



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





## CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
Short History of Pony Club Polo	5
Aims and Objectives	6
Disclaimer	6
The Pony Club Polo Committee	7
<b>2. TOURNAMENT AND CHAMPIONSHIP RULES</b>	<b>9</b>
General Rules	9
Pony Club Polo Tournament Rules	12
Entry Forms and Fees	13
Junior HPA Tournament Rules	16
Discipline & Behaviour	18
Gannon Section Rules	18
Rendell Section Rules	19
Ledner Section Rules	20
Langford Section Rules	21
Loriner Section Rules	22
Hipwood Section Rules	22
Surtees Section Rules	23
Handley Cross Section Rules	23
Jorrocks Section Rules	24
<b>3. HPA RULES SIMPLIFIED FOR THE PONY CLUB</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4. GUIDANCE TO PARENTS.</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>5. COWDRAY CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	<b>30</b>
Campsite Rules	30
BBQ & Discoteque	34
Fire Drill	35
<b>6. APPENDICES</b>	<b>36</b>
Appendix A – Medical Cover	36
Appendix B – Hat Standards	40
Appendix C – Tournament Fixtures 2007	42





## 1. INTRODUCTION

### GENERAL

- 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

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

1.9 Pony Club Polo started in 1933 but it was not until 1959 that it emerged in its modern format. Brigadier Jack Gannon and Major Claude Davenport organized five Branch teams to play at the Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot on 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Jorrock's 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.

### **DISCLAIMER**

1.12 The Pony Club, the HPA and tournament and event organisers or any person acting on their behalf, do not accept liability for loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to competitors, spectators or any person or property whatsoever. The Pony Club, the HPA, Pony Club Polo and tournament and event organisers aim to meet the necessary medical, veterinary and health and safety standards but the responsibility for the players, spectators and supporters rests with the individuals and, if they are under 18 years, with their parents or guardians both on and off the ground. A player with a known medical condition must obtain qualified medical approval before participating in any PCP activity

1.13 Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children at all times when their children are participating in any PCP event.



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## **2. TOURNAMENT AND CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

### **GENERAL RULES FOR ALL SECTIONS**

#### **2.1 Organisation of Sections.**

Pony Club Polo (PCP) is organised in seven Sections, some of which may be divided into a number of divisions.

#### **2.2 Summer Season**

This comprises of five parts: Branch and Area rallies, training courses, tournaments, qualifiers and the Championship finals. In order to be eligible to qualify for the finals (except JOR) teams must compete in all the qualifying tournaments. The Sections, each controlled by a Section Manager, are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Chukkas</b>
Gannon (GAN)	Junior HPA	Under 21	4 Chukka Matches
Rendell (REN)	Pony Club	Under 21	2 Chukka Matches
Ledner (LED)	Pony Club	Under 21	1 Chukka Matches
Langford (LAN)	Junior HPA	Under 18	4 Chukka Matches
Loriner (LOR)	Pony Club	Under 16	1 Chukka Matches
Hipwood (HIP)	Junior HPA	Under 15	3 Chukka Matches
Surtees (SUR)	Pony Club	Under 14	1 Chukka Matches
Handley Cross (HX)	Pony Club	Under 14	1 Chukka Matches
Jorrocks (JOR)	Pony Club	Under 11	1 Chukka Matches

2.3 **Easter Season.** This comprises of arena tournaments, training courses and Branch rallies

2.4 **Meetings.** There are Committee and Branch Managers' meetings in April and October. There will be a PCP Section Managers meeting in mid May to allocate 'pool' players.

2.5 **Selection of Teams for the Finals.** Selection for the Championship Finals at Cowdray will be based on the placings achieved after the qualifying tournaments. This is done at Tidworth, except for Gannon, Langford and Hipwood, which will be based on the placings at the end of the league competitions.

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

- a. If the concussion is of a minor nature the suspension is to be for the rest of the day of the concussion and for the next two days.
- b. If the player has a short period of unconsciousness, or a period of post traumatic amnesia, or is sent to hospital the suspension is to be for a minimum of six full days.



## 2.7 Ponies.

- a. **Welfare.** 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 part are not allowed to play.
- b. All ponies must have a passport and must be vaccinated against influenza and tetanus. Passports will be checked at random and should travel with your ponies to all polo activities. All passports for polo ponies should be registered with the HPA.
- c. All ponies must be fit and should have been regularly ridden before the season.
- d. Ponies may not be ridden unbridled at any time.
- e. Any pony which is considered by an umpire, or a member of the PCP Committee, to be unsafe or out of control can be ordered off the ground and may not be permitted to be ridden in further PCP 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.



## 2.8 Players

- a. Ages are as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

## 2.9 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. This applies to both PCP and Junior HPA polo. **JOR, HX and SUR players may wear jodhpur boots and half chaps. It is recommended that JOR & HX players wear kneepads. SUR players must wear knee pads.** Shoes may not be worn. A register of team colours for PCP is kept at Pony Club HQ. Teams wishing to change or select colours should apply to Pony Club HQ. 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).
- b. **Hats.** It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet manufactured to one of the minimum standards. It must bear the CE mark and a quality symbol, either the BSI Kitemark, the SAI Global symbol or the official Snell label with number. The CE symbol on its own is not sufficient to ensure consistent standard of manufacture. The PAS 015:1998 and the Snell E2001 meet higher impact criteria and therefore give more protection. See Appendix B and the specific rules on hats in the individual Section rules.





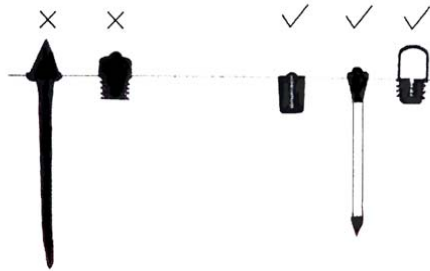
- c. **Hair.** In the interest of safety, long hair is to be secured appropriately.
- d. **Spurs.** Blunt spurs may be worn. Maximum 3 cm in length, the curve must be downward and the shank must point straight to the back. No spurs are allowed in JOR, HX and SUR.
- e. **Whips.** Restricted to 48 inches total length, including the tag. Broken whips are not allowed.
- f. **Boots.** Proper riding boots (leather or rubber) covering the lower leg should be worn. At JOR, HX and SUR level knee high chaps may be worn with jodhpur boots. Shoes may not be worn.
- g. **Jewellery.** Players may not wear jewellery or studs.
- h. **Guards / Goggles.** The wearing of face guards/goggles and gum shields is recommended. **Gum shields should be properly fitted by a dentist.**
- i. **Electronic Devices** Headphones, mobile phones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider are not allowed whilst the rider is playing.



#### 2.10. **Equipment for Ponies** (HPA rules apply - see section 5)

- a. Ponies must be bandaged 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. Blinkers are not allowed, or any form of noseband that obstructs the vision of the pony such as sheepskin nosebands.
- c. Ponies may not be played in a bitless bridle.
- d. **Rimmed shoes are allowed but the rim must be on the inside of the shoe.**
- e. Only recognised polo studs limited in size to a half-inch, 13mm cube and placed only at the heel of the hind shoes and modern road studs (nails with a hardened tip) are allowed. No road studs with hardened cores are allowed. A non slip plug or road plug may be fitted. Ponies found with the incorrect studs will not be allowed to play until the studs are removed.





e. Incorrectly or badly fitting tack or tack in a dangerous condition is not allowed.

f. Standing martingales are to be worn by all ponies.

2.11 **Inspections.** Ponies and equipment will be inspected, individually or in teams, at tournaments. The decision of the veterinary surgeon or the PCP Committee is final.



2.12 **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.



2.13 **Treading In**

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

**TOURNAMENT RULES FOR PONY CLUB POLO SECTIONS**

(Applicable to Rendell, Ledner, Loriner, Surtees, Handley Cross and Jorrocks)

2.14 **Eligibility of Players.**

a. District Commissioners must certify that all players are paid up members of The Pony Club. Players in REN, LED, LOR and SUR are required to attend two PC Area/Branch Polo Training Courses and one branch rally. This year during the change-over, if a player has already attended more than one branch rally, they need only attend one Area/Branch Polo Training Course. In the case of HX and JOR players must attend three branch rallies with their ponies.

b. A player may only play in one Section in either PCP or Junior HPA polo and may not play in more than one team.





2.15 **Ponies**

**A pony may only play a maximum of three 6 minute chukkas or four 4.5 minute chukkas (18 minutes) in one day.**

2.16 **Rules of Polo.** The rules of the HPA shall be observed, subject to alterations for the PCP as detailed below

2.17 **Players**

- a. Ages are as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.
- b. A novice over age may be allowed to play in a Section below his or her age group, at the discretion of the Section Manager.

2.18 **Run Down Rules.** In the event of a tie in a REN, LED, LOR, SUR, HX and JOR match, where a result is required, a PCP 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 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 toss of a coin.
- 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 of the ground. A tournament official, who must be on the goal line, will judge the winner.

2.19. **Entries.**

- a. **Preliminary Entry (Form A). The names of all players and provisional team numbers are to be submitted to Pony Club HQ by 21st April.** It is not necessary at this stage to place players in teams. DCs must countersign the form before it is submitted.
- b. **Declaration of Entry (Form B) This should be sent to Pony Club HQ by 12<sup>th</sup> May.** The form is to be completed in full. For HX and JOR teams, the size of each pony must be stated. Final team lists will be issued by Section Managers.





- c. **Tournament Entry (Form C)** This should be sent to Pony Club HQ 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 cheque only should be submitted with each form for all entry fees.**

- e. **Entry fees.**

i. **Pre qualifying tournaments for JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, REN, LED - £140 per team**

ii. **Qualifying tournaments for JOR, HX, SUR, LOR, REN, LED - £160 per team**

iii. **Championships for all sections (excluding BBQ and stabling) - £320 per team**



- 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.

- h. **Substitution**

During a Tournament. Substitutes due to injury or illness will only be allowed if they are no better standard than the players they are replacing. Preferably they should come from the same Branch. The Section Manager must approve all substitutions.

- i. **Injury during play.**

**If an injury occurs during a chukka and a player has to leave the ground, it is expected that one of the players from the opposing team will step down for the rest of that chukka.**





- j. **Eligibility Exceptions.** In the event of genuine hardship, injury or illness, the restrictions on players and ponies may be modified at the discretion of the Section Manager.

2.20 **Mixed Branch Teams.**

- a. Section Managers have the sole authority to sanction players joining other Branch teams.

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

- c. Branch Managers are to refer to Section Managers if they have too many or too few players to form a team(s) in any Section. They may not place any player outside their own Branch nor may they accept a player from another Branch. A player who has played outside his/her own Branch in the past must also be referred to the Section Manager before any commitment is made to continuing to play outside the Branch

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

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

2.21 **Transfer between Branches.** The Pony Club 14 month rule (Rule XIV) applies. Please refer to The Pony Club Year Book.

2.22 **Jury of Appeal.** Two members of the PCP Committee and the tournament organiser shall act as a jury of appeal in case of any dispute over eligibility of players or ponies. For disputes on the ground the umpire's decision is final.





#### 2.23 **Protests and Objections.**

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

2.24 **Leagues.** Overall leagues may be run for REN, LED and LOR Sections. The league rules and points system will be advised by the Committee at the Branch Managers' spring meeting.

#### **2.25 TOURNAMENT RULES FOR JUNIOR HPA (Gannon, Langford and Hipwood)**

- a. **All players must:**
  - i. **Be a member of a Pony Club Branch**
  - ii. **Be a member of a club with a confirmed HPA handicap**
  - iii. **Hold a British passport and be principally resident in the UK or be in full time education in the UK**
  - iv. **Play in Junior HPA polo as an amateur without any economic benefit**
- b. **All teams must be entered by an HPA approved Team Manager and include the Pony Club Branch and the club or school to which each player belongs. A player may only play in one section of either Junior HPA polo or PCP and may not play in more than one team.**
- c. **The only restriction on the teams will be age and handicap as at 1<sup>st</sup> January, but it is intended that teams will be based on clubs. However schools and Pony Club branches may also enter teams with the approval of the HPA.**
- d. **The Pony Club rules governing Concussion ( 2.6) Dress including helmets (2.9) and Equipment for Ponies (2.10) will apply.**
- e. **The Pony Club rules governing ponies (2.7) will apply. In Junior HPA a pony may only play two non-consecutive chukkas (or equivalent) in a match. Teams will have to provide umpire ponies for the match either before or after theirs.**
- f. **Games will be played according to HPA rules as laid down in the HPA Blue Book.**





- g. All players must have passed the HPA Rules test and attended two HPA approved PC Area Training Courses. A players with a handicap of 1 goals or above need only attend one course.
- h. Each Section will have a Section Manager but games will be scheduled and administered by the HPA Tournament Director.
- i. Any player can revert back to playing Pony Club polo for their Branch the following season but the 14 month rule will apply in respect of a transfer to another branch.
- j. **Entry Fees**
  - i. Gannon £200 per team per match
  - ii. Langford £200 per team per match
  - iii. Hipwood £180 per team per match
- k. Closing date for entries will be 12<sup>th</sup> May and they should be sent to the HPA Offices:



Hurlingham Polo Association  
Manor Farm  
Little Coxwell  
Faringdon  
Oxon SN7 7LW  
Tel: 01367 242828





### **3. DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOUR**

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

### **4. SECTION RULES**

#### **4.1 GANNON (Under 21 on the 1st January)**

- a. **General.**  
For Teams with a handicap of 0 to 4 goals. Matches are played off handicap. The minimum age is 16
- b. **Handicap**  
For players of 20, 19 or 18 with handicaps of -1 or above and players of 17 and 16 with a handicap of 0 or above. No more than one player with a handicap of 2 or above to play in each team.
- c. **Matches.** Four chukka matches under HPA rules.
- d. **Ponies.** There is no limitation on ponies.





- e. **Substitutes.** HPA rules on substitution will apply, but a substitution must be agreed with the Section Manager.
- f. **Hats.**  
GAN players are required to wear polo helmets. See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9 b)
- g. **Match Tie.** In the event of a tie in a match where a result is required a tie breaker will take place as follows: A 'sudden death' extra chukka will be played with the whole of the back line being the goal, including between the posts. All players must change ponies. Teams will change ends and the chukka will start from the middle with a 'throw-in'. In the event of there being no goal scored at the end of the chukka, there will be a 'run down'
- h. **Umpire and Referee.** Two HPA qualified umpires are required, and a referee. The HPA will provide one professional umpire who will be assisted by a qualified Junior HPA player. The referee should also be a Junior HPA player.
- i. **Umpire Qualification.** GAN players are expected to have taken the HPA Umpire Test and must make themselves available to umpire. Team Managers are responsible to see that GAN players have studied the latest HPA Rule Book.
- j. **Venues.** GAN matches will as far as possible take place at official Junior HPA tournaments. The place, day and time of the matches will be organised by the HPA Tournament Director in consultation with the Section and Team Managers.

#### 4.2 RENDELL (Under 21 on 1st January)

- a. **General.** For players under 21 on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The minimum age is 14 years.
- b. **Matches.** Matches will be two six minute consecutive chukkas ending on the bell, five-second rule to apply.
- 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 ½ goal per match.





- d. **Ponies.**
  - i. There is no limit on the number of ponies per team or per player.
  - ii. No pony may play more than three 6 minute chukkas (18 minutes) in one day.
- e. **Ties.** PCP run down rule applies where a result is required.
- f. **Hats**  
REN players are required to wear polo helmets. See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9 b)
- g. **Umpire.** Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.

#### 4.3 LEDNER (Under 21 on 1st January)

- a. **General.** One chukka matches. For players under 21 on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The minimum age is 14 years.
- b. **Chukkas.** Six minute duration ending on the bell, unless it is necessary to play four chukkas in a day in which case they will be 4.5 minutes. The five second rule applies.
- c. **Handicaps.** The maximum individual handicap is +1. Teams may only include one player with a +1 handicap and that player must play for their own branch. Matches are played open except where a team includes a player with a +1 handicap in which case they will concede a ½ goal per match.
- d. **Ponies.**
  - i. There is no limit on the number of ponies per team or per player.
  - ii. No pony may play more than three 6 minute chukkas or four 4.5 minute chukkas (18 minutes) in one day.
- e. **Ties.** PCP run down rule applies where a result is required.
- f. **Hats**  
LED players are required to wear polo helmets. See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9 b)
- g. **Umpire.** Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.





#### 4.4 LANGFORD (Under 18 on 1st January)

- a. **General.** For teams of a handicap of -4 to 0. Matches are played off handicap. The minimum age is 15 unless a player of 14 has a handicap of 0 goals or above.
- b. **Handicaps.** For players of 17, 16 and 15 with a handicap of -2 to +2, and players of 14 with a handicap of 0 or +2. No more than one player of +2 or two players of +1 per team (the sum of the handicaps of the best two players must not exceed 2 goals).
- c. **Matches.** Four chukka matches played under HPA rules.
- c. **Ponies.**  
No limitation on ponies
- d. **Substitutes.** HPA rules on substitution will apply, but a substitution must be agreed with the Section Manager.
- e. **Hats**  
LAN players are required to wear polo helmets. See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9 b)
- f. **Umpire and Referee.** Two HPA qualified umpires are required, and a referee. The HPA will provide one professional umpire who will be assisted by a qualified Junior HPA player. The referee should also be a Junior HPA player.
- g. **Umpire Qualification.** LAN players are expected to have taken the HPA Umpire Test and must make themselves available to umpire. Team Managers are responsible to see that LAN players have studied the latest HPA Rule Book.
- h. **Match Tie.** See Gannon rule 4.1 (g)
- i. **Venues.** LAN matches will as far as possible take place at official Junior HPA tournaments. The place, day and time of the matches will be organised by the HPA Tournament Director in consultation with the Section and Team Managers.





#### 4.5 LORINER (Under 16 on 1st January)

- a. **General.** For players under 16 on 1<sup>st</sup> January. **The minimum age is 12.** One chukka matches.
- b. **Handicaps.** Matches are played open. Maximum individual handicap is 0, and 0 goal players must play for their own Branch.
- c. **Ponies.**
  - i. There is no limit on the number of ponies per team or per player.
  - ii. No pony may play more than three 6 minute chukkas **or four 4.5 minute chukkas** (18 minutes) in one day.
- d. **Chukkas.** Six minute duration ending on the bell, **unless it is necessary to play four chukkas in a day in which case they will be 4.5 minutes.** The 5 second rule applies.
- e. **Ties.** PCP run down rule applies where a result is required.
- f. **Hats**  
**LOR players are required to wear polo helmets. See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9b)**
- g. **Umpire.** Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.



#### 4.6 HIPWOOD (Under 15 on 1<sup>st</sup> January)

- a. **General.** For teams of -7 to -5 goals. Matches are played off handicap. The minimum age is 12.
- b. **Handicap.** For players of 14, 13 and 12 with a handicap of -2 to 0. No more than one player with a handicap of 0 per team.
- c. **Matches .**Three chukka matches played under HPA rules.
- d. **Ponies.** No limitation on ponies.
- e. **Substitution.** HPA rules on substitution will apply, but a substitution must be agreed with a Section Manager.
- f. **Hats.** HIP players are required to wear polo helmets. See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9 b)
- g. **Match Ties.** See Gannon section – rule 4.1(g).
- h. **Umpires.** Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.





i. **Venues**

HIP matches will as far as possible take place at official Junior HPA tournaments. The place, day and time of the matches will be organised by the HPA Tournament Director in consultation with the Section and Team Managers.

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

- a. **General.** For players under 14 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. The minimum age is 9 year. One chukka matches.
- b. **Handicaps.** Matches are open. Maximum individual handicap is –1 and -1 goal players must play for their own Branch.
- c. **Ponies.**  
i. Polo ponies may be played.  
ii. There is no limit on the number of ponies per player or per team.  
iii. No pony may play more than three 6 minute or four 4.5 minute chukkas (18 minutes) in one day.
- d. **Chukkas.** Six minute duration ending on the bell **unless it is necessary to play four chukkas in a day in which case they will be 4.5 minutes.**  
5 second rule applies
- e. **Ties.** PCP run down rule applies, where a result is required.
- f. **Hats**  
**SUR players are required to wear polo helmets. See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9b)**
- g. **Umpire.** Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.
- h. **Spurs.** No spurs may be worn.

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

- a. **General.** For players under 14 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. The minimum age is 8 years. 1 chukka matches.
- b. **Handicaps.** Matches are open. Maximum individual handicap is –1, and -1 players must play for their own Branch.
- c. **Ponies.**  
i. Ponies must be 148 cm (14.2h) or under and be genuine all round Pony Club ponies that have regularly attended non-polo rallies in the previous twelve months, and District Commissioners must verify their





authenticity. No polo ponies may be played. Ponies that have played in other PCP Sections (except JOR) will not normally be allowed to play. 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.

ii. No pony may play more than three 6 minute or four 4.5 minute chukkas (18 minutes) in one day.

iii. **A pony playing HX may only play in one team and may not play in any other Section.**

- c. **Chukkas.** Six minute duration ending on the bell. 5 second rule applies
- d. **Tie.** PCP run down rule applies, where a result is required.
- e. **Hats**  
**See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9b).**
- f. **Umpire.** Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.
- g. **Spurs.** No spurs may be worn.



#### 4.9 JORROCKS (Under 11 on 1st January)



- a. **General.** For players under 11 on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The minimum age is 6 years. 1 chukka matches.
- b. **Handicaps.** Matches are open. Maximum handicap is -2.
- c. **Pony restrictions.**
  - i. Ponies must be 138 cm (13.2h) or under and be genuine all round Pony Club ponies that have regularly attended non-polo rallies in the previous twelve months and District Commissioners must verify their authenticity. No polo ponies may be played. Ponies that have played in other PCP Sections (except HX) will not normally be allowed to play. 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.
  - ii. No pony may play more than three 6 minute or four 4.5 minute chukkas (18 minutes) in one day.
  - iii. **A pony playing JOR may only play in one team and may not play in any other Section.**
- d. **Spurs.** No spurs are allowed.





- e. **Chukkas. Six minute duration ending on the bell unless it is necessary to play four chukkas in a day in which case they will be 4.5 minutes.**  
5 second rule applies
- f. **Tie.** PCP run down rule applies, where a result is required.
- g. **Hats**  
**See Pony Club rules on hats (2.9b)**
- h. **Umpire.** Only one HPA qualified umpire is required.
- i. **Finals.** The Championship finals will take place at Hurtwood Park. All JOR teams automatically qualify for the finals.

#### **5. HPA RULES SIMPLIFIED FOR THE PONY CLUB**

- 5.1 **General.** The basis for Pony Club Polo rules is the Hurlingham Polo Association Year Book, 'The Blue Book', which lays down the regulations and rules of polo. The simplified rules outlined below are not a substitute for the HPA rules; they merely provide a guide for younger players.
- 5.2 **Goals.** 8 yards wide.
- 5.3 **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.
- 5.4 **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.





- 5.5 **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.
- 5.6 **Stopping on the ball.** No player on the line of the ball 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.
- 5.7 **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 polo stick, ride him off or to meet him, the player on the line may not change to take the ball on his near side to avoid the opponent's action.
- 5.8 **One player attempting to meet two oncoming players.** If opposing players are riding each other off down the line of the ball, a third player may not ride to meet them from the opposite direction, even if he is on the line of the ball himself.
- 5.9 **Definition of a foul.** The umpire will blow his whistle when a foul has been committed. He will decide on what penalty is to be given according to the gravity of the foul. No player may appeal for a foul or query an umpire's decision.
- 5.10 **Safety zone.** No person, other than the players and the umpires, is allowed on the ground or in the safety zone during play for any purpose whatever. A player requiring a polo stick, pony or other assistance must ride off the ground. No person may come onto the ground to assist him.
- 5.11 **Hit in.** When the ball is hit behind the back line by the attacking side, it shall be hit in by the defenders from the spot where it crossed the line, but at least four yards from the goal posts, when the umpire says 'play'. In this event, the umpire will not blow his whistle. None of the attacking side shall be within 30 yards of the back line until the ball is hit or hit at.
- 5.12 **Safety Sixty (corner).**  
If the ball is hit behind the back line by one of the defending side, either directly or off his own pony, or after glancing off the boards or the goal post, the attackers will have a shot at goal from the sixty yard line opposite where the ball crossed the back line. In this event, the umpire will blow his whistle.





5.13 **Ball hit out.** When the ball is hit over the sideline or the boards the teams line up and the umpire will throw the ball in where the ball went out. The Umpire will have his pony just inside the boards or the side line. In this event the Umpire does not blow his whistle, but will allow reasonable time for the teams to line up.

5.14 **Carrying the ball.** A player may not catch, kick or hit the ball with anything but his stick. A player may not carry the ball intentionally.

5.15 **Dangerous riding** – for example:

- A player may ride off an opponent, but he may not ride dangerously.
- Bumping at an angle dangerous to a player, or his pony.
- Zigzagging in front of another player, riding at a gallop in such a way as to cause the latter to check his pace.
- Pulling across or over a pony's front legs in such a manner as to risk tripping the pony.
- Riding one's pony into the stroke of another player.
- Riding an opponent across the players on the line of the ball.
- Riding at an opponent in such a manner as to intimidate or cause him to pull out, or miss his stroke, although no foul or cross actually occurs.
- 'Sandwiching' i.e. two players of the same team riding off an opponent at the same time.

5.16 **Rough handling and elbowing.** No player shall seize with the hand, strike or push with the head, hand, forearm or elbow, but a player may push with his arm above the elbow, provided the elbow is kept close to the side. If the elbow is pointed outwards to make contact with the opposing player it is a foul.

5.17 **Misuse of the polo stick.** A player may only use his polo stick to either strike the ball or hook an opponent's polo stick provided he is on the same side of the opponent's pony as the ball. He may not hook the opponent's polo stick unless the opponent is striking at the ball. Hooking in any other way or at any other time is a foul and will be penalised. A full swing may not be taken in a throw in or melee in such a way as to endanger other players or ponies. 'Windmilling' or 'helicoptering' a polo stick is not allowed.

5.18 **Foul hooking.** Foul hooking is when a player hooks an opponent's polo stick from the opposite side of the pony where the ball is, i.e. over the pony's back, behind the tail or in front of his forelegs. When hooking the opponent's polo stick must be below the level of the opponent's shoulder.





- 5.19 **Hitting across a pony's legs.** A player may not hit across or reach in front of the forelegs of an opponent to reach the ball.
- 5.20 **Intentionally striking a pony with stick.** It is a foul to strike a pony intentionally with the stick.
- 5.21 **Misuse of whip.** Excessive use of the whip will be penalised. Your pony should react to one or two uses of the whip, or there is something else wrong. A whip may not be used except in play.
- 5.22 **Accident or injury. In PCP 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.**
- 5.23 **Bad language.** Bad language is not permitted and will be penalised. Umpires will have the right to stop the game and warn the offender. If it continues he shall award a foul and he may also send the offending player(s) off the ground.
- 5.24 **Pony welfare.** In matters of pony welfare the PCP Committee will accept the opinion of the vet on the ground, regarding the suitability and fitness of any pony. On the day concerned the vet's decision is final. If the height of the pony is likely to be challenged it is essential that the owner obtains a life height certificate in advance. In the event of any dispute, the jury of appeal will give a ruling and the pony may be disqualified from the competition.
- 5.25 **Use of drugs.** HPA regulations apply. Ponies and players are liable to random tests that will be carried out during the season by the HPA. All players aged 18 and over on the day of the test will be required to participate in testing if requested to do so by an authorised official.  
Players under 18 will be requested to obtain consent of a parent or legal guardian to their participation in testing. Branch Managers will be informed of the procedures for testing.
- 5.26 **Manners.** All players must thank umpires and their opponents at the end of the game.





- 5.27 **Umpires.** The umpires are the administrators of the game being played. They make all the decisions in accordance with the rules and no players may dispute any decisions made by the umpires. Only the captain may ask umpires what foul has been committed. Arguing with an umpire may lead to a player being sent off the ground.
- 5.28 **Referees.** In matches when there are two umpires, a referee is appointed. He is only asked to make a decision when the umpires disagree.
- 5.29 **Direction of play.** At the beginning of a game the umpire will agree with the team captains the direction of play. Each time a goal is scored the teams change ends. In matches of more than one chukka, if no goal has been scored at half time teams will change ends and the match will restart from the centre.

## **6. GUIDANCE TO PARENTS**

- 6.1 These notes are designed to help parents, Branch Managers and those new to polo. The PCP Committee has a great deal of experience and is more than willing to answer questions.
- 6.2 The Pony Club is a largely voluntary activity and Pony Club Polo is a sport. It is by the enormous goodwill and work of volunteers and the polo clubs that host our tournaments that we play at all. PCP is great fun, not only for the child but the whole family. But it also hard work. Although very competitive PCP aims to inculcate good team spirit and good sportsmanship, insisting on high standards of turnout and behaviour both on and off the ground.
- 6.3 Polo is a contact sport. It can be dangerous and there is an inherent risk. Please take note of the disclaimer on page 6 of these rules.
- 6.4 Branch Managers are key to the whole process of organising PCP. They should maintain close contact with the parents and players in their Branch, seek and recruit new members and organise rallies and other training for PCP players. While Branch Managers have an important role, parents remain responsible for the behaviour of their children, both on and off the polo ground.
- 6.5 Ponies. Many enjoy the whole of PCP with one pony. However, when committed to GAN, REN, LAN or HIP players need to be adequately mounted. This means more ponies. A minimum of two in REN and HIP and three in GAN and LAN. GAN, LAN and HIP teams also have to supply umpire ponies on the day of their matches for either the match before or after theirs.





- 6.6 **Umpiring.** Good umpiring raises the quality of the game and all PCP players are encouraged to take the umpire test at about the age of 15 or with a handicap of -1 or above. Those playing GAN and LAN are expected to have passed the test.
- 6.7 **Safety.** The wearing of face guards/goggles and gum shield is recommended.
- 6.8 **Treading In and Litter.** It is most important that all players and if possible their parents and supporters tread in when required especially at the end of each tournament. Do not leave any litter from picnics or sticky tape at the polo grounds. Remember PCP and Junior HPA are invited to these grounds and we wish to be asked back. Please leave the area clean when you leave.

#### **7. COWDRAY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 7.1 **General.** The finals of the PCP and Junior HPA Championships are held at Cowdray Park Polo Club where a large temporary campsite, washing facilities and tented stables are established to accommodate ponies, players and supporters. It is important that all visitors to Cowdray Park are aware of the campsite rules, especially those concerning fire and health and safety. Branch and Team Managers are required to bring the rules to the attention of the players, accompanying family members, friends and supporters attached to their Branch or Junior HPA Teams. The Camp Commandant and Committee member responsible for Health and Safety and security issues is Mr Mike Smith. A security company assists him.
- 7.2 **Parental Responsibility.** Parents are responsible for the conduct and behaviour of their children at all times during the Championships weekend, both on and off the polo ground. Parents must not expect Branch or HPA Team Managers or other adults to know of the whereabouts or the behaviour of their children. That is the responsibility of parents or those acting in the place of parents.
- 7.3 **Campsite Rules.**
- a. **Branch & HPA Team Responsibility.** Each Branch and Junior HPA Team must have one nominated adult over 30 years old sleeping on site (2300-0700 hrs) and present at all other times; if a Branch has more than one team, one person must be in overall charge of the Branch. In the absence of a Branch or Junior HPA Team Manger a substitute must be appointed and notified to Mike Smith.



- b. **Register.** Branch and Junior HPA Team Managers will be forwarded a camp registration form which should be completed by them or their appointed substitute and submitted along with the Cowdray entry forms. These lists should enable us to maintain an accurate list of everyone attached to individual Branches or Teams who is on the site between 2300 – 0700 hours. This list should include players, accompanying family members, supporters, friends and grooms. In addition to the original lists any alterations should be submitted to the commentary point prior to the end of play each day. This is a major health and safety point as we must be aware of all people resident on site during the night.
- c. **Contact numbers.** Branch and Junior HPA Team Managers and 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 camp site 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 licence may drive any vehicle either in the campsite, around the polo grounds or anywhere on the Cowdray Estate. Motorcycles, ATVs, 3-wheelers and scooters are not allowed.
- f. **Parking.**

No cars or horseboxes must be parked in such a way as to block the access of the ambulances, horse ambulances or other emergency vehicles.
- g. **Bicycles.** No bicycles are to be ridden near the polo grounds during the hours of play. Bicycles must not be left lying on the ground near the polo grounds, in the campsite or in the stables area. Any bicycles found in the stable side safety zone of ground four will be removed to an area where they will need to be collected once play has ceased.





- h. **Designated Paths** Do not block the public right of way that runs through the campsite, or the access paths laid to ensure emergency services can have swift access. Designated driveways and paths must be kept clear at all times and any stakes removed to gain access must be replaced immediately.
- i. **Stables.** Tented stable blocks are erected for the Championships and The Pony Club through Branch and Junior HPA Team Mangers controls allocation. Stables must be labelled with name of the player, Branch or Junior HPA Team and the name of the pony. At the end of the Championships stables must be left completely clear of all rubbish and straw; any team not doing this will not be allowed to use the stables the following year. Straw is provided for each stable and the use of shavings and paper bedding is strongly discouraged.

**NO SMOKING IN THE STABLES AREA.**

- j. **Showers and Washing.** Washing areas are to be left as you would like to find them. The Priory washing facilities and mobile shower unit will be closed for cleaning for a period each morning.
- k. **Fires.** Bonfires and campfires are not allowed anywhere on the Cowdray Estate. Raised BBQ's may only be used in the campsite area and they must be under adult supervision. Under no circumstances are there to be open fires.
- l. **River.** The river in the Cowdray Estate is out of bounds to all visitors and players except during the published times and when supervised by a PCP official. The access area and the permitted limits within the river are marked, and nobody may go outside this area. Instructions of the official must be obeyed. Ponies may be ridden bareback but always in a bridle, and all riders must wear approved riding hats.
- m. **Dogs/Pets.** No dogs or any other pets are permitted at the Cowdray Championships for safety reasons. Anyone found bringing a dog to the Championships will be instructed to remove it either home or to a local kennels.
- n. **Pony Care.** Players are responsible for the care of their ponies at all times, ensuring they are regularly fed, watered and have dry bedding. Dehydration is a real risk and playing over three days means that ponies require plenty of fresh water at all times. No pony may be ridden without a bridle, and all riders (Pony Club Members and all others) must wear approved riding hats.





- o. **Property.** Players and visitors must take care of their property and not leave wallets, clothing, tack, cameras or other valuables in the open or in unlocked vehicles; more importantly bicycles and other valuables which are left around unattended on the campsite. The Pony Club and HPA do not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of the property of any player or visitor to the Championships.
  
- p. **Alcohol & Drugs.** Laws governing the sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol must be obeyed on both the campsite and in Midhurst and surrounding areas. Any unauthorised alcoholic drink in the possession of minors will be confiscated and the child taken back to either their parent or manager in order that they are aware of what has happened. In the event of any drugs being found at the Championships the Police will be informed and the person or persons concerned will be removed from the site and banned from all future Championships.
  
- q. **Smoking. NO SMOKING IN THE STABLES AREA.**
  
- r. **Polo grounds.** The polo grounds may not be used for stick and ball practice. Lawns I and Lawns II and the area between them are out of bounds at all times.
  
- s. **Emergencies.** In the event of an emergency during the hours of play please contact the commentary point. At all other times contact:



Mike Smith

Mobile 07956 615151

The telephone numbers of local doctors, hospitals and vets will be on display in the commentary point. An ambulance, paramedic staff and a vet will be on site during the hours of play.





#### 7.4 Barbecue and Discotheque.

A very popular element of Cowdray is the Barbecue and discotheque on the Saturday evening when food and drinks are provided. Branch and Junior HPA Team Managers and parents are asked to support the Committee and tournament organisers in overseeing the evening

- a. Teams of adult helpers are required for the bar and serving the food. A roster will show the Branches to provide the helpers.
- b. Entrance will be by display of Wristlets. **No Wristlet, No Entry.**
- c. **Tickets for the barbecue should be purchased and collected from the commentary point at Cowdray by the Branch or Junior HPA Team Managers. The cost is £12 per ticket and includes food and drink**

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





## **FIRE DRILL FOR COWDRAY**

### **PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

1. If you discover a fire, however small, alert an adult immediately and alert all those in the area of the fire. Shout FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!
2. Report the fire immediately to the commentary point.
3. Where possible use the fire extinguishers on site. Do not put yourself or others in danger.
4. The official on duty in the commentary box will call the fire brigade on 999, and sound the alarm. After playing hours a PCP Committee Member or fire warden or the Tournament Administrator will call the Fire Brigade.
5. When the alarm goes all those on site must go immediately to Ground 3 and gather in Branches. Do not attempt to collect your pony or possessions.
6. Branch and Junior HPA Managers will check that their teams and supporters are present and report to Mike Smith. At night (23.00 hours to 07.00 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 PCP 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 and stables area. All players, visitors and supporters must vacate the stable area immediately on hearing the fire alarm. Only fire wardens may release ponies from the stables.

### **NO SMOKING IN THE STABLES AREA**





## Appendix A - MEDICAL COVER

### The following requirements are common to all events: -

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

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

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

### 1. Prior to the Event

- a) The Organiser **MUST** inform the appropriate County Ambulance Service/Trust. The Organiser should provide details of the event, including dates, types of competition, ranges of ages of the competitors, details of medical/first aid cover, a precise location of the event, to include the postcode, Ordnance Survey grid reference point and an agreed access/rendezvous point (RVP) for the road ambulance.
- b) A letter of confirmation must be exchanged with any Medical supplier. The letter will agree the first aid requirement for the day. A copy of the document "Ambulance Personnel and Ambulances" should be included with the letter of confirmation when an ambulance is required.
- c) The Organiser should prepare a 'Medical Officer's pack' in advance of the event to include:-
  - Notes for the Event Medical Officer
  - Pony Club guidelines for *first aid* cover
  - Incident/Accident forms
  - Concussion forms
  - Event programme with planned times
  - Map of the XC course where applicable



## 2. At the Event

- a) The procedure for contacting the emergency services must be agreed with the Appointed Person, First Aiders and Medical Provider
- b) Appropriate emergency telephone numbers should be listed and a copy attached to the Accident Book lodged at the Secretary's office
- c) Accident Reporting - The appropriate forms, as detailed in The Pony Club Health and Safety document, MUST be completed in the event of any accident
- d) Insurance - The Pony Club Third Party Legal Liability Insurance Policy is extended to give cover for all Pony Club Competitions and Championships. Details of this insurance are given in 'Administrative Notes' in the current issue of The Pony Club Year Book. In the event of any accident or damage occurring to a Third Party or the property of a Third Party (including the general public and competitors) no liability should be admitted and full details should be sent at once to Pony Club Headquarters. A copy of the Evidence of Insurance should be displayed.
- e) Basic Standards of Medical Care
  - Concussion - In the event of concussion, which may occur without loss of consciousness, riders are not allowed to ride again and an examination by a doctor is compulsory, immediately at the event, or following transfer to hospital.
  - Continuing after a fall - A rider must not be allowed to remount after a fall if there is any element of doubt as to their fitness, irrespective of the wishes of parents, trainers etc. Further participation may be possible following medical examination.

## 3. Minimum Standards

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

**Polo:** At least one Ambulance with a Paramedic or trained Advanced Emergency Medical Technician is to be present on the ground.





## Definitions

### 1. **Appointed Person**

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

### 2. **First Aid Point**

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

### 3. **Trained First Aider**

A person who has received a certificate for attending a course run by HSE registered trainers. This qualification must be revalidated after not more than three years.

### 4. **Qualified First Aider**

A person who holds a First Aid at Work qualification (HSE 4 day course). This qualification must be revalidated after not more than three years.

### 5. **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)**

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

### 6. **Paramedic**

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

### 7. **Doctor**

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

### 8. **Confidential Medical Officer's Injury Report Form**

Whenever possible, it would be greatly appreciated if the completed form(s) could be sent to the Pony Club Risk Management Director at our Stoneleigh address (even if there is no accident to report).



**9. Ambulance**

A designated vehicle, appropriately marked and identifiable and conforming to current regulations for the transportation of the injured or seriously ill patients. It must contain necessary resuscitation, immobilisation and transportation equipment.

**10. Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV)**

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

**11. Rescue Vehicle**

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

MINIMUM FIRST AID COVER AT PONY CLUB COMPETITIONS		Appointed Person	First Aid Point	Trained First Aider	Qualified First Aider	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	Paramedic or Doctor	Ambulance
P O L O	Practices / Rallies	✓	✓	✓				
	Tournaments	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
	Championships	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓

A Horse Ambulance will also be in attendance at all tournaments



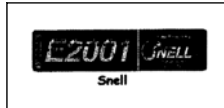
## Appendix B - HAT STANDARDS

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

PAS 015:1998 or EN 1384:1996, BS EN 1384:1997 with the BSI Kitemark

Snell E2001 with the official Snell label and number

AS/NZS 3838 1998 or AS/NZS 3838 2003



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

The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit, the hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward.

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

Hats must be worn when mounted with a chinstrap fastened at all times. A PCP Committee member or tournament organiser may eliminate a player riding without an approved hat or with the chinstrap unfastened. Please see the individual Section rules on the hats.

### **Children under 9 years old**

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

Hats with long ventilation slits are not allowed for Members over nine years old.

### **Hat Checks and Tagging**

The Branch DC will appoint two Branch officials (one of whom may be the DC) who are familiar with The Pony Club rule for hats to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the above requirements with a Pony Club hat tag. Hats fitted with a Pony Club tag will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions.

Tags may only be fitted by one of the two appointed Branch officials after they have personally checked the hat. Tagging indicates that a hat meets the above standards, NO check of the fit and condition of the hat is implied. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member's parent or guardian to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also to ensure that the manufacturer's guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.

**Hats with a vertical plastic / metallic strips are permitted.**

