

The line of the ball. The line of the ball is the line on which the ball is travelling.

Think of the line of the ball as the white line down the centre of a main road.

The line does not change unless the ball is actually moved in a different direction.

If the ball becomes stationary that line remains, until it is moved on to a new line.

When a dead ball is put into play through being hit at and missed, then the line of the ball is the line that the player was riding, when the ball was hit at and missed.

When there is a sudden change of the line due to a hit or deflection, a player who is committed across that line must be given time to clear that line.

If the umpire throws in the dead ball the line is created by the throw in.

The right of way. The right of way is the most important rule of Polo.

Having established the line of the ball, then who has the right of way to hit that ball?

It is the player travelling in the direction that the ball is going; and at the smallest angle to the line of the ball; and that player must strike the ball on his offside.

As a guideline the right of way is about 5 feet wide, measured from the opposite stirrup to the line of the ball, allowing the player reaching out for the ball.

If that player places himself to strike the ball on his near side and thereby endangers another player, then it is a foul.

An opposing player may meet the player on the line of the ball, as long as they are directly in line and pass right hand to right hand.

Two players on the right of way take priority over all other players.

Crossing or entering the right of way

No player may enter or cross that right of way if it causes any danger to the player entitled to it.

The player travelling down the main road on the left of the line has the right of way.

Any player in a lay-by, side road or overtaking must not endanger the player entitled to that right of way, and therefore must give way and not cause him to check or take evasive action in any way.

Players, like cars, may go as fast as they like down either side of the road in the same or opposite directions.

They may not join the road, nor may they cross, unless it is safe to do so.

Changing to the near side of the line.

If a player is on the line of the ball and an opponent is attempting to catch him up, to hook his stick or ride him off, the player on the line may not change to the near side of the line to avoid him.

Nor may the player on the line of the ball change his position to the near side of the line of the ball should an opposing player be attempting to tackle him from any position whatsoever.

Stopping on the ball.

No player on the line may check or stop, thereby obstructing another player following behind him, e.g. if a player on the line of the ball misses the ball, he must continue and not stop to have another shot or turn his pony dangerously