables requirements, including relevant fees, by the due dates with accurate position numbers and ages; submitting changes in positions in time for the Championship programme publication. **This year late entries will NOT be accepted – teams and individuals will not be permitted to play.**
- Requesting Section Managers to recommend and approve substitutions, when required.
- Appointing Team Managers, if required.
- Acting as the channel of communication between players and parents (or Team Managers if appointed) and the relevant Section Manager – **you are encouraged to open up the channel of communication with the relevant Section Managers prior to submission of entry forms.**
- Representing the Branch at Branch Managers meetings.
- Promoting a positive attitude by players and parents to Pony Club Polo.
- Ensuring players and parents have a copy of these rules and are aware of their obligations under these rules.
- Appoint **HPA qualified and Pony Club registered** coaches for teams where applicable.
- Ensure that ponies are vaccinated and passports are available at all times.
- Informing the Member’s DC in the event of any disciplinary question
- Maintaining a register of players and other people camping at Cowdray and informing Mike Smith of the register and changes to it.
• Ensuring parents carry out the duties assigned to the Branch at Cowdray.
• Ensuring that there is a nominated adult camping with those players camping at Cowdray.
• **Dealing with complaints from their teams and players and contacting Section Managers if appropriate.**

You must be aware fully of the duties that you must carry out as a Branch Manager and your obligations to: individuals, teams, your DC and Branch and the Pony Club, under these rules.

7.3 Players who are Members of a Pony Club Branch without an appointed Branch Manager are encouraged to train with a neighbouring Branch, but must be entered into the pool system with the relevant Section Manager.

---

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8 COWDRAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

8.1 GENERAL
The finals of The Pony Club Polo 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. The camp commandant and Committee Member responsible for health and safety and security issues is Mr Mike Smith. A security company assists him.

8.2 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 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.

8.3 CAMPSITE RULES
a) Branch & Team Responsibility - Each Branch 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 Manager a substitute must be appointed and notified to Mike Smith.

b) Register - Branch 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 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 Managers, controls allocation. Stables must be labelled with the name of the player, Branch 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. Barbecues to be enclosed and not with an open flame. Under no circumstances are there to be open fires.

l) 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.

m) 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.

n) 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.

o) Alcohol and Drugs - Laws governing the sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol must be obeyed at all times. 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 illegal drugs being found at the Championships the police will be informed and the person or persons involved, or thought to be involved, will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel (see 5.1) who may order the person or persons to be removed from the site and, if applicable, suspended from play while further investigation takes place under Section 14 of the Pony Club Health and Safety Policy.

p) Smoking - NO SMOKING IN THE STABLES AREA.

q) 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.

r) 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.

8.4 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 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 - BODY PROTECTOR RULE

The Pony Club does not make the use of body protectors compulsory, except for all Cross Country riding and Pony Racing whether it be training or competing. Body Protectors used for Cross Country and Pony Racing must meet BETA 2009 Level 3 standard (purple label).

The BETA 2009 Level 3 (purple) tag:

For general use, the responsibility for choosing body protectors and the decision as to their use must rest with Members and their parents. It is recommended that a rider’s body protector should not be more than 2% of their body weight. When worn, body protectors must fit correctly, be comfortable and must not restrict movement.

Riders who choose to use the Woof Wear Body Cage EXO must lodge a key with the Event Organiser when they collect their number.

Air Jackets
When an air jacket inflates the sudden noise startles horses in the immediate vicinity thereby causing difficulties for the other members of a ride if used in a group ride in a confined area, e.g. an indoor school or outdoor ménage. Air jackets are therefore not encouraged for group rides.

If a rider chooses to wear an air jacket in Cross Country or Pony Racing, it must only be used in addition to a normal body protector which meets the BETA 2009 Level 3 standard (purple label). Parents and Members must be aware that riders may be permitted to continue after a fall in both competition and training rides for Cross Country and/or Pony Racing, provided the rider has been passed as fit to continue by First Aid Providers. In the event of a fall, it must be fully deflated or removed before continuing, after which, the conventional body protector will continue to give protection. Air jackets must not be worn under a jacket and number bibs should be fitted loosely or with elasticated fastenings over the air jacket.
APPENDIX B - HEAD INJURY & CONCUSSION FLOWCHART

Start

1. Has the member been involved in an incident that could have caused a head injury or concussion, e.g. a fall from a horse?
   - No: No action required
   - Yes:
     - Member to be referred to hospital for further assessment. Member must not ride again that day and should be returned to the care of their parents / guardians. Member should not be left alone.

2. Was the rider unconscious at any point?
   - Yes: Continue as planned - Member does not ride again for three weeks and should follow professional medical advice about restarting any contact sport.
   - No: No action required

3. What medical cover do you have onsite?
   - Yes: Refer to a Doctor / Hospital for further assessment. Member must not continue riding until they have been assessed.
   - No: No action required

4a. Has the Doctor / Paramedic confirmed the member has suffered from a head injury or concussion?
   - Yes:
     - Member to be referred to hospital immediately for a suspected head injury for further assessment. Member must not ride again that day and should be returned to the care of their parents / guardians and should not be left alone.
   - No: No action required

4b. Has the member suffered a confirmed or suspected head injury / concussion?
   - Yes: Refer to a Doctor / Hospital for further assessment. Member must not continue riding until they have been assessed.
   - No: No action required

5a. Has the Doctor / Paramedic diagnosed the member as suffering from a suspected head injury and / or suspected concussion?
   - Yes: Refer to a Doctor / Hospital for further assessment. Member must not continue riding until they have been assessed.
   - No: No action required

6. Has the hospital confirmed the member has suffered from a head injury or concussion?
   - Yes:
     - Member does not ride again for three weeks at any activities and should follow medical instructions given by the medical professional. This may include immediate referral to hospital depending on symptoms.
   - No: No action required

7. Do the parents / guardians want the member to ride again before the three week period has passed?
   - Yes: Continue as planned - Member does not ride again for three weeks and should follow professional medical advice about restarting any contact sport.
   - No: No action required

Note: This letter must be obtained from a medical professional (Doctor, hospital consultant, etc) and dated at least ten days after the incident where the injury was sustained.

Please note if you are unsure at any stage, follow the 'yes' route.
### APPENDIX C - TOURNAMENT FIXTURES 2017

**PONY CLUB POLO PROGRAMME**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>18 July</td>
<td>Taunton Vale Polo Club</td>
<td>ALL</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 July</td>
<td>Frampton Estate</td>
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<td>JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, REN</td>
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### QUALIFIERS

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<td>JOR, LOR, LAN</td>
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### CHAMPIONSHIPS

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<td>JOR</td>
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<td>Cowdray Park Polo Club</td>
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* LAN and GAN matches are subject to separate scheduling

**THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE - PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE (www.pcuuk.org) FOR UP TO DATE FIXTURES**
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.

To find out where you can learn to play polo see the Pony Club website for a list of branches that play and the Hurlingham Polo Association website for a map of HPA affiliated Polo Clubs in the UK.

In 2016 there were 14 teams playing in the British Junior Polo Championships which is organised and run by the HPA alongside Pony Club Polo.

Chief Executive: David Woodd
Manor Farm, Little Coxwell, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7LW,
E-mail: enquiries@hpa-polo.co.uk
Website: www.hpa-polo.co.uk
Tel: 01367 242 828
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If just polo isn’t enough for you, why not take some Spanish classes, book in some tennis coaching, get fit with the personal trainer, go shopping in Buenos Aires, or maybe just relax by the pool?

“A polo handicap is your passport to the world”
Winston Churchill

For more information call us on: 07894 521 503
Or email: euan@elremansopolo.com | www.elremansopolo.com