

PONY CLUB POLO INTRODUCTION

Extract of 2008 Rule book.

Link to full version at the bottom of this document.

1.1 Pony Club Polo (PCP) is played by over 600 young people aged 6-21 years old. There are six 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 groups: 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 the second weekend of August. The Jorrocks Championships are held at Hurtwood Park in the second week in August. 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.

As of 2008, Junior HPA polo is being incorporated with Pony Club polo. The HPA will be running the Hipwood, Langford and Gannon sections in conjunction with the Pony Club

1.2 PCP is one of the fastest growing activities of The Pony Club. In 2007 there were 126 teams from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. PCP is designed, above all, to be fun.

1.3 PCP 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 on one pony. However to cater for those who wish to progress further, and to provide a bridge into adult polo, three Sections of Junior Polo, Hipwood, Langford and Gannon, play three and four chukka matches needing two to four ponies per player. The flagship of Junior Polo is the Gannon competition playing four chukka matches.

1.4 PCP has a comprehensive 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 2007 training courses were held during the Easter and summer holidays in the UK and also in South Africa in February and March. In 2008 similar courses will be held.

1.5 Individuals and teams are invited to represent The Pony Club abroad and in the UK. In 2007 there were tours to Kenya and Argentina. Individuals can also be selected on merit to participate in the 'Junior Squad' 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 PCP in pursuit of its objective to improve the sport. This year they will be organising Junior HPA tournaments in conjunction with the Pony Club. They also organise the 'Junior Squad' scheme and Overseas Work Experience Bursaries. Players are selected by an HPA committee in conjunction with the PCP Committee, PCP Branch Managers and Polo Clubs. Final selection for the 'Junior Squad' is made after the Cowdray Championships. Bursaries are decided at a separate selection process usually conducted at the Beaufort Polo Club. These awards are highly prized and make a valuable contribution to improving the sport in the United Kingdom 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 must be paid to the players' Branches by the 31st January 2008. Subscription for Members joining after 31st January 2008 must be paid immediately on joining and before the Member participates in any Pony Club event.

SHORT HISTORY

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 Berks, Staff College and Bisley participated). Today PCP 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 and David Cowley (1999 - 2007) and Theresa Hodges is the current Chairman.

The Championships have been played at six different locations: Aldershot 1959, Cirencester 1964, Kirtlington 1968, Windsor 1971 and Cirencester 1974. Since 1977 the Championship finals have been held at Cowdray Park. PCP polo saw an explosion in interest in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1993 the Jorrocks Section was introduced. In 1985 23 teams competed, by 1991 the number of teams had grown to 84 with over 100 teams competing in 2003. In 1988 four-chukka polo was introduced for the Gannon competition and has been a great success. In 1998 the Langford Section, playing three chukka polo, and in 2003 the Surtees Section for U14's on polo ponies were introduced.

In 2008, Rendell will become two chukkas and a new section called Ledner will provide 1 chukka polo for under 21's. Also, this year along with the HPA a new section, Hipwood, is to be introduced for players under 15 playing three chukka matches. 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 2007 all the players in the Golden Jubilee Cup played Pony Club Polo, as did all the England team in the 2007 Coronation Cup.

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. Train young people 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.

The full version of the introduction can be found at :

<http://www.pcuk.org/output/disciplines/WebRuleBook2008.pdf>