

RUTLAND POLO CLUB TOURNAMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2025

1. All Players must be current members of the HPA and members of an HPA affiliated club. Overseas, temporary and visiting players are welcome. All documentation must be completed in advance of playing and submitted to Rutland Polo Club for processing and / or forwarding to the HPA.
2. All players and grooms must wear protective hard hat of the required HPA specification at all times (further details - www.hpa-polo.co.uk) when riding at the Rutland Polo Club grounds and any venue asked to attend. The additional dress code of white jeans, team shirt, boots, kneepads must be adhered to play.
3. Equine Passports – all ponies must have with them, by law, an equine identification passport, which must have been issued by the HPA or have been subject to an HPA over stamp.
4. All owners or players must certify that all ponies attending the Rutland Polo Club grounds have been inoculated against equine influenza. This documentation must have been completed, signed and stamped on each line by a MRCVS and must undeniably relate to the pony under review.
 - a. For ponies registered with the HPA before 31st December 2013 it must state that the pony has received two injections for primary vaccination against Equine Influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart. Thereafter, booster injections must be given annually. The first injection for primary vaccination must have been given before the pony may play at any club or in any tournament.
 - b. For ponies registered in or since 2014, or with no vaccination history, the passport must state that the pony has received two injections for primary vaccination against Equine Influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart plus a third booster within 3 to 7 months of the second vaccination.
 - c. Thereafter, booster injections must be given annually. The first injection for primary vaccination must have been given before the pony may play at any club or in any tournament.
 - d. CONTAGIOUS EQUINE DISEASES – Please familiarise yourself with the HPA policies and advice regarding contagious equine diseases, including Strangles, Ringworm and Equine flu. <https://hpa-polo.co.uk/pony-welfare/biosecurity/>

Please especially note that any pony suspected of having any of these diseases may not be played until signed off by a vet.
5. Upon request, the club official must be presented with the documents mentioned in points 4 and 5 above for inspection. If documents are not available, **ponies will be asked to leave the grounds.**
6. All tournaments will be played under HPA Rules, unless otherwise stated on the tournament entry form.

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7. All Entries will close at midnight on the closing date or as listed for each tournament. All entry forms must be fully completed and submitted to the Polo Manager, or via the lineup polo app where applicable.
8. No team will be allowed to play ***unless the entry fee has been paid or payment arrangements have been agreed with the Polo Manager and agreed with the Tournament Committee.***
 - a. Rutland Polo Club reserves the right to charge interest on any amounts still due after **FOUR (4) weeks** at a rate of **10% and for each FOUR (4) week period thereafter from the tournament start date until paid, plus any penalty the Club imposes for non-payment.** Should collection efforts be required, the debtor shall be fully responsible for payment of all costs of collection, including any legal fees.
 - b. All invoice queries must be raised within 14 days from date of invoice with either the Rutland Polo Club Treasurer or Polo Manager.
 - c. If the debt remains outstanding after EIGHT (8) weeks, the club will notify the HPA. - <http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk/rules-regulations/rules-and-regulations/>
9. Any team wishing to substitute a player at any time before a match should seek the permission of the Polo Manager to ensure eligibility. Once agreed, it is then the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to share details of the changes.
10. Team managers and / or captains submitting the entry form are requested to indicate on the entry form any day(s) or time(s) which they would not be able to play. Rutland Polo Club cannot give any guarantees regarding tournament dates and times, but will endeavour to find a "best solution".
11. Game times and ground allocations will be available from the Polo Manager and be posted on the club's website and social media channels. These will be posted no later than 09:00 hrs on the day of the event.
12. Once the draw has been made matches cannot be re-scheduled, except at the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee.
13. Each team manager will be responsible for sharing details of the draw with the other team members, and for ensuring that the nominated umpire is aware and ready of his/her umpiring duties.
14. A team name may not be changed after the draw has been published or the team has commenced playing in the tournament.
15. Allocation of grounds - it is a condition of tournament entry that teams agree to play at any ground allocated for their match by the tournament committee. If teams wish to play at an alternative location, this will be done with the agreement of the opposing

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team captain, players and Tournament Committee. All costs of the alternative location will be met by the two teams playing at that location and an additional fee of £250 will be payable to Rutland Polo Club.

16. Teams will be required to provide a suitable umpire pony for their game, the umpire pony must be fit for purpose and properly saddled as for polo according to HPA regulations, this includes all four legs being protected. If a team is unable to provide an umpire pony, it is the team's responsibility to find a replacement and pay any additional costs.
17. In certain tournaments and or matches, professional umpire(s) will be used and the cost will be divided between the qualifying teams, unless otherwise stated. The billing of these fees will be either co-ordinated by the HPA or Rutland Polo Club. The HPA Fees for the VL 4 goal umpring were all sent to every HPA member along with their membership packs, but can also be obtained directly from the HPA office or the Polo Manager, these are billed direct to the teams by the HPA.

18. **PLEASE take note of the below for 2026 Assam Cup**

Please take note of these tournament conditions that will be applied in this tournament as ratified by the HPA

The results of Group 1 will be based on order of merit across the sub groups

In a two way tie the result between the two teams will dictate the order of merit,

in a three way tie the order of merit will be decided by GD, GS, GC

The results of the league will be worked out on merit, if teams are still tied, goal difference, goals for and goals conceded will be counted, if this still results in a draw, penalties will decide the placings.

The winner of Grp 1 will play the winner of the league in the final

The 2nd in Grp1 will play the sub final against the best loser.

The sub, sub final will be 3rd in Grp 1 v 3rd in league

The team in 7th position at the end of play on Saturday will proceed no further.

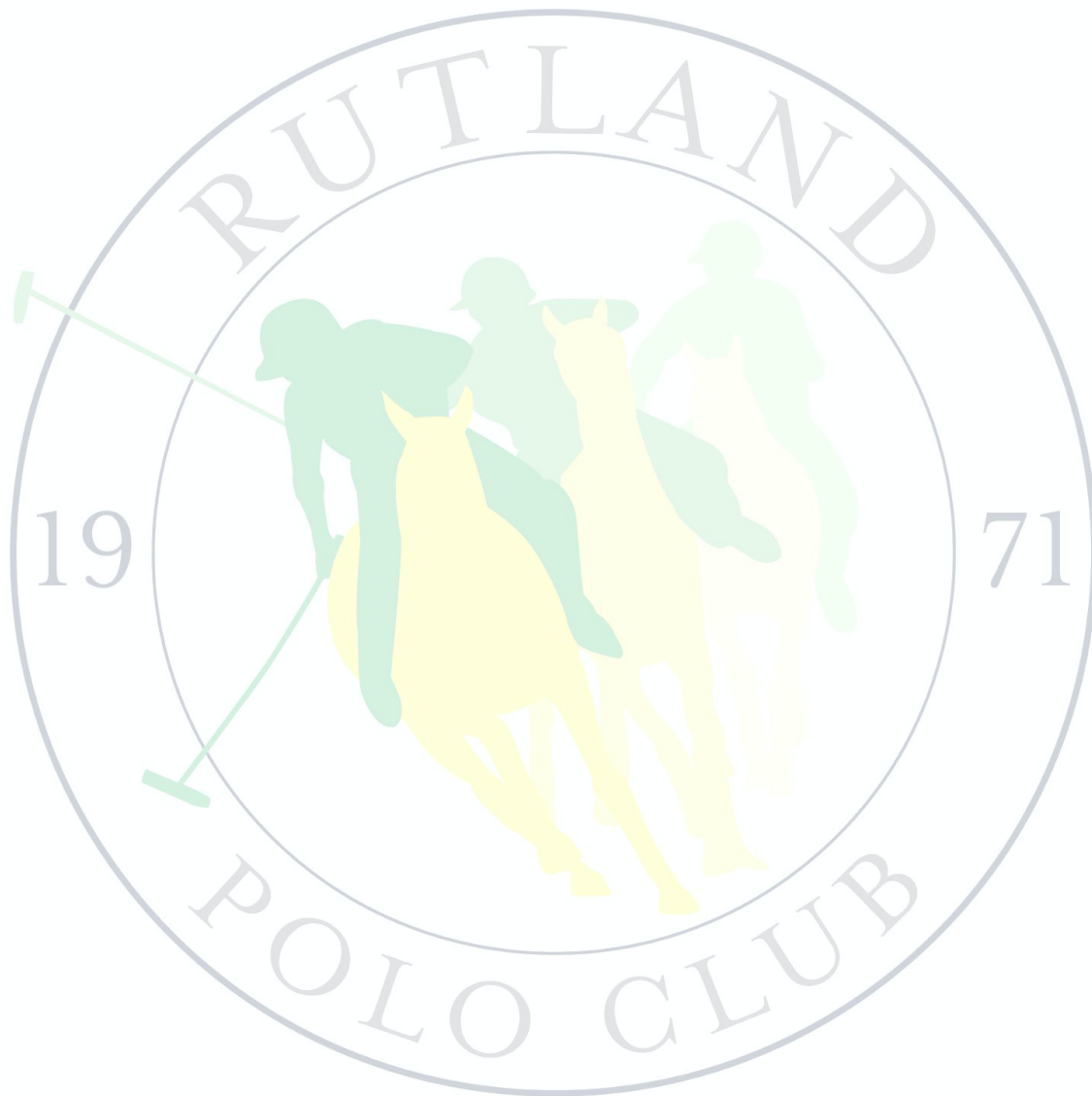
If penalties are needed to decide placings these will take place after all 4g games have finished on Saturday

19. Tournament Prize-giving – If relevant, all teams are requested to attend the presentation after a match. Team members must present themselves to the presentation area no later than 7 minutes after the final bell in team colours, whites and boots, unless otherwise agreed or communicated.

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20. The team representative signing for (and or taking) a Cup or Trophy or other Rutland Polo Club item for the winning team of each tournament or match is responsible for its safe keeping (including insurance), engraving, keeping it clean and must return it to Rutland Polo Club at their own cost by the requested date, or at the request of Rutland Polo Club.



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21. Pony Welfare – All players, grooms and or owners are to follow to the HPA Polo Pony Welfare Guidelines.
 - a. All ponies are to be tied to breakable string or other breakable contraptions. Ponies must not be directly tied to bars or metal rings on lorries or pony lines.
 - b. All ponies must be offered clean and fresh water at appropriate intervals.
 - c. Studs – only HPA regulation studs can be used and ponies must have their studs removed before leaving the Rutland Polo Club grounds.
22. Spare ponies and changing of ponies are only allowed in the designated areas, in four boxes at the corner of the grounds, during play and are not permitted to change in the safety zones.
23. Once a team has been entered and the draw published or communicated, it may not withdraw unless there are exceptional circumstances and the Tournament Committee agrees. **Note:** the withdrawal of a team without the permission of the Tournament Committee will be considered as misconduct. The tournament entry fee and any other additional costs will be still payable by the withdrawing team.
24. Disputes – Decisions of the Tournament Committee will be final in regard to any dispute.
25. Any person playing at the Rutland Polo Club will be considered a temporary member of the club for the purposes of disciplinary proceedings.
26. The Tournament Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry.
27. Photography / Filming / Recordings – It is a condition of entry to Rutland Polo Club tournaments that each and every team member agrees without formal formality to:
 - a. Being photographed and / or recorded by film, video, cameras, television cameras and sound equipment at all times when they are present at any event or tournament.
 - b. To surrender all rights in respect of such photographs and recordings.
 - c. If there are any concerns or requests these must be made to the Tournament Committee for consideration.
28. Safety in the Pony Lines:
 - a. Players and grooms must NOT canter horses through the pony lines.
 - b. Children are not permitted in the pony lines.
29. All dogs on the Rutland Polo Club grounds must be on a lead and under control at all times and not on the field during play.
30. All owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs
31. All litter must be put in the bins provided.

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32. Reporting of Accidents - under Health and Safety legislation it is now a patron's responsibility as an employer to ensure that if their professional has a serious accident they report the accident to the relevant enforcing authority under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). Patrons are also responsible for ensuring that any serious accident that they are involved in is also reported to the above body. All injuries should be reported as soon as possible, with injuries lasting longer than 3 days to be reported within 10 days. To report an incident, patrons should inform the Incident Contact Centre (ICC). The ICC is a 'one-stop' reporting service for work-related health and safety incidents in the UK. They can be contacted on: 0845 300 9923, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm. Alternatively reports can be made online at: www.hse.gov.uk/riddor
- a. An additional record must be created and entered into the Rutland Polo Club accident book.
 - b. A report will be submitted to the HPA of any player injury.
 - c. Following an accident, any player who is taken to hospital by air ambulance should make a donation to the **Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance Service** - <https://theairambulance.org.uk/donate/>

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