



2021

# Rulebook

Of The United States Polo Association

ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS,  
RULES, TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS  
AND POLICIES  
of the  
UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION®  
2021



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(800) 232-USPA

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**FOREWORD FROM THE USPA CHAIRMAN**

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Dear Members of the USPA,

Included in this year's rule revisions is a most important "Tournament Condition" that I hasten to bring to your attention. But first let me take you back to a year ago when I made the point that polo needed improvement.

Polo at the speed of the ball is a game we used to play. Rules changed the game to a sport played at the speed of the horse. Those changes were meant to make the game safer, and they did. But an unintended consequence was that they made slowing the game a better winning strategy than using all four players fully as both offensive and defensive assets. Rules alone made this change. Yes, players changed also, but the rules aided and abetted a shift towards a one-man game with blocking and appealing for fouls. In a word, we slowed the game to the speed of the best player's horse rather than the speed of the ball being passed rapidly between teammates to make the game the fastest on Earth.

In an effort to take the sport back to more of a passing/faster game, we have included a "no blocking" option that a Host Tournament Committee may elect to use for any tournament. We call this a "Tournament Condition." In other words, as an option to the current rule, we will allow clubs to use this "no blocking" rule in games and tournaments, including USPA Tournaments.

The purpose of providing this option is to give players the opportunity to play under a rule that we hope will improve polo. It appears in this Rulebook on page 162 as "Tournament Condition XI – Optional Tournament Condition for USPA Outdoor Rule 26A." Please give this option serious consideration at your club and let's see if we can "make polo better."

Best,



Stewart Armstrong  
Chairman  
United States Polo Association

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 uspa@uspolo.org www.uspolo.org

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**USPA OFFICERS**

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|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Stewart Armstrong, <i>Chairman</i> | Anthony Coppola, <i>President</i> |
| Charles Smith, <i>Secretary</i>    | Steven Rudolph., <i>Treasurer</i> |

**USPA CIRCUIT GOVERNORS**

*To serve until Fall 2021*

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|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Anthony Yahyai (Border)               | Leighton Jordan (Northeastern)         |
| Robert McMurtry (Central)             | Daniel Walker (Pacific Coast)          |
| Joseph Muldoon (Eastern)              | Sheryl Sick (Pacific Northwest)        |
| Stephen Orthwein Jr. (Florida)        | Erica Gandomcar-Sachs (Rocky Mountain) |
| David Ragland (Great Plains)          | William Raab (Southeastern)            |
| Wilford Kirton (Hawaiian Islands)     | Paul Jornayvaz (Southwestern)          |
| Walter “Trey” Schott III (Mid-States) |  |

**USPA GOVERNORS-AT-LARGE***To serve until October 2022*


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|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Julio Arellano    | Pamela Flanagan |
| Steven Armour     | Thomas Gose     |
| Elizabeth Brayboy | Chris Green     |
| Chrys Beal        | Vicky Owens     |
| Michael Carney    | Peter Rizzo     |
| Cecelia Cochran   | Robin Sanchez   |

**HONORARY GOVERNORS**


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|                      |                             |                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Thomas J. Biddle Sr. | Stephen Orthwein            | Jack L. Shelton   |
| Orrin H. Ingram      | John C. Oxley               | William Sinclaire |
| S.K. Johnston Jr.    | Richard Riemenschneider     | Charles Weaver    |
| Joseph Meyer         | Edward “Chip” Campbell, III |                   |

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**USPA HEADQUARTERS & STAFF**  
**9011 Lake Worth Rd.**  
**Lake Worth, FL 33467**  
**(800) 232-8772    Fax: (888) 391-7410**

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Robert Puetz, *Chief Executive Officer*  
Lindsey Ebersbach, *Senior Executive Administrator*

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**Corporate**

Susan Present, CPA, *Chief Financial Officer*  
Kelly VanderWerff, *Controller*  
Liliana Gopalakrishna, *Assistant Controller*  
Beverly Basist, *Human Resources Director/ IT*  
Deanna Sullivan, *Accounting Coordinator / IT-Applications Support*  
Barbara Dostal, *Administrative Assistant*

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**Services**

Carlucho Arellano, *Executive Director of Services*  
Lindsay Dolan, *Membership and Handicap Director*  
Kaila Dowd, *Tournament Coordinator*  
Matthew Baran, *Director of Communications*  
Jewel Connelly, *Communications Coordinator*  
Cristina Fernandez, *Communications Manager*

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**USPA Polo Development LLC**

Justin Powers, *Executive Director*  
Amanda Snow, *Director of Player Development*  
Pam Mudra, *PDI Manager*  
Hayley Heatley, *Player Development Program Manager*  
Amy Fraser, *Director of Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Polo*  
Emily Dewey, *Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Tournament Manager*  
Alexandra Davidge, *Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Program Coordinator*

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**USPA Umpires LLC**

Charles Muldoon, *Executive Director*  
Fergus Gould, *Western Regional Umpire Director*  
Dana Fortugno, *Eastern Regional Umpire Director*  
Bradley Biddle, *Arena Umpire Director*  
Marguerite Mitchell, *USPA Umpires LLC Executive Administrator*  
Jennifer Furlow, *Umpires Financial Analyst*  
Deborah Ferro, *Administrative Assistant*



**USPA COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE STAFF**

| <b>SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>                | <b>CHAIR</b>       | <b>STAFF</b>                           |
|--|--------------------|--|
| <b>Arena Handicap</b>                    | Thomas Goodspeed   | Carlucho Arellano<br>Lindsay Dolan     |
| <b>Arena</b>                             | Robin Sanchez      | Carlucho Arellano<br>Kaila Dowd        |
| <b>Armed Forces</b>                      | Mark Gillespie     | Carlucho Arellano<br>Kaila Dowd        |
| <b>Audit</b>                             | Habib Nasrullah    | Susan Present                          |
| <b>Board &amp; Staff<br/>Development</b> | Peter Rizzo        | Susan Present<br>Beverly Basist        |
| <b>Club and Membership</b>               | Steve Armour       | Carlucho Arellano<br>Lindsay Dolan     |
| <b>Constitution</b>                      | Paul Jornayvaz     | Robert Puetz<br>Lindsey Ebersbach      |
| <b>Executive</b>                         | Stewart Armstrong  | Robert Puetz                           |
| <b>Equine Welfare</b>                    | Dr. Michael Manno  | Carlucho Arellano<br>Lindsay Dolan     |
| <b>Horse Registry</b>                    | Stewart Armstrong  | Justin Powers                          |
| <b>Finance</b>                           | Samuel Ramirez Jr. | Susan Present                          |
| <b>Outdoor Handicap</b>                  | Chris Stratemann   | Carlucho Arellano<br>Lindsay Dolan     |
| <b>High Goal</b>                         | Maureen Brennan    | Carlucho Arellano<br>Lindsey Ebersbach |
| <b>International</b>                     | Jeff Hall          | Carlucho Arellano<br>Lindsey Ebersbach |

|                             |                    |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Nominating</b>           | TBD                | Robert Puetz<br>Lindsey Ebersbach  |
| <b>Rules/Interpretation</b> | Chris Green        | Robert Puetz/ Charles Muldoon<br>Carlucho Arellano/<br>Lindsey Ebersbach |
| <b>Safety</b>               | Dr. James Ulibarri | Carlucho Arellano<br>Lindsay Dolan                                       |
| <b>Strategic Planning</b>   | Stewart Armstrong  | Lindsey Ebersbach  |
| <b>Tournament</b>           | Michael Carney     | Carlucho Arellano<br>Kaila Dowd  |
| <b>Women's Handicap</b>     | Maureen Brennan    | Lindsay Dolan  |
| <b>Women's Tournament</b>   | Meghan Gracida     | Kaila Dowd   |
| <b>Young Players</b>        | Todd Thurston      | Justin Powers  |

### POLO DEVELOPMENT LLC

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                   | <b>CHAIR</b>      | <b>STAFF</b>                            |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Polo Development Initiative</b> | Bob McMurtry      | Justin Powers<br>Pam Mudra              |
| <b>I/I Committee</b>               | Elizabeth Brayboy | Amy Fraser/ Emily<br>Dewey/ Ali Davidge |
| <b>Junior Polo</b>                 | Tiger Kneece      | Amanda Snow<br>Hayley Heatley           |
| <b>Team USPA</b>                   | Mason Wroe        | Amanda Snow<br>Hayley Heatley           |

### USPA UMPIRES LLC

| <b>CHAIR</b> | <b>STAFF</b>   |
|--------------|--|
| Tom Gose     | Bradley Biddle, Dana Fortugna, Fergus Gould, Maggie<br>Mitchell, Charlie Muldoon |

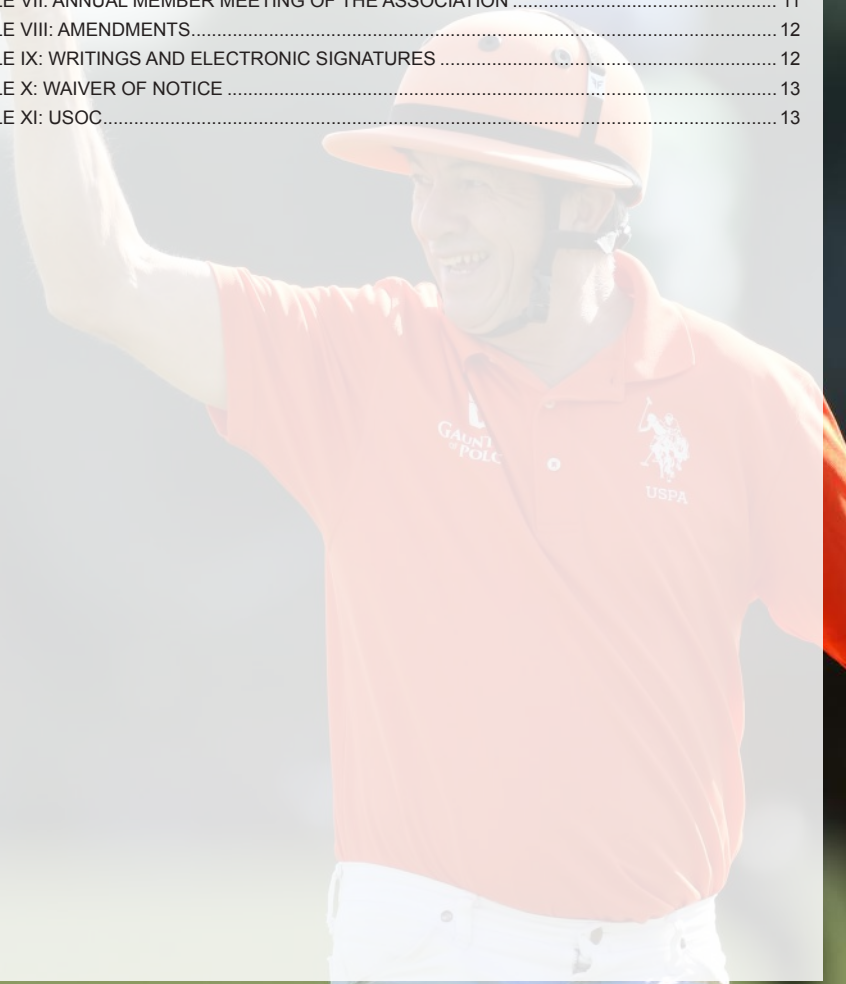




# CONSTITUTION

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**CONSTITUTION of the  
UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**

*As Amended and Restated on October 19, 2019*

**ARTICLE I**

*Name, Mission, Powers and Duties*

**SECTION 1. Name.** The name of this organization is the United States Polo Association (the “**Association**”).

**SECTION 2. Mission.** The Association has been organized and exists for the purposes of promoting the game of polo with an overarching goal of improving the sport, coordinating the activities of its Member Clubs and Registered Players (as defined below), arranging, allocating, and supervising polo tournaments, competitions, and games and providing rules, handicaps, and conditions for those tournaments, competitions, and games, including the safety and welfare of participants and mounts.

**SECTION 3. Powers and Duties.** The Association shall have such powers as are now or may hereafter be granted by the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act of 1986, as amended (the “**Not for Profit Corporation Act**”), except as otherwise provided by the Articles of Incorporation, this Constitution, or the By-laws of the Association (the “**By-laws**”).

**ARTICLE II**

*Board of Governors*

**SECTION 1. Board of Governors.** There will be a Board of Governors of the Association (the “**Board**”) consisting of the Circuit Governors, the Governors-at-Large, and the Officers, each of whom shall be Registered Player Members of the Association. Matters relating to the governance of the Association by the Board of Governors not addressed in this Constitution will be addressed in the By-laws or other Board-approved policies, or as set forth in the Not for Profit Corporation Act.

**SECTION 2. Elections.** Elections of Circuit Governors and Governors-at-Large shall be conducted according to the procedures set forth below. Elections of Officers shall be conducted according to the procedures set forth in the By-laws. All contested elections shall be by confidential vote.

**SECTION 3. Removal.** In accordance with the Not for Profit Corporation Act, (a) any Circuit Governor may be removed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes cast by the Delegates in that Circuit; provided, however, that at least a majority of the Delegates in that Circuit must cast votes in order for the vote to be valid, and (b) any

Governor-at-Large may be removed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes cast by the Registered Player Members; provided, however, that at least ten percent (10%) of the Registered Player Members must cast votes in order for the vote to be valid. Upon a motion made and approved by (i) the Board of Governors, (ii) with respect to the proposed removal of a Circuit Governor, a majority of the Delegates in that Circuit, or (iii) with respect to the proposed removal of a Governor-at-Large, at least ten percent (10%) of the Registered Player Members, the Board of Governors shall establish a process and timetable for submitting the proposed removal to a vote that are as closely aligned with the process and timetable set forth herein for the election of such Governors as the Board of Governors deems practicable. Any Officer serving *ex officio* as a member of the Board of Governors may be removed as provided in the By-laws, and any vacancy created by removal shall be filled as provided in the By-laws.

### ARTICLE III *Committees*

**SECTION 1. Committees of the Association.** Matters relating to committees of the Association not addressed in this Constitution will be addressed in the By-laws or other Board-approved policies, or as set forth in the Not for Profit Corporation Act.

**SECTION 2. Executive Committee.** At any time when there is an Executive Committee of the Board, it shall be composed of nine (9) members consisting of the Chairman, three (3) Officers (other than the Chairman), two (2) Governors-at-Large, two (2) Circuit Governors, and either one (1) additional Governor-at-Large or Circuit Governor. The Chairman of the Association may make recommendations regarding individuals to serve as members of the Executive Committee, but such recommendations shall be subject to approval by the Board of Governors, which approval shall be by vote of the Board of Governors to approve or disapprove each individual candidate proposed by the Chairman for Executive Committee membership, and not by vote to approve or disapprove the full slate of candidates proposed by the Chairman. Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Governors, such votes shall be by closed ballot at a meeting of the Board of Governors, provided that records of the votes of each member of the Board of Governors shall be kept and any member of the Board of Governors may thereafter request to examine such records. The term of the members of the Executive Committee shall be one (1) year, unless otherwise specified at the time of approval by the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 3. Nominating Committee.** At the fall Regular Meeting of the Board of Governors in the year immediately prior to any year in which regular elections of Officers or Governors-at-Large will take place, a Nominating Committee of the Association will be formed. The Nominating Committee will consist of seven (7) voting members who shall be selected by the Board of Governors in the manner described below, and one of whom shall be selected by the Nominating Committee members themselves to serve as the Nominating Committee chairperson. Of the seven (7) voting members of the

Nominating Committee, five (5) shall be selected from among the then-current members of the Board of Governors, and the remaining two (2) shall be selected from among the Registered Player Members that are at least 18 years of age and that are not then-current members of the Board of Governors but who may be prior members of the Board of Governors. To select the five (5) current members of the Board, the Board of Governors shall nominate up to ten (10) individuals for the five (5) slots, and the Board shall elect the five (5) individuals from among the ten (10) nominated who receive the most votes cast by the Board of Governors. To select the two (2) Registered Player Members, the Board of Governors shall nominate up to four (4) individuals for the two (2) slots, and the Board shall elect the two (2) individuals from among the four (4) nominated who receive the most votes cast by the Board of Governors. The Nominating Committee will have such responsibilities as are set forth herein and such additional responsibilities as may be determined by the Board of Governors from time to time. The term of each Nominating Committee member shall conclude immediately following the elections for which he or she was appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee. By accepting membership on the Nominating Committee, each individual is ineligible to be included on any slate prepared by the Nominating Committee on which he or she serves but may be independently nominated by the Delegates (as set forth in Article VI) with respect to Governor-at-Large elections or by the Board of Governors (as set forth in the By-laws) with respect to Officer elections.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### *Membership and Delegates*

**SECTION 1. Membership.** The Association is an association of Association-registered polo clubs, associations, and other entities engaged in or related to the sport of polo (collectively, the “**Member Clubs**”) and of the Association-registered individual members of such Member Clubs (the “**Individual Members**” and collectively, with the Member Clubs, the “**Members**”). The Members of the Association shall be made up of the following categories of Member Clubs and Individual Members as well as any such additional categories as may from time to time be approved by the Board of Governors. The Member Clubs and Individual Members shall have such rights and responsibilities as are set forth in the By-laws and this Constitution and such additional rights and responsibilities as may be approved from time to time by the Board of Governors.

- A. **Member Club Classifications:**
- (1) “Active Member Clubs”
  - (2) “Provisional Member Clubs”
  - (3) “Affiliate Member Clubs”
  - (4) “Associate Member Clubs”



- B. Individual Member Classifications:
- (1) “Registered Player Members”
  - (2) “Affiliate Player Members”
  - (3) “Social Non-Playing Members”
  - (4) “Lifetime Members”
  - (5) “Player-Only Members”

**SECTION 2. Delegates.** Each Member Club shall select a Delegate, who is at least 18 years of age and who is not employed by the Association or any of its subsidiaries, according to the Member Club’s own internal rules and procedures, to represent it in its dealings with the Association. Each Delegate shall be a Registered Player Member of the Association and shall be registered with the Member Club that he or she is selected to represent; provided, however, that with respect to any Affiliate Member Club, its Delegate may be an Affiliate Member of such Affiliate Member Club (and need not be a Registered Player Member). Whenever a new Delegate is selected to represent a Member Club, such Member Club shall provide written notice to the Association identifying the selected Delegate. No individual may serve as Delegate for more than one Member Club.

**SECTION 3. Dues.** The Board of Governors shall from time to time establish membership dues for the Member Clubs and Individual Members. All Member Club and Individual Member dues shall be due and payable by January 1 of each calendar year.

**SECTION 4. Member Voting Rights.**

A. Delegates Representing Active Member Clubs. Delegates representing Active Member Clubs in good standing shall have the right to vote in the election of Circuit Governors in accordance with Article V and the right to vote on any proposed amendment to this Constitution in accordance with Article VIII hereof; provided, however, that with respect to the election of Circuit Governors, only Delegates of record as of June 1 of an election year shall be permitted to vote in such election. For the avoidance of doubt, if, in an election year, an Active Member Club changes its Delegate after June 1 but before the election, such Active Member Club will not have a Delegate eligible to vote in the election. Voting with respect to proposed amendments to the Constitution may be in person or by proxy, duly certified by an officer of the Active Member Club. Proxies must be at least 18 years of age and in good standing with the Association.

B. Registered Player Members. Registered Player Members who are at least 18 years of age and are in good standing shall have the right to vote in the election of Governors-at-Large in accordance with Article VI.

C. No Other Member Voting Rights. No other Members, whether Member Clubs or Individual Members, shall have any right to vote on any Association matter in their respective capacities as Member Clubs or Individual Members.

D. Delegate Nomination of Governor-at-Large Candidate. Delegates of record as of June 1 of a Governor-at-Large election year shall be permitted to nominate a candidate for Governor-at-Large in accordance with Article VI. For the avoidance of doubt, if, in a Governor-at-Large election year, an Active Member Club changes its Delegate after June 1 but before the close of the period for Delegate nominations of Governor-at-Large candidates, such Active Member Club will not have a Delegate eligible to nominate a candidate for Governor-at-Large for such election.

**SECTION 5. Good Standing.** Member Clubs and Individual Members shall be in good standing if they have paid all dues owing to the Association and are not under suspension by the Association. Individual Members that are not in good standing, or that are registered through a Member Club that is not in good standing for a period exceeding 90 days, may not participate in any Association event, umpire any Association event, serve as Officers, Governors, or Delegates of the Association, vote on any Association matter, recommend handicaps, or be entitled to a handicap, file a complaint or protest, or otherwise participate in the affairs of the Association.

**SECTION 6. Applications for Membership.**

A. Member Club Membership. Application for membership by a Member Club will be made in writing to the Association, accompanied by such information as the Board of Governors of the Association may prescribe. Such application will be presented for action at the next meeting of the Board of Governors. The Board may from time to time adopt additional objective and nondiscriminatory criteria on which to evaluate, then approve or deny, membership applications. The Board of Governors may, by a majority vote of those present at a meeting, reject the application, elect the applicant a Provisional Member Club pending the receipt of additional information, or elect the applicant to full Active, Affiliate, or Associate Member Club membership. The name of a Provisional Member Club may be put forward at any subsequent meeting of the Board of Governors for election to full Active Member Club membership. Member Club membership shall have a term of one (1) year, expiring December 31 of each year and renewable annually at the option of the Board of Governors.

B. Individual Member Membership. Application for membership as an Individual Member will be made in writing to the Association, accompanied by such information as the Board of Governors of the Association may prescribe. The Board may from time to time adopt objective and nondiscriminatory criteria on which to evaluate, and then approve or deny, membership applications. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the discretion of the Board of Governors, an application for membership as an Individual Member may be denied where the applicant previously was removed as an Individual Member by the Association pursuant to procedures approved by the Board of Governors. Following evaluation by the Board and upon payment of the annual dues to the Association, each Individual Member will be designated to one of several categories of membership. Other than Lifetime Members, Individual Members shall have a term of one (1) year, expiring December 31 of each year and

renewable annually at the option of the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 7. Membership Obligations.** Acceptance of membership in the Association will bind each Member to uphold the provisions of the Association's Articles of Incorporation, this Constitution, the By-laws, the Rules of the Association (as defined in the By-laws), and all policies and resolutions of the Association, including all terms and conditions set forth in any membership application, all as in effect from time to time, and to honor all Association decisions based upon those provisions. No Individual Member shall participate, either within or outside the United States, on a team alleging to represent the United States or the United States Polo Association, without the express written consent of the Association.

**SECTION 8. Membership Reclassifications.**

A. Member Club Reclassifications. Member Club reclassifications shall be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the By-laws.

B. Individual Member Reclassifications. An Individual Member's specific class of membership may be converted to another classification in the event that the Individual Member no longer satisfies the requirements of his or her prior classification. An Individual Member in good standing shall be converted automatically to Player-Only Member status upon the filing by such Individual Member of a claim, complaint, notice, or other cause of action of any kind, whether filed in a court of law or submitted to any other body or agency, unless and until otherwise provided by the Board of Governors or a court of competent jurisdiction.

**SECTION 9. Transfer of Membership.** Members may not transfer their membership in the Association. Members shall have no ownership rights or beneficial interests of any kind in the property of the Association.

**SECTION 10. Termination of Membership.** The Board of Governors has the authority to discipline Association Members, including to suspend, revoke, or terminate membership of any Member Club or Individual Member, in accordance with and subject to any disciplinary procedures of the Association approved by the Board of Governors and in effect from time to time, which procedures shall provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances, including the right to fair notice and a hearing prior to termination. The Association may retain jurisdiction over any Member who has pending financial obligations to the Association, or pending disciplinary actions against him or her, regardless of status of membership.

ARTICLE V

*Circuits and Circuit Governors*

**SECTION 1. Circuits.** The Board of Governors has established Circuits, the number of which shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Governors and set forth in

the By-laws. The Board of Governors shall from time to time establish the geographic boundaries of each Circuit, and Member Clubs shall be allocated automatically among the fixed number of Circuits based on their respective locations within the geographically-defined Circuits.

**SECTION 2. Circuit Governors, Term, Term Limitations.** Each Circuit shall be represented by one (1) Circuit Governor who shall be elected in accordance with the procedures set forth herein. Beginning as of the regular meeting of the Board of Governors (the “**Regular Board Meeting**”) occurring in the fall of 2018, each Circuit Governor will hold office, for a three-year term and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until his or her earlier resignation, removal from office, or death. A Circuit Governor completing the unexpired term of another will assume office immediately upon such appointment. No individual shall serve as a Circuit Governor for more than three (3) consecutive three-year terms, except that a Circuit Governor completing the unexpired term of another may complete such term and also be eligible for three (3) consecutive three-year terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Circuit Governors completing their first or second terms as of the fall 2018 Regular Board Meeting shall be eligible to serve for up to two (2) additional three-year terms, Circuit Governors completing their third term as of the fall 2018 Regular Board Meeting shall be eligible to serve for up to one (1) additional three-year term, and Circuit Governors completing their fourth consecutive term as of the fall 2018 Regular Meeting shall be ineligible to be elected as Circuit Governors at the fall 2018 Regular Meeting.

**SECTION 3. Nomination and Election Procedure.** Not later than the second Tuesday of June in an election year, the Association will convey to the Delegates of each Active Member Club in good standing as of June 1, with a copy to the incumbent Circuit Governor: (a) a list of that Member Club’s Registered Players who are at least 18 years of age and of record as of June 1; (b) a nominating form for the nomination of a candidate for Circuit Governor; and (c) a list of all Active Member Clubs in the Circuit as of June 1, including the name and address of each Delegate. The Association shall communicate to each Delegate the following procedure:

A. Nominations must be in writing, on the form provided, and received by the Association no later than 5 p.m. EDT on the second Tuesday of July of each election year. No Delegate may nominate more than one (1) individual. Any individual receiving two (2) or more nominations will be considered a candidate for the office of Circuit Governor. All candidates must be Registered Players who are at least 18 years of age and registered with an Active Member Club in the Circuit as of June 1 of the election year.

B. Not later than the third Tuesday of July of the election year, the Association will deliver ballots listing the names of each Circuit’s candidates for Circuit Governor to the Delegate of each Active Member Club in such Circuit and will provide a copy of the same to the incumbent Circuit Governor and each candidate for Circuit Governor.

C. Completed ballots must be received at the Association office not later than 5 p.m.

EDT on the second Tuesday of August of each election year. Votes representing at least a majority of the total number of votes entitled to be cast by all Delegates within a Circuit shall be required to be received in order for that Circuit election to be valid. The risk of late or non-delivered ballots by the deadline is on the Delegate. All Delegates and candidates will be notified of the results of the election not later than August 30 of that year. If only one candidate is nominated pursuant to the procedures above, such candidate must still receive affirmative votes representing at least a majority of the total number of votes entitled to be cast by all Delegates in the relevant Circuit in order for that election to be valid. If no candidate is nominated in a particular Circuit or no candidate in a particular Circuit receives votes representing at least a majority of the total number of votes entitled to be cast by all Delegates in such Circuit, then the Chairman of the Association shall select an individual to serve as Circuit Governor of such Circuit, subject to approval of the Board of Governors.

D. Only Delegates representing Active Member Clubs in good standing which are in the Circuit and are of record on June 1 of each election year are entitled to nominate or vote for a candidate. No Delegate may assign or transfer the Active Member Club’s vote(s) or the right to vote by proxy or otherwise. Each Delegate may cast one (1) vote for a candidate for Circuit Governor per ballot. Each Delegate will receive the number of ballots set forth below based on the number of Registered Player Members (including, for this purpose, any Lifetime Members that were Registered Player Members immediately prior to becoming Lifetime Members) in the Active Member Club that the Delegate represents:

| Number of Registered Player Members | Number of Ballots |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6-14                                | 2                 |
| 15-29                               | 3                 |
| 30-59                               | 4                 |
| 60 or more                          | 5                 |

E. The candidate in each Circuit receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected as Circuit Governor of that Circuit. In the event of a tie between two (2) or more candidates for Circuit Governor in any Circuit, the Chairman and two other Governors shall call a Special Board Meeting that shall be held as soon as reasonably practicable following the determination that the votes cast for Circuit Governor resulted in a tie and upon forty-eight (48) hours’ advance notice to the Board of Governors in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the By-laws, at which Special Board Meeting the Chairman shall recommend to the Board for its consideration, and upon the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Board of Governors, such individual shall be deemed elected as the Circuit Governor of that Circuit.

F. Elected Circuit Governors will take office at the conclusion of the next Annual Member Meeting (as defined below). Their terms will expire at the third Annual Member Meeting following the beginning of their terms.

G. Any variation from the foregoing election procedure must be reported in writing to the Board of Governors prior to the Annual Member Meeting of the Association by letter to the Chairman. If the Board finds that the variation substantially affected the fairness or the outcome of an election or was inconsistent with the Not for Profit Corporation Act, the Board will declare said election void and hold a new election complying as closely as possible with the foregoing procedure; otherwise the said election will be deemed valid.

## ARTICLE VI *Governors-at-Large*

**SECTION 1. Governors-at-Large, Term, Term Limitations.** There shall be not less than eight (8) nor more than twelve (12) Governors-at-Large, with the precise number to be recommended by the Chairman and approved by the Board of Governors on or before the Spring Regular Board Meeting of each election year, or else the number shall remain the same as the prior year. Governors-at-Large shall be elected by the vote of the Registered Player Members in good standing as of June 1 of the election year. Beginning as of the fall 2019 Regular Board Meeting, each Governor-at-Large shall serve for a three-year term and until his or her successor shall have been elected and qualified or until his or her earlier resignation, removal from office, or death. A Governor-at-Large may not serve more than three (3) consecutive three-year terms, except that a Governor-at-Large elected to complete the unexpired term of another may complete such term and also be eligible for three (3) consecutive three-year terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Governors-at-Large completing their first or second terms as of the fall 2019 Regular Board Meeting shall be eligible to serve for up to two (2) additional three-year terms, and Governors-at-Large completing their third term as of the fall 2019 Regular Board Meeting shall be eligible to serve for up to one (1) additional three-year term, and Governors-at-Large completing their fourth consecutive term as of the fall 2019 Regular Meeting shall be ineligible to be elected as Governors-at-Large at the fall 2019 Regular Meeting.

**SECTION 2. Nomination and Election Procedure.** The candidates for Governor-at-Large will be presented by the Nominating Committee for election by the Registered Player Members according to the following procedure:

A. On or before the last Tuesday of May, the Nominating Committee will nominate not less than one (1) candidate for each available Governor-at-Large position to be filled. The Nominating Committee's list of candidates will be immediately forwarded to the Secretary of the Association. The Secretary will ascertain which of those recommended candidates are willing to be candidates and willing to serve if elected, and shall include the names of those individuals on the final ballot.

B. No later than the second Tuesday of June, the Secretary will distribute to the Delegates of Active Member Clubs in good standing as of June 1 of the election year the following:

- i. The list of candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee;
- ii. Nominating forms for candidates for Governor-at-Large; and
- iii. The procedure by which Delegates may nominate additional candidates for Governor-at-Large.

C. A Delegate may nominate any Registered Player Member who is duly registered with the Association and at least 18 years of age as of June 1 as a candidate for Governor-at-Large by returning the completed nomination form to the office of the Association not later than 5 p.m. EDT on the first Tuesday of July. Any Registered Player Member timely receiving five (5) or more Delegate nominations will be considered a nominee and a potential candidate. No Delegate may make more than one (1) nomination in any given election.

D. At the close of the Governor-at-Large nominating period, the Secretary will ascertain which additional nominees are willing to be candidates and willing to serve if elected and submit them to the final ballot. If a candidate nominated by five (5) or more Delegates chooses not to run, such five (5) or more Delegates will be so advised immediately by the Secretary.

E. The Secretary will prepare a list of all of the nominated candidates for Governor-at-Large. The final list of candidates for balloting purposes will list alphabetically all nominated candidates who are willing to serve, with an asterisk or similar designation next to the names identifying those candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee. On or before the third Tuesday of July, the Secretary will send a written ballot to every Registered Player with each Registered Player's Association number printed thereon and directing the number of Governors-at-Large, as recommended by the Chairman and approved by the Board, to be elected.

F. Each election year, each Registered Player (as of the June 1 record date) may vote for one (1) candidate for each Governor-at-Large position to be filled up to the total number to be elected as recommended by the Chairman and approved by the Board.

G. Registered Players must sign their ballots, and ballots must be received at the office of the Association on or before 5 p.m. EDT on the third Tuesday of August of each election year. Risk of a late or non-delivered ballot by the deadline is on the Registered Player. Ballots representing at least one-tenth (1/10) of the total number of Registered Players as of the June 1 record date must be received by the Association in order for the election to be valid. In the absence of receipt by the Association of ballots representing at least one-tenth (1/10) of the total number of Registered Players by the deadline, the Association shall declare the election invalid and shall conduct another election for Governors-at-Large that complies as closely as reasonably practicable with the foregoing procedure, including its stated timeframes for various election-related actions.

H. All votes for each candidate will be tallied and candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected as Governors-at-Large up to the total number of Governors to be elected. The results of the election will be announced not later than August 30 of that year.

I. Elected Governors-at-Large will take office at the conclusion of the next Annual Member Meeting (as defined below). Their terms will expire at the third Annual Member Meeting following the beginning of their terms.

J. In the event of a tie between two (2) or more candidates for Governor-at-Large, the Chairman and two other Governors shall call a Special Board Meeting that shall be held as soon as reasonably practicable following the determination that the votes cast for Governor-at-Large resulted in a tie and upon forty-eight (48) hours' advance notice to the Board of Governors in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the By-laws, at which Special Board Meeting the Chairman shall recommend to the Board for its consideration, and upon the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Board of Governors, such individual shall be deemed elected as a Governor-at-Large.

K. Any variation from the foregoing election procedure must be reported in writing to the Board of Governors prior to the Annual Member Meeting. If the Board finds that the variation substantially affected the fairness or the outcome of an election or was inconsistent with the Not for Profit Corporation Act, the Board will declare said election void and hold a new election complying as closely as reasonably practicable with the foregoing procedure, including its stated timeframes for various election-related actions; otherwise the election will be deemed valid.

## ARTICLE VII

### *Annual Member Meeting of the Association*

**SECTION 1. Annual and Special Member Meetings.** The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Association (**the “Annual Member Meeting”**) will be held between the 1st day of August and the 31st day of October in each year at such place and hour as the Chairman designates. Special meetings of the Members of the Association (each, a **“Special Member Meeting”**) may be called by the Chairman or by the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 2. Notice of Meetings.** Thirty (30) days' notice of the time and place of the Annual Member Meeting and two (2) weeks' notice of the time and place of any Special Member Meeting will be delivered by the Secretary in writing to all Member Clubs and Individual Members. A notice of any Special Member Meeting will state the objectives thereof and no other business will be transacted thereat.

**SECTION 3. Quorum.** A majority of the Active Member Clubs represented in person by Delegates, or represented by proxy, constitutes a quorum at any meeting of the Members.



## ARTICLE VIII

*Amendments*

**SECTION 1. Amendments.** This Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of votes cast by the Delegates of the Active Member Clubs present and voting in person or by proxy at a meeting of the Members of the Association at which a quorum of the Active Member Clubs are represented by Delegates, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment is delivered to the Delegates of all Active Member Clubs at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. In any proposed action to amend this Constitution, each Delegate shall have the number of votes set forth below based on the number of Registered Player Members (including, for this purpose, any Lifetime Members that were Registered Player Members immediately prior to becoming Lifetime Members) in the Active Member Club that the Delegate represents:

| Number of Registered Player Members | Number of Votes |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 6-14                                | 2               |
| 15-29                               | 3               |
| 30-59                               | 4               |
| 60 or more                          | 5               |

**SECTION 2. Implied Amendments.** Any action taken or authorized by the Board of Governors, which would be inconsistent with this Constitution but which is taken in order to comply with changes to the Not for Profit Corporation Act, shall be given the same effect as though the Constitution had been amended by the Delegates of the Active Member Clubs, but only so far as is necessary to permit the action so taken or authorized and only until such time as the Delegates of the Active Member Clubs shall amend this Constitution to comply with the Not for Profit Corporation Act.

## ARTICLE IX

*Writings and Electronic Signatures*

Any action required in this Constitution to be “written,” to be “in writing,” to have “written consent,” to have “written approval,” and the like by or of Governors, Members, Delegates, Officers, or committee members shall include any communication transmitted or received by facsimile, electronic mail, or other means of electronic transmission. Any action required in this Constitution to be “signed” or to have a “signature by or of” a Governor, Member, Delegate, Officer, or committee member shall include an action signed with an electronic signature that is any symbol executed or adopted, or any security procedure employed or adopted, by or on behalf of a person with intent to authenticate a record and which is attached to or logically associated with the action in electronic form.

ARTICLE X  
*Waiver of Notice*

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, the By-laws, this Constitution, or the Not for Profit Corporation Act, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. The presence at any meeting of a person or persons entitled to notice thereof shall be deemed a waiver of such notice by such person or persons unless the person at the meeting objects to the holding of the meeting because proper notice was not given.

ARTICLE XI  
*USOC*

If, at any time, it becomes reasonably apparent that the sport of polo may be included on the program of the Olympic Games, then the Board of Governors of the Association shall undertake a determination as to whether it will seek recognition as a “National Governing Body” as that term is defined in the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (36 U.S.C. §§220501-220529) (the “Sports Act”). If the Board of Governors determines that it intends to seek recognition as a National Governing Body, then the Association shall use its reasonable best efforts to comply with the requirements for such recognition in accordance with the Sports Act and as mandated by the United States Olympic Committee, and, upon approval by a majority of the Board of Governors, any amendments to this Constitution that may be deemed necessary by the Board of Governors for such recognition shall be deemed automatically to have received the requisite approval of the Delegates in accordance with Article VIII.



# BY-LAWS

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**AMENDED AND RESTATED  
BY-LAWS of the  
UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**

(As approved by the Board of Governors on October 10, 2020)

PREAMBLE

These Amended and Restated By-Laws (these “**By-Laws**”) address certain organizational matters of the United States Polo Association (the “**Association**” or the “**USPA**”) which are not addressed in detail or at all by the Constitution of the Association (the “**Constitution**”), but which are important to the responsible and efficient governance and operation of the Association and therefore to the pursuit of its Mission (as defined in the Constitution). Among the matters addressed are the roles and responsibilities of the Association’s Board of Governors, Officers, Board Committees, and Advisory Committees. Every Governor, Officer, Committee Chairperson, and Committee Member is an Individual Member of the Association who serves as a volunteer and whose commitment, judgment, and hard work is critical to the success of the Association. While service in these voluntary roles is an honor, the roles are not merely honorary or ceremonial. Each volunteer who serves as an Officer, Governor, Committee Chairperson, or Committee Member must be committed to exercising good judgment and working hard for the Association if it is to pursue its Mission successfully.

Effective governance of the Association requires, among other things: (1) the Advisory Committees and the Association’s staff (the “**USPA Staff**”) to provide insight and make recommendations to the Board of Governors, Officers, and Board Committees, as appropriate, regarding Association operations, initiatives, programs, and other matters; (2) the Board of Governors, Officers, and Board Committees to consider that insight and those recommendations; (3) the Board of Governors to establish the Association’s strategic direction (as set forth herein and in the Constitution), oversee the management of the Association’s property and affairs (including by approving the Association’s annual budget) and, acting both directly and through the Officers and Board Committees, direct the USPA Staff in its management of the Association’s property and affairs; and (4) the USPA Staff to execute proactive management of the Association’s property and affairs consistent with those directives. The Association’s governance is the sum of all of these parts, and its long-term success is contingent on each Governor, Officer, Committee Chairperson, Committee Member, and USPA Staff member fulfilling his or her important role.

ARTICLE I

*Colors*

The colors of the Association are white and dark blue.

## ARTICLE II

*Circuits*

The Circuits of the Association are as follows: Border, Central, Eastern, Florida, Great Plains, Hawaiian Islands, Mid-States, Northeastern, Pacific Coast, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Southeastern, and Southwestern. The geographic boundaries of the Circuits shall be as reflected in the USPA Circuit Map, as attached hereto as Appendix 1, as it shall be approved by the Board of Governors from time to time.

## ARTICLE III

*Board of Governors*

**SECTION 1. Board of Governors.** There shall be a Board of Governors of the Association (the “**Board**”) that shall consist of the Circuit Governors, the Governors-at-Large, and the Officers, all of whom shall be Registered Player Members of the Association. The Board of Governors shall have the control and management of the property and affairs of the Association, including the authority to establish reasonable compensation for employees of the Association. The Board of Governors shall pursue the Association’s Mission (as defined in the Constitution) and determine its philosophy, strategy, objectives, and goals, in each case consistent with its Mission. Each member of the Board of Governors shall hold office until his or her successor is elected and qualified or until his or her earlier resignation, or removal from office, or death. Governors need not be residents of Illinois but must be at least 18 years of age at the time of their election. No individual who is employed by the Association or any of its subsidiaries may serve as a member of the Board of Governors. The elections of Circuit Governors and Governors-at-Large shall be conducted according to the procedures set forth in the Constitution. The election of Officers shall be conducted by the Board of Governors according to the procedures set forth in Article V below.

**SECTION 2. Board of Governors’ Meetings.** The Board of Governors will meet at the call of the Chairman or President at least twice a year (each, a “**Regular Board Meeting**”). Special meetings of the Board of Governors (each, a “**Special Board Meeting**”) may be called from time to time in accordance with the notice requirements set forth in Section 3 of this Article III. Members of the Board of Governors, or any committee thereof, may participate in and act at any Special Board Meeting or any committee meeting by means of a conference telephone or other similar interactive technology, including, but not limited to, electronic transmission, Internet usage, or remote communication, so long as all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other, and such participation shall constitute presence in person at such meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Governors must be present in person at any Regular Board Meeting in order to participate and be considered in attendance.

**SECTION 3. Notice of Board Meetings and Board Meeting Agenda Expectations.****A. Notice of Board Meetings.**

Notices of Regular Board Meetings will be written, conveyed by the Secretary to each Governor twenty-one (21) or more days before such meetings and shall state the time and place thereof. Special Board Meetings may be called by either the Chairman or a majority of the Governors on seven (7) calendar days' notice; provided, however, that a Governor may not be removed at any Special Board Meeting unless written notice of the proposed removal is delivered to all Governors at least twenty (20) days prior to such meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Special Board Meeting also may be called by either (i) the Chairman together with two (2) other Governors or (ii) a majority of the Governors, on (a) forty-eight (48) hours' advance notice to the Board, or (b) twenty-four (24) hours' advance notice to the Board if and only if the meeting is being called in connection with a matter subject to the Disciplinary Procedures Policy of the USPA, and resolution of the matter is so time sensitive that providing forty-eight (48) hours' advance notice to the Board would have an adverse effect on the progression of a USPA Event. The notice of a Special Board Meeting will state the objectives thereof and no other business may be transacted thereat unless otherwise waived.

**B. Board Meeting Agenda Expectations**

In order to provide the Board of Governors with sufficient time to appropriately review and assess matters to be considered by the Board, best efforts will be made, to provide, whenever practical, written notice of items to be placed on a Board of Governors meeting agenda, along with corresponding documentation, if any, at least three (3) weeks before the meeting at which the matter is to be considered. The Board of Governors, or any committee to which the Board has delegated responsibility to consider any matter, shall exercise its duty of care to be informed and prudent in its review of information relevant to making a determination, including by, but not limited to, considering the impact of the proposed matter on the annual budget and the operations of the USPA, and, if appropriate, the input of one or more committees. In exercising such judgment, the Board or relevant committee may make a determination not to take action with respect to any such matter and to instead reconsider the item or matter at a later date after having the opportunity to review additional information.

**SECTION 4. Quorum and Manner of Acting.** A majority of the Governors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Governors. If less than a majority of the Governors are present at a meeting of the Board of Governors, a majority of the Governors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice until a quorum shall be constituted. When a quorum is present at any meeting of the Board of Governors, the act of at least a majority thereof will be the act of the Board of Governors, unless the act of a greater number is required by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these By-laws. At all meetings, members of the Board of Governors shall be represented in person. No member of the Board of Governors may assign or transfer his or her right to vote or act by proxy on any matter.

**SECTION 5. Resignations.** Any Governor may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Governors, the Chairperson, or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect when the notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a future date. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. A Governor who fails to attend in person three (3) consecutive Regular Board Meetings for reasons not excused by the Chairman shall be deemed to have resigned at the next meeting of the Board of Governors following the third unexcused absence.

**SECTION 6. Vacancies.** A vacancy occurring in the Governors-at-Large or Officers by reason of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise shall be filled by the Board of Governor’s approval of a candidate who is first recommended by the Executive Committee. An individual elected to fill a vacancy in the Governors-at-Large or Officers shall be elected to serve as such for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office. In the event of a vacancy by reason of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise of a Circuit Governor, the Executive Committee of the Association shall appoint an interim Governor to serve until such time as the Member Clubs of the Circuit conduct an election to fill the vacancy, which shall occur as soon as reasonably practicable.

**SECTION 7. Removal.** The procedure for removal of any Circuit Governor or Governor-at-Large shall be set forth in the Constitution. Any Officer serving ex officio as a member of the Board of Governors may be removed as provided in Article V hereof.

**SECTION 8. Simultaneous Titles.** No individual may simultaneously hold more than one title as a Circuit Governor, Governor-at-Large, or Officer. Any member of the Board of Governors elected or appointed to another position on the Board of Governors shall resign the prior position immediately upon acceptance of such appointment or election.

**SECTION 9. Diversity of Discussion.** The Board of Governors shall be sensitive to the desirability of diversity at all levels of the Association.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### *Committees*

**SECTION 1. Committees with Board Authority.** The Board of Governors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the Governors then in office, may designate one or more committees of the Board of Governors (each, a “**Board Committee**”), which, to the extent provided in the resolution of the Board of Governors and not prohibited by applicable law or by this Section, shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Board of Governors in the management of the property and affairs of the Association. Each such Board Committee shall consist of two (2) or more Governors and a majority of each Board Committee’s membership shall be Governors; provided, however, that committees appointed by the Board of Governors or otherwise authorized pursuant to these By-laws relating to the election, nomination, qualification, or credentials of the Board of Governors



or other committees involved in the process of electing the Board of Governors may be composed entirely of non-Governors. Unless specifically authorized, no individual who is employed by the Association or any of its subsidiaries may serve as a member of any Board Committee. No Board Committee shall have the power or authority of the Board of Governors in reference to (a) amending or repealing the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, the By-laws, or the Rules; (b) electing, appointing, or removing any Officer, member of the Board of Governors, or member of any committee, or fixing the compensation of any member of a committee; (c) adopting a plan of merger or adopting a plan of consolidation with another corporation; (d) authorizing the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property or assets of the Association; (e) filling vacancies on the Board of Governors or any of its committees; (f) adopting a plan for the distribution of the assets of the Association or for dissolution; (g) approving any Proposed Financial Transaction (as defined in the Constitution); and (h) amending, altering, repealing, or taking any action inconsistent with any resolution or action of the Board of Governors which by its terms provides that it shall not be amended, altered, or repealed by any such committee (the duties collectively set forth in (a) through (h), the “**Non-Delegable Duties**”).

**SECTION 2. Advisory Committees.** The Board of Governors may designate one or more advisory committees (each, an “**Advisory Committee**”) not having and exercising the authority of the Board of Governors in the management of the Association. Advisory Committees may not act on behalf of the Association or bind it to any action but may provide insight and make recommendations to the Board of Governors, to the Officers, or to the USPA Staff, and may carry out actions approved by the Board of Governors provided such actions are consistent with Board-approved Advisory Committee charters, budgets, and USPA policies. USPA Staff, as assigned by the USPA CEO, shall support each Advisory Committee. Each Advisory Committee Chairperson shall direct its assigned USPA Staff on matters within the Advisory Committee’s function, subject to the CEO’s oversight. Except with respect to the Nominating Committee, which shall be comprised as set forth in the Constitution, members of any Advisory Committee may, but need not, be members of the Board of Governors, but effective January 1, 2019, all members of any Advisory Committee, including any chairperson thereof, shall be Individual Members of the Association. The Chairman of the Association will nominate a chairperson of each Advisory Committee (other than the Nominating Committee), which nominations will be subject to approval by the Board of Governors. Except with respect to the Nominating Committee, and unless otherwise specified in a Board-approved policy or Board-approved committee charter, each Board-approved Advisory Committee chairperson will appoint the members of the Advisory Committee of which he or she has been named chairperson.

In addition, with respect to any limited liability company of which the Association serves as sole legal member, the Association may, from time to time, designate one or more advisory committees (each, an “**LLC Advisory Committee**”) to provide insight and make recommendations to the Association that are related to the operations of the particular

limited liability company for which the LLC Advisory Committee has been designated. Any LLC Advisory Committee may provide insight and make recommendations to the Board of Governors (representing the USPA in its capacity as sole member of the LLC), and may act consistent with its rights and responsibilities provided such actions are consistent with the limited liability company's regulations and operating agreement, as applicable, as well as with any member-approved LLC Advisory Committee charters, budgets and policies.

**SECTION 3. Standing Committees.** The standing Board Committees are the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee. The standing Advisory Committees are the (a) Arena Handicap Committee, (b) Arena Polo Committee, (c) Armed Forces Committee, (d) Audit Committee, (e) Board and Staff Development Committee, (f) Club & Membership Administration Committee, (g) Constitution Committee, (h) Equine Welfare Committee, (i) Horse Registry Committee, (j) High Goal Committee, (k) International Committee, (l) Nominating Committee, (m) Outdoor Handicap Committee, (n) Rules and Rules Interpretation Committee, (o) Safety Committee, (p) Strategic Planning Committee, (q) Tournament Committee, (r) Women's Handicap Committee, (s) Women's Polo Committee, and (t) Young Players Committee. The rights and responsibilities of each standing Advisory Committee shall be determined by the Board of Governors and may be set forth in one or more separate committee charters adopted by the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 4. Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall be composed as set forth in the Constitution. Except as specifically set forth herein, the Board of Governors has delegated the full powers and duties of the Board of Governors to the Executive Committee to act in between meetings of the Board of Governors, including, but not limited to, the oversight of the day-to-day operational business of the Association, including the management of the USPA Staff and annual budget that has been approved by the Board of Governors; provided, however, that, unless otherwise directed from time to time by the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee shall not take any action that is not appropriated for in the annual budget of the Association as approved by the Board of Governors or that binds, commits, or obligates the Association to expend, pledge, loan, or otherwise commit Association assets that exceed ten percent (10%) of any corresponding line item in the Association's budget as approved by the Board of Governors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of the Non-Delegable Duties (as defined above) have or may be delegated to the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee shall not have the authority, without consultation and prior approval of the Board of Governors, to purchase, sell, create, or destroy any corporate entity of the Association, whether owned in whole or in part. Except for any action on the part of the Executive Committee to accept a Member Club as a Provisional Member Club or to take any action or make any determination specifically required of the Executive Committee in any Board-approved disciplinary policy, each of which the Executive Committee has the authority to do without further review by the Board of Governors, all actions of the Executive Committee consistent herewith will be binding on the Association and will be reported to the Board of Governors as follows:

A. Complete minutes of all Executive Committee meetings (including meetings conducted by teleconference) shall be forwarded to the Board of Governors as soon as possible after preparation, including, but not limited to, all resolutions, reports exhibits, and attachment.

B. The Board of Governors shall, within seven (7) days of the publication of the minutes and attachments, review the minutes and register any comments or objections to the Executive Committee and to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

C. If five (5) or more Governors register objections on a particular matter within the stated seven-day period, then the Executive Committee and the Chief Executive Officer shall work together to resolve such objections in a timely manner.

D. If five (5) or more of the Governors that objected within the stated seven-day period continue to object after an attempt at resolution, then the proposed action and such unresolved objections shall be tabled and heard at the following meeting of the Board of Governors. If the proposed action is time sensitive, the Chairman of the Association shall call a Special Board Meeting to resolve the objections when directed by a majority of the Board of Governors.

E. Other than proposed actions for which the Board of Governors determines otherwise pursuant to (d) above, all Executive Committee actions will be formally ratified, by resolution, at the next meeting of the Board of Governors, unless such actions were pre-approved by the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee was authorized and directed to take action.

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**SECTION 5. Nominating Committee.** Each Nominating Committees shall be composed as set forth in the Constitution. Each Nominating Committee will have such responsibilities as are set forth herein and in the Constitution and such additional responsibilities as may be determined by the Board of Governors from time to time.

**SECTION 6. Removal.** Any member of any Board Committee or any Advisory Committee, other than a member of the Executive Committee or a Nominating Committee, may be removed, with or without cause, (a) by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Governors then in office at any meeting thereof, or (b), with respect to any member of any Advisory Committee, by the Chairperson of such Advisory Committee.

## ARTICLE V

### *Officers*

**SECTION 1. Officers.** The Officers of the Association shall be the Chairman, the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Officers shall be Registered Player Members of the Association and shall serve ex officio as voting members of the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 2. Term of Office, Term Limitations.** Officers elected at the fall 2018 Regular Board Meeting will be elected by the Board of Governors for a one-year term. Beginning as of the fall 2019 Regular Board Meeting, Officers will be elected by the Board

of Governors to serve for three-year terms of office. Officers will assume their offices immediately following their election. No Officer may hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms except that an Officer elected to complete the unexpired term of another may do so and still be eligible for two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Officer completing his or her first, second, or third term in office as of the fall 2019 Regular Board Meeting shall be eligible to serve for up to one (1) additional three-year term in such office, and each Officer completing his or her fourth term as of the fall 2019 Regular Board Meeting shall be ineligible to be elected to such office at the fall 2019 Regular Board Meeting.

**SECTION 3. Nomination and Election Procedure.** In each year in which Officer elections will occur, the Secretary of the Association will convey a notice of Officer nominations made by the Nominating Committee to the Board of Governors at least eight weeks in advance of the Regular Board Meeting occurring immediately prior to, or concurrent with, the then-upcoming Annual Member Meeting. Independent nominations for Officers may be made in writing, signed by seven (7) members of the Board of Governors, and delivered to the Secretary at least four (4) weeks in advance of this Regular Board Meeting. No member of the Board of Governors shall submit more than one (1) independent nomination for each office. Not less than two (2) weeks prior to the Regular Board Meeting, the Secretary shall distribute to each member of the Board of Governors a ballot listing all properly nominated candidates for office. Completed ballots must be cast in person by the Governors at the Regular Board Meeting. In the event that three (3) consecutive votes of the Board held at the same Regular Board Meeting all result in a tie, the Chairman shall cast an additional, deciding, ballot.

**SECTION 4. Resignations.** Any Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Governors, the Chairperson, or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect when the notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a future date. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. An Officer who fails to attend in person three (3) consecutive Regular Board Meetings for reasons not excused by the Chairman shall be deemed to have resigned at the next meeting of the Board of Governors following the third unexcused absence. For the avoidance of doubt, resignation as an Officer shall constitute resignation from the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 5. Vacancies.** A vacancy in any office occurring by reason of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Governors at any meeting thereof. An individual elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected to serve as such for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

**SECTION 6. Removal.** Any Officer may be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Governors then in office at any meeting thereof; provided, however, that notice of any proposed removal of an Officer at any Special

Board Meeting shall be delivered at least twenty (20) days prior to any such Special Board Meeting and the proposed removal shall be set forth in such notice. Such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person or persons so removed.

**SECTION 7. Chairman.** The Chairman will provide leadership and operational oversight for the achievement of the USPA mission statement in terms of philosophy, strategy, objectives, and goals within the budgetary guidelines approved by the Board of Governors. The Chairman will preside at all meetings of the Members of the Association and all meetings of the Board of Governors and will perform the usual duties of such office in accordance with any position description approved by the Board of Governors and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 8. President.** Like the Chairman, the President will provide leadership and operational oversight for the achievement of the USPA mission statement in terms of philosophy, strategy, objectives, and goals within the budgetary guidelines approved by the Board of Governors. The President also will perform such duties in accordance with any position description approved by the Board of Governors and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Governors. During the absence or inability of the Chairman to act, the President will act in his place and stead.

**SECTION 9. Secretary.** The Secretary shall perform, or cause to be performed and oversee the performance of, the following duties: (a) keep the records of any action or meeting of the Board of Governors in one or more books provided for that purpose; (b) be the custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the Association, if any; (c) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws or as required by law; and (d) in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary. The Secretary also will perform such duties in accordance with any position description approved by the Board of Governors and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Secretary by the Board of Governors.

**SECTION 10. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall perform, or cause to be performed and oversee the performance of, the following duties: (a) have charge of and be responsible for overseeing the maintenance of adequate books of account for the Association; (b) have charge of all funds and securities of the Association, and be responsible for overseeing the management thereof, and for the receipt and disbursement thereof; and (c) in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer. The Treasurer also will perform such duties in accordance with any position description approved by the Board of Governors and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Treasurer by the Board of Governors. If required by the Board of Governors, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of the Treasurer's duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board of Governors shall determine.

ARTICLE V(a)  
*Chief Executive Officer*

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The Association shall have a Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) who shall be an employee of the Association hired by, and serving at the discretion of, the Board of Governors. The CEO will lead and oversee the USPA Staff and will provide insight and make recommendations to the Board of Governors and Committees. Collectively, the CEO and the USPA Staff will execute the USPA Mission within the budgetary guidelines approved by the Board of Governors and consistent with the philosophy, strategy, objectives, and goals approved by the Board of Governors. The CEO will perform his or her duties in accordance with any position description approved by the Board of Governors and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the CEO by the Board of Governors. Any such position description will include the following, at a minimum: The CEO will work with the Chairman, Executive Committee, and Board of Governors to develop, align, and communicate strategic objectives for the Association. The CEO will ensure that the Chairman, Executive Committee, and Board of Governors are alert to their procedural and substantive responsibilities under the Association’s governing documents and policies. The CEO will identify and recommend to the Board of Governors proactive strategies to retain and grow the number of USPA Individual Members and Member Clubs. The CEO will oversee day-to-day operations of the Association, working with the USPA Staff to execute the strategic initiatives identified by the Board of Governors and Board Committees consistent with the USPA Constitution and these By-Laws. The CEO will develop, monitor, and deploy the Association’s assets in accordance with the annual budget approved by the Board of Governors, pursuant to the strategic initiatives identified by the Board of Governors, and in a manner that takes into account (in consultation with relevant members of the USPA Staff and financial advisors to the Association) the USPA’s streams of income and the health of, and impact to, the USPA’s financial portfolio.

ARTICLE VI  
*Membership*

**SECTION 1. Applicability of the Constitution.** Matters relating to the membership of the Association not addressed in these By-laws will be addressed in the Constitution or other Board-approved policies, or as set forth in the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act of 1986, as amended (the “**Not for Profit Corporation Act**”). Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Constitution.

**SECTION 2. Member Handicaps.** The Association shall issue handicaps to Individual Members in accordance with such handicap policy or policies as are adopted by the Board of Governors and in effect from time to time.

**SECTION 3. Membership Classifications.** The Members of the Association shall be made up of the following categories of Member Clubs and Individual Members as well as any

additional categories as may from time to time be approved by the Board of Governors. The Member Clubs and Individual Members shall have such rights and responsibilities as are set forth in the Constitution and these By-laws and such additional rights and responsibilities as may be approved from time to time by the Board of Governors.

A. Member Club Classifications:

(1) Upon acceptance of annual membership in the Association, each “**Active Member Club**” shall have the right to select one (1) voting Delegate from among its Registered Player Members to represent the Active Member Club in Association matters, host Association events, recommend handicaps, and register players. Active Member Clubs shall (A) be located within the United States; (B) effective as of January 1, 2019, have at least six (6) Registered Player Members in good standing, each of whom must be at least 18 years of age as of January 1 of each membership year, (C) maintain insurance of the type prescribed by the Association from time to time, (D) have ownership or control by lease of a suitable field or arena for the club’s declared polo season, (E) effective as of January 1, 2021, conduct annually a minimum of either four Club Events or two USPA Events (as those terms are defined in the Tournament Conditions), (F) have (i) no undisputed payments due and payable to the Association for anything other than membership fees that are outstanding for 90 days or more, and (ii) no club membership fees, Club Delegate Membership fees or individual membership fees for the club’s minimum number of six (6) Registered Player Members described in requirement (B) above that are unpaid by April 1 of the relevant year, and (G) comply with all other terms of membership as stated on the membership application, as approved by the Board of Governors from time to time (the “**Membership Application**”). An Active Member Club that falls out of compliance with any of the membership requirements listed above except requirements (A), (C), (D) or (F) shall be reclassified as a Provisional Member Club immediately upon identification and confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff, provided that the club meets the requirements for Provisional Member Club status set forth below. An Active Member Club that falls out of compliance with membership requirements (A), (C), (D) or (F) listed above shall be suspended immediately upon identification and confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff.

(2) Provisional Member Clubs shall be represented by a non-voting Delegate to the Association, but shall not have the right to vote on any Association matters. Provisional Member Clubs may host Association events, recommend handicaps, and register players. Effective as of January 1, 2021, there are three categories of “**Provisional Member Clubs**”:

(A) The first category of Provisional Member Club is comprised of clubs that have applied for Active Member Club membership but which have not yet been approved as an Active Member Club by the Board of Governors, provided

that (i) USPA Staff has issued a written confirmation that such club satisfies each of the requirements necessary to be classified as an Active Member Club except requirement (E) in Section 3(a)(1) above, and therefore that it qualifies for Provisional Member Club status, and (ii) the Executive Committee has approved such club as a Provisional Member Club. Approval of any such club as an Active Member Club shall be considered by the Board of Governors on a date no earlier than six months following the date of the Executive Committee's approval of such club as a Provisional Member Club and no later than one year following that date. For avoidance of doubt, clubs applying for Active Member Club status do not have to demonstrate that they have conducted a minimum of either four Club Events or two USPA Events in the year preceding their application. However, as part of its application, any such club must provide the USPA Staff with a schedule of events for the year immediately following its application that includes a minimum of either four Club Events or two USPA Events. In order to be granted Active Member Club status, any such club must in fact conduct a minimum of either four Club Events or two USPA Events during the year immediately following the date of the Executive Committee's approval of such club as a Provisional Member Club. As soon as a Provisional Member Club in this first category has conducted a minimum of either four Club Events or two USPA Events, but no earlier than six months following the date of the Executive Committee's approval of such club as a Provisional Member Club, approval of such club as an Active Member Club may be considered by the Board of Governors. A Provisional Member Club in this first category that falls out of compliance with membership requirements (A), (C), (D) or (F) in Section 3(a)(1) above shall be suspended immediately upon identification and confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff and written notice of same issued by USPA Staff to the club.

Notwithstanding the requirements of Section 6(a)(1) below, which apply to suspended Member Clubs, a Provisional Member Club in this first category may only be classified as a Provisional Member Club for a maximum of one (1) year. For the avoidance of doubt, the suspension of a Provisional Member Club does not toll or extend the running of this one-year period, whether or not the compliance issue that resulted in that suspension is cured.

(B) The second category of Provisional Member Clubs is comprised of Active Member Clubs that have fallen out of compliance with any of the requirements necessary to be classified as an Active Member Club but which have not been suspended. To qualify as a Provisional Member Club, an Active Member Club that falls out of compliance with requirement (B) in Section 3(a)(1) above must have at least six (6) Registered Player Members, Affiliate Player Members or any combination thereof of any age. For the avoidance of doubt, any Provisional Member Club in the first or second category or any Active Member Club that



falls out of compliance with requirement (B) in Section 3(a)(1) and which does not have at least six (6) Player Members of any age shall be suspended automatically upon identification and confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff. A Provisional Member Club in this second category that falls out of compliance with membership requirements (A), (C), (D) or (F) in Section 3(a)(1) above shall be suspended immediately upon identification and confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff and written notice of same issued by USPA Staff to the club.

Notwithstanding the requirements of Section 6(a)(1) below, which apply to suspended Member Clubs, a Provisional Member Club in this second category may only be classified as a Provisional Member Club for a maximum of one (1) year. For the avoidance of doubt, the suspension of a Provisional Member Club does not toll or extend the running of this one-year period, whether or not the compliance issue that resulted in that suspension is cured.

If, within one year of being reclassified as a Provisional Member Club for failure to maintain any of the requirements in Section 3(a)(1) above, such Provisional Member Club demonstrates that it meets all the requirements in Section 3(a)(1) above, such Provisional Member Club shall be reinstated as an Active Member Club upon written confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff and approval by the Executive Committee, provided that such Provisional Member Club is not at that time suspended for any other reason. If, upon the expiration of one year, any such Provisional Member Club does not meet the requirements of Active Member Club classification, it shall no longer be a Member Club of the Association, provided written confirmation of such status is issued by USPA Staff to the club and the Executive Committee. To rejoin the Association as an Active Member Club, any such club must reapply for membership as such, and the application shall be considered and acted upon by the Board of Governors at the next Regular Board Meeting, or by the Executive Committee. Membership, if granted, shall be effective as of the date of the decision by the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee.

(C) The third category of Provisional Member Clubs is comprised of clubs that participate primarily in interscholastic polo at the high school level and satisfy each of the requirements necessary to be classified as an Active Member Club except requirement (B) in Section 3(a)(1) above, but which have at least three (3) Individual Members that are Registered Player Members, Affiliate Player Members, or any combination thereof. For the avoidance of doubt, any Provisional Member Club in the third category which does not have at least three Individual Members that are Registered Player Members shall be suspended automatically upon identification and confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff and written notice of same issued by USPA Staff to the club. A Provisional Member Club in this third category that falls out of compliance

with membership requirements (A), (C), (D) or (F) in Section 3(a)(1) above shall be suspended immediately upon identification and confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff and written notice of same issued by USPA Staff to the club. A Provisional Member Club in this third category may remain a Provisional Member Club indefinitely.

(3) “**Affiliate Member Clubs**” shall be clubs or associations located outside of the United States that comply with all terms of membership applicable to Affiliate Member Clubs as set forth in the Membership Application. Affiliate Member Clubs shall, upon acceptance of annual membership in the Association share all privileges and obligations of the Association except those specifically prohibited. The privileges shared include hosting Association events, recommending handicaps, and registering players. Affiliate Member Clubs shall be represented by a non-voting Delegate to the Association, but shall not have the right to vote on any Association Matters unless otherwise authorized from time to time by the Board of Governors. Effective as of January 1, 2020, Affiliate Member Clubs shall have at least six (6) Individual Members that are Registered Player Members, Affiliate Player Members, or any combination thereof.

(4) “**Associate Member Clubs**” shall be clubs or associations located outside the United States that are not subject to USPA governance, oversight, or rules but that wish to receive USPA communications and publications, and that comply with all terms of membership applicable to Associate Member Clubs as set forth in the Membership Application. Associate Member Clubs may select a non-voting Representative to the USPA, but may not vote on any Association Matters, register players, recommend handicaps, host Association events or enjoy other privileges than those herein specifically granted or otherwise authorized from time to time by the Board of Governors.

B. Individual Member Classifications:

(1) “**Registered Player Members**” (sometimes called “**Registered Players**”) shall be U.S. citizens who are not under suspension by the Hurlingham Polo Association (the “**HPA**”), the Association of Argentine Polo (the “**AAP**”), or the Federation of International Polo (“**FIP**”), and who are registered through an Active Member Club, Provisional Member Club, or Affiliate Member Club. Registered Player Members shall enjoy all individual benefits and obligations of the Association. Each Registered Player Member in good standing who is at least 18 years of age as of January 1 shall have the right to vote in the election of Governors-at-Large as provided in the Constitution in that year, but shall not have the right to vote on any other Association matters unless otherwise authorized from time to time by the Board of Governors.

(2) “**Affiliate Player Members**” are individuals who are not U.S. citizens and who are not under suspension by the HPA, the AAP, or FIP, but who are registered through

an Active Member Club, Provisional Member Club, or Affiliate Member Club. An Affiliate Player Member shall enjoy all the individual benefits and obligations of the Association with the following exceptions: an Affiliate Player Member shall not be eligible to be selected as a Delegate of an Active Member Club, shall not be eligible to serve on the Board of Governors of the Association, and shall not be eligible to vote on any Association Matters unless otherwise authorized from time to time by the Board of Governors.

(3) “**Social Non-Playing Members**” shall receive all member benefits provided to Registered Player Members of the Association except that Social Non-Playing Members are not handicapped, are not eligible to participate in Association events, are not permitted to serve as a Governor or a Delegate, and are not entitled to vote on any Association matters unless otherwise authorized from time to time by the Board of Governors. A Social Non-Playing Member wishing to be handicapped and to participate in Association events may become a Registered Player Member or Affiliate Player Member, as appropriate, by paying the difference in annual dues fee and requesting a handicap.

(4) “**Lifetime Members**” are Registered Player Members or Affiliate Player Members who have been Individual Members for fifty (50) years, who have purchased the right to be Lifetime Members, or who have been selected for Lifetime Membership by the Board of Governors. A Lifetime Member shall have the same rights and benefits, including such voting rights, if any, as he or she had in his or her capacity as a Registered Player Member or an Affiliate Player Member, as the case may be, for the balance of that individual’s life. A Lifetime Member shall not be required to pay annual dues after being accepted as a Lifetime Member. A Lifetime Member shall be required each year to agree to sign and abide by the USPA Member Terms and Conditions, as they may be amended by the Association from time to time.

(5) “**Player-Only Members**” shall enjoy all the individual benefits and obligations of that of a Registered Player Member of the Association except that a Player-Only Member shall not be eligible to be selected as a Delegate of an Active Member Club, shall not be eligible to serve on the Board of Governors of the Association, including as an Officer of the Association, and shall not be eligible to vote on any Association matter.

#### **SECTION 4. Member Rights.**

A. Member Club Rights. Member Clubs shall have such rights and responsibilities as are set forth under their respective classifications set forth above and such additional rights and responsibilities as may be set forth in the Constitution. Member Clubs that are not in good standing (i.e., those having unpaid dues or that are under suspension by the Association) may not participate in Association affairs including requesting and/or hosting Association events, registering players, recommending handicaps, voting

on Association matters, or attending Association meetings.

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**B. Individual Member Rights.** Individual Members shall have such rights and responsibilities as are set forth under their respective classifications set forth above and such additional rights and responsibilities as may be set forth in the Constitution. Individual Members who are not in good standing (i.e., those having unpaid dues or who are under suspension by the Association), or who are registered through a Member Club that is not in good standing with the Association for a period exceeding 90 days, may not participate in any Association event, umpire an event, serve as Officers, Governors or Delegates of the Association, vote on any Association matters, recommend handicaps, be entitled to a handicap, file a complaint or protest, or otherwise participate in the affairs of the Association.

**SECTION 5. Applications for Membership.** In accordance with the procedures set forth in the Constitution, each calendar year, a candidate for membership as a Member Club or as an Individual Member shall submit a completed Membership Application for consideration by the Board of the Association. The Board may from time to time adopt objective and nondiscriminatory criteria on which to evaluate, and then approve or deny, membership applications. If, upon evaluation by the Board, the membership candidate satisfies the requirements for membership and possesses the type of good character that the Association seeks for its membership, the Association may accept the candidate's Membership Application and grant membership to the candidate for the particular calendar year. Subject to any applicable disciplinary procedures approved by the Board of Governors, a Member's previously accepted membership may be suspended, revoked, or terminated at any time by the Association where such Member acts in any manner that is deemed, in the sole and absolute discretion of the Board, to be inconsistent with the Association's Articles of Incorporation, these By-laws, the Constitution, the Rules of the Association, or any policies or resolutions of the Association, including any terms or conditions set forth in the Membership Application.

**SECTION 6. Membership Reclassifications and Suspensions.**

**A. Member Club Reclassifications and Suspensions.** At each Regular Board Meeting, the Secretary shall present to the Board a list of any Member Clubs that, at that time, either (a) do not meet the Board-approved requirements of membership or (b) have failed to discharge their obligations to the Association. The Board of Governors may take such action, if any, as it deems appropriate with respect to each Member Club appearing on the list. Such action may include, but not be limited to, suspension or any other penalty set forth in any Board-approved disciplinary procedure. Any action taken by the Board of Governors shall be effective as of the date of the Board's decision unless otherwise stated. For avoidance of doubt, suspended Member Clubs may not participate in Association affairs including requesting and/or hosting Association events, registering players, recommending handicaps, voting on Association matters, or attending Association meetings.

(1) As is set forth in Section 3 above, (a) any Member Club that falls out of compliance with membership requirements (A), (C), (D) or (F) in Section 3(a)(1) shall be suspended automatically; (b) any Active Member Club or Provisional Member Club in the first or second category that falls out of compliance with requirement (B) in Section 3(a)(1) and which does not have at least six (6) Player Members of any age shall be suspended automatically; and (c) any Provisional Member Club in the third category which does not have at least three Individual Members that are Registered Player Members shall be suspended automatically.

(A) The “**Cure Period**” for each of the above-described automatic suspensions shall be as follows:

(i) Thirty (30) days for falling out of compliance with any of Section 3(a)(1) membership requirements (A) [i.e., that the Member Club must] be located within the United States; (C) [i.e., that the Member Club must] maintain insurance of the type prescribed by the Association from time to time, or (F) [i.e., that the Member Club must] have (i) no undisputed payments due and payable to the Association for anything other than membership fees that are outstanding for 90 days or more, and (ii) no club membership fees, Club Delegate Membership fees or individual membership fees for the club’s minimum number of six (6) Registered Player Members described in requirement (B) above that are unpaid by April 1 of the relevant year.

(ii) Ninety (90) days for falling out of compliance with Section 3(a)(1) membership requirement (D) [i.e., that the Member Club must] have ownership or control by lease of a suitable field or arena for the club’s declared polo season.

(iii) Ninety (90) days for falling out of compliance with any applicable requirement concerning the minimum number of Player Members the Member Club must have.

(B) If, within the Cure Period following immediately from the date of automatic suspension, a suspended Member Club demonstrates to USPA Staff that it has cured the non-compliance issue, such Member Club shall be reinstated automatically upon confirmation of such fact by USPA Staff and written notice of same issued by USPA Staff to the club, provided, however, that such suspended Member Club also then meets all other applicable requirements for membership and is not at that time suspended for any other reason. If the applicable Cure Period expires without the USPA Staff confirming that the suspended Member Club has cured the non-compliance issue, such suspended Member Club’s membership in the Association shall be automatically terminated. To rejoin

the Association as a Member Club, any such club must reapply for membership, and the application shall be considered and acted upon by the Board of Governors at the next Regular Board Meeting, or by the Executive Committee. Membership, if granted, shall be effective as of the date of the decision by the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee.

(2) When a suspended Member Club (other than one that was suspended automatically) has corrected the deficiencies that resulted in its suspension, the Member Club may apply for reinstatement of its status as a Member Club. Applications for reinstatement shall be considered and acted upon by the Board of Governors at the next Regular Board Meeting, or by the Executive Committee. Reinstatement, if granted, shall be effective as of the date of the decision by the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee.

(3) When making any decision regarding a change in a Member Club's status, the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee, as applicable, shall consider, but shall not be bound by, the recommendations of the Circuit Governor representing the Circuit in which the Member Club is located.

(b) Individual Member Reclassifications. An Individual Member's specific class of membership may be converted to another classification in the event that the Individual Member no longer satisfies the requirements of his or her prior classification. An Individual Member shall be converted automatically to Player-Only Member status upon the filing by such Individual Member of a claim, complaint, notice, or other cause of action of any kind, whether filed in a court of law or submitted to any other body or agency, unless and until otherwise provided by the Board of Governors or a court of competent jurisdiction.

## ARTICLE VII

### *Rules*

**SECTION 1. Rules.** References to the “**Rules**,” the “**Rules of the Association**” or the “**Association Rules**” in the Constitution, these By-laws, the Code of Conduct, any Board-approved policy or procedure shall mean all sport-related rules approved by the Association, including, but not limited to, the Outdoor Rules, the Arena Rules, and the Tournament Conditions (including, if applicable, the International Rules to the extent applicable), each as set forth in the Board-approved Rule Book.

**SECTION 2. Applicability of Rules.** The Outdoor Rules shall govern all outdoor matches and tournaments. The Arena Rules shall govern all arena matches and tournaments. The Tournament Conditions shall govern all Association Events and, where contradictory, supersede the Outdoor or Arena Rules.

**SECTION 3. Rule Variance Authority.** The Chairman of the Association or, in his absence, in order of rank (i.e., President, Secretary, then Treasurer), the other Officers of the Association, with the majority consent of the Executive Committee, shall have authority to grant variations or deviations from the Rules, including the Tournament Conditions, in special circumstances deemed to be in the best interest of the Association.

## ARTICLE VIII

### *Disciplinary Procedures*

The Board of Governors has the authority to discipline Association Members, including to suspend, revoke, or terminate membership of any Member Club or Individual Member, in accordance with and subject to any disciplinary procedures of the Association approved by the Board of Governors and in effect from time to time, which procedures shall provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances, including the right to fair notice and a hearing prior to termination. The Board of Governors shall provide notice to the Members of any changes to the approved disciplinary procedures in advance of their implementation. Failure of a Member to discharge its obligations to the Association may be grounds for suspension or termination of membership, or other penalty, by the Board of Governors or the Chairman of the Association, as the case may be, in accordance with any Board-approved disciplinary procedure. By way of illustration and not in limitation, the Board of Governors has the authority to impose disciplinary measures relating to conduct violations on the field, Member conduct off the field, issues relating to equine welfare, and equine drug and medications rules.

## ARTICLE IX

### *Indemnification of Governors, Officers, and Employees*

**SECTION 1. Indemnification.** The Association shall, pursuant to the standards and requirements set forth from time to time in the Not for Profit Corporation Act, indemnify each person who (i) is or was a Governor or Officer, (ii) is serving or has served at the request of the Association as a director, trustee, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, and (iii) is or was an employee or agent of the Association, to the fullest extent from time to time permitted by the laws of the State of Illinois and by the Code (as defined below), if applicable, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person, in the event any of such persons was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a Governor, Officer, employee, or agent of the Association, or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a director, trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the other enterprise.

**SECTION 2. Advance Payments.** Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding may be paid by the Association in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the Board of Governors in the specific case, upon receipt of an under-taking by or on behalf of the Governor, Officer, employee, or agent of the Association to repay such amount, unless it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is entitled to be indemnified by the Association as authorized in this Article IX.

**SECTION 3. Non-exclusivity and Continuation.** The indemnification provided by this Article IX shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which a person seeking indemnification may be entitled under any agreement, vote of disinterested Governors, or otherwise, both as to action in the person's official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Governor, Officer, employee, or agent of the Association, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such a person.

**SECTION 4. Insurance.** The Association shall purchase and maintain insurance (a) to insure itself with respect to the indemnification payments it is authorized or obligated to make pursuant to this Article IX, and (b) on behalf of any person who is or was a Governor, Officer, employee, or agent of the Association, or who is or was serving at the request of the Association as a director, trustee, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, to insure against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the Association would have the power to indemnify the person against such liability under the provisions of this Article IX. The Board of Governors shall review and determine the appropriate extent of coverage and limits of insurance of the Association from time to time.

#### ARTICLE X *Attorneys' Fees*

Where a Member files a lawsuit or other legal claim against the Association or any of the Association's Officers, Board of Governors or employees, to the extent that the Association prevails on the merits in such lawsuit or legal proceeding, the Member shall be required to reimburse the Association for all of its attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the lawsuit or other legal proceeding, including all attorneys' fees and costs incurred pre-filing, before the trial court, on appeal, and in any post-trial collection proceedings.

#### ARTICLE XI *Amendments*

These By-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By-laws adopted by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members of the Board of Governors then in office. Such action may be taken at any meeting of the Board of Governors, provided that



notice of the proposed alternation, amendment, repeal, or adoption be contained in the notice of any Special Board Meeting at which such action is taken, and provided further that no such alteration, amendment, repeal, or adoption shall in any way conflict with the purposes of the Association as stated in its Articles of Incorporation or otherwise cause the Association to lose its qualification as an organization exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”).

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## ARTICLE XII

*Writings and Electronic Signatures*

Any action required in these By-laws to be “written,” to be “in writing,” to have “written consent,” to have “written approval,” and the like by or of Governors, Members, Delegates, Officers, or committee members shall include any communication transmitted or received by facsimile, electronic mail, or other means of electronic transmission. Any action required in these By-laws to be “signed” or to have a “signature by or of” a Governor, Member, Delegate, Officer, or committee member shall include an action signed with an electronic signature that is any symbol executed or adopted, or any security procedure employed or adopted, by or on behalf of a person with intent to authenticate a record and which is attached to or logically associated with the action in electronic form.

## ARTICLE XIII

*Waiver of Notice*

Whenever any notice (including, but not limited to, notice of a meeting, hearing, protest, or appeal) is required to be given under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, these By-laws, any Board-approved disciplinary procedure, or the Not for Profit Corporation Act, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. The presence at any meeting or hearing of a person or persons entitled to notice thereof shall be deemed a waiver of such notice by such person or persons unless the person at the meeting objects to the holding of the meeting because proper notice was not given.

## ARTICLE XIV

*USOC*

**SECTION 1. Recognition as a Recognized Sport Organization.** The Association seeks and attempts to maintain recognition by the United States Olympic Committee (“USOC”) as a Recognized Sport Organization (as that term is used in the bylaws of USOC). Accordingly, the Association shall use its reasonable best efforts to:

- A. comply substantially with Sections 220522 through 220525 of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (36 U.S.C. §§220501-220529) (the “Sports Act”), to the extent of its applicability at any particular time;

- B. be incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the United States;
- C. be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code;
- D. administer and support an annual national championship of athletes from several different areas or regions of the United States;
- E. have an active athlete training and competition program financially supported by self-generated funds; and
- F. have participated with a full contingent in two (2) of the last three (3) World Championships as sanctioned by its appropriate International Federation.

**SECTION 2. Recognition as a National Governing Body.** If, at any time, it becomes reasonably apparent that the sport of polo may be included on the program of the Olympic Games, then the Board of Governors of the Association shall undertake a determination as to whether it will seek recognition as a “National Governing Body” as that term is defined in the Sports Act. If the Board of Governors determines that it intends to seek recognition as a National Governing Body, then it shall use its reasonable best efforts to comply with the requirements for such recognition in accordance with the Sports Act and as mandated by USOC. Any amendments to the Constitution of the Association as may be necessary for such recognition shall be deemed automatically to have received the requisite approval of the Delegates in accordance with Article VIII thereof upon approval by a majority of the Board of Governors. Any amendments to these By-laws as may be necessary for such recognition shall be subject to approval by the Board of Governors. In fulfilling such requirements, the Association shall:

- A. be a member of only one (1) international sports federation, which is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the worldwide governing body for the sport of polo;
- B. be autonomous in the governance of the sport of polo by independently determining and controlling all matters central to such governance, by not delegating any of that determination or control, and by being free from outside restraint;
- C. maintain the managerial and financial competence and capability to establish national goals for polo relating to the development and wellbeing of the sport, to implement and administer a plan for the attainment of those goals, and to execute its obligations as the National Governing Body for the sport of polo;
- D. provide for individual and/or organizational membership;
- E. ensure that its Board of Governors, and its Executive Committee, has established criteria and election procedures for, and maintains among its voting members, individuals who are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition in polo or who have represented the United States in an international amateur athletic competition in polo within the preceding ten (10) years, and ensures that the voting power held by those individuals is not less than twenty (20) percent of the voting power held in its Board or Executive Committee;
- F. provide for reasonable direct representation on its Board of Governors for any

amateur sports organization that: (i) conducts a national program or regular national amateur competition in the sport polo on a level of proficiency appropriate for selection of amateur athletes to represent the United States in international amateur athletic competition, and (ii) ensures that representation reflects the nature, scope, quality, and strength of the programs and competitions of that amateur sports organization in relation to all other of those programs and competitions in the sport of polo in the United States; G. be governed by a Board of Governors whose members are selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, or gender, with reasonable representation on the Board of both males and females;

H. provide an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in polo competitions without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, or national origin;

I. not have an officer who is also an officer of another amateur sports organization that is recognized by the USOC as a National Governing Body;

J. provide procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its Members;

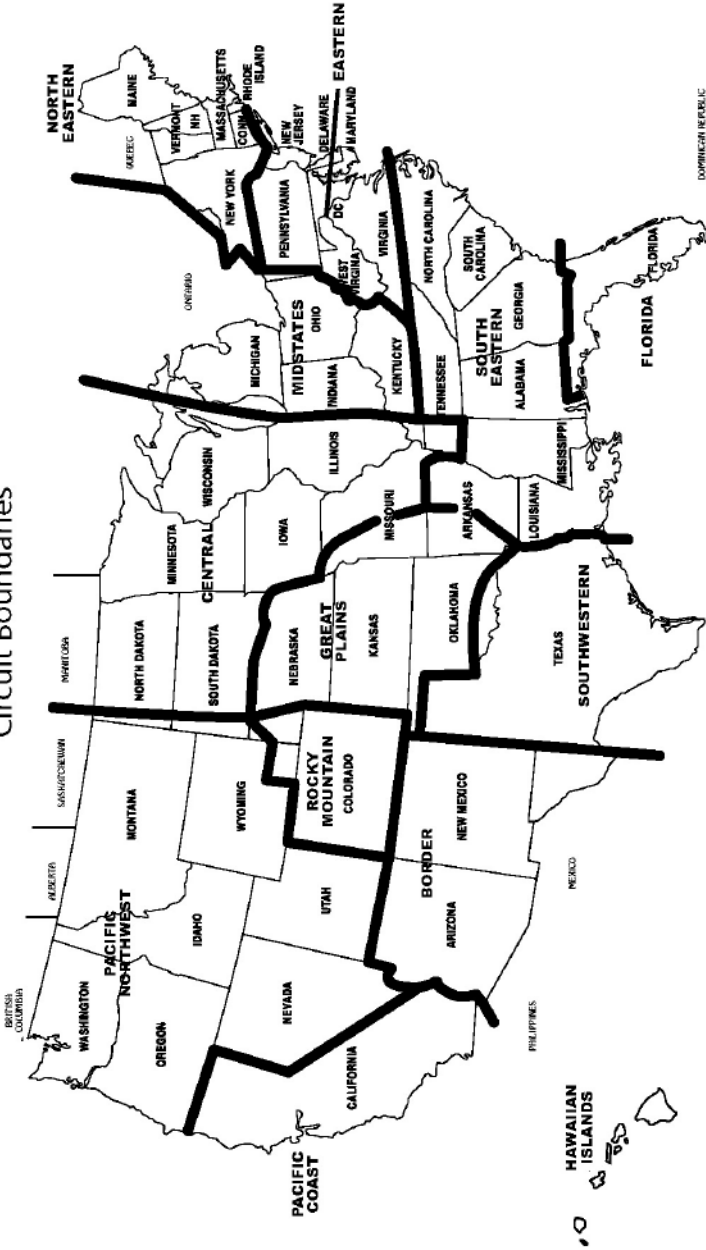
K. provide fair notice and an opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate;

L. agree to submit to binding arbitration in any controversy involving: (i) its recognition as a National Governing Body, or (ii) the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to participate in amateur athletic competition in polo, upon demand of the USOC or any aggrieved amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official, conducted in accordance with the Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association or as modified pursuant to the Sports Act;

M. not have eligibility criteria relating to amateur status or to participation in the Olympic or Pan American Games that are more restrictive than those of the international sports federation for the sport of polo recognized by the International Olympic Committee or the International Paralympic Committee; and

N. perform all other obligations and duties imposed by the Sports Act and by the USOC on a National Governing Body.

# UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION Circuit Boundaries



# OUTDOOR RULES

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## OUTDOOR RULES

### SECTION I TEAMS, PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES, EQUIPMENT, MOUNTS AND MOUNTS' EQUIPMENT

#### RULE 1- TEAMS

- a. There shall be four players on each team to start every game, subject only to the provisions of Rule 1.d below. Each team shall designate one player as its Captain, who shall have the sole right to represent the team and to discuss with the Umpire(s) procedural matters arising during the game. Other players on either team may request a time out from the Umpire(s) when allowed elsewhere in these rules or the Tournament Conditions. (See Rule 21.d, f, g; Tournament Conditions, Section VIII (“Instant Replay”).)
- b. The aggregate handicap of a team must fall within the limits specified for each event. No team whose handicap is higher or lower than the specified limits shall be permitted to participate, except as provided in Rule 1.c and 3.c. For the purposes of these Rules, an “event” or “Event” is a USPA Event or a Club Event as those terms are defined in Section 1 of the Tournament Conditions.
- c. If a team has entered an event and has a player or players changed in handicap at any time from the draw through the team’s last game in the event resulting in the team’s total handicap being over or under the handicap limit of the event, the team will remain eligible for that event but must play with the new handicap in all remaining games.
- (1) Any substitution of players in such a team between games must bring the team handicap within the handicap limits of the event.
  - (2) In an event played on the flat, such a team must give an opponent the goal difference of the team handicap over the upper handicap limit of the event.
  - (3) In a handicap event, such a team must give an opponent the full handicap difference.
  - (4) Should a team’s handicap be changed by more than two goals over the upper or below the lower limit during the event, the team may not continue and must conform itself to the original handicap limits of the event.
- d. In the event one or more players are not available to start a game, and no eligible substitute is available, the team may play up to half the game with less than the full team provided the aggregate team handicap on the field meets the upper and lower handicap requirements of the Event. The team handicap may be altered when the team is changed.
- e. The Umpire(s) may impose an appropriate penalty and assess a yellow **card** to the unprepared player(s) if a team is not mounted, on the field and prepared to begin the game, including (if possible) in the manner described by Rule 1.d above, at the designated starting game time set by the Host Tournament Committee. If a team is not mounted, on the field and prepared to begin the game, including (if possible) in the manner described by Rule 1.d above, within 15 minutes after the designated starting

game time set by the Host Tournament Committee, the Umpire(s) shall declare a forfeit. Disciplinary sanctions as set forth in Rule 33 may be imposed by the Host Tournament Committee and/or the Association.

f. American Rule: Each team in a USPA Event shall, excluding the sponsor, have a minimum of one Registered Player Member as defined in the Association's Constitution and By-Laws, regardless of handicap level. An Affiliate Player Member with Canadian citizenship and a USPA handicap shall be considered a Registered Player Member for the purposes of this rule only.

**1. TEAMS a...INTERPRETATION:** The Captain is the representative of the team and it is through the Captain that the Umpire communicates with members of a team. The Captain's right to discuss does not include a right to debate or question judgment calls of officials. The Captain may point out what he believes to be a procedural error; or request definition of a call or decision if the Umpire failed to announce the call properly, but may not become argumentative or prolong the discussion. The discussion is over when the Umpire says it is over and prolongation may invoke a penalty.

**1. TEAMS a...EXAMPLES:** Blue #2 loses a stirrup. When play stops, he calls for time to replace the equipment. This is permitted under Rule 21.g even though Blue #2 is not the Captain.

Red #3, a Captain, rides to the Umpire when a foul is called and questions the severity of the penalty award. This is questioning a judgment call and not permitted.

The whistle sounds and a foul has been called and, as Red #3 rides to hit the penalty he passes the Umpire and says "That was a good call, Blue #1 has been doing that all day." This type of "working the Umpire" is not permitted.

The whistle sounds against Red #1. Red #3 calls loudly to his teammate, "Good play. There was no foul and that is a terrible call." This conversation is not permitted as it is an attempt to influence the Umpire.

The whistle sounds against Blue #4 who then asks Blue #3 what he did wrong. Blue #3 replies, "That was a tough break, but lineup and let's play." This is advice to a teammate. This is not a challenge to the Umpire's judgment, and is permitted.

The Umpire announces a Penalty 3 against Blue and drops the ball on the 60-yard line. Red Captain points out the error and requests repositioning on the 40-yard line. This is permitted as it concerns a procedural error and does not question a judgment call.

**1. TEAMS b...EXAMPLE:** The Red Team would like to enter an 8-12 goal tournament, but only has a 7 goal team available for their first game. Team Red offers to "assume" 8 goals. This is not permitted. Team Red must meet the minimum handicap level of 8.

**1. TEAMS c...EXAMPLES:** After its first game in an 8-12 goal league, Red has a player re-handicapped bringing the team total to 13 goals. Red may complete the league at 13 goals, but must give an additional handicap goal to any opponent.

Team Blue has several players re-handicapped in mid-year resulting in the team being 3 goals over the event limit. Three goals are too many, so the team must be rebuilt.

Team Red is completing an 8 goal event with a 9 goal team. Red's 0 goal sponsor is

injured in a fall and leaves the game. Any substitute, or combination of substitutes, may total 9 goals as Team Red has already given up the handicap goal at the beginning of the game. In any subsequent game of this event, either Team Red’s 0 goal sponsor returns to play or the team must substitute him with a – 1 goal player to qualify for the tournament conditions.

In a series of 12-16 goal tournaments, Team Blue is re-handicapped to 17 goals. The Team may finish the event in progress, but must reorganize before the next draw.

**1. TEAMS d...EXAMPLES:** Team Red is entered in a 4-8 goal tournament. At game time, Red’s 2 goal player is not at the field. Team Red may start the game as a 6 goal team. If the player turns up, making Team Red 8 goals, the scoreboard should be changed to reflect the higher handicap.

Team Blue’s 5 goal player is late for a 16-20 goal game. As only 15 goals are available to take the field, Team Blue must forfeit the game.

Team Red enters a 6 goal tournament with two 2-goalers, a 3-goaler, and a -1 goaler. The -1 is not at the field at game time and the other 3 players want to play the game. Not permitted. Team Red is a 7 goal team without the -1 goal and must forfeit the game.

**1. TEAMS e...INTERPRETATION:** Any change in schedule is to be made by the Committee before the scheduled time. Once the scheduled time arrives, the Umpire is in charge and the game should start promptly.

**1. TEAMS e...EXAMPLE:** The Red sponsor calls 15 minutes before game time saying he is delayed in traffic and asks to delay the game 30 minutes. The request to delay the game 30 minutes must be directed to the Host Tournament Committee and it must be made before game time.

**1. TEAMS f...INTERPRETATIONS:** The definition of “sponsor” refers to the individual responsible for the team. The designation of the team “sponsor” is left to the Host Tournament Committee and all such designations should be made before the start of the event.

A team sponsored by a player who is considered a Registered Player Member for purposes of Rule 1.f must have at least one additional player who is considered a Registered Player Member for purposes of Rule 1.f.

A team sponsored by an Affiliate Member must have at least one player who is considered a Registered Player Member for purposes of Rule 1.f.

It is the team’s burden to convince the Host Tournament Committee that the individual designated as a “sponsor” is responsible for the team and meets the commonly accepted definition of “sponsor.”

In the event of multiple sponsors, one shall be designated as the “primary sponsor” and there shall be at least one additional player on the team who is considered a Registered Player Member for purposes of Rule 1.f.

Should a team be supported by a non-playing “sponsor”, one player shall be designated as the “sponsor” and there must be at least one additional player on the team who is considered a Registered Player Member for purposes of Rule 1.f.

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**RULE 2- PLAYERS**

a. No player shall play in any Event for more than one team except that if a player is injured in a game and there are no eligible substitutes available an eliminated player may be substituted to complete that game and any subsequent game for that team only. An eliminated player is a player who has completed his or her final game in the Event and whose team has been eliminated from the Event.

(1) If a player with a known injury begins a game, that player may not use a player from another team as a substitute, should that player not be able to complete the game.

(2) **For Events with an upper handicap level of 16 goals and above:** During preliminary play, if a 7-, 8-, 9-, or 10-goal handicapped player is injured during a game, a player competing in the Event of equal or lesser handicap to the injured player may substitute only for the remainder of that game. For all subsequent games in the Event only eligible substitutes may be used. After preliminary play, if a 7-, 8-, 9-, or 10-goal handicapped player is injured and cannot start or becomes injured in a game, an eliminated player of equal or lesser handicap may substitute for the injured player for the remainder of the game and/or Event. The substitute is not eligible to compete for any other team in the Event.

b. A player whose registration fee to the USPA has not been paid in full, or who has not been assigned a current handicap, shall not play in any event.

c. The penalty for violation of player eligibility, which is forfeiture, shall be exacted regardless of the player's knowledge or intent. Unlike many other penalties which the Umpire(s) may elect not to exact, the penalty for violation of this rule must be exacted if a Referee, an Umpire, or a member of the Committee is notified of or otherwise becomes aware of the violation prior to 24 hours after the violation took place.

d. A player registered with the USPA is eligible to play in any USPA Event except that:

(1) A player with a handicap of -1 goal may not play in a USPA Event above the 12 goal level.

(2) There shall be no more than one -1 goal or -0.5 goal rated player per team in any USPA Event with an upper handicap limit above 6 goals. In a USPA Event rated 7 to 12 goals, should a substitute be required in the event a player is removed from the game due to an inability to continue or by disqualification or penalty, and only a -1 goal or -0.5 goal player is available, and the substitution would result in more than one -1 goal or -0.5 goal rated player being on the team, the substitution nevertheless may be made for that game only so long as the team substituting plays with its original (higher) handicap.

(3) In any USPA Event with an upper handicap limit of 4 goals or above, the handicap of any player may not exceed 3/4 of the upper handicap limit.

(4) In any USPA Event with an upper handicap limit of 3 goals or below, the handicap of the highest rated player on the team may not exceed the upper handicap limit of the Event by more than one goal.

e. No individual shall participate as a player or official in any game if physically impaired (e.g., sick, hurt or intoxicated) before or during the game if such impairment

endangers the safety of that individual or others.

f. No player handicapped with a “T” handicap of 6 goals or less will be allowed to play in a USPA Event with an upper limit of 16 goals **and** above.

**2. PLAYERS a...INTERPRETATION:** The potential substitute must have completed his final game and have been eliminated from the event. The player replaced must be injured and unable to continue the game. The substitute may complete the game at hand and the event but may not play in a subsequent game in the event for any other team.

**2. PLAYERS a...EXAMPLE:** Team Blue’s 9 goal player is injured in the 2nd period of the quarter finals. Player A, also 9 goals, competed with Team Red during the division play in the event and Team Red was eliminated from the event. Player A may complete the game for Team Blue and may continue for Blue for the remainder of the tournament.

Team Red asks Player A, eliminated in earlier rounds of the event, to stand by as a substitute. When Red #2 is injured, Player A replaces him riding A’s own horses. Not allowed. Rule 5.d applies.

**2. PLAYERS b...INTERPRETATION:** It is the player’s responsibility to be sure his credentials are in order before entering the game. There is no provision for “writing a check at the field” or “calling the office on Monday”. *See* Rule 2.c.

**2. PLAYERS c...INTERPRETATION:** Player eligibility is to be determined by the Host Tournament Committee prior to the game. If a possible ineligibility is brought to the Umpire’s attention before or during the game and cannot be resolved, the game should be played under Protest (*See* Sport Protest Procedures, Part III of the Association’s Disciplinary Procedures Policy) and the question referred to the Committee. If the ineligibility is upheld, the game is to be declared a forfeit by the team with the ineligible player.

**2. PLAYERS d...INTERPRETATION:** These handicap limits apply to all USPA Events unless overruled by specific USPA Tournament Conditions or a variance approved pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the Association’s By-Laws, and they may not be modified by a Host Tournament Committee.

**2. PLAYERS d...EXAMPLE:** The “3/4 Rule” applies to events with an upper limit of 4 goals or above. For example, maximum 6 goal player in 8 goal polo. Maximum 4 goal player in 6 goal polo. Maximum 3 goal player in 4 goal polo, etc.

**2. PLAYERS e...INTERPRETATION:** The word “shall” requires the Umpires to remove any individual whose physical condition presents a safety risk.

**2. PLAYERS e...EXAMPLES:** Late in the game on a hot day, an overweight player appears to be suffering from exhaustion. The Umpire may stop the game and give the player a chance to recover. The game should be restarted within 15 minutes with, or without, the player or a substitute.

Prior to a game, Blue #4 is seen in the hospitality tent and appears to be intoxicated.

He should not be permitted to start the game. Team Blue may find a substitute or play short-handed.

Team Blue's #1 has been acting strange and at half time is determined to be intoxicated. The Umpires should not permit the player to start the 4th period. The team may continue with three on a side or with a substitute.

In the 4th period, Umpire A's horse falls. Umpire A remounts, but is unsteady in the saddle and seems not to be under control. Umpire A should be removed by direction of the other Umpire and a replacement, if available, appointed by the Host Tournament Committee.

### **RULE 3- SUBSTITUTES**

- a. Unlimited substitutions shall be permitted at the end of any period, except as provided in Rule 21.d relating to an injured player.
- b. A substitution may be made at any time during a game if a member of a team is, for any reason, unable to finish the game, or at the end of any period if a member of a team has been unable to play during the earlier stages of the game, except as provided in Rule 21.d relating to an injured player. In the event of an injury substitution during a period, the team may elect to make a double substitution, replacing the injured player and one other with eligible substitutes.
- c. In all cases of substitution, the substitute(s) must be eligible to play in the game and the team's aggregate handicap after the substitution may not exceed the upper aggregate handicap limit specified for the event; however, the team's aggregate handicap may be below the lower aggregate handicap limit specified for the event.
- d. The highest team handicap on the field at any time in the game shall be counted for the entire game, except as provided in Rule 3.e.
- e. In the event a player is removed from the game due to inability to continue or by disqualification and no qualified alternate is available or permitted, the team shall continue to play; no change in handicap shall be made, and the team will remain qualified.
- f. In the event a player or players are removed from a game due to a Penalty 7, both teams may substitute the remaining players in accordance with conditions listed above, except that neither team's aggregate handicap on the field, plus goals received by handicap, may exceed the higher handicapped team's handicap following the enactment of the Penalty 7. After enactment of the Penalty 7, and the teams are reduced to three players per team, the injured player may not re-enter the game at any time.
- g. Should a player who is considered a Registered Player Member for purposes of Rule 1.f be unable to complete a game due to injury, illness or disqualification, any Registered Player Member or Affiliate Player Member as defined in the Association's Constitution and By-Laws who is qualified under Rules 2 and 3 may, with the concurrence of the Host Tournament Committee, be used as a substitute for that player in that game and any subsequent game(s) played within the next seven days. Such a substitution will not be considered a violation of Rule 1.f (American Rule).

**3. SUBSTITUTES...INTERPRETATIONS:** Under this Rule, players may enter the game freely between periods of a game. Players may only be replaced during a period if a player is declared unable to continue. If a game is stopped because of an injury, double substitutions in any combination may be made as long as the players are individually eligible and the team remains eligible.

After a Penalty 7 removal, the injured player may not return and the teams must play with three players per side for the remainder of the game. The uninjured player removed from the game as a result of Penalty 7 will remain qualified as a substitute.

**3. SUBSTITUTES b...EXAMPLES:** A player is delayed in arriving for a game. He calls ahead and authorizes his groom (an eligible player with a current handicap) to start in his place. The player arrives two minutes into the second period. The player may enter the game at the end of the period and complete the game.

Three minutes into the first period a player requests a time out when the ball is out of play. The player advises the Umpire that he is unable to continue. The Umpire must assume the player is injured or ill and permit up to 10 minutes for a substitute to enter the game. If the player quits without notifying the Umpire, play will resume and no time out allowed.

A player who leaves the game due to exhaustion, and is replaced by a qualified substitute, recovers and wishes to return half-way through the fourth period. This substitution is permitted but may not take place until the end of the period because the player being replaced is able to continue.

Team Red with a 12 goal team, loses an 8-goaler to injury. As no 8 goal substitute is available, the Red Captain orders the 2 goal Red #1 to leave the game and wishes to substitute two 5 goal players. The team handicap remains 12 goals. The double substitution is allowed.

Red #2 is injured in the 2nd period and leaves the game. The game is restarted after 15 minutes without a substitute and Red shorthanded. Midway through the 3rd period a substitute is found for Red #2. The substitute may enter the game at any time, even though play is in progress, because the position is open.

Blue #2, a 4 goal player, is knocked out of the game and replaced by a 2 goal player. Midway through the following period another 4 goal player is found. The new player may replace the 2 goal player but only at the end of the period.

**3. SUBSTITUTES c...INTERPRETATION:** Any substitute during a game must have been eligible to start the game registration fee paid, handicap in order, etc. and the team must remain qualified under the upper handicap limit of the event. The team may, in case of a substitution, continue to play if it does not meet the lower limit of the event.

**3. SUBSTITUTES c...EXAMPLE:** Team Blue, in a 4-8 goal tournament, loses its 6 goal player to injury. The only player available, who is not already on a team in the tournament, is a 1 goal player. The team, rather than continue with 3 players, is allowed the substitution, even though the team is now a 3 goal team.

**3. SUBSTITUTES d...EXAMPLES:** Team Blue enters a tournament with an 8 goal team. Early in their first game, Blue #4, a 5-goaler, is injured and replaced by a 4-goaler. Team Blue, even though now 7 goals, must play as 8 for the balance of the game.

Team Red enters an 8 goal tournament with a 7 goal team. Late in the game, Red's 4-goaler is injured and the only available substitute is a 5-goaler. Red can make the substitution, but will have to take one goal off of the scoreboard as Red is now an 8 goal team.

**3. SUBSTITUTES e...EXAMPLE:** Team Red, an 8 goal team, loses its -1 goal player to injury. No alternate is available. Team Red may continue the game with 3 players even though their team handicap is now 9 goals. There is no handicap goal awarded to the Blue Team.

**3. SUBSTITUTES f...EXAMPLES:** Team Red enters a 12 goal tournament with a 6, a 4, and two 1-goalers. Team Blue has a 12 goal team that consists of a 5, a 4, a 2, and a 1 goal player. Team Red loses the 6 goal player to injury as a result of a foul by Blue Team and a Penalty 7 is awarded. As no substitute, or combination of substitutes, is available, the Red Captain requests permission from the Umpires to remove a player from the Blue Team. Since there is no player whose handicap is nearest above that of the disabled player, the Red Captain chooses to remove the Blue #3, whose handicap is 5 goals. Play will continue for the remainder of the game with 3 on a side, leaving the Red's Team aggregate handicap at 6 goals and the Blue's Team aggregate handicap at 7 goals. Subsequent substitutions by either must not exceed an aggregate team handicap of 7 goals.

Team Red enters a 10 goal team in a 12 goal tournament. The Blue Team, a 12 goal team, loses their Blue #3 (a 7-goaler) to an injury as the result of a foul and the Umpires exact a Penalty 7. The Blue Team, unable to find a suitable substitute, designates a 5-goaler to be removed from the Red Team, making both team handicaps 5 goals. However, Red had received 2 goals by handicap at the beginning of the game. Thus, Red's handicap is considered to be 7 goals and Blue may substitute to that level.

## **RULE 4- EQUIPMENT**

a. No player may participate in any USPA Event or Club Event in anything other than a proper uniform, including a protective helmet with a chin strap, which must be worn in the appropriate manner specified by the manufacturer of the helmet. No member of a team organization may mount a horse before, during or after a USPA Event anywhere within the safety zone, end zone or playing field unless equipped with a protective helmet with a chin strap, which must be worn in the appropriate manner specified by the manufacturer of the helmet. Players are strongly encouraged to wear eye protection at all times during play. Eye protection is mandatory for all players under the age of eighteen. Effective **January 1, 2021**, the protective helmet required by this rule for players must be certified to meet the NOCSAE ND050 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets. The protective helmet required by this rule for members of a team organization is not required to be certified to meet

the NOCSAE ND050 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets.

b. Players shall wear jerseys which distinguish the players on one team from the players on another. If the colors of two teams competing in an Event are so alike as to lead to confusion, the team lower in the draw shall be instructed to play in some other colors. In games where there has been no draw, the team required to play in some other colors shall be determined by lot. In all cases reasonable notice shall be given.

c. Players shall wear boots or boots and half-chaps that cover their calves.

d. In any USPA Event, players shall wear white pants or breeches.

e. Sharp spurs, protruding buckles, or studs on a player's boots or knee guards are not allowed.

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**4. EQUIPMENT a...INTERPRETATIONS:** The protective helmet that is required beginning on **January 1, 2021** by Rule 4a for players in USPA Events and Club Events (i.e., a helmet certified to meet the NOCSAE ND050 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets) is recommended, but not required, for players and team organization members in all other mounted polo activities.

Any player found by the Umpire(s) to be in violation of Rule 4.a shall be removed immediately from the game by the Umpire(s). Play shall be resumed with a delay of game penalty on the removed player's team, the severity of which shall be determined by the Umpire(s) in his, her, or their discretion. The removed player may return to the game when he or she is in compliance with Rule 4.a, or a substitution may be made if the substitute is in compliance with the rule. All substitution rules shall apply.

If, within 24 hours after a game, the Umpire(s), a Referee, or the Host Tournament Committee is presented with conclusive physical evidence (including, but not limited to, photographic or video evidence) that a player has violated Rule 4.a during the game, and the violation was not detected during the game, the penalty is forfeiture. Unlike many other penalties which the Umpire(s) may elect not to exact, this penalty must be exacted.

The provision of Rule 4.a applying to "member[s] of a team organization" will be strictly enforced in all USPA Events. The first violation will result in a penalty being given to the team or teams violating the provision. Any subsequent violation will result in a penalty being given to the team violating the provision and a yellow **card** being given to the player who is playing the mount ridden by the team organization member responsible for that violation. If that player cannot be immediately identified, a yellow **card** will be given to that team's Captain.

## **RULE 5- MOUNTS**

a. A mount is a horse or pony of any breed or size.

b. A mount blind in one or both eyes may not be played.

c. A mount showing vice, or not under proper control, shall be removed from the game.

d. No mount shall be played in any USPA Event for more than one team. Unlike many other penalties which the Umpire(s) may elect not to exact, the penalty for violation of this rule, which is forfeiture, must be exacted if a Referee, an Umpire, or a member

of the Host Tournament Committee is notified of or otherwise becomes aware of the violation prior to 24 hours after the violation took place.

e. A mount may be removed from the game if there is blood in its mouth, or on its flanks, or anywhere on its body. If, in the opinion of the Umpire(s), a mount is deemed physically unfit from exhaustion, distress, lameness, excessive sweating, and/or laboring breathing, the Umpire(s) may remove the mount for the remainder of the period or the entire game.

f. A mount found to be not in compliance in accordance with the Henneke Body Conditioning Score guidelines (*See* page 287) shall be removed from the game.

g. Whip and spurs may not be used unnecessarily or excessively. A player may not:

- (1) Use his whip other than in exceptional circumstances when the ball is out of play or dead. For this offense the Umpire should award as a minimum a Penalty 5.b and/or other disciplinary sanctions as described in Rule 33 (Unsportsmanlike Conduct).
- (2) Use his whip or spurs unnecessarily or in excess at any time.
- (3) Intentionally strike another player or another player's mount with his whip.

h. No player may intentionally strike a mount with any part of the mallet.

**5. MOUNTS f, g, h...INTERPRETATIONS:** Umpires are to take positive action to protect players and the sport from the perception of animal abuse. The Umpires must award a penalty which not only penalizes the fouling side but recognizes any advantage the fouled side lost when the play was stopped.

If any player abuses a mount, play should be stopped immediately and the appropriate penalty awarded.

In the case of visible blood, time should be called when play is next stopped. The player may have up to 5 minutes to clean up the mount or change mounts. If the wound continues to bleed, the mount shall be ordered off the field. The mount may return to the game later if its condition permits.

## **RULE 6- MOUNTS' EQUIPMENT**

a. Shoes with an outer rim, toe grip, screws, or frost nails are not allowed. Dull heel calks are allowed on hind shoes only. The calks can either be fixed or removable (screw-in), and should be dull, without sharp edges and no greater than one inch from the sole surface of the shoe to the ground surface. **The penalty for a violation of Rule 6.a during a game by a player or team is forfeiture. If, within 24 hours after a game, the Umpire(s), a Referee, or the Host Tournament Committee is presented with conclusive physical evidence (including, but not limited to, photographic or video evidence) that a player or team has violated Rule 6.a during the game, and the violation was not detected during the game, the penalty is forfeiture. Unlike many other penalties which the Umpire(s) may elect not to exact, this penalty must be exacted, whether during or after a game.**

b. Blinkers or shadow rolls are not allowed.

c. Protection of the pony by boots or bandages will be used on the front legs and is recommended on the hind legs.

**EXAMPLE:** It is recommended that when necessary, players use removable calks because they are considered less intrusive.

## SECTION II

### DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF HOST TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE, UMPIRE, REFEREE, GOAL JUDGE, TIMEKEEPER, SCORER, USPA

#### RULE 7- HOST TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

A Host Tournament Committee, as set forth in USPA Tournament Conditions Section VII, will conduct all USPA and Club Events. The Host Tournament Committee shall be responsible for all aspects of the event including scheduling, conducting the draw, appointment of officials, providing all facilities and equipment needed by the officials to conduct the event, and resolution of all questions which arise at times other than when the Umpire is in charge. Any conflict between these Rules and Tournament Conditions Section VII concerning the responsibilities of the Host Tournament Committee for a USPA Event shall be resolved in favor of Tournament Conditions Section VII. **(Note: The considerations under these Rules that the Host Tournament Committee should address before an event commences are printed in blue ink. See Rule 2.c Interpretation (player eligibility); Rule 11.b (variances in Club Events); Rule 12.b (safety side zone); Rule 17.b (round robin procedures); Rule 19.d (whether on handicap or flat); Alternative Rule 21.f-g (procedures for fallen or injured mount/broken tack or equipment); Alternative Rule 26.h (dangerous riding/ride-offs); Rule 33.b(1)ii (penalty box location); Rule 37 (Penalty 3) (undefended or defended Penalty 3). See also Optional Tournament Conditions IX (re Fair Play Throw-in); X (re Rule 2.d); & XI (re Rule 26A).)**

- a. The Host Tournament Committee shall consist of three or more individuals who shall be clearly identified to all participants.
- b. The Host Tournament Committee may designate any individual to represent the Host Tournament Committee in communicating with the participants.
- c. The Host Tournament Committee, or its representative, shall determine the eligibility of all players and teams.
- d. The Host Tournament Committee may impose penalties, including Penalty 9, and may initiate disciplinary action as provided in the Association's Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures, Part I of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy.
- e. The authority of the Host Tournament Committee, or its representative, is final and subject only to the authority of the USPA Board of Governors and the provisions of the Association's Sport Protest Procedures, Part III of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy.

#### RULE 8- UMPIRES AND REFEREE

- a. All Umpires and Referees shall be members of the USPA. Every game shall have two mounted Umpires and a Referee, or three mounted Umpires. These Officials shall be charged with the responsibility of seeing that the game is conducted in accordance with the Rules. In these Rules and the accompanying Interpretations and Examples,



the words “Umpire,” “Umpires” and “Umpire(s)” are used interchangeably, except where the context requires otherwise.

b. The authority of the Umpire(s) and/or Referee shall extend from 15 minutes before the time each game is scheduled to start until its end, and it shall include the ability to file a Conduct Violation Complaint in accordance with the Association’s Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures, Part I of the Association’s Disciplinary Procedures Policy, against a player whose conduct is not in the best interest of the sport. For the purpose of this rule, the “end” of a game will occur approximately 15 minutes following the final whistle.

c. Should any incident or question not provided for in these Rules arise during a game, such incident or question shall be decided by the Umpires, who may consult with the Host Tournament Committee before reaching their decision.

d. Subject to Rule 11.a (“Protests”), all decisions of the Umpire, or agreed decisions of two Umpires, shall be final. In the event two are serving and they disagree, the Referee shall decide which Umpire’s opinion is to prevail or call offsetting penalties, if confirming fouls called on both teams. In the event three mounted Umpires are serving and no two agree, then no foul will be called.

e. If desired, one or more additional Referees may be positioned:

(1) To provide testimony at the request of the Umpires.

(2) To decide which Umpire’s opinion is to prevail.

(3) To call offsetting penalties in the event two Umpires are serving and they disagree.

f. Mounted Umpires shall appear in proper uniform and wearing a protective helmet of the same kind and in the same manner as is required of players by Rule 4.a.

**8. UMPIRES AND REFEREE a, b, c...INTERPRETATION:** The Umpires and Referee are the representatives of the Host Tournament Committee and the final authority during the course of the game. Any interference with the execution of their duties may result in a penalty or complaint of Conduct Violation. Decisions of the Umpire(s) on matters not covered by the Rules are final. However, decisions which deviate from the Rules may be protested in accordance with the Association’s Sport Protest Procedures, Part III of the Association’s Disciplinary Procedures Policy.

**8. UMPIRES AND REFEREE a, b, c...EXAMPLES:** Team Blue arrives at the field and is unhappy about one of the Umpires. There is no recourse. Umpires are appointed by the Host Tournament Committee and the appointment may not be protested. If Blue feels a violation of Rule 2.e. may be involved, the Committee should be notified.

Umpire A, in position following the play, sees Blue #4 drift back and forth in front of the ball carrier Red #1. Umpire A blows the whistle, looks to Umpire B, points toward the goal Red is attacking and holds up 4 fingers. Umpire B, knowing Umpire A had a good view of the play and seeing a zigzag foul himself acknowledges with a hand signal. Umpire A then announces the foul and penalty.

Umpire A sees an infraction, calls the foul, and signals the direction and penalty to

Umpire B. Umpire B was out of position and didn't see the play. Umpire B has no basis for disagreement and Umpire A's call should stand. Once Umpire A determines there is no disagreement from Umpire B, he should announce the foul and penalty.

Umpire A sees an infraction and blows the whistle. Umpire B was in position, watched the play, and is certain that no foul occurred. Umpire B should ride quickly toward Umpire A and express his opinion that there was no foul. If they do not come to agreement, the Umpires may then look to the Referee to decide which Umpire's opinion should prevail - foul or no foul.

The Umpires call different fouls on the same play and ride quickly to the Referee. Each describes the call he made and answers any questions posed by the Referee. The Referee may uphold the opinion of either Umpire, or both, by calling offsetting fouls.

The Referee sees Blue #3 and Red #1 roughing each other up as they follow the play and mounted Umpires. When play stops, the Referee may point this out to the Umpires who can then reposition themselves to see future infractions.

The mounted Umpires disagree on a call and consult the Referee. The Referee may ask for an opinion from a Deputy Referee better positioned to see the play before making the final call.

A Referee, or Deputy Referee, sees a mount fall or a player injured out of view of the Umpires. Because either would automatically stop play, the Referee may immediately advise the Umpire.

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## **RULE 9- GOAL JUDGES**

a. In all USPA Events, Goal Judges shall be appointed, each of whom shall give testimony to the Umpire(s) on request concerning goals scored or other points of the game near the goal, but the Umpire(s) shall make all final decisions. When the ball goes over and across the goal line or end line, the Goal Judge shall signal with a flag whether or not a goal has been scored and, if not, shall place a ball on the field at the appropriate spot for a knock-in, unless the Umpire blows the whistle to indicate a Safety as provided in Rule 21.a.

b. When the ball is hit across the end line, a Goal Judge should quickly place a new ball on level ground on the field within one foot of the spot where it crossed the line except that it must not be nearer than five yards to the goal posts or side boards. The position of Goal Judge is potentially dangerous and these Officials should be instructed to remain alert and wave their flags vigorously to avoid being trampled. A Goal Judge should wave the flag overhead to signal a goal scored until acknowledged by the Scorer, and at the feet to signal the ball going over and across the end line. The flag should be kept down and furled until a goal is scored or the ball crosses the end line. An Umpire may order a Goal Judge to signal a goal for a penalty without the ball having actually passed through the goal.

**9. GOAL JUDGES...EXAMPLE:** Blue #2 turns for a back shot along the boards from Red #4. As the ball is backed, Blue #2 gets on the new line. He dribbles the ball parallel to the end line 30 yards out from goal, pursued by Red #3. Blue #2 takes a neck shot

hitting the ball high in the air. The flagman is unable to maneuver in time and is not sure whether the ball might be over the goal post. Blue claims the shot was a goal and Red argues the ball was wide and no goal was scored. Neither the Umpires, nor the Referee, were in position to make the call. The Umpires shall award a knock-in to the Red Team, as the benefit of the doubt shall go to the defending team.

### **RULE 10- TIMEKEEPER AND SCORER**

An official Timekeeper and Scorer shall be appointed in all games. The Timekeeper shall be charged with the responsibility of keeping track of the time elapsed during the periods and in between periods and of signaling the Officials and players with the horn at the appropriate times. (*Note: See Rules 14, 15, 16, and 17.*) The Scorer shall be charged with the responsibility of keeping track of the score and the number of fouls committed by each team and of filling out the official score sheet. The authority of the Timekeeper and Scorer shall be subordinate to the final authority of the Umpire.

### **RULE 11- USPA: PROTESTS, VARIATION FROM RULES, ENFORCEMENT**

a. Protests. Protests of the decisions or manner in which the Host Tournament Committee and/or Officials conduct an event or involving disciplinary matters shall be resolved in accordance with the Association's Sport Protest Procedures, Part III of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy.

b. Enforcement of Rules. These Rules shall be enforced in all USPA Events. (*See Tournament Conditions, Section 1 ("Definitions").*) USPA member clubs are strongly encouraged to enforce these Rules in all Club Events. **In a Club Event, a USPA member club's Host Tournament Committee may adopt one or more variances from these Rules before the event with notice to the teams, provided that (i) the USPA member club's Host Tournament Committee believes that any such variance adoption is in the best interest of the USPA member club and the sport; and (ii) the USPA member club accepts responsibility and any liability for the consequences of any such variance adoption(s). Notwithstanding the foregoing, no USPA member club or Host Tournament Committee may adopt any variance from USPA Outdoor Rule 4.a (regarding helmet requirements).**

c. No team may **question** the scorekeeping or timekeeping of **any portion of** a game **except for the final period (whether regulation or overtime)** once the final **whistle has blown**. **A team, acting only through its Captain, may question the scorekeeping in, or timekeeping of, the final period (whether regulation or overtime) until 15 minutes elapses following the final whistle.**

### **11. USPA: PROTESTS, VARIATION FROM RULES, ENFORCEMENT...**

**INTERPRETATION:** Protests are dealt with either before or after the game, and not by the game officials. When a question of time or score is raised during the game, the Umpire(s) are responsible for resolving the question before the game continues. At the end of the game, the Umpire(s) must verify the final score.

**11. USPA: PROTESTS, VARIATION FROM RULES, ENFORCEMENT...**

**INTERPRETATION...EXAMPLES:** During the third period, the scorekeeper notices a discrepancy between the score sheet and the scoreboard. When play next stops, the Umpire must be advised. The Umpire then acts as the “go-between” to resolve the difference. Only when the Umpires have resolved the discrepancy should the game continue.

Blue scores a goal in the closing seconds and the game ends before the goal is posted to the scoreboard. The Umpire is responsible for seeing that the goal is included on the official score sheet.

At the start of the fourth period, the Blue Captain questions the score. The Umpire should check with the Scorer, verify the score and notify both teams before putting the ball in play.

Before each period begins the Umpire should announce the score. If there is a question, it must be resolved before the ball is thrown in.

At the start of the game, the Umpire announces that Red will receive 2 goals by handicap. The Blue Captain argues that the correct handicap is 1 goal. If the dispute cannot be settled on the spot, the game should be played to a conclusion under both handicaps and referred to the Committee for resolution.

Following a game, the Red Captain reviews the game tape and discovers that a score **in one of the periods prior to the final period** was not counted. Correcting the score would affect his team’s net goals in the tournament. It is too late. The question should have been raised during the game. **If the question concerned the scorekeeping in the final period, it could have been raised with the Umpire(s) until 15 minutes following the final whistle.**

### SECTION III GAME FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

**RULE 12- PLAYING FIELD**

- a. A full-sized playing field shall be 300 yards in length by 160 yards to 200 yards in width if unboarded; and 300 yards in length by 160 yards in width if boarded on the sides. The ends shall be unboarded.
- b. The boundaries on the sides of the field shall be known as the side boards or sidelines. [The Host Tournament Committee will designate a safety side zone outside and parallel to the sidelines of the playing field that is recommended to be a minimum of 10 yards.](#) If a player intentionally and/or recklessly hits a ball outside of the safety zone a penalty shall be awarded to the opposing team and the offender is subject to Rule 33 disciplinary sanctions.
- c. The boundaries at the ends of the field shall be known as the end lines, except for that portion between the goal posts, which shall be known as the goal lines.
- d. The imaginary line that divides the field equally at right angles to the side lines or side boards shall be known as the center line.
- e. In addition to the field of play, there shall be an area beyond the side and end lines, known as the run off area, and incidents of the game which occur here shall be treated

as though they were on the playing field.

f. The goals shall be the center 8 yards of each end line between two goal posts.

g. The goal posts shall be at least 10 feet high, round and of equal diameter throughout. They shall be in vertical position and light enough to break upon collision.

h. Side boards, if used, shall not exceed 11 inches in height. It is permissible to use triangular pieces of wood at the bottom of the side boards toward the playing field to deflect the ball from the side boards. These pieces shall not be over 3 inches wide nor more than 3 inches high.

i. The field should be clearly marked at the center and at all boundaries where there are no side boards and at the edges and center of the 30-, 40-, and 60-yard lines at each end of the field.

### **RULE 13- OTHER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT**

a. Balls shall be within the limits of 3 to 3½ inches in diameter and 3½ to 4½ ounces in weight.

b. Each Umpire shall have a mount, whistle, pick up stick, ball bag and proper uniform.

c. The Referee shall have a current copy of these Rules.

d. The Timekeeper shall have a time clock, horn and/or bell.

e. The Scorer shall have a scoreboard and official score sheet.

f. The Goal Judges shall have flags.

## **SECTION IV**

### **DURATION OF PERIODS, GAMES, AND ROUND ROBINS, WINNING OF GAME: GOALS AND HANDICAPS**

#### **RULE 14- DURATION OF PERIODS**

a. The horn shall be sounded two minutes before each period (also referred to as a “chukker”) as a warning of its commencement, and two horns shall sound at the time each period is to commence.

b. In each period of the game, at the end of 7 minutes of elapsed time, a single horn or bell will sound to indicate that up to 30 seconds of overtime remain in the period. At the end of the overtime portion of the period, a horn or bell will sound twice to terminate the period. When the sounding twice of the second horn or bell is either untimely or not heard by the players or Umpires, the period ends at 7 minutes and 30 seconds expired on the official clock, unless it is the final regulation period and it ends earlier pursuant to subsection (2) below. A goal scored after time has expired on the official clock does not count, even if it is before the second horn or bell sounds and before the Umpires blow their whistles. Should there be an electronic malfunction of the official clock or a situation where the official clock does not start and/or stop in accordance with the play on the field the Umpires shall have final authority to correct the official time and shall direct the Timekeeper and/or Scorer to make any necessary adjustments to the official clock.

(1) Except for the final period of regulation play, each period will terminate

following the 7-minute horn or bell, when the ball goes out of play, a goal is scored, or the Umpire(s) whistle sounds. When played on a boarded field, play will not stop when the ball hits the boards and remains on the playing field. If a foul is called after the 7-minute horn or bell sounds, the Umpire's whistle ends the period and the foul shall be awarded at the beginning of the next period.

(2) In the final regulation period, play will continue until the second horn or bell, or until a goal is scored **or awarded**, unless that goal ties the score, in which case play will continue until the second horn or bell, or until another goal is scored **or awarded**. If play is stopped by the Umpires after the 7-minute horn or bell for any reason, the penalty, throw-in or free hit, as the case may be, shall be executed. If play is stopped by the Umpire's whistle after the 7-minute horn or bell for any reason, a minimum of 5 seconds shall be allowed for execution of any penalty, free hit or throw-in, as the case may be.

- c. Should the score be tied at the end of the final regulation period, the game shall be resumed in overtime periods with intervals between periods as provided in Rule 16, until one side obtains a goal which shall determine the game. A minimum of 5 seconds shall be allowed for execution of any penalty, free hit or throw-in, as the case may be.
- d. At the discretion of the Committee, in the event of a tie at the end of the last regular period, or any overtime period, the game may be concluded by a "shoot out" procedure, after a five-minute interval, conducted as follows:

- (1) The Umpire(s) will determine which goal to use. One Umpire will set up each ball, the other Umpire to serve as a goal judge.
- (2) Each player, in turn, and alternating teams, will attempt a free hit from the 40-yard line at an undefended goal. All players not hitting to be behind, and not closer than 10 yards from, the ball.
- (3) The team to hit first shall be decided by lot.
- (4) Each shootout goal to score 1 point. After all players have hit, the team with more points will be declared the game winner by one goal.
- (5) Should a tie remain after all players have hit, all players will hit again, the team which hit first, now hitting last, until a winner is produced.

- e. All periods shall terminate at the first sound of the final horn, wherever the ball may be. To avoid any mistake about whether the horn has actually been sounded or not, or whether such sounding may have been inadvertent or untimely, players should continue to play until they hear the Umpire's whistle.

**14. DURATION OF PERIODS b...INTERPRETATION:** Subject to Rule 14.b(2), as long as the ball remains in play, the overtime portion of a period will continue until the time expires and the second horn sounds. In all periods but the final regulation period, a ball hit through the goal or over the backline or sidelines after the 7-minute horn is considered out of play and ends the period. If a foul is called, that also ends the period. Play stopped for any other reason after the 7-minute horn will resume in the appropriate manner. "Execution of the penalty" shall include the free hit on a Penalty 2 or 3 when the ball hit by the fouled team does not clear the playing field.

**14. DURATION OF PERIODS b...EXAMPLES:** After the 7-minute horn, Blue #3 scores and is simultaneously fouled by Red #2. Penalty No. 1 is awarded. The penalty ends the period in any regulation period but the final regulation period. In the final regulation period, the game shall be resumed with a Penalty 5.b awarded to the fouled team and a change in direction with a minimum of 5 seconds on the clock. In any other regulation period, the next period shall begin with a Penalty 5.b awarded to the fouled team and a change in direction.

In the closing seconds of the period, Red hits a long ball to goal. The Timer sounds her horn but the can is empty. Several seconds are lost until the can is changed and the horn sounded during which time Red scores the goal. The Timer should advise the Umpire that the period was “intended to end” well before the goal scored. The goal does not count and play is resumed at the point where the horn was intended to sound.

The 7-minute horn sounds when the ball is in the Umpire’s hand for a throw-in. In every regulation period but the final regulation period, the period ends as the ball is out of play.

#### **RULE 15- RUNNING AND STOPPING OF CLOCK**

- a. Only if and when the Umpire stops the play with the whistle, shall the clock be stopped. The clock shall not be stopped when a goal is scored or the ball otherwise goes out of bounds unless the Umpire blows the whistle.
- b. If play is to be resumed by the Umpire throwing the ball in between the teams, the clock (if it has been stopped by the Umpire’s whistle) does not resume running until the ball leaves the Umpire’s hand.
- c. If play is to be resumed by a team hitting in from its end line or by a team taking a foul shot, the clock (if it has been stopped by the Umpire’s whistle) does not resume running until the Umpire says “play” and the ball is hit, hit at, or touched by the mallet of any member of the offensive team.

#### **RULE 16- GAMES**

A game shall be a maximum of 6 regular periods and an unlimited number of overtime periods with intervals of three minutes after each period, except at half time in games of four or more regular periods and before the first overtime period in the event of a tie, in which cases the intervals shall be five minutes. An additional five-minute interval shall be allowed after each completion of the same number of overtime periods as the number of periods before the first five-minute interval. In games with an upper handicap limit below 8 goals, the Umpire(s) may allow more time for the foregoing intervals between periods or the interval before a shootout. In games consisting of an uneven number of regular periods, the half time shall come at the end of the middle period. Any game shall be played to its conclusion unless suspended and abandoned as provided in Rule 22.g.

#### **RULE 17- ROUND ROBINS** (*See Tournament Conditions Section VI B.2.c*)

Round Robins are not desirable as a tournament format. However, if an event has only three teams entered and time constraints, weather, or other adverse conditions prevent an

alternate format, a Round Robin may be used as a single event to be played in one day.

a. A Round Robin shall consist of three games of two or more periods.

b. The winner of the Round Robin shall be the team with the best won-lost record, if there is such a team. **In the event of a won/lost tie at the end of the Round Robin, the order of finish shall be determined using one of the following two methods, with the chosen method to be determined by the Host Tournament Committee, which shall notify the teams of that method before the Round Robin begins: (1) the “shoot out” procedure set forth in USPA Outdoor Rule 14.d, or (2) based on net goals in both games played, if conclusive; or gross goals in both games played if net goals is inconclusive; or the “shoot out” procedure set forth in USPA Outdoor Rule 14.d, if both net goals and gross goals are inconclusive.**

c. Each team shall play in two games, playing each other team one game. The two teams to play in the first game shall be decided by lot. The second game shall be between the loser of the first game and the team idled in the first game. The third game shall be between the team idled in the first game and the team idled in the second game. Should any game result in a tie, the winner shall be determined by the “shoot out” procedure set forth in USPA Outdoor Rule 14.d except that only one player from each of the tied teams shall participate. The shootout shall take place immediately following the end of the game between the two tied teams.

#### **RULE 18- WINNING OF GAME: GOALS**

The team with the most goals wins the game. Goals may be awarded by handicap or penalty (*See* Rule 19), or may be scored from play. A goal is scored from play when the ball passes between the goal posts or the imaginary vertical lines produced by the inner surfaces of the goal posts and across and clear of the goal line. The ball must go all of the way over and across the side, end or goal line to be out of bounds or a goal. A ball on the line is still in play. A ball hit through, lodged into, or directly over either goal post shall not be scored because it has not passed between their inner vertical lines the goal posts produce. Should the Goal Judges and other game officials remain uncertain of whether or not the ball passed between the goal posts, play shall resume with a knock-in or a safety (Penalty 6) as determined by the Umpires.

#### **RULE 19- GOALS UNDER PENALTIES AND BY HANDICAP**

a. Goals awarded under penalties and by handicap shall count as goals scored.

b. The team handicap is determined by totaling the individual handicaps (as assigned by the USPA) of the team members. In events with an upper handicap limit above 6 goals, individual handicaps of -0.5 goals, 0.5 goals, or 1.5 goals shall be rounded down to -1 goal, 0 goals or 1 goal respectively when calculating the team handicap.

c. The number of goals awarded by handicap is determined by taking the difference between the team handicaps on one team and the team handicaps of the other team and multiplying one-sixth of that difference times the number of periods (excluding overtime periods) in the game in question.

d. **Unless otherwise stated in the USPA Tournament Conditions whether or not a game**



shall be played on a handicap basis or on the flat shall be determined by the Host Tournament Committee before the event.

e. In the event of a game played on a handicap basis, any handicap fraction shall be recorded as one-half goal. The one-half goal shall be used as a tie breaker and included in any net or gross goal calculations.

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**RULE 19- GOALS UNDER PENALTIES AND BY HANDICAP...EXAMPLES:**  
 Team Red enters an 8 goal event with players handicapped 5, 3, .5 and B -1. The team handicap is 7 because the .5 is rounded to 0. The team will receive one goal against an 8 goal opponent.

Team Blue enters an 8 goal event with players handicapped 5, 2, 0 and 1.5. The 1.5 is rounded down to 1 in events over 6 goals, so Team Blue is eligible at 8 goals.

In a 6 goal, 6 period game, Red has a 2, 3, .5 and .5 for a total of 6. Blue has 3, 2, -1 and 1.5 for a total of 5.5. White has 2, 2, 1.5 and -1 for a total of 4.5. Red will give ½ and lose a tied game to Blue. Red will give 1-1/2 goals to White. Blue will give 1 goal to White.

**OUTDOOR HANDICAP MATRIX**

| No. of Periods<br>→→→<br>-----<br>Net difference<br>in Team Handi-<br>caps ↓↓↓ | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| .5   | .5  | .5  | .5  | .5  | .5  |
| 1.0  | .5  | .5  | .5  | .5  | 1.0 |
| 1.5  | .5  | .5  | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| 2.0  | .5  | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 2.5  | .5  | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| 3.0  | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| 3.5  | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3.5 |
| 4.0  | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 |

## SECTION V COMMENCEMENT, INTERRUPTION, AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY

### RULE 20- HOW PLAY COMMENCES

- a. The game begins by both teams taking their positions in the center of the field at the starting time designated by the Host Club Tournament Committee, and the Umpire throwing in the ball, parallel to the end line, always underhand and hard, onto the ground in front of and between the opposing ranks of players, each team being on the same side of the center line as the goal which it is defending, with no player to be within 5 yards of the Umpire(s). The teams shall decide by lot which goal each will defend initially.
- b. If a player is on the wrong side of the line-up when the ball is thrown in, he may not make a play until he is behind a member of his own team who was properly positioned when the ball was thrown in. Should he make or attempt a play prior to being passed by a member of his own team who was properly positioned when the ball was thrown in, a penalty shall be awarded. If all four players on the same team are on the wrong side of the line-up when the ball is thrown in, no player on that team may make a play until play is interrupted and resumed. If any such player makes a play, a Penalty 2 shall be awarded to the other team.
- c. During the throw-in, the Right of Way will be established when the ball leaves the line-up. Until such time, players may play the ball from any direction or angle providing they do so without creating danger or a risk of danger to themselves, other players or horses.
- d. If the Umpire(s) inadvertently permit all players on both teams to line up the wrong way, the responsibility rests with the Umpire(s), and there is no redress. The teams must play on until a goal is scored or the period ends and any goal scored that is consistent with the “wrong-way line-up” counts for the team that scored it.

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**20. HOW PLAY COMMENCES a...INTERPRETATIONS:** The Umpire must enforce a consistent procedure to avoid any player gaining unfair advantage. The ball must be presented consistently--underhand, hard, and in front of the players. Players must be on their own side of the center line and not in contact. Players must be at least 5 yards from the Umpire. Players may not rush the Umpire. The ball is ready for play when the Umpire is positioned.

To preserve the condition of the field, the Umpire may throw the ball in any place on the center line, but always more than 20 yards from the boards or sideline.

**20. HOW PLAY COMMENCES a...EXAMPLES:** Both teams arrive at the center line and jostle for position as the Umpire prepares to throw-in. Play should be stopped. There should be no contact prior to the throw-in.

The teams line up, each on its own side of center, and move toward the Umpire as he prepares to throw-in. The play should be stopped if the 5-yard provision is violated.

After a hard run and scoring a goal, Red #2 is slow returning to the lineup and is still

20 yards from center when the Umpire is ready to throw-in. If Red #2 requires extra time to position, that time should be granted with the clock stopped.

Blue #3 changes horses following a goal. No extra time is permitted and the lineup and throw-in go on without him.

Following Red's goal, Blue #1 is slow returning to the lineup and is 20 yards from center when the ball is ready for play. Blue #3 wins the throw in and hits to Blue #1. A delayed whistle is blown and a foul against Blue #1 is called for improper positioning. Had Blue not become involved in the play, the Umpire could elect not to call a foul.

**20. HOW PLAY COMMENCES b...INTERPRETATION:** When all 8 players and the Umpires accept a line-up, that line-up becomes correct and goals scored are counted for the team that scored them. If the lineup is correct and a player scores in the “wrong” goal, the goal is counted for the opponent.

**20. HOW PLAY COMMENCES...EXAMPLES:** Red scores in the south goal. Upon returning to the center throw-in, the teams line up with Red again going south and Blue going north. The Umpire throws the ball in and Red again scores in the South goal. Following the goal, the flagger calls to the Umpire that Red has scored at his end twice in a row. The goal stands for Red, ends are changed in the normal way, and play continues.

Red scores in the South goal, the teams line up incorrectly and Red continues to attack the South goal for the balance of the period with no score by either team. Between periods the scorekeeper points out the error to the Umpire. When the teams return, the Umpire must explain the situation, reverse direction to correct the error and resume the game.

Blue #1 is slow returning to the lineup because he changed a horse. The other 7 players are in position with Blue now attacking the North goal. Blue is riding to the lineup from the South when the ball is hit toward him from the throw-in. Blue becomes confused, carries the ball to the South goal and scores. Blue has scored on his own goal and the score counts for Red.

## **RULE 21- HOW PLAY IS INTERRUPTED**

Play shall be continuous until play and the clock are stopped by the Umpire blowing the whistle in one of the following situations:

a. **Ball Hit Across End Line (Safety).**

If a player hits the ball across that player's own end line, either directly or after glancing off that player's own mount, a goal post or the side boards, the Umpire shall stop the game and call a Safety (Penalty 6) unless the ball strikes another player, an opposing player's mallet, or another player's mount before crossing that end line. A player is considered to have “hit” the ball if the ball merely touches the mallet. This is true even though the player may have been swinging in the opposite direction or not swinging at all.

b. **Foul called.**

(1) Any violation of the Rules constitutes a foul and the Umpire may stop the game by sounding the whistle.

(2) **Calling the advantage:** The Umpire may also elect not to stop play by calling a foul, or to briefly delay the stoppage of play for a foul, if the Umpire deems it to be in the best interest of the game or if interrupting the game and awarding a penalty would result in a disadvantage to the team fouled. **Generally, if the Umpire delays blowing the whistle to assess whether the fouled team would be disadvantaged by a foul call, he or she should make that assessment immediately after the next play.**

(3) In the event of a foul being called when play is already stopped, such as a violation of Rule 30 or 33, the Umpire may so signal by: a) again sounding the whistle; or, b) displaying a yellow or red **card**, at the option of the Umpire.

c. Damaged, Buried Ball.

If the ball becomes damaged to the extent it is unplayable by being chipped, broken, or trodden into the ground the Umpire shall stop the game. What is a chipped, broken, buried, or unplayable ball shall be within the sole discretion of the Umpire. If the ball is minorly chipped or broken, the Umpire should not stop the game until it is in such a position that neither team is favored. In the case of a broken ball, the largest piece shall be played unless the Umpire stops the game.

d. Injury to Player.

If a player is injured, the Umpire shall stop the game, and the player shall have 10 minutes within which to recover, provided, however, that the Umpire(s), in their discretion, may grant additional time, and that no player who has been rendered unconscious shall be allowed to resume play in any game that day. If, and when, during this interval the injured player is able to resume play or an eligible player is substituted, the Umpire shall continue the game. The game shall be continued not more than 10 minutes after it was stopped because of the injury unless the injured player's treatment on the field requires additional time to remove the player from the field or the Umpire has granted additional time. There shall be no subsequent time-outs for a recurrence of the same injury.

e. Player Falls Off.

If a player falls off, the Umpire shall stop the game when the ball is in neutral territory (i.e., as soon as neither team will be deprived of an imminent opportunity to score a goal). If, however, the player, in the opinion of the Umpire, may be injured, or in jeopardy of being injured, the Umpire shall stop the game immediately. What constitutes a fall shall be left to the discretion of the Umpire.

f. Fallen or Injured Mount.

(1) If a mount falls or is injured, the Umpire shall stop the game immediately.

(2) A player whose mount has fallen may change to another mount within 5 minutes. The fallen mount may be returned to the game.

(3) A player whose mount has been injured shall change to another mount within 5 minutes. A mount removed due to injury may not return to the game.

(4) The game shall be resumed immediately if no change of mount is made.

(5) Except as provided in this rule and in the enforcement of Rule 5, a player should never be allowed time out for the purpose of changing mounts.

g. Broken Tack or Equipment.

(1) The game shall be stopped immediately for any broken or loose equipment which results in loss of control of the mount or danger to player or mount.

(2) The game may be stopped, at the request of any player, for broken or loose equipment of a non-critical nature when the ball is out of play.

(3) Play shall not be stopped for a lost or broken mallet.

(4) Whenever play is stopped for repair or replacement of equipment, the affected player may be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes for the repair. With the permission of the Umpire(s), the affected player may be permitted to change mounts rather than to make the repair.

h. Lost Helmet.

If a helmet falls off, the play shall be stopped as soon as possible when the play is in a neutral position.

i. Lodged Ball.

If the ball becomes lodged against a player, a mount or equipment, in such a way that it cannot be dropped immediately, the Umpire shall stop the game and the ball shall be considered dead at the point where it was first lodged.

j. Period Ends.

The Umpire shall stop the game at the end of each period.

k. Suspension of Game.

The Umpire may suspend the game in the event of darkness, inclement weather, or any other reason which the Umpire(s), Referee and Host Tournament Committee believe to be in the best interest of the game.

l. Inadvertent Whistle.

In the event of an inadvertent whistle stopping play there shall be a throw-in toward the boards or sideline at the point at which play was stopped.

**21. HOW PLAY IS INTERRUPTED...INTERPRETATIONS:** The game is stopped only by the Umpire's whistle. Because the Umpire is responsible for the safe conduct of the game according to the Rules, the Umpire has a great deal of discretion as to whether or when to stop play.

Fouls involving safety of player or mount should be called at the instant they occur. The Umpire should not elect to delay the call of dangerous fouls. An infraction involving mechanics or "advantage" may be a non-call, or delayed call, at the Umpire's discretion.

When a foul occurs at or slightly after the horn ending any regulation period but the final regulation period, the penalty should be executed at the beginning of the next period. When a foul occurs at or slightly after the horn ending the final regulation period, five seconds should be put on the clock and the penalty executed.

**An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty assessed** between periods shall be executed at the beginning of the next period.

**21. HOW PLAY IS INTERRUPTED...EXAMPLES:** Red #1 hits wide of goal and is a little slow returning to the field. As Blue #3 knocks in, Red #1 is at about the 25-yard mark. The Umpire may elect not to call this foul if Red #1 is not endangered or taking advantage of his incorrect positioning.

The Umpire's whistle sounds and a foul is announced against Blue #1. Blue #3 protests the call excessively. As play is already stopped, the Umpire may signal a "dead ball foul" on Blue #3 either by sounding the whistle again, or by displaying a yellow or red **card**.

The horn blows one second before Red #1 makes a dangerous crossing foul in front of Blue #4. The Umpires should award an appropriate penalty to Blue.

After the period has ended and while riding back to the sidelines, Blue #2 informs the Umpire that he needs glasses. A yellow **card should be** displayed and the next period started with a penalty.

Blue #4 knocks in and rides to follow up. Red #2 circles to Blue's left and is slightly ahead. Blue, anticipating that Red will interfere with his ROW to the ball, checks to avoid a possible collision. Red pulls out and gives Blue passage to the ball. The trailing Umpire sees the minor infraction, but holds up on the whistle to see how the play will develop. Blue #4 hits a long shot to Blue #2, who hits a long shot to goal. This non-call by the Umpires is justified because Red did not interfere with Blue's play and did not disadvantage the Blue Team.

Red #1's girth breaks during a hard turn. Red #1, in traffic, is in danger of falling and no longer has control of his mount. The whistle should be blown to stop play, regardless of the location of the ball. Play is resumed with a throw-in after repairs have been made.

Blue #4 breaks a stirrup leather. He is out of the play and holds his mount under control. The game should continue until the ball is out of play at which time the whistle should sound.

Red #3 hooks an opponent and drops his mallet. Red plays on without a mallet until the ball goes over the boards and then asks for time to retrieve the dropped mallet. Time should not be granted. Red may play with, or without, a mallet, but must procure a new one on his own time.

Red #3 breaks a stirrup hanger. When play stops, Red #3 requests time out and asks the Umpire if he can change horses rather than make repairs. Permission may be granted if the change can be made more quickly than the repair

Blue #1 loses a curb chain. As his groom makes the repair, Blue rests in a lawn chair catching his breath. The repair is made and Blue still rests. The Umpire should call for a lineup. A player is permitted only necessary time up to 5 minutes.

Red #2 asks for, and is granted, time out for tack repair. He does not ask permission to change mounts. When Red returns to the field, he has changed horses. This is a violation of Rule 21.g. The whistle, or a yellow **card**, should signal the "dead ball" foul, and the appropriate penalty applied.

After a particularly hard bump, Blue #3 asks for time out to check his mount. The mount trots out sound, Blue #3 remounts, and play continues. If Blue #3 elects to change mounts, the time out will be extended but the mount may not return to the game.

Red #3's mount falls after a collision. The Umpire's whistle should sound immediately.

Red #3 may trot out the horse and remount, or change. If he elects to change, the mount may return to the game.

Blue #2's mount is tired after a long run. If Blue requests time out to change, the mount may not return to the game. If Blue changes as the game proceeds, the mount may be played later.

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**ALTERNATIVE RULE 21.f-g Fallen or injured mount/Broken tack or equipment (adapted from 2019 USPA International Rule 24)** *(At the election of the Host Tournament Committee, to be communicated to the teams before the Event begins, this Alternative Rule may be used instead of Rule 21 f-g in Events with an upper handicap limit of 8 goals and above, providing that all games in the event are officiated by two certified professional Umpires unless otherwise approved by USPA Umpires LLC.)*

f. Fallen or Injured Mount:

(1) The Umpires have some responsibility during play for the welfare of the mounts but the primary responsibility for the welfare of each mount lies with the player who rides it. During a break in play, or exceptionally during play, a player may inform the Umpires that his or her mount is injured or distressed or the Umpires may make their own assessment to this effect, in which case they should stop play immediately. In either event the Umpires should examine the mount and in their opinion if:

i.) The horse is visibly injured or distressed – the Umpires should announce “ALL MAY CHANGE.” The mount in question must be led off the field or taken off by horse ambulance. Play will be restarted with a throw-in when the player with the injured mount has returned on another mount. Any unwarranted delay on his or her part will be penalized.

ii.) The mount is not visibly injured – the Umpires may instruct the player to change by leading the horse off the field by the shortest line to the side of the field. No other player on his or her team may change mounts. Play will resume as soon as the mount is off the field. The mount may be tagged or marked under supervision of the Umpires (or other game officials) so that it may not play again in the game. Violation of this rule will result in an appropriate penalty.

(2) The Host Tournament Committee or Umpires have the authority to stop any injured horse from playing.

(3) Mount Falls: If a mount falls, (i.e., its body touches the ground) the Umpires should stop play immediately and, if the player wishes to remount, ensure that the mount is trotted and examined for soundness. If the mount is sound and there is no evidence of injury, the player may remount but otherwise he must change mounts in accordance with subparagraph (f.)(1)(i), above.

(4) Player Time Out for Injured Mount: If a player asks for time out for an injured or fatigued mount, the Umpire(s) may, in their discretion, stop the game immediately or at a neutral play. The player shall have 5 minutes to change mounts and the injured mount may not return to the game. No player on that player's team may change mounts until after play has resumed. If the Umpire notices that a team member

or members have changed mounts, an appropriate penalty will be awarded to the opposing team and play will resume immediately.

g. Broken Tack or Equipment:

(1) The game will be stopped immediately in the interest of safety for tack which presents a danger to any player or horse such as a broken girth or broken martingale if the end trails on the ground, broken rein if single, broken or loose bit, broken curb chain or loose bandages or boots. The Umpires may allow the player to rectify the fault immediately on the ground if it can be done quickly. Otherwise, the player must leave the field of play and play will be restarted as soon as the player has done so, unless the tack has been broken by contact with another horse in which case the start of play will be delayed until his return.

(2) If, in the Umpire's opinion, damaged or broken equipment may pose a risk to any player or mount, the Umpire shall wait to stop the play at some neutral play, unless he considers the damaged equipment may immediately interfere with the play or endanger a player(s) or mount(s), in which case he shall stop play immediately.

## **RULE 22- HOW PLAY IS RESUMED**

a. After the ball goes across a team's end line (other than from a Safety as provided in Rule 21.a), the team whose end line is crossed shall hit the ball in, or hit at it, from a point on the field which is within one foot of the point where the ball crossed the end line. Should this point be closer than 5 yards to a side board or goal post, the ball shall be hit, or hit at, from a point on the field which is within one foot of the end line and which is 5 yards from that side board or goal post (but not between the goal posts). Each team shall be given a reasonable time to position itself for the resumption of play, and no member of the team defending against the hit-in shall be closer than 30 yards to the end line when the Umpire calls "Play" and the ball is hit or hit at. Players are expected to position themselves at a slow canter. The team knocking in must do so within 10 seconds after the Umpire calls "Play." If the player passes by the ball on his first approach or fails to hit or hit at it in the allotted time, the whistle shall sound and the opposing team shall be awarded a Penalty 4.

If play is stopped because a member of the defending team is closer than 30 yards to the end line after the Umpire calls "Play" and the ball is hit or hit at, the Umpire shall award the team knocking in a Penalty 5.b.

If a member of the defending team is off the field when the Umpire calls "Play" and the ball is hit or hit at, he or she may enter the field behind the hitter but may not make a play until he or she passes a teammate who was properly positioned when the ball was hit or hit at. A violation of this procedure will result in a penalty against the defending team. If all four players on the defending team are off the field when the Umpire calls "Play", and the ball is hit or hit at they may each enter the field behind the hitter but no player on that team may make a play until play is interrupted and resumed. If any such player makes a play, a Penalty 2 shall be awarded to the other team.

b. After a Safety or a foul is called and confirmed and a foul shot is awarded, play shall be resumed by the taking of the foul shot. The player hitting the foul shot may



approach the ball only once and he or she must hit or hit at the ball within 20 seconds after the Umpire calls “Play.” If the player passes the ball or fails to hit or hit at it in the allotted time, the whistle shall sound and the opposing team shall be awarded a Penalty 5.a from the spot where the penalty was being taken unless that spot is within the 60-yard line in front of the goal that team is defending, in which case the opposing team shall be awarded a Penalty 4.

c. In the event a goal is scored at approximately the same time play is stopped by the Umpire’s whistle:

(1) A penalty may be awarded or the field goal counted if a foul is confirmed against the defending team. The Umpire(s) shall be charged with determining whether or not a Penalty 1 is called for in each instance. Should they elect to do so, the field goal will not count; however, all normal procedures for carrying out the Penalty 1 will be followed. Should they elect not to call a Penalty 1, then they shall count the field goal and resume play at center field with a throw-in.

(2) The goal shall not be counted, and the appropriate penalty awarded, if a foul is confirmed against the attacking team.

d. After the Umpire stops the game because the ball breaks when first hit on a foul shot or on a hit-in, play shall be resumed with another ball from the same point in the same manner. Otherwise play shall be resumed with a new ball as provided in subsection e. (4) below.

e. In all other cases, the Umpire shall put the ball into play by throwing it in, in the same manner as provided in Rule 20 except as provided below after allowing the players the appropriate time in which to line up.

(1) After a goal has been scored, except goals awarded by handicap or Penalty 1, the Umpire shall throw the ball in with the ends changed. The teams must return to the center line for the throw-in within 25 seconds after the goal was scored. If one team fails to do so without an adequate reason, to be determined by the Umpire in his or her discretion, the Umpire shall throw the ball in.

(2) After the ball is hit across the side boards or side line and no foul is awarded (*See Rule 12.b*):

i.) If the ball is hit across the side boards or side line either directly or off the hitter’s horse or a teammate or teammate’s horse, or after glancing off the side boards, a free hit will be awarded to the team that did not hit the ball out.

ii.) If the ball is hit across the side boards or side line after glancing off a member of the opposing team or his horse, a free hit will be awarded to the team that last hit the ball.

iii.) If the ball goes out of play between the two 60-yard lines, the free hit will be taken from where the ball went out of play.

iv.) If the ball goes out of play on or inside the 60-yard line and the free hit is awarded to the defending team, the free hit will be taken where the ball went out of play.

v.) If the ball goes out of play on or inside the 60-yard line and the free hit is awarded to the attacking team, the free hit will be taken from the 60-yard line.

vi.) If the ball goes out of play over the side boards or side line after glancing off an Umpire or his horse, or if the Umpire is unable to determine what caused the ball to go out of play, play shall resume with a throw-in from the side boards or side line parallel to the point where the ball went out of play.

vii.) In each of the situations described in (i) through (iv) above, the Umpire shall count 8 seconds and drop a ball 5 yards inside the side boards or side line on level ground, and a member of the team awarded possession shall have 5 seconds to play the ball, either by tapping or hitting away. The same is true in the situation described in (v) above, except that the Umpire shall count 8 seconds and drop a ball 10 yards inside the side boards or side line on level ground, and a member of the team awarded possession must play the ball by hitting to goal or to a teammate, but not by tapping. In all of the above situations, the same procedures concerning player positioning and delays shall apply as those that apply to a Penalty 5.a.

(3) If the team hitting in on a knock-in does not hit, or hit at, the ball within 10 seconds after the Umpire calls “Play” or if the ball is hit, or hit at, before the Umpire calls “Play”, the Umpire shall blow the whistle to stop the clock and award a Penalty 4 to the defending team.

(4) After the Umpire stops the game while the ball is on the playing field, and no Penalty is awarded, play shall resume by a throw-in from the point where the ball was considered dead toward the nearer side boards or side lines. In the event this point does not allow sufficient room for the teams to line up on the field, the Umpire shall throw the ball in, in the same manner, from the nearest point that allows it.

f. After the Umpire stops the game because the period ended, play shall be resumed at the beginning of the next period in the same manner as if play was being resumed in the period which ended. When Umpires fail to hear the horn due to the weather or wind conditions, the Referee or the Timekeeper shall immediately advise the Umpire where and when the game should have stopped.

g. A suspended game shall be resumed at the point at which it was suspended as to score, period, and position of the ball at the earliest possible time, to be decided by the Host Tournament Committee. If a suspended game is determined to have no conceivable effect on the outcome of the event, the game may be abandoned by a decision of the Host Tournament Committee.

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**22. HOW PLAY IS RESUMED a...INTERPRETATION:** The Umpire’s responsibility is to give all players a reasonable time to position themselves and not to give an advantage to a team attempting to manipulate the clock. Generally, 3-5 seconds from the time the ball is ready for play is sufficient. The ball is ready for play on a knock-in when the goal judge moves aside. The Umpire positioned behind the hitter is responsible for calling “Play”. The second Umpire is responsible for watching the positioning of players other than the hitter. Once the Umpire behind the hitter determines reasonable time has been given, he is to call “Play”. If the second Umpire feels more time must be allowed for a particular defensive player, he may stop play by sounding the whistle. The two Umpires,

quickly consulting with the Referee, if necessary, may: a) resume the knock-in by calling “Play”; or, b) penalize the offending defensive player for delay of game by awarding the team knocking in a Penalty 5.b.

**22. HOW PLAY IS RESUMED a...EXAMPLES:** Red #1 hits wide of goal after a fast run and circles deep in the end zone. Red #1 is just crossing the end line on his return when “Play” is called. If the second Umpire feels reasonable time has not been given, the whistle should sound, play should be stopped and Red #1 permitted to line up. Additional time is reasonable considering the prior play. Neither team is advantaged with the clock stopped.

Red #1, his team ahead by two goals late in the game, hits wide, checks his mount, and slowly circles to return to the 30-yard line. The ball is placed, “Play” called, and Blue #3 knocks in. If Red is clearly out of the play, no call should be made. If Red is involved with the play in any way, play and the clock should be stopped and a Penalty 5.b awarded to Blue. Red is taking unnecessary time to line up and Blue is being disadvantaged by permitting the clock to run.

Red #1 hits wide and circles slowly as his teammate changes mounts. The ball is placed and Blue #3 is ready to knock-in while Red #1 is still circling and the teammate is off the field. The knock-in should proceed with Red #1 out of the play. If Red is advantaged, or Blue distracted, by Red being positioned incorrectly, play should be stopped and a Penalty 5.b awarded to Blue.

White #4 rides to knock-in, swings and misses. The trailing Umpire notices the ball behind the end line (off the field) and blows his whistle to stop play. The Umpire allows White #4 a re-hit because this is a procedural error on the part of the officials.

**22. HOW PLAY IS RESUMED b...INTERPRETATIONS:** The objective of this rule is to get the ball in play promptly once all players have an opportunity to be safely positioned. The hitter is allowed only one approach to the foul shot and may not hit or hit at the ball before the Umpire calls “Play”. The hitter of the foul shot is considered to be approaching the ball when advancing forward toward the ball. Should the hitter hit at and miss the ball, it is blown dead on Penalties 2 or 3 and considered a live ball on Penalties 4, 5, and 6 or a knock-in.

**22. HOW PLAY IS RESUMED b...EXAMPLES:** Blue #2 takes a Penalty 2. The hit is short and Blue’s horse kicks the ball through the goal. The kick is considered a second “hit” at the ball and a free hit awarded to the other team. A ball hit into the horse’s foot is not considered a kick or second hit at the ball and would count if a goal is scored on the rebound.

A Penalty 2 is awarded to the Red Team. As Red #1 approaches, his horse runs over the top of the ball kicking it several yards towards the goal. Red has had his one approach. The Umpires shall stop play and award a Penalty 5.a to the other team.

The Red Team is awarded a Penalty 6. Red #3 approaches the ball and his horse kicks the ball forward 3 to 5 yards. The Umpires shall stop play and award a Penalty 5.a to the other team.

Blue #3 circles on his approach to a Penalty 4. As he nears the ball, his mount switches leads and he passes the ball to approach again. Not permitted. As soon as he passes the ball, the Umpires shall stop play and award a Penalty 5.a to the other team.

Following a Blue safety, Red #3 changes mounts quickly and prepares to hit the 60-yard shot. His mount has not settled and Red #3 asks the Umpire's permission to circle again. Permission should not be granted.

A Penalty is awarded to the Blue Team. Blue #3 hits the ball before the Umpire calls "Play." Foul on Blue. There is no excuse for hitting the ball before "Play" is announced and when the clock is stopped and the ball out of play.

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**22. HOW PLAY IS RESUMED e. (2)v & vii...INTERPRETATION:** The player taking the free hit from the 60-yard line is deemed to be hitting to a teammate if the ball travels at least 30 yards. The player taking the free hit from the 60-yard line may not play the ball again until it has been played by another player on either team. If the ball does not travel at least 30 yards: (i) no member of the hitting team may make a play on the ball or a defending player who is attempting to make a play on the ball, and (ii) a defending player may play the ball from any direction or angle providing he or she does so without creating danger or a risk of danger to himself, herself, other players or horses. A violation of these procedures by either team will result in an appropriate penalty.

**22. HOW PLAY IS RESUMED e. (3)...INTERPRETATION:** The objective is to get the ball in play promptly once all players have an opportunity to be safely positioned. The hitter must hit on the first pass, but may not hit before "Play" is called. The Umpire should allow players sufficient time to properly position themselves, and should penalize any player, offensive or defensive, who is trying to manage the clock.

**22. HOW PLAY IS RESUMED e. (3)...EXAMPLE:** Blue #2 hits wide of goal and rides to change mounts. Blue #1 sees Blue #2 off the field, and rides very slowly from the back line toward the 30-yard line. The ball is positioned, and the Umpire is ready to call play. The whistle should sound and delay of game should be called on Blue #1.

## SECTION VI PERSONAL FOULS

### RULE 23- LINE OF THE BALL

- a. The line of the ball is the line of its course or that line produced forward or backward at any moment.
- b. When a dead ball has been put into play through being hit at and missed, the line is considered to be in the direction in which the player was riding when the ball was hit at.
- c. If the ball becomes stationary while remaining in play, the line of the ball is that line upon which it was traveling before stopping.

**RULE 24- RIGHT OF WAY**

a. At each moment of the game there shall exist as between any two or more players in the proximity of the ball a Right of Way, which shall be considered to extend ahead of the player(s) entitled to it, and in the direction in which that player is or those players are riding.

b. The Right of Way, which is awarded in subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) below, is not to be confused with the line of the ball, nor does it depend on who last hit the ball.

c. No player shall enter or cross the Right of Way except at such speed and distance that creates not the slightest risk of a collision or danger to any player.

d. When the Line of the Ball changes and, as a result, the Right of Way changes, an opponent must be granted the necessary time to clear the new Right of Way. Note: A player in possession of the ball on his offside may move the ball at any angle to the left, and the trailing opponent may only play the ball on his nearside. A player clearing the Right of Way may make no offensive or defensive play in doing so.

e. No player may have the ball directly in front or on the near side if by doing so an opponent is endangered who could have safely attempted to hook the player or to hit the ball had the original player been placed with the ball on the off side. This subsection takes precedence over subsections (f) and (g) below. A player may have the ball on the near side if any of the following conditions are met:

(1) a legal ride off has been executed;

(2) the opponent is traveling parallel, or nearly parallel, to the player; or

(3) if the opponent is far enough behind for the player to safely complete the play.

f. As between two players, when one is following the ball and the other meeting the ball: Regardless of their respective angles, a player following the ball has the Right of Way over a player meeting the ball, other than a player meeting the ball with the line of the ball on the off side who is on the exact line of the ball. A player meeting the ball in this fashion has the Right of Way over a player following the ball.

g. As between two players, when both are following or both are meeting the ball:

(1) The player riding parallel to or at the lesser angle to the line of the ball has the Right of Way over the player riding at the greater angle to the line of the ball.

(2) In the case of two players on opposite sides of the line of the ball riding at approximately equal angles to it, the Right of Way belongs to the player with the line of the ball on the off side.

h. Two players when riding in the same direction on the line of the ball, either following or meeting the ball, and simultaneously making a play against each other, have the Right of Way over a single player coming from any direction. This subsection takes precedence over Rule 25.a.

i. Right of Way on the Boards: when the ball is hit toward the boards and stops or is within approximately 6" of the boards, a player following the ball that is at an angle of approximately 90 degrees perpendicular to the boards, cannot turn without allowing the trailing player to clear or make a nearside play; unless the trailing player checks or reduces speed, the player with the ball may then turn the ball in either direction providing that he maintains speed and continues the play.

j. When a player hits the ball past an opposing player traveling at the same speed in the same direction, the opposing player may play the ball on the offside (fore shot or back shot) provided he does not impede or endanger the original player or that player's mount; the original player can only play the ball again on the nearside.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY a...INTERPRETATION:** The Right of Way ("ROW") has sufficient width and distance to permit the player to continue safely in the direction and at the speed in which the player is riding and to be positioned to play the ball on the off side in safety. Any play by an opponent must leave the ROW clear. Should the player be required to check or alter course to avoid risk of collision or danger a ROW violation has taken place. The player with the ROW does not have a "right" to hit or hit at the ball. The player only has a right to safely continue on his course.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY a...EXAMPLES:** Red is carrying the ball on the offside. Blue rides slightly ahead and to the left of Red. As Red passes mid-field, Blue pulls to the right narrowing the ROW and Red checks to maintain control of the ball. Foul Blue. When Blue pulled to the right, Red's ROW was infringed.

Blue carries the ball on the offside. Red rides from the right to bump. Blue checks slightly, Red miss-times the play, and passes close in front of Blue. Foul Red. The ROW of Blue prevails over Red because Blue is both parallel to the Line of the Ball ("LOB") and has the LOB on the offside.

Red #2 is carrying the ball to goal. Blue #4 riding slightly ahead and to the left of Red, realizes he will not be able to wait for a ride-off and crosses to his nearside where he hopes to be able to back the ball. Red, seeing Blue only slightly ahead, checks and pulls his horse to the left, passing behind Blue. Foul on Blue for causing Red to pull out to avoid a collision.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY b...INTERPRETATION:** The ROW is determined by a player's and opponent's relationships to the LOB. The player who last hit the ball may lose the ROW to another who can better meet any of the conditions of (e), (f), (g) and (h). Once an opponent has safely met one or more of these conditions and assumed the ROW, the original player may be required to adjust speed or course to honor that new ROW.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY b...EXAMPLES:** Red, riding at speed, cuts the ball to his right. Blue, close behind, turns inside Red and places himself with the new LOB on his offside. Blue has assumed the ROW from Red.

Blue hits a long ball forward. Red safely enters the ROW ahead of Blue and behind the ball. Red has now assumed the ROW and Blue must adjust his course accordingly.

Blue #2 hits a strong offside neck shot. As he strikes, he crosses the new LOB extended back from the ball and turns to his left to pick up the new LOB, now on his left. Red #3, following, turns inside Blue and now has the new LOB on his right. Each player's ROW is defined by his relationship to the new LOB, not by his ROW on the old LOB.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY c...INTERPRETATIONS:** Should the act of an opponent require the player on the ROW to adjust or maneuver, a foul has occurred. If the player can maintain pace and direction with no risk, no foul has occurred. If the opponent's act creates a risk of collision or danger, a foul should be called.

Relative speed and distance between the player and opponent are the determining factors. A player checking may reduce the margins required for an opponent to enter or cross the ROW. "Blocking", "shading", "squeezing" or infringing the ROW so as not to allow the player with the ROW a clear path to the ball is a ROW violation.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY c...EXAMPLES:** As Blue #1 carries the ball down field followed closely by Blue #3. Red rides from the right, executes a hook, and passes behind Blue #1. Foul Red. Although Red passed behind and clear of Blue #1, Blue #3 also had a ROW extending ahead of his course and was fouled by Red.

Red #1 is on the ROW and carrying the ball at speed. Blue #4 comes from Red's left at a wide angle and speed to engage Red #1 in the ride-off. As Blue flattens out, his horse's rear quarters drift in the ROW of Red. Red #1 checks and avoids a collision. Foul on Blue for shading the ROW and causing a dangerous situation.

Blue #4 knocks in and rides to follow up. Red #2 circles to Blue's left and slightly ahead. Blue, seeing Red infringe his ROW to the ball, checks. Red pulls out of the play and gives Blue safe passage to the ball. Foul Red, but perhaps a non-call if Blue still controls the ball.

Blue #2 carries the ball on his offside at speed. Red #3 approaches Blue from the left for an even ride-off. Blue #2, twenty (20) yards from the ball, checks down to a canter to avoid the ride-off. Red #3 accelerates, entering the line safely in front of Blue and plays the ball on his off-side. No foul on Red #3 because Blue #2, by checking, took the danger out of the play, and allowed Red #3 to enter the ROW at a safe distance and relative speed, with no risk of collision.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY d...INTERPRETATION:** When the LOB changes, for whatever reason, no player may take up the new ROW without giving an opponent obstructing that ROW a chance to move off the ROW. A player who picks up the new ROW before it can be cleared and creates a dangerous situation has committed a foul. The obstructing opponent may not play the ball or the player and must select the quickest exit route. A player who changes the LOB in front of an opponent may not assume the ROW except at a distance that does not create a risk of collision or danger to any other player.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY d...EXAMPLES:** Red hits the ball forward and it rebounds off a divot toward Blue. Although Blue can meet the ball directly, and now has the ROW, he must give Red an opportunity to clear the way.

Blue controls the ball and hits toward goal, changing the LOB. Red is positioned ahead of Blue and is across the new LOB. Red must be given the chance to clear the new ROW and Blue may not ride into him claiming a foul.

Red rides to the ball pursued closely by Blue. Red taps the ball sharply to the right

in front of Blue and turns quickly to pick up the ROW on the new LOB. Even though the LOB and ROW have changed Red has created a risk of collision or danger and may not make this play.

Red, following Blue and anticipating Blue's intent to turn the ball, accelerates to push for a foul. If Blue taps and turns on the new LOB, the burden is on Blue to safely turn; not on Red to stop or pull out.

Blue rides to the Ball with Red close behind. Blue cuts the ball forward and to the right. As long as the speed and angle are such that Red can reasonably adjust to either clear the new ROW or make a legal ride off, Blue's play is acceptable.

Blue is riding on Red's off side. Red can turn the ball to the left as there is no risk to Blue. Should Blue be on Red's near side, Red may turn to the right.

Red #3, pursued by Blue #2, checks, taps the ball forward, rakes it back, and turns around it. Foul Red. There was no real line change and Red cannot turn on the ball in front of the opponent

Blue executes a flip shot to the right creating a new line, checks, turns and prepares to follow the new line. Red, following, is unable to check and turn so follows the old line until clear of the play. Blue must hold up to let Red clear. Red must ride through to avoid fouling. Red fouls if he makes a play on the ball.

Blue flips the ball to the side under Red's mount. Red, trapped on the new ROW spurs his mount to clear the way. As Red rides clear, his mount kicks the ball creating a new LOB. No foul and either player may be entitled to the new ROW.

A quick line change traps Blue on the ROW. Blue checks and pulls off to the right clearing the way for Red who has held up to avoid a collision. As Red moves on the new, and now clear ROW, Blue executes a nearside hook and then plays the ball. Foul on Blue. Blue was given time to clear and may not take advantage of that privilege. Blue holds up to permit Red to clear a new line. Red clears properly, but Red's teammate rides up to hook Blue. No foul, just the breaks of the game. If Red clears slowly to give a teammate time to ride up and hook, foul Red. This is "making a play."

**24. RIGHT OF WAY e...INTERPRETATION:** There is no near side ROW. A player choosing a near side play bears the burden of safety and must give way any time a risk is created by the near side position. Players are considered parallel when the mounts are overlapped on one another and the angle between them is such that there is no risk of an illegal ride-off. If an opponent moves ahead so the player nearer the LOB is no longer lapped on, the player must switch to the offside giving the opponent a safe nearside play. This does not permit the opponent to endanger the player or mount. Players are considered overlapped or lapped on when any part of a player's mount is next to or even with any part of an opponent's mount while riding parallel or nearly parallel to the player.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY e...EXAMPLES:** Red is galloping on the LOB. Blue attempts a ride-off from Red's nearside. Red checks slightly and Blue merely brushes Red, slips in front of Red and plays the ball on the near side. Foul, Blue. Blue did not execute a proper ride-off and did not safely enter the ROW.



Blue carries the ball on the nearside. Red rides parallel on Blue's offside with his stirrup even with Blue's horse's head. As Blue hits the ball forward, Red pulls his mount to the left to position himself for a near side play. Foul Red. Because the mounts are overlapped, Red must remain clear of Blue unless engaged in a legal ride off.

Blue and Red are riding parallel on opposite sides of the ball. As they near the ball, Blue crosses the LOB, makes contact with Red, and takes the ball on his nearside. No foul. Blue has executed a legal ride-off. Red has no play.

Blue and Red ride to the ball on opposite sides of the LOB. As Blue moves to the right to execute a ride-off, Red also drifts to the right so contact is not made. The players are now riding parallel. Blue may safely make the near side play.

Blue rides with the LOB at a slight angle to his left. Red also rides with the LOB on his left but at a wider angle. Both will reach the ball at the same time. Blue is required to play the ball on the offside. Once Blue moves to the offside, Red has a play on the nearside, and the ROW will go to the one at a lesser angle to the LOB.

Red and Blue ride together, both on the right side of the LOB. As they near the ball, Blue, on Red's right, begins to pull ahead. Once Condition #1 (a legal ride-off) and Condition #2, (the opponent is traveling parallel or nearly parallel or overlapped) no longer exist, Red must move to the offside and allow Blue a safe nearside play on the ball.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY f...INTERPRETATIONS:** A player meeting the ball must be on the exact LOB and with the LOB on his off side to have the ROW over an opponent following the ball. A player following the LOB, at any angle, whether or not he must cross the LOB to get to the off side, has the ROW over a player meeting the ball at an angle to the LOB. If both are on the exact line, there is no risk to either. The player with the ROW must play the ball on the off side.

**EXAMPLES:** Blue #3 hits an offside back-shot away. Blue #2, following, turns, crosses the new LOB and prepares to take the ball on his off side. Red #3, also following but well behind, rides toward the new LOB to meet the ball. Right of Way to Blue, following the ball. Red #3 must meet on the EXACT line to have the ROW over Blue.

Blue #3 hits an offside back-shot away. Blue #2 rides to follow the ball with the LOB at an angle to his left. Red #3 rides directly to the new LOB and places himself parallel to the LOB. Red now has the ROW because he is meeting on the exact LOB. Blue must safely place himself with the LOB on the off side so the two pass safely or give way.

Blue #3 hits an open back-shot. As Blue #2 turns to follow the ball with the LOB initially to his left. Red #1 finds himself facing the direction of the ball at an angle to the LOB. Regardless of their respective angles, the ROW is to Blue who is following the direction of the LOB and may take the ball on the off side even though crossing the LOB to do so. Red's options are: 1) to hook or make a play on Blue without crossing the LOB or entering Blue's ROW; or, 2) to position himself parallel to, and with the LOB on, his off side to meet the ball on its exact line. If Red can so position himself safely, Red assumes the ROW and at that point, Blue must either: safely change course to follow the exact LOB with the ball on his offside or pull out of the play.

Blue #3 hits the ball up. Red #2, upfield, crosses the LOB and straightens out to meet the ball on his off side. If Red is exactly on the LOB, and crossed without risk of collision or danger (Rule 24. c) to Blue, Red has a ROW in meeting the ball. Once Red is properly positioned, Blue must also be exactly on the LOB to have a ROW and the two will safely pass off side to off side.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY g. (1) (2)...INTERPRETATION:** The Umpire cannot apply a protractor to the angle of both players. Unless the player with the LOB on his left is clearly at a lesser angle, the player with the LOB on his right has the ROW.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY g. (1) (2)...EXAMPLES:** Red starts with the LOB well to his right. Blue starts with the LOB on a slight angle to his left. Red rides directly to the LOB then turns making his course parallel to the LOB. Blue continues his course and the two will intersect at the ball. Foul Blue. Although Blue started at a lesser angle to the LOB, Red's adjustment put him at a lesser angle and Blue must now stay on the nearside and not cross Red's ROW.

The Umpire throws the ball through the line-up. Blue #4, lined up wide of the throw in, turns to the left to take the ball on the off side. Red #3 turns to the right, crosses the LOB, and takes the ball on the off side. No foul on Red because he was clearly at a lesser angle to the LOB.

**24. RIGHT OF WAY h...INTERPRETATION:** Two players are considered to be "making a play against each other" when their concentration is on each other and not on another player riding from another direction. Two players do not have the ROW over one just because there are two of them. The two must be exactly on the LOB, making a play against each other, to have the ROW over a single player coming from any direction. The ROW Rules between a pair of players and a single player at angles to the LOB are the same as between two single players. Should the ROW be to the single player, the foul would be against the opponent who infringed the ROW unless pushed there by the player's teammate. (Rule 26.d).

**RIGHT OF WAY h...EXAMPLES:** Blue #2 carries the ball downfield with the LOB on his right. At mid-field he is met by Red #4 and Blue #3 riding directly toward him. Foul Blue #2. Although following the ball, Blue must yield to two players on the exact LOB.

Blue #2 carries the ball on his off-side. Red #1 and Blue #3, riding together, but at an angle to the LOB meet Blue #2 from ahead and to his right. The two pass in front of Blue #2 at a close distance. No foul on Blue #2. The two players were not on the LOB and did not have a ROW. Foul on Red #1 for crossing Blue #2's ROW unless forced there by Blue #3's ride-off. If Blue #3 forces Red #1 into Blue #2's ROW, the foul is on Blue #3.

Blue #2 carries the ball and Red #3 rides with him attempting a nearside hook. Blue #1 meets the play with the LOB on his right. Foul Blue #1. Even though Red #3 was on the nearside, he was engaged with Blue #2 and the two players on the LOB have the ROW.

Blue #2 is following the ball. Red #3 is riding hard to catch up and try for a hook.

Blue #1 is meeting the ball. Foul Red if Red does not reach and engage Blue #2 before Blue #1 enters the play. Once Red #3 and Blue #2 are engaged, Blue #1 must yield the ROW to the two players.

Red #2 carries the ball on his offside. Blue #3 waits to the right of the LOB for Red to reach him so he can hook. Red #1 rides to meet with the LOB on his offside and will collide with Blue #3. Foul Blue #3. Blue may be concentrating on getting a hook on Red when Red reaches him, but Red is not yet engaged in the play. Blue #3 is standing in the ROW of Red #1.

Blue #1 carries the ball. Red #4 waits on the nearside for Blue to reach him and the two ride together on the LOB. Blue #2 sees that his teammate is in trouble and rides to meet intending to force Red #4 out of the play. Foul Blue #2. Red #4 and Blue #1 had engaged before Blue #2 entered the play.

Red #4 gallops with the LOB on the nearside. Blue #1 comes from behind to take the ball on the offside. Blue #3 rides to meet the play and force a foul on Red #4. Foul on Blue #3 if Red #4 and Blue #1 are focused on each other. Foul Red #4 if he is not yet engaged with Blue.

## **RULE 25- STOPPING ON BALL**

- a. Subject to Rule 24.h, a player who has safely entered the Right of Way of another player along the established path that the ball has already traveled and who is following the ball may slow down or stop in that Right of Way, provided that players approaching from behind have sufficient time to go around. A player is considered to have entered along the “established path that the ball has already traveled” as opposed to the “projected path that the ball has yet to travel” once the ball is ahead of that player’s stirrup. This is true even if the player enters the projected path first, and the ball subsequently passes that player’s stirrup. However, the player may not slow down or stop in another player’s Right of Way in order to allow the ball to pass the stirrup.
- b. A player who has safely entered the Right of Way of another player along the projected path that the ball has yet to travel, whether meeting or following the ball, may not slow down or stop in that other player’s Right of Way.
- c. Delay of Game: A player in possession of the ball, marked by approximately 2 horse lengths or less by an opposing player, must keep moving if he or she is neither being blocked nor ridden off and therefore has the freedom to continue along the Right of Way. Should the player in possession of the ball either stop or reduce his or her speed to a walk, he or she may tap the ball only once and thereafter he or she (or any member of his or her team) must, within 5 seconds, either hit away or run with the ball. An infraction of this rule will result in a penalty against the team in possession of the ball.

**25. DELAY OF GAME c...INTERPRETATION:** The purpose of this rule is to keep the play moving. If the player stops or checks because an opponent has infringed or entered the right of way, a foul should be called against the opponent.

**RULE 26- DANGEROUS RIDING**

On even terms, a player may ride off an opponent or may interpose the player's mount between an opponent and the ball, but he or she may not ride dangerously. Conduct that may qualify as dangerous riding is listed below. Consistent with the statement in subparagraph (a) below that "what is a dangerous ride-off is left to the discretion of the Umpire," the Umpire(s) have the discretion to call a foul for conduct of the kind described in subparagraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) or (h) below but deem it not to be Dangerous Riding, thus not resulting in an automatic yellow **card** for Dangerous Riding, if it is in their judgment neither deliberate nor unduly dangerous:

a. Riding off in a manner dangerous to a player or mount; i.e., with undue force. What is considered a dangerous ride off is left to the discretion of the Umpire. Whenever a mount is knocked off balance, whether it falls or not, a dangerous ride off has occurred, and the mere fact that some of the dangerous factors listed below were absent does not mean that a foul should not be called. The following factors, among others, should be taken into consideration:

- (1) Relative speeds of the two mounts. It is very dangerous to ride off an opponent if you are not moving at approximately the same speed whether it be fast or slow.
- (2) Relative sizes of the two mounts.
- (3) Relative positions of the two mounts. It is dangerous if either mount is more than a foot or two ahead of or behind the other.
- (4) The angle at which the mounts converge. At high speeds, angles which might be safe at slower speeds become extremely dangerous.
- (5) States of fatigue of the mounts involved.
- (6) Lack of readiness of an opponent for the ride off (blind-siding).

b. Zigzagging in front of another player riding at a gallop.

c. Pulling or sliding across or over a mount's fore or hind legs in such a manner as to risk tripping either mount.

d. Riding an opponent across or into the Right of Way of another player at an unsafe distance.

e. Exhibiting a lack of consideration for the safety of one's self, one's mount, or for another player or mount.

f. Two players of the same team riding off an opponent at the same time whether or not on the Right of Way. However, it is not necessarily a foul for a player to hook or strike an opponent's mallet while the opponent is being ridden off by a teammate of the player hooking or striking.

g. Riding at an opponent in such a manner as to intimidate and cause the opponent to pull out or miss the stroke although no entry or cross of the Right of Way actually occurs.

h. Deliberately riding one's mount into the stroke of another player. For the purpose of this Rule, a "dribble", in which the mallet head is not raised above the mount's hock or knee, is not considered a "stroke".

**26. DANGEROUS RIDING a...INTERPRETATION:** A legal ride off is performed without displacing the opponent with a forceful blow or jolt. All factors should be taken into consideration when determining a dangerous riding violation, including defining the aggressor. The foul should be called against the aggressor, regardless of which mount is knocked off balance.

**26. DANGEROUS RIDING a...EXAMPLES:** Blue # 3 hits a long shot down field to Blue # 2. As Blue # 2 races to hit the ball, Red # 3, coming to the line of the ball from Blue's left, engages at a high speed and at an angle. As Red collides with Blue shoulder to shoulder, Blue's mount is staggered from the force of contact. The combination of speed and angle created the danger. Foul Red, as he was the aggressor.

Red and Blue meet shoulder to shoulder, at a steep angle and high speed. Both horses are staggered by the impact. The Umpire, if unable to determine the aggressor, should nevertheless stop play and throw the ball in.

**26. DANGEROUS RIDING e...INTERPRETATION:** Any careless or deliberate act which unnecessarily endangers an individual or mount, including the player and the player's own mount, constitutes a violation of this rule.

**26. DANGEROUS RIDING h...INTERPRETATION:** A "stroke" is defined as the mallet head in motion toward the ball. A "dribble" where the mallet head is kept below the level of the mount's hock or knee, is not considered a "stroke." The wind-up is not part of the "stroke."

**26. DANGEROUS RIDING h...EXAMPLES:** Red #3, closely followed by Blue #2, turns the ball to the right. Blue checks, turns inside Red, and as Red dribbles around the turn, Blue executes a firm, but fair, shoulder-to-shoulder ride-off and comes up with the ball. No foul.

Blue #3, with the ball in front, leans forward and dribbles the ball down field. Red #2 reaches under his mount's neck to hook and puts the mount's head in Blue's lap. Foul Red for a dangerous ride off, but not for riding into the dribble.

Blue #2 carries the ball down field. Red #3 rides from Blue's right, at an angle, to successfully hook Blue's mallet. As Red completes the hook, his horse travels over the ball, makes solid, shoulder to shoulder contact with Blue's horse, rides Blue off, and permits Red to execute an offside tail shot. No foul. The hook was fair; and, once hooked, Blue was no longer swinging at the ball when Red's horse crossed the line of the ball and executed the legal ride-off.

Red #1 hits a short shot down field. As Red rides to strike again, Blue #4 comes for an offside ride off. Red, seeing Blue approach, cocks his arm for a strong fore-shot. Blue rides off Red and hits the back-shot. No foul--regardless of how exaggerated the back-swing may be, Blue made contact before the mallet head was put in motion toward the ball.

Red and Blue ride parallel, but not in contact toward the ball. Blue prepares for a neck shot and strikes Red's mount on the downswing. Foul Blue--Red was safely positioned

before the stroke began.

Blue hits the ball down field. As Red closes to ride him off, Blue cocks his mallet and begins a downswing although well away from the ball. Foul on Blue. Although the mallet head was in motion, it was not directed toward the ball. Blue hit into Red's horse.

### **ALTERNATIVE RULE 26.h – DANGEROUS RIDING (adapted from 2019 USPA International Rule 18.g)**

*(At the election of the Host Tournament Committee, to be communicated to the teams before the Event begins, this Alternative Rule may be used instead of Rule 26.h in Events with an upper handicap limit of 8 goals and above, providing that all games in the event are officiated by two certified professional Umpires unless otherwise approved by USPA Umpires LLC.)*

h. Riding off a player from the same side on which he or she is hitting or preparing to hit the ball is allowed unless the player initiating the ride-off creates danger as described in Rule 26.a.

### **RULE 26A – IMPROPER BLOCKING**

During the execution of a knock-in, Penalty 5.a or 5.b, or a free hit resulting from a ball hit out of bounds, an offensive player may not block a defensive player from marking the offensive player's teammate who has a play on the ball (i.e., set a pick on the defending player). When an offensive player improperly blocks a defensive player, the Umpires shall call a foul and award an appropriate penalty. Improper Blocking may or may not constitute Dangerous Riding, and result in a yellow or red **card** under Rule 33, depending on the degree of danger as determined in the discretion of the Umpire

**26A. IMPROPER BLOCKING...INTERPRETATION:** For the purposes of this provision only, "the execution of a knock-in, Penalty 5.a or 5.b, or a free hit resulting from a ball hit out of bounds" shall be deemed to occur from the time the Umpire calls "Play" until the time an offensive player either hits away or runs with the ball. During that time period, improper blocking may occur and be penalized anywhere on the field where an offensive player is blocking a defensive player from marking the offensive player's teammate who has a play on the ball. Improper blocking can occur even if there is no contact between the blocker and the defensive player attempting to mark the blocker's teammate who has a play on the ball.

**26A. IMPROPER BLOCKING...EXAMPLES:** Red #3 is knocking in. Red #1 is riding alongside Blue #2 at the 30-yard line as she moves downfield for a pass from Red #3. Red #3, followed by Red #4, hits the ball slightly short and to the outside of Red #1, who continues to ride with Blue #2 and between Blue #2 and the ball. Red #3 uses Red #1 as a shield preventing Blue #2 from making a defensive play while Red #3 taps the ball then leaves it for Red #4. Improper blocking; no deliberate conduct by Red #1 is necessary.

Red #3 is knocking in. Red #1 is riding alongside Blue #2 at the 60-yard line as she moves downfield for a pass from Red #3. Red #1 and Blue #2 are engaged in riding each

other off and Red #1 is between Blue #2 and the ball as Red #3 taps the ball in from the backline. This is not improper blocking because Red #1 and Blue #2 are too far away from Red #3 for Blue #2 to have a play on the ball.

Red #3 is knocking in with Red #4 following. Blue #3 waits at the 30-yard line. Red #3 taps the ball just short of Blue #3, then goes to Blue #3 while leaving the ball for Red #4. Because Red #3 has not yet hit away or run with ball, but instead has prevented Blue #3 from marking Red #4, who has a play on the ball, this is improper blocking.

#### **RULE 27- ROUGH OR ABUSIVE PLAY**

- a. No player may seize another player with the hand, strike or push another player with the head, hand, arm, or elbow, but a player may push another player with the arm above the elbow, provided the elbow is kept close to the side.
- b. No player may physically abuse another player or the player's own or another player's mount.
- c. A player deliberately striking another player may be ejected from the remainder of the game in accordance with Rule 33.b.(2)(a) and Penalty 10. Disciplinary sanctions, including but not limited to those set forth in the Association's Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures, Part I of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy, may be imposed by the Association.

**27. ROUGH OR ABUSIVE PLAY c...INTERPRETATION:** A player deliberately or intentionally striking another player with severity and/or the intent to inflict bodily harm with horse, hand, whip or mallet, should be immediately ejected in accordance with Rule 33.b(2)(a), which allows the Umpire(s), at their sole discretion, to assess a red **card** and eject that player for the remainder of the game for that player's first offense. A single minor infraction (i.e. elbowing or pushing with hand or mallet) should also not be tolerated and should be penalized with a yellow **card** in accordance with Rule 33.b(1)(a).

**27. ROUGH OR ABUSIVE PLAY c...EXAMPLES:** White #3 places his mallet in front of Blue #2's horse's head to impede Blue's horse. In Blue's attempt to make a play, he strikes White's mallet with the butt of his mallet. The Umpires blow the whistle and announce an offsetting foul, but elect to assess both players two yellow **cards** and sit them each down for two minutes of play with no substitutions. (See Rule 33.b(2)(a), which allows the Umpire(s), at their sole discretion, to assess two yellow **cards** for a player's first offense.) This type of unsportsmanlike conduct may not warrant being ejected for the remainder of the game.

Blue #2 has been warned by the Umpires about roughness of play and the use of his elbow in the first period, and given a yellow **card**. In the second period, Blue #2 is observed placing an elbow in the face of his opponent, Red #3. Umpire A blows the whistle and announces the foul against Blue #2. Because Blue #2 has been previously given a yellow **card**, the Umpires give Blue #2 a second yellow **card** and sit Blue #2 out for the following two minutes of play with no substitute in accordance with Rule 33.b(1)(b).

Red #3 carries the ball down field towards his goal as White #2 executes a ride

off, causing Red #3 to miss the goal shot. In frustration, Red #3 swings at White #2 in retaliation. The Umpires eject Red #3 for the remainder of the game in accordance with Rule 33.b(2) (a), which allows the Umpire(s), at their sole discretion, to assess a red **card** and eject that player for the remainder of the game for that player’s first offense.

**RULE 28- IMPROPER USE OF MALLET**

- a. No player may hook or strike an opponent’s mallet unless on the same side of the opponent’s mount as the ball, or in a direct line behind, and only if his or her mallet is neither over, under, nor across any part of the opponent’s mount. The mallet may not be hooked or struck unless the opponent is in the act of hitting at the ball, or in the act of hooking or striking the player’s mallet. The act of hitting at the ball shall include both the upward and downward phases of the stroke. The mallet may be hooked or struck but not with excessive force and only when the opponent is about to hit the ball and the mallet head is below the shoulder of the opponent. *(Note: Although subsection (a) of Rule 28 indicates that a player may, under certain conditions, “strike” an opponent’s mallet, subsection (d) should always be observed. Thus, the manner of “striking” intended by subsection (a) is that which is in no way dangerous or abusive to the opponent or mount and it is, therefore, a foul to strike an opponent’s mallet with excessive force as in the case of slashing or swinging hard at the opponent’s mallet as opposed to just bumping or pushing it off its course.)*
- b. A player may not intentionally strike a ball during play in such a way that it may cause injury to a spectator, official, or damage property.
- c. No player may reach immediately over and across or under and across any part of an opponent’s mount to hit at the ball, nor hit into or among the legs of an opponent’s mount.
- d. No player may use the mallet in a manner which is dangerous or abusive to any other individual or to the player’s own or another player’s mount.
- e. All players shall play with the mallet with their right hand, with the exception of left-handers registered with the USPA prior to January 1, 1974.
- f. No player may intentionally strike the ball after the whistle or if the ball is otherwise out of play. If a hit occurs after a whistle for a foul, or if the ball is otherwise out of play, the Umpire may award a penalty or increase the severity of the penalty if the hit is by a member of the fouling team or cancel the penalty or decrease its severity if the hit is by a member of the team fouled. If the ball that is struck intentionally after the whistle endangers a person or horse, the player may be immediately ejected in accordance with Rule 33.b(2)(a), which allows the Umpire(s), at their sole discretion, to assess a red **card** and eject that player for the remainder of the game for that player’s first offense.

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**28. IMPROPER USE OF MALLET a...INTERPRETATION:** The offside backhand stroke can be hooked during the wind-up of the swing, but always below the shoulder level of the player hitting. Such hooking is not allowed on the near side backhand stroke. If the backhand stroke on the offside is accidentally hooked by an opponent’s mount, it shall not be considered a foul, unless the player was otherwise fouling.



**IMPROPER USE OF MALLET d...INTERPRETATION:** Each player is responsible for his or her mallet at all times. The mallet shall not be used in a dangerous or abusive manner whether in the act of hooking or hitting at the ball. The player should be held accountable for the use of his or her mallet, unless another player is clearly at fault by riding into the stroke.

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**IMPROPER USE OF MALLET d...EXAMPLES:** Red and Blue ride parallel, but not in contact, toward the ball. Blue prepares for a neck shot and strikes Red's mount on the downswing. Foul Blue- Red was safely positioned before the stroke began. Blue has a right to hit the ball straight forward or backward, but does not have the right for his mallet to take up both sides of the LOB when the defender is riding parallel.

Red # 2, concentrating on the ball, cocks and begins his stroke for a neck shot towards his goal as Blue # 3 rides at an angle with speed to bump Red on his near side. As Red # 2 completes his swing, the mallet hits Blue # 3 in the face. Foul Blue for entering the play late after Red had started his stroke at the ball. Blue created the danger even though he was injured.

Blue #3 and Red # 2 are making a play on the ball. Red # 2 is positioned on Blue's near side. While both players are concentrating on each other and riding parallel, Blue #3 takes an off side neck shot and strikes Red # 2 in the head with his mallet. Foul on Blue for improper use of the mallet. Red was safely positioned before the stroke began.

With a 1 goal lead late in the final period, Red #3 wants to kill some time and hits a line drive over the boards and into the spectators. This dangerous act must be penalized.

### **RULE 29- DISMOUNTED PLAYER**

No dismounted player may hit the ball or interfere with the game.

### **RULE 30- APPEALING FOR A FOUL**

No player may appeal in any manner to the Umpire for a foul. This does not preclude a Captain from discussing any matter with the Umpire.

**30. APPEALING FOR A FOUL...INTERPRETATIONS:** Appealing for a foul may be by voice or action. A demeaning comment or gesture is an appeal. The raising of the mallet in an attempt to draw the Umpire's attention to a play is an appeal.

If a player is fouled, the foul should not be ignored because of an appeal. Both are fouls and both should be called and announced. The penalty for the appeal may offset the penalty for the other infraction. If the appeal is called and no other infraction, the appeal is to be penalized.

**30. APPEALING FOR A FOUL...EXAMPLES:** Blue #2 following his own hit sees Red #4 coming from the left to back the ball. Blue holds his mount to a hand canter, stands forward in the stirrups, and looks toward the Umpire while riding to the ball with mallet raised. Foul on Blue for appealing for a foul. If the Umpire determines Red did foul that should also be called.

Red #4 rides to turn a ball and taps the ball to his right creating a new line and ROW. As Red turns to follow the new line, Blue #1 riding fast down the old line takes the ball on the nearside passing at a right angle immediately in front of Red. Red reacts to the play by standing in the saddle and pulling his horse to a halt. Red has reacted to Blue's illegal play and not appealed to the Umpire. No foul on Red.

The ball is hit deep by Blue #2. As Red #4 rides to back it, Blue #1, coming from behind and to the left of Red #4, passes Red, safely enters the Right of Way, and carries the ball downfield. Red #4 pulls his mount to a walk, looks over his shoulder to the Umpire, and holds up his mallet hand with the mallet hanging from his thumb. Foul on Red for appealing. The penalty awarded must be severe so as not to disadvantage Blue by stopping the play.

Blue # 4 is injured due to a foul and the Umpires discuss whether a Rule 33 ejection is warranted against the Red # 3. The Red Coach pleads with the Umpires to leave Red # 3 in the game lest the Red Sponsor will withdraw his team. Such interference is not tolerated and must be penalized.

### **RULE 31- CARRYING A BALL**

A player may not catch, kick or hit the ball with anything but the mallet. A player may block the ball with any part of the body. A player may not carry the ball intentionally.

### **RULE 32- GROUND KEPT CLEAR - NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

a. No person or persons shall be allowed within the playing field or run-off area but Players, Umpires, Referees, Managers, Mallet-holders and Goal Judges, except by special permission of the Umpire(s).

b. A player requiring a mallet, a change of mount, or assistance from an outside person during a game shall ride beyond the end-lines or side-boards or side-lines to procure it. No person shall come onto the playing field to assist except when the ball is dead and when permission is granted by the Umpire(s).

### **32. GROUND KEPT CLEAR - NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE a., b...**

**INTERPRETATION:** Rule 32.a requires that horse-holders not be positioned in the run-off area surrounding the field. Rule 32.b permits the holder to enter the run-off area to execute the change after which he must immediately exit the area. Should the change interfere with the play, a penalty should be awarded. A coach or mallet holder may be in the run-off area, but interference with the play should be penalized. It is club management's responsibility to define a holding area that does not conflict with this rule.

**32. GROUND KEPT CLEAR - NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE...EXAMPLES:** During the second period, the Red #2's groom rides up and down the run-off area in front of the spectators and cars waiting for Red #2 to change horses. When play is in neutral territory, the Umpires should blow the whistle to stop play, order the groom back to the staging area and **assess an appropriate penalty** against the Red Team.

Red # 4 changes mounts following a goal. He leaves the field and his groom enters the run-off area for the change. Following the change, the groom exits the area. No foul. This

is a proper execution as long as the changing of horses does not interfere with the play.

## SECTION VII PENALTIES

### RULE 33- UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

a. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including but not limited to the following, shall not be permitted.

- Appealing to the Umpires or Officials
- Unwelcome talking to an Umpire
- Vulgar or abusive language
- Disrespectful attitude toward any official, player, coach, or spectator
- Arguing with Umpire(s) or other officials
- Inappropriate behavior by any member of a team organization
- Delay of game for a player or mount
- Unnecessary tack time out
- Swinging the mallet in a windmill or helicopter type fashion as in appealing for a foul
- Dangerous riding as described in Rule 26 and 26A
- Improper use of the mallet as described in Rule 28
- Rough or abusive play as described in Rules 27 and 28
- Deliberately striking another player or a mount
- Excessive violation of the whipping rule
- Hitting the ball after the whistle or horn has sounded
- Intentional or reckless hitting of the ball outside the safety zone
- Knowingly striking the ball when it is off the field of play
- Intentionally striking a ball during play in such a way that it may cause injury to a spectator or official, or damage property

b. The Umpire will follow the procedure outlined below:

(1). **Yellow Card:** The Umpire shall immediately assess a yellow **card** against a player who demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct as described above.

(i.) The player's first yellow **card** (offense) in a game will result in a penalty and may increase or decrease an existing penalty's severity. Any subsequent yellow **card** or red **card** will also result in a penalty and may increase or decrease an existing penalty's severity.

(ii.) A second offense will be a second yellow **card** and the player will sit out for the following two minutes of play with no substitute at a location designated by the Umpire and/or the Host Tournament Committee.

(iii.) A third offense will result in a third yellow **card** and the player will sit out for the following two minutes of play with no substitute at a location designated by the Umpire and/or the Host Tournament Committee or it may, if sufficiently severe, result in a red **card** and suspension for the remainder of the game with no substitute allowed for the next two minutes of play, as described

in subparagraph (2)(i.) below.

(iv.) If a player leaves the penalty box for any reason before his or her two minute suspension is concluded, an appropriate penalty will be assessed against that player's team and that player will be returned to the penalty box to sit out the remainder of his or her original two-minute suspension and the following two minutes of play with no substitute. A yellow **card** may also be **assessed** that player if the Umpire(s) in their discretion determine that he or she deliberately left the penalty box prematurely.

(2) **Red Card:**

(i.) A player's third offense, if sufficiently severe, may be a red **card**, as described in subparagraph (1)(c.) above. A player's fourth offense shall, without exception, be a red **card**. A red **card** in a game will result in suspension for the remainder of the game with no substitute allowed for the next two minutes of play. After that, a substitute will be allowed for the balance of the game and the player will remain suspended for the player's next game of equal or higher handicap for the same team with a substitute allowed. All substitution rules apply. This penalty may be increased by the Host Tournament Committee and/or the Association. The Umpire(s), in their sole discretion, may **assess** two or three yellow **cards** or a red **card** with imposed penalties as described above for a player's first, second or third offense.

(ii.) If a player demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct after the game ends, the Umpire(s), in their sole discretion, may award that player either two yellow **cards** or a red **card**, depending on the severity of the unsportsmanlike conduct. If the player is **assessed** two yellow **cards** for unsportsmanlike conduct after the game ends, he or she must sit out for the first two minutes of play in his or her next game of equal or higher handicap for the same team with no substitute allowed for those two minutes of play in that game. If the player is **assessed** a red **card** for unsportsmanlike conduct after the game ends, he or she shall be suspended for the entirety of his or her next game of equal or higher handicap for the same team with no substitute allowed for the first two minutes of play in that game.

(3) **Cumulative effect of yellow cards:**

A player who is in the penalty box at the end of a game shall begin his or her next game of equal or higher handicap for the same team in the penalty box for the unexpired time of his or her original two-minute suspension. A player who receives three yellow **cards** during a game without receiving a red **card** shall begin his or her next game of equal or higher handicap for the same team with the status of a player who has already received a yellow **card**. For the avoidance of confusion, substitutes do not acquire the yellow **card** status of the player for whom they are substituting. However, the suspension of any player from all or part of any game as the result of that player being **assessed** one or more yellow **cards** or a red **card** may not be avoided by the substitution of another player for that player.

c. A player may not leave the field of play during the course of a period without the permission of the Umpires except to change a pony, a mallet, or for a legitimate reason. Unauthorized departure from the field (automatic red **card**) will result in suspension for the next game **of equal or higher handicap for the same team.**

**d.** Notwithstanding that this rule limits suspensions from all or part of any next game to the suspended player's "next game of equal or higher handicap for the same team," if any suspension from all or part of any player's next game under this rule is imposed on a player whose team in the game in which the suspension is imposed is not at the time officially entered or participating in an as-yet uncompleted event or series of events **of equal or higher handicap**, the suspension from all or part of that player's next game shall be served during the player's next game of equal or higher handicap for any team. **The same is true with respect to a player's yellow flag status in his or her next game of equal or higher handicap for the same team under subsection 33(b)(3).**

**e.** Definition of "next game of equal or higher handicap". As used in this Rule 33, the meaning of the terminology "next game of equal or higher handicap" depends on whether the incident precipitating the suspension or yellow flag status in question occurs during or after a Club Event or during or after a USPA Event, as those terms are defined in the USPA Tournament Conditions. When a player is suspended for all or any part of his or her next game of equal or higher handicap or receives an enhanced yellow flag status for that game as the result of one or more yellow flag(s) or a red flag issued him or her during or after a Club Event, that suspension (including any unserved time in the penalty box) or enhanced yellow flag status must be served or accepted in the player's next game of equal or higher handicap in a Club Event or a USPA Event that is not a consolation game, the first round game in a subsidiary event, or a shootout. When a player is suspended for all or any part of his or her next game of equal or higher handicap or receives an enhanced yellow flag status for that game as the result of one or more yellow flag(s) or a red flag issued him or her during or after a USPA Event, that suspension (including any unserved time in the penalty box) or enhanced yellow flag status may only be served or accepted in the player's next game of equal or higher handicap in a USPA Event that is not a consolation game, the first round game in a subsidiary event, or a shootout.

#### **RULE 34- REPEATED FOULS**

For undue repetition of careless or deliberate fouls by a team, the Umpire(s) should exact a more severe penalty for each occurrence until conduct in the best interest of the game resumes. Undue repetition by one team should not result in a more severe penalty for the other team.

#### **RULE 35- SELECTION OF PENALTIES**

a. The Umpire(s) may declare any violation of the Rules a foul when seen or, when not seen, upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence to the Umpire(s).

(1) When a foul is called, the Umpire shall stop play by sounding the whistle and

announce the foul and penalty.

(2) Should a foul be called when play has already been stopped, the Umpire shall so indicate by again sounding the whistle and/or by displaying a yellow or red **card**, and announce the foul and penalty.

(a) A “dead ball” foul may be penalized by offsetting an announced foul, or increasing or decreasing the severity of an announced foul.

(b) A “dead ball” foul may be called at any time play is stopped including following a goal or between periods of the game.

b. There are degrees of dangerous and unfair play. Where more than one Penalty is prescribed, the selection is within the discretion of the Umpire. Among the considerations:

- (1) Degree of danger or unfair advantage;
- (2) Location of the violation on the field;
- (3) Position of players on the field; and
- (4) Frequency of similar violations.

c. More than one penalty may be exacted by the Umpire where appropriate.

d. If both teams commit a foul at approximately the same time, no free hit is taken and the ball is thrown in at the point where play was stopped.

e. The following penalties may be exacted for violation of specific Rules:

| RULE<br>VIOLATED  | PENALTY<br>EXACTED   |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>1.e</b>        | <b>5, 9</b>          |
| 2                 | 9                    |
| 3                 | 9                    |
| 4                 | 2,3,4,5,9 or 10      |
| <b>5.b or 5.c</b> | <b>8</b>             |
| <b>5.d</b>        | <b>9</b>             |
| <b>5.e or 5.f</b> | <b>8</b>             |
| <b>5.g or 5.h</b> | <b>2,3,4,5 or 10</b> |
| <b>6.a</b>        | <b>9</b>             |
| <b>6.b or 6.c</b> | <b>8</b>             |
| 21.a              | 6                    |
| 22                | (see Rule)           |
| 24                | 1,2,3,4,5,7 or 10    |
| 25                | 1,2,3,4,5,7 or 10    |
| 26                | 1,2,3,4,5,7 or 10    |
| 27                | 1,2,3,4,5,7 or 10    |
| 28                | 1,2,3,4,5,7 or 10    |
| 29                | 1,2,3,4,5,7 or 10    |
| 30                | 2,3,4,5 or 10        |
| 31                | 2,3,4 or 5           |
| 32                | 2,3,4 or 5           |
| 33                | 2,3,4,5,7 or 10      |
| 34                | 2,3,4,5,7 or 10      |

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(1) Penalty 1. If in the opinion of the umpire, a player commits a dangerous or deliberate foul in the vicinity of the goal in order to prevent a goal being scored, the team fouled shall be awarded one goal.

(2) Penalty 5.a. or 5.b is to be awarded for fouls that:

(a) Are without danger

(b) Are inadvertent, not deliberate

(c) Provide a minor advantage or disadvantage to either team

(3) Penalty 10 may be awarded for a dangerous or deliberate foul or conduct prejudicial to the game. The umpire should display a red **card**.

(4) Increasingly severe penalties shall be exacted for repetitive or flagrant fouls.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES a...INTERPRETATION:** The selection of penalty gives the Umpire a range of penalties from which to choose for most situations. In making the selection, the Umpire must apply two principles: 1) the team fouled must never be worse off after the penalty award than before; and 2) by definition, the term “penalty” means that the fouling team must be disadvantaged by the penalty award. The penalty must suit the violation and penalize the fouling team by awarding an advantage to the team fouled.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES a...EXAMPLES:** Blue is running to goal and approaching midfield. Red, riding to Blue’s left and half a length behind, realizes that he will not be able to catch Blue and make a ride-off. As Blue prepares to hit a centering shot, Red reaches across and tips Blue’s mallet, spoiling the shot. Although the infraction, a cross-hook, is minor, it was committed deliberately, and the disadvantage to Blue is major. Penalty 3 should be awarded.

Red #4 rides to back the ball from the goal mouth. As Red begins his stroke, Blue #2 bumps late and rides into Red’s stroke. Foul Blue - riding into the shot. The penalty awarded should be a No. 5 from the center of the field. The foul was deliberate and endangered a mount.

Blue #2 and Blue #3 sandwich Red #3 about 75 yards out and running to goal. Foul Blue and a severe Penalty award to Red. Not only is this a dangerous foul, but also stops Red’s run to goal. Open goal Penalty 3 or No. 2. A Penalty 4 is not adequate in this situation.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES b...INTERPRETATION:** The Umpire is required to consider all four factors in selecting the appropriate penalty. Each factor should be weighed in the Umpire’s decision.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES b...EXAMPLES:** As Blue #3 turns to pick up a tailed back-shot from his #4, he is hit hard by Red #2 and his horse stumbles. The horse regains its footing, but Blue is too late to make the play. Foul Red - dangerous riding. The penalty award must consider: 1) location - deep in defending territory - perhaps a No. 5 center hit; 2) position of teams - Blue #3 was well positioned, and had he not been fouled might have had a good run - perhaps a Penalty 4; 3) effect on the play, the difference between Blue making the play and putting the ball in Red’s territory and missing the play

is great - Penalty 4; 4) frequency of similar fouls - if Red has played a clean game, and the foul is just bad timing - Penalty 5.b; however, if Red has been penalized several times for rough play - Penalty 4.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES c, d...INTERPRETATION:** The Umpire is expected to apply whatever penalty or combination of Penalties from No. 1 to No. 10 that will best fit the circumstances considering the parameters from Rule 35.a. and b. Simultaneous fouls by both teams are offsetting, but flagrant conduct may cause an additional Penalty such as Penalty 10 to be awarded.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES c, d...EXAMPLE:** As Blue prepares to hit to goal from about 50 yards out, he is deliberately cross-hooked by Red. Blue retaliates by swinging his mallet at Red's head. These fouls are sequential, not simultaneous: Penalty 2 or 3 against Red for the foul hook. Blue may be immediately ejected in accordance with Rule 33.b(2)(a) and Penalty 10 for the mallet.

Blue carries the ball down the right boards at mid-field and sees Red coming from the left for a ride-off. Blue checks to avoid the bump and Red crosses in front to get to his nearside. As Red crosses, Blue goes to the whip, jumps his horse into Red and knocks Red to the ground. Foul Red for crossing; foul Blue for dangerous riding. The fouls are offsetting, but if the Umpire feels Blue deliberately knocked Red down, Blue may be immediately ejected in accordance with Rule 33.b(2)(a) and Penalty 10.

As Blue #2 hits the ball to goal, he is fouled by Red #3. Blue #3, seeing the foul but away from the play, twirls his mallet to draw the Umpire's attention to the foul. Penalty 3 would normally be awarded to Blue for the foul. However, the mallet twirl should also be penalized. Offsetting fouls should be called and the ball thrown in.

Red #3 sees Blue #2 ahead and safely to the left waiting to bump. Red pulls his mount off the LOB and rides hard into Blue knocking horse and rider to the ground. Foul Red. Penalty 4, 3 or 2 against Red for dangerous riding and consideration of immediate ejection of Red #3 in accordance with Rule 33.b(2)(a) and Penalty 10 for the deliberate, dangerous act.

A Penalty 2 is announced against Red. The Red Captain argues loudly that the call is incorrect. A violation of Rule 33 is called. As the ball cannot be moved forward from a converted Penalty 2, the foul should be announced as a Penalty 5.b following the execution of the Penalty 2, or a re-hit is awarded if the Penalty 2 is missed.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES e.1)...INTERPRETATIONS:** Penalty 1 is for fouls which prevent the scoring of a goal. The player fouled must have a high probability of scoring. Once such a foul is called, Penalty 1 shall be exacted. The penalty is to award the goal which likely would have been scored. Penalty 1 may be exacted whether or not the goal was actually scored (*See* Rule 22.c(1).) Although sometimes difficult to determine, the perceived intent of the player responsible for the foul may be considered when applying this rule.

The rule also requires that the foul occur "in the vicinity of the goal". Although there



is no defined area that is considered to be “in the vicinity of the goal” the Umpires in their discretion should consider any fouled player within reasonable shooting range and who would otherwise be expected to score from that spot to be in the vicinity of the goal.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES e.1)...EXAMPLES:** Red carries the ball to goal with Blue riding on his left and with him all the way. As Red crosses the 30-yard line and prepares to tap the ball through the goal, Blue reaches behind Red’s back and cross-hooks him. Although not necessarily dangerous, the play is obviously a deliberate attempt to prevent the scoring of a goal – Penalty 1.

As Blue approaches the goal, Red realizes that a goal is imminent. Red’s only chance is a hard bump that knocks Blue off the ball. Red makes the bump, Blue’s horse stumbles badly but recovers, and the ball rolls through the goal. Foul Red – Penalty 1. The field goal does not count but the Penalty 1 awards a goal and a Penalty 5.b, going in the opposite direction. Red’s play was deliberate and dangerous and to prevent a sure goal.

Red #4 rides Blue #1 wide as Blue #2 carries the ball behind them. As Red #4 nears the back line, he realizes that Blue #2 has a sure goal. Red #4 turns back crosses Blue #2 takes the ball and saves the goal. Penalty 1 against Red. Red #2 has deliberately fouled to prevent a goal. Whether or not the foul is considered dangerous, a Penalty No. 1 is called for. A Penalty 2 does not penalize Red #4 sufficiently for the deliberate foul.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES e.2)...INTERPRETATION:** A play without the elements of danger, deliberation, advantage, or disadvantage is seldom a foul. A minor infraction, if called in favor of the offensive team, should be moved forward to Penalty 4. This does not mean that a foul in favor of the defending team should not move forward. Penalty 5.a from the point of the infraction should be awarded only for the most minor incidents and not from within the 60 yards in front of the goal the fouling team is defending. The penalty awarded must advantage the fouled team at the expense of the fouling team.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES e.2)...EXAMPLES:** Blue prepares to back the ball from the goal mouth. As Blue starts the swing, Red rides over the ball, and Blue is forced to check the swing. Foul Red - riding into the stroke of Blue. Penalty 5.a from the spot. Although inadvertent and not dangerous, Blue had no opportunity to set up an offensive play.

Red clears the ball from goal with a neck shot to the corner. As Red rides to hit again, Blue picks him up, and they ride together to the ball. Both players fence for the ball, turning and jostling for position. Blue ends up inadvertently cross-hooking Red. Foul Blue. Penalty 5.a from the point of infraction. In the same play, if Red fouls Blue, Penalty 4. Penalty 5.a should not be awarded within the 60 yards of the goal the fouling team is defending.

Blue, carrying the ball 40 yards from mid-field, with a clear field, is fouled by Red who crosses Blue to position for a nearside back-shot. At least a Penalty 4 or, if Red’s cross was dangerous, a Penalty 2 or 3.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES e...INTERPRETATION:** Although a wide range of penalties are available for most infractions, extreme penalties are intended for extreme situations. This applies to extremely severe as well as extremely minor situations. Selection of the penalty must discourage improper conduct and play. If improper conduct continues, the penalty selected should be increasingly severe until the desired result is obtained. A foul normally calling for a Penalty 4 may be awarded a Penalty 2 or 3 if the fouling team has been consistently fouling.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES e...EXAMPLES:** Red #1 takes a full swing in the lineup, hitting an opponent's horse early in the game. Penalty 5.b is awarded. As the game goes on, Red #1 continues to take full swings in the lineup. The penalty for successive violations should be moved to a Penalty 4, or, if necessary, a Penalty 3 until Red stops taking full swings in the lineup.

Several members of the Blue Team are penalized early in the game for dangerous riding such as: hitting behind the saddle, severe angle, unnecessary force. The severity of penalty awards should be increased until the Blue Team resumes safe play.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES...INTERPRETATIONS:** The Umpire must act firmly and consistently to address the player whose behavior has crossed the line. When the whistle goes, the appropriate penalty is awarded. If the player then, physically or verbally, commits a personal foul as defined in Rule 33 the whistle should again sound and the ball placement be advanced. If the violation occurs a second time on the same play or before the ball is put back into play, the player should be sat down for two minutes of play with no substitution. (*See* Rule 33.b(1)(b).) Advancing the ball repeatedly on a player who has lost control is embarrassing and does not achieve the desired result.

If an Umpire elects to put a player off the field for any reason, the Umpire should confer with his fellow Umpire and explain why he is ejecting the player from the game. If the second Umpire challenges the call, the referee shall make the final decision by upholding the opinion of either Umpire.

**35. SELECTION OF PENALTIES...EXAMPLE:** Blue #4, on the right of way, goes to back the ball, as Red No. 1 crosses in front of Blue #4 and hits the ball forward towards his goal. The whistle sounds and a Penalty 5.a is awarded. Red #3 insults the Umpire by stating that the call was incorrect. The Umpire sounds his whistle, displays a yellow **card**, and announces that the ball placement will be advanced one degree to mid field. Red #3 continues to insult and argue with the umpire. A second yellow **card** is displayed and the player is sat down for two minutes of play with no substitution consistent with Rule 33.b(1)(b).

Blue #3 crosses Red #2 and the whistle sounds. The foul is announced as a Penalty 4 against Blue #3 and Blue #3 argues loudly that the call is incorrect. The whistle should again sound, a yellow **card** is displayed, a violation of Rule 33 announced and the ball moved to a Penalty 3. Further protest should cause the player to be sat down for two minutes of play with no substitution consistent with Rule 33.b(1)(b).

Blue #3 protests the Umpires' call loudly, abusively, and with a foul and offensive personal reference to the Umpire. An immediate ejection is justified. No preliminary warning or penalty is required. The Umpires eject Red #3 for the remainder of the game in accordance with Rule 33.b(2)(a), which allows the Umpire(s), at their sole discretion, to assess a red **card** and eject that player for the remainder of the game for that player's first offense.

A crossing foul against Blue #3 occurs as Red #3 carries the ball along the side boards in the far corner near his goal. The Umpires stop play and award a Penalty 5.a. Blue #3 argues with the Umpire, the whistle sounds again and the Umpire displays a yellow **card**. The Penalty 5.a is moved up one degree and the ball is placed at center field for a Penalty 5.b consistent with Rule 33.b(1)(a).

The Umpires call a crossing foul on Blue #3 and stop play in Red's end of the field, 20 yards from the centerline. Blue #3 argues with the Umpires, the whistle sounds again, and the Umpire displays a yellow **card**. The Penalty 5.a is moved to a Penalty 4. Moving the spot hit to center field for a Penalty 5.b would not sufficiently disadvantage the Blue Team by moving the ball forward 20 yards, and therefore, a more severe penalty is warranted. (*See* Rule 33.b(1)(a).)

White #3 receives a yellow **card** for arguing with the Umpires in the first period. White #3 receives a second yellow **card** in the second period for vulgar language and is sat down for two minutes of play with no substitution consistent with Rule 33.b(1)(b). In the third period, White #3 receives a red **card** for arguing with the Umpires. White #3 is sat down for the remainder of the game consistent with Rule 33.b(2)(a).

## **RULE 36- PENALTY PROCEDURES AND VIOLATIONS**

- a. Penalties 2 (30 yards or from the spot), 3 (40 yards), 4 (60 yards) and 6 (safety) shall be taken in one stroke in an attempt to score. Consequently, the player taking the penalty may not make a preparatory dribble, for themselves or a team member. The ball shall be considered in play the moment it has been either hit or hit at and missed. The attempt to hit a ball is considered a hit ball, the action of a swing puts the ball into play. The player shall hit the ball, or hit at it, in the first attempt; he or she is not allowed to go past the ball without hitting or hitting at it, or circle his or her mount again rather than hit during the approach, nor take more than 20 seconds after the Umpire calls "Play" in preparation to hit. Violation of this rule shall be sanctioned with a Penalty 5.a.
- b. For Penalties 2 (30 yards) and 3 (40 yards): For Penalty 2s taken from the center and for Penalty 3s, when the Host Tournament Committee has determined or the Tournament Conditions state that the Penalty 3 may not be defended, if the ball stops before the end of the field the Umpires shall blow the whistle and the defending team will be awarded a Penalty 5.a from the spot where the ball stopped.
- c. For Penalties 4 (60 yards) and 6 (safety): If the ball is missed or mis-hit in a legitimate attempt to score in one hit, the hitter and/or other players from either team may attempt a safe play on the ball and all rules of Right of Way are in effect. If, in the umpire's opinion, the initial attempt to hit the ball was deliberately missed, mis-hit, tapped or dribbled to improve the hitting team's chance of scoring, a spot hit (5.a) will be awarded to the defending team.

d. For Penalties 2, 3, 4, 5.a, 5.b and 6,

If a member of the fouling team is off the field at the time the ball is hit or hit at, he may enter the field opposite the side his team is defending but may not make a play until he passes a player of his own team who was properly positioned at the time the ball was hit or hit at. A violation of this procedure will result in an increased penalty against the fouling team. If all four players on the same team are off the field further from the goal his team is defending than the spot where the ball is hit or hit at, no player on that team may make a play until play is interrupted and resumed. If any such player makes a play, a Penalty 2 shall be awarded to the other team.

e. Procedural Violations

(1) If the fouling team fails to follow or violates procedure when a Penalty 2, 3, 4, 5.a, 5.b, or 6 is taken, an increased penalty shall be awarded to the team fouled when possible, except if a goal has been scored or awarded. In the case of a Penalty 2, the Umpire(s) may either award another Penalty 2 or they may, in their discretion, award a Penalty 1 if they deem it appropriate given the nature of the procedural violation.

(2) Fouled Team Failure to Execute Proper Procedures: As with Penalties 2, 3, 4 and 6, the player taking a Penalty 5.a or a Penalty 5.b shall hit the ball, or hit at it, in the first attempt; he or she is not allowed to go past the ball without hitting or hitting at it, or circle his or her mount again rather than hit during the approach, nor take more than 20 seconds after the Umpire calls “Play” in preparation to hit. If the team fouled fails to carry out a Penalty 2, 3, 4, 5.b or 6 correctly, the opposing team shall be awarded a Penalty 5.a from the spot where the penalty was being taken. If the team fouled fails to carry out a Penalty 5.a correctly, the opposing team shall be awarded a Penalty 5.a from the spot where the penalty was being taken unless that spot is within the 60-yard line in front of the goal that team is defending, in which case the opposing team shall be awarded a Penalty 4.

(3) When both teams simultaneously fail to follow or violate procedure for Penalties 2, 3, 4, 5.a, 5.b, or 6, another free hit shall be awarded to the team fouled from the same spot under the same conditions as before.

(4) Players may not in any way alter the surface of the playing field to tee up the ball. Players may not dismount to tee up the ball. Once an Umpire calls “Play”, a ball may not be re-teed. In the event a player alters the surface of the field or dismounts to tee a ball, the Umpire shall blow the whistle and award a penalty.

(5) Once the ball is placed to take a penalty and the Umpire calls “Play”, it may not be re-teed, and the player shall hit the ball as it is.

**36. PENALTY PROCEDURES AND VIOLATIONS c...EXAMPLE:** On a Penalty 4, Blue #3 mis-hits the ball in what the Umpires judge is a legitimate attempt to score in one hit. The ball crosses the 15-yard line and Blue #3 follows it toward the goal at a gallop. Reaching the ball, Blue #3 hits a hard offside shot to drive the ball through the pack of players clustered in the goal-mouth. Foul on Blue #3 and possible yellow **card** – lack of consideration for safety.

**36. PENALTY PROCEDURES AND VIOLATIONS d...INTERPRETATION:**

This call is left up to the discretion of the Umpire(s). Any attempt to deliberately miss the ball to leave it for a teammate, mis-hit, tap or dribble a ball in order to improve the fouled team’s chances of scoring shall be considered a foul.

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| <b>OUTDOOR RULES: MISEXECUTION OF PENALTY SHOTS, KNOCK-INS</b> |  |  |  |  |   |  |                                |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Situation</b>   | <b>Penalty 2</b>   | <b>Penalty 3</b>   | <b>Penalty 4</b>   | <b>Penalty 6 (Safety)</b>  | <b>Penalty 5.a</b>  | <b>Penalty 5.b</b>   | <b>Knock-In</b>                |
| Swing and miss   | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Live Ball  | Live Ball  | Live Ball   | Live Ball  | Live Ball                      |
| Ball hit or hit at before Umpire calls Play                    | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Less severe of Spot hit or Penalty 4 for defending team   | Spot hit for defending team  | Penalty 4 for defending team   |
| Ball not hit or hit at on first approach                       | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Less severe of Spot hit or Penalty 4 for defending team   | Spot hit for defending team  | Penalty 4 for defending team   |
| Attacking team – improper position                             | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A   | N/A  | N/A                            |
| Defending team – improper position                             | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise rehit for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 2 for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 3 for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 3 for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise next more severe penalty for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 4 for attacking team | Penalty 5.b for attacking team |

**RULE 37- SPECIFIC PENALTIES****PENALTY 1**

If, in the opinion of the Umpire(s), a player commits a dangerous or deliberate foul in the vicinity of the goal in order to save a goal, the team fouled shall be awarded one goal. The game shall be resumed with a Penalty 5.b awarded to the fouled team and a change in direction.

**PENALTY 2**

a. A penalty hit at the ball by the team fouled from the center of the 30-yard line nearest the fouling team's goal or, if preferred, from the spot where the foul occurred (the choice to be made by the team fouled). For a penalty hit from the 30-yard line, all of the fouling team shall be positioned behind their back line, outside of the goal, until the ball is hit or hit at. If the penalty is to be hit from the spot, none of the fouling team may be within 30 yards from the ball and must remain outside of the goal until the ball is hit or hit at. Once the ball is put into play, no player of the fouling team may enter the field.

b. If, in the opinion of the Umpire, when taking a Penalty 2, the penalty hit would have resulted in a goal, but is prevented by the fouling team entering the field improperly, the hit shall be considered a goal for the team fouled.

c. If, in the opinion of the Umpire, when taking a Penalty 2, the penalty hit is deflected by the fouling team or is hit wide by the hitter, and a defending player has entered the field improperly, the penalty shall be taken again.

**PENALTY 3**

*(At the election of the Host Tournament Committee, to be communicated to the teams before the Event begins, the Penalty 3 may be defended in Events with an upper handicap limit of 8 goals and above, providing that all games in the event are officiated by two certified professional Umpires unless otherwise approved by USPA Umpires LLC.)*

a. A penalty hit at the ball by the team fouled from the center of the 40-yard line nearest the fouling team's goal. All of the fouling team shall be positioned behind their back line, but outside of the goal, until the ball is hit or hit at. If the penalty is to be undefended, no player of the fouling team may enter the field, but if the penalty is to be defended, once the ball is put into play, no player of the fouling team may enter the field from between the goal posts. All players of the team fouled not hitting are to be behind the 40-yard line or off the playing field. The team fouled may hit or hit at the ball only once and may not make another play on or affect the course of the ball if the penalty is to be undefended, or until it has been hit or hit at by a member of the opposing team or contacts a goal post, opposing player or mount if the penalty is to be defended.

b. If, in the opinion of the Umpire, when taking the Penalty 3, the hit would have resulted in a goal, but is prevented by the fouling team entering the field improperly,

the hit shall be considered a goal for the team fouled.

c. If, in the opinion of the Umpire, when taking a Penalty 3, the penalty hit is deflected by the fouling team or hit wide by the hitter, and a defending player has entered the field improperly, the penalty shall be taken again.

#### PENALTY 4

a. A free hit at the ball by the team fouled from the center of the 60-yard line nearest the fouling team's goal. The fouled team is free to position themselves anywhere on or off the playing field. The fouling team must be behind the 30-yard line until the Umpire calls "Play" and the ball is hit or hit at.

b. If, in the opinion of the Umpire, the hit would have resulted in a goal, but was prevented by the fouling team's failure to carry out the proper procedure, a goal shall be scored.

#### PENALTY 5

##### **Hit from the Spot (Penalty 5.a)**

A penalty hit from the spot where the ball was when the foul occurred, but at least 5 yards from the boards or from the side lines. No member of the fouling team may be within 30 yards from the ball, and each must be between the ball and the defended goal. If any member on the fouling team is off the field prior to the time the penalty shot is taken, he may enter the field anywhere before the ball is put in play, but must be between the ball and the goal his team is defending when the ball is hit or hit at and no closer than 30 yards from the ball. The team fouled may position itself anywhere. If a member of the fouling team is positioned within 30 yards of the ball when the ball is hit or hit at, **the next more severe penalty (either a Penalty 5.b or a Penalty 4) shall be granted to the team fouled.**

##### **Hit from the Center of the Field (Penalty 5.b)**

A penalty hit from the center of the playing field. No member of the fouling team may be within 30 yards from the ball, and each must be between the ball and the defended goal. If any member of the fouling team is off the field at the time of the penalty, he may enter the field anywhere before the ball is put in play, but must be between the ball and the goal his team is defending when the ball is hit or hit at and no closer than 30 yards from the ball. The team fouled may position itself anywhere. If a member of the fouling team is positioned within 30 yards of the ball when the ball is hit or hit at, **a Penalty 4 shall be granted to the team fouled.**

#### PENALTY 6 (Safety)

A penalty hit from a spot 60 yards from the end line opposite where the ball crossed the end line, but no more than 40 yards from the center of the 60-yard line. The fouled team is free to position themselves anywhere on or off the playing field. The fouling team must be behind the 30-yard line until the Umpire calls "Play" and the ball is hit or hit at.

### PENALTY 7

If a player is disabled by a foul to the extent the Umpire permits or orders the player's retirement from the game, the Captain of the team fouled shall designate the removal of a player from the fouling team whose handicap is nearest above that of the disabled player. If the disabled player's handicap is equal to or higher than that of any player on the fouling team, any member of that team may be designated. In the event of a handicap game, there shall be no change in the handicap from as it was at the time of infraction. In the alternative, the team fouled shall have the option of providing a qualified substitute.

**36. SPECIFIC PENALTIES. PENALTY 7...INTERPRETATION:** The awarding of a Penalty 7 is left solely to the discretion of the Umpires and should be awarded only when an injury is the result of a foul. The Umpire is directed to allow 15 minutes, as provided in Rule 21.d, for the fouled team to find a replacement for the injured player or to designate a player to be removed from the fouling team. The Penalty 7 must be exacted at the time the foul occurred and not after play has resumed. If the removal of a player is selected, teams shall continue to play three (3) on a side for the remainder of the game. The player removed from the game as a result of Penalty 7 will remain qualified as a substitute. However, the injured player may not return once the teams are reduced to 3 on a side.

**36. SPECIFIC PENALTIES. PENALTY 7...EXAMPLES:** Blue #3 is carrying the ball towards his goal, and Red #2 bumps Blue #3 at a severe angle, causing Blue #3's horse to stumble. As the horse regains his footing, Blue #3 loses his balance and falls from the horse, breaking his leg. The Umpires announce a Penalty 2 for dangerous riding and since the Blue player cannot continue, a Penalty 7 is awarded. The Blue Team informs the Umpires that a suitable replacement is not available and, therefore, designates a player to be removed from the Red Team.

Red #2 is hit in the face with Blue #3's mallet and a time out is requested. After several minutes, Red #2 tells the Umpires that his vision is blurred but that he will continue to play. After the game has resumed for several minutes, Red #2 announces that he cannot continue to play and asks the Umpires to exact a Penalty 7. Since play was resumed, Rule 21.d (Injury to a Player) applies. The game will be stopped and the Red Team will have 15 minutes to find a replacement. Penalty 7 cannot be exacted after play has resumed from the initial injury.

### PENALTY 8

The mount is ordered off the field by the Umpire and disqualified from being played again during the game. If a mount is ordered off the field for a violation of Rules 5, **6.a or 6.b**, after curing the violation, the mount may be allowed to play provided the game is not delayed. (**Note: the penalty for a violation of Rule 6.a is forfeiture.**)



**PENALTY 9**

The game shall be forfeited. In the event both teams commit a rule violation in the same game invoking Penalty No. 9, both teams shall forfeit the game, regardless of which violation occurred first.

**PENALTY 10**

The Umpire may exclude a player from the game in a manner that is consistent with Rule 33 in case of a deliberate, dangerous foul, or conduct prejudicial to the game.

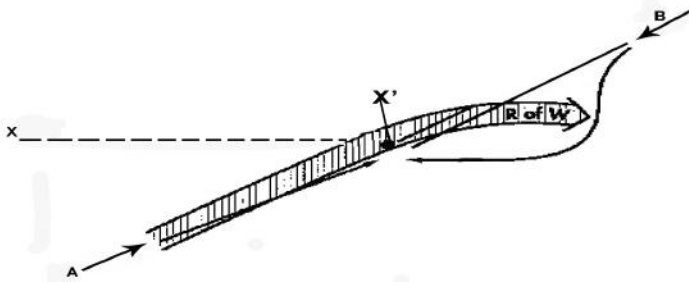
**APPENDIX A  
RIGHT OF WAY ILLUSTRATIONS**

**EXAMPLE I**

Rule: 24.c and 24.f

The ball has been hit from X and is about to stop at X'. A is riding in the general direction in which the ball is traveling, and provided A rides to take the ball on the off side (which will necessitate swerving to the left of the course A is shown as following) A will be entitled to the Right of Way shown. In this case B can meet the ball safely at X' only if B can alter course to meet the ball on its exact line before A straightens out on the line. If, however, B accomplishes this before A gets to the proper side, then A loses the Right of Way to B.

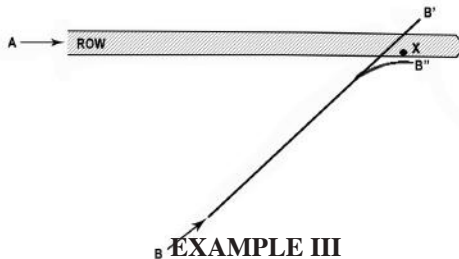
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**EXAMPLE II**

Rule: 24.c and 24.g

A hits the ball to X, and follows its line to take it on the off side. This entitles A to the Right of Way, as shown. If B can unquestionably reach the ball at X, without interfering with A's stroke or causing A to check in the slightest degree to avoid the risk of a collision, then B may take an off side backhand at B'. But if there is the slightest doubt about B riding clear of A, then A's Right of Way holds good and B's only chance of hitting the ball is to swerve towards B'', keeping clear of the Right of Way, and taking a nearside backhand. If in taking this backhand, or afterwards, B's mount in the slightest degree enters the Right of Way, B violates Rule 24.c.

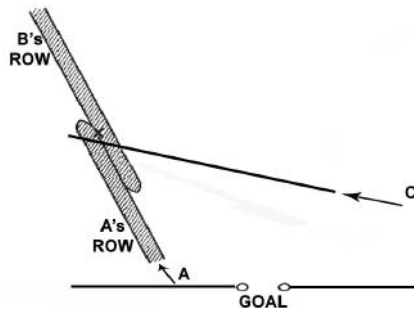


**EXAMPLE III**

Rule: 24.f

A hits the ball in from behind to X. B rides to meet it and C to take it on. A collision is imminent between B and C at X. B is entitled to the Right of Way because B is meeting the ball on its exact line to take it on the off side. C must not cross this Right of Way. The only way for the team hitting in to take the ball on, is for A to follow the line and take an off side shot, because A and B are each entitled to their own Rights of Way, which are clear of one another.

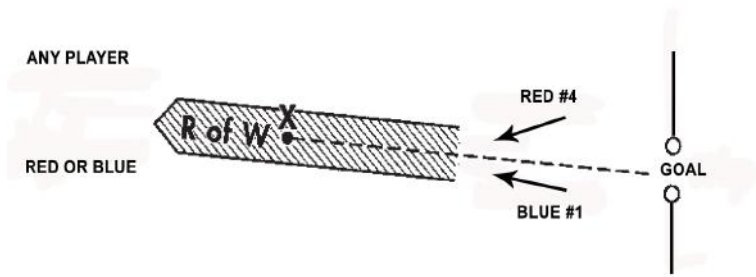
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EXAMPLE IV

Rule: 24.h

The ball has been hit from the mouth of the goal to X. The Red #4 and Blue #1 are following up the line of the ball, riding each other off. These two players share the Right of Way, as shown, and no other player, or players (Red or Blue) may cross or enter this Right of Way, even if meeting the ball on its exact line.

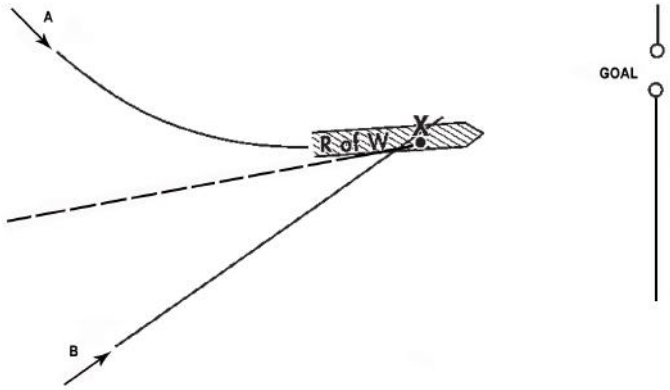


**EXAMPLE V**

Rule: 24.g

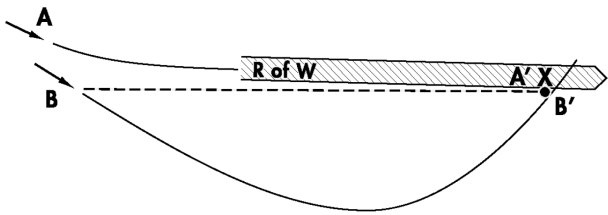
The ball has been hit to X. Neither A nor B hit it there, but the striker is not near enough to the ball to risk a collision with either. Both start to ride to the ball with equal rights. A collision appears probable at X. A has the Right of Way, as shown, as he followed more closely the line on which the ball has been traveling.

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Rules: 24.b and 24.g

B hits the ball under his pony's neck to X, and swings round in a semi-circle to B'. A follows the line of the ball to A'. A collision is imminent between A' and B' at X. Although B hit the ball last, B has failed to obtain the Right of Way because B has failed to follow the ball on its exact new line without deviation, whereas A has ridden on a line closer or more nearly parallel to the new line of the ball. A is therefore entitled to the Right of Way.

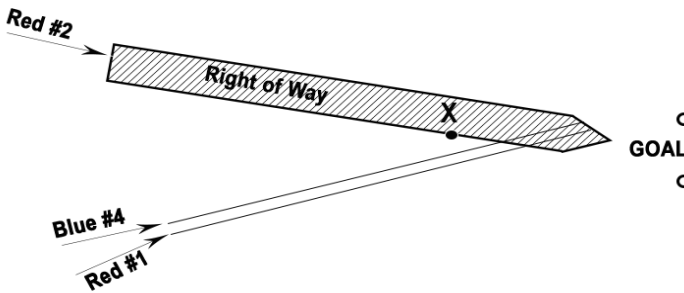


**EXAMPLE VII**

Rules: 24.h, 25.d and 25.f

Red #2 hits the ball to X and follows its line to take again on the offside. Red #2 is therefore entitled to the Right of Way, as shown. Blue #4 rides for the ball. Red #1 goes with the Blue #4 riding Blue #4 off all the way. A collision appears probable at X. Red #1 will commit a dangerous foul if Red #1 fails to give way and consequently:

- (a) forces the Blue #4 across the Right of Way, thereby causing Red #2 to check to avoid collision, or
- (b) causes the Blue #4 to check in order to avoid being sandwiched between the two players.
- (c) The Umpire must observe closely whether the Blue #4 fouls by riding across the Right of Way of Blue's own free will or whether the Red #1 fouls by forcing Blue #4 across it.



# ARENA RULES

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## ARENA RULES

### RULE 1 - FACILITIES

#### a. Playing Arena

(1) A playing area of 300 feet in length by 150 feet in width is considered ideal for Arena Polo.

(2) Goals shall be centered at opposite ends of the Arena and the ideal size shall be 10 feet in width by 15 feet in height, inside measurement.

(3) Arena polo is normally played in facilities that have walls and gates enclosing them.

(a) Goals painted on the end walls do not make satisfactory goals as they do not mark a goal line across which the ball must pass.

(b) Goal boxes, as shown in the sketch below, in height equal to the height of the goal including a cross piece marking the top of the goals should be used.

(c) Although arenas with open ends, goal lines and goal posts are not favored by the Arena Committee, their use would suggest that Rules 18, 22.a, 21.a and Penalty 6 as provided in the Official Outdoor Rules be followed with the exception that the free hit called for in Penalty 6 be taken 25 yards from the goal line.

(4) The Arena shall be clearly marked with goal lines, center line the full width of the floor and at points 15 yards and 25 yards perpendicular to each goal.

(a) The goal line shall extend across the goal mouth, the full width of the goal.

(b) The leading edge of the goal line shall indicate the plane of the goal, with the remainder of the line inside the goal box.

(c) The ground area behind the goal line may be sloped so a rolling ball will fall through, not away from, the plane of the goal.

#### b. Balls

The ball shall be not less than 12.5” or more than 15” in circumference and the weight not less than 170 grams or more than 182 grams. In a bounce test from 9’ on concrete at 70°F, the rebound should be a minimum of 54” and a maximum of 64” at the inflation rate specified by the manufacturer. This provides for a hard and lively ball.

#### c. Definition of Event

For the purposes of these Rules, an “event” or “Event” is a USPA Event or Club Event as those terms are defined in Section I of the Tournament Conditions.

#### d. Exceptions to Rules

These Rules should, to the extent possible, be enforced in all USPA Events. USPA member clubs are strongly encouraged to enforce these Rules in all Club Events.

It is recognized that some limitations may from time to time exist which make it impossible or impractical for the Host Tournament Committee (also referred to herein as the “Committee”) to fully enforce these Rules. In such cases, the Committee shall spell out such exceptions prior to any USPA Event. The Committee shall make every effort to comply with the intent of these Rules if an exception must be made for a USPA Event. In a Club Event, a USPA member club’s Host Tournament Committee

may adopt one or more variances from these Rules before the event with notice to the teams, provided that (i) the USPA member club's Host Tournament Committee believes that any such variance adoption is in the best interest of the USPA member club and the sport; and (ii) the USPA member club accepts responsibility and any liability for the consequences of any such variance adoption(s). Notwithstanding the foregoing, no USPA member club or Host Tournament Committee may adopt any variance from USPA Arena Rules 3a(2) or 4b(7) (regarding helmet requirements). The Committee should use restraint in making "house rules" and do so only if it is in the best interest of the players and the event. House rules could include, but are not limited to: definition of "goal line," "goal mouth," "wall," or "out of play."

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## RULE 2 - MOUNTS AND EQUIPMENT

- a. A mount is a horse or a pony of any breed and size.
- b. A mount blind in one eye or both eyes may not be played.
- c. A mount showing vice or not under proper control shall be excluded from the game.
- d. Shadow rolls, blinkers or any other device which might obscure the mount's vision shall not be used.
- e. Shoes with an outer rim, toe grip, screws or frost nails are not allowed. Heel calks are allowed on hind shoes only and should be dull, without sharp edges and no greater than one inch from the sole surface of the shoe to the ground surface. **The penalty for a violation of Rule 2.e during a game by a player or team is forfeiture. If, within 24 hours after a game, the Umpire(s), a Referee, or the Host Tournament Committee is presented with conclusive physical evidence (including, but not limited to, photographic or video evidence) that a player or team has violated Rule 2.e during the game, and the violation was not detected during the game, the penalty is forfeiture. Unlike many other penalties which the Umpire(s) may elect not to exact, this penalty must be exacted, whether during or after a game.**
- f. Unless announced as a "split string" event, no mount may be played by more than one team.
- g. A mount may be removed from the game if there is blood in its mouth, or on its flanks, or anywhere on a horse's body.
- h. A mount found to be improperly conditioned in accordance with the Henneke Body Conditioning Score guidelines (*see* page 287) shall be removed from the game.
- i. Leg protection of the pony by boots or bandages will be used on the front legs and is recommended on the hind legs.

**2. MOUNTS e....INTERPRETATION:** It is recommended that when necessary, players use removable calks because they are considered less intrusive.

**2. MOUNTS g....EXAMPLE:** When play is stopped, the Umpire notices blood on one of the flanks of the Red #2's mount. The blood is wiped from the horse, the spurs are removed by the direction of the Umpires (Rule 3.a(3)) and the chukker continues. If the bleeding resumes, the horse should be removed.



**RULE 3 - PLAYERS AND ALTERNATES**

a. There shall be three players on each team, designated as No.1, No.2, and No.3. Each team may designate one or more alternate players.

(1) Each team shall designate one player as Captain who shall have the sole right to discuss with the Umpire procedural matters arising during the game.

(2) No player may participate in any USPA Event or Club Event in anything other than a proper uniform, including a protective helmet with a chin strap, which must be worn in the appropriate manner specified by the manufacturer of the helmet. No member of a team organization may mount a horse before, during or after a USPA Event anywhere inside or outside of the arena unless equipped with a protective helmet with a chin strap, which must be worn in the appropriate manner specified by the manufacturer of the helmet. Players are strongly encouraged to wear eye protection at all times during play. Eye protection is mandatory for all players under the age of eighteen. Effective **January 1, 2021**, the protective helmet required by this rule for players must be certified to meet the NOCSAE ND050 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets. The protective helmet required by this rule for members of a team organization is not required to be certified to meet the NOCSAE ND050 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets.

(3) A player shall not use sharp spurs nor any gear with protruding buckles or studs.

(4) In the event the colors of competing teams are similar, the Committee may designate which is to change its uniform for the game in question.

(5) No player shall play for more than one team in any event.

(6) A team shall present itself to play at the time scheduled by the Host Tournament Committee.

b. No player shall participate in any event unless the player's USPA registration fee has been paid and a handicap issued for the year in which the event takes place.

(1) A player registered with the USPA is eligible to play in any match, game or tournament event except that: a player with a handicap of -1 goal may not play above the 9 goal level. (Note: all references to handicaps in these Arena Rules and any applicable Tournament Conditions are to USPA Arena Handicaps, not USPA Women's Arena Handicaps.)

(2) No individual shall participate as a player or Official in any game if physically impaired (e.g., sick, hurt, intoxicated) before or during a game if such impairment endangers the safety of the individual or others.

c. Unlimited substitutions shall be permitted at the end of any period.

(1) In the event of an injury substitution during a period, the team may elect to make a double substitution, replacing the injured player and one other with eligible substitutes. (Rule 16.h)

(2) The substitute must be eligible to play in the game and the team's aggregate handicap after the substitution may not exceed the upper handicap limit specified for the event; however, the team's aggregate handicap may be below the lower aggregate handicap limit specified for the event.

(3) In all cases of substitution, the highest handicap in the arena at any given time in the game shall be counted for the entire game.

(4) In the event a player or players are removed from a game due to Penalty 7, both teams may substitute the remaining players in accordance with the conditions listed above, except that neither team's aggregate handicap in the arena, plus goals received by handicap, may exceed the higher handicapped team's handicap following the enactment of Penalty 7.

(5) After enactment of Penalty 7, if the teams are reduced to two players per team, the injured player may not re-enter the game at any time and the game shall be finished with two players per team.

d. In the event a player is removed from the game due to inability to continue or by disqualification and no qualified alternate is available or permitted, the team shall continue to play, no change in handicap shall be made, and the team will remain qualified.

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**3. PLAYERS AND ALTERNATES...INTERPRETATION:** Players may only be replaced during a period if a player is declared unable to continue. Double substitutions may be made as long as the players are individually eligible and the team remains eligible.

**3. PLAYERS AND ALTERNATES...EXAMPLES:** A player is delayed in arriving for a game. He calls ahead and authorizes his groom (an eligible player with a current handicap) to start in his place. The player arrives two minutes into the second chukker. The player may enter the game at the end of the period and complete the game.

Three minutes into the first chukker a player requests a time out when the ball is out of play. The player advises the Umpire that he is unable to continue. The Umpire must assume the player is injured or ill and permit up to 15 minutes for an alternate to enter the game. If the player quits without notifying the Umpire, play will resume and no time out allowed.

Team Red enters a 12 goal tournament with a 6-goaler, a 4-goaler, and 2-goaler. Team Blue has a 12 goal team that consists of a 5-goaler, a 4-goaler, and a 3-goaler. Team Red loses the 6 goal player to injury as a result of a foul by Blue Team and a Penalty 7 is awarded. As no alternate is available, the Red Captain requests the removal of a player from the Blue Team. As there is no player whose handicap is nearest above that of the disabled player, the Red Captain chooses to remove the Blue #3, whose handicap is 5 goals. The game will be resumed with two on a side, leaving the Red's Team's aggregate handicap at 6 goals and Blue's handicap at 7 goals. Subsequent substitutions by either team may not exceed an aggregate team handicap of 7 goals.

A player who leaves the game due to exhaustion, and is replaced by a qualified alternate, recovers and wishes to return half way through the fourth chukker. This substitution may not take place until the end of the chukker because the player being replaced is able to continue.

Team Blue enters a tournament with an 8 goal team. Early in their first game, Blue #4, a 5-goaler, is injured and replaced by a 4-goaler. Team Blue, even though now 7 goals,

must play as 8 for the balance of the game.

Team Red, a 12 goal team, loses an 8-goaler to injury. As no 8 goal alternate is available, the Red Captain orders the 2 goal Red #1 to leave the game and wishes to substitute two 5 goal players. The team handicap remains 12 goals. The double substitution is permitted.

Team Red, an 8 goal team, loses their -1 goal rated player to injury. No alternate is available. Team Red may continue the game with 2 players even though their on-the-field handicap is now 9 goals. There is no handicap goal awarded to the Blue Team

Team Red enters an 8 goal tournament with a 7 goal team. Late in the game, Red's 4-goaler is injured and the only available alternate is a 5-goaler. Red can make the substitution, but will have to adjust the score, as they are now an 8 goal team

Team Blue, in a 6-9 goal tournament, loses its 5 goal player to injury. The only player available, who is not already on a team in the tournament, is a 1 goal player. The team is allowed the substitution, even though below the lower limit.

**3. PLAYERS AND ALTERNATES a(2)...INTERPRETATIONS:** The protective helmet that is required beginning on **January 1, 2021** by Rule 3.a for players in USPA Events and Club Events (i.e., a helmet certified to meet the NOCSAE ND050 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets) is recommended, but not required, for players and team organization members in all other mounted polo activities.

Any player found by the Umpire(s) to be in violation of Rule 3.a shall be removed immediately from the game by the Umpire(s). Play shall be resumed with a delay of game penalty on the removed player's team, the severity of which shall be determined by the Umpire(s) in his, her, or their discretion. The removed player may return to the game when he or she is in compliance with Rule 3.a, or a substitution may be made if the substitute is in compliance with the rule. All substitution rules shall apply.

If, within 24 hours after a game, the Umpire(s), a Referee, or the Host Tournament Committee is presented with conclusive physical evidence (including, but not limited to, photographic or video evidence) that a player has violated Rule 3.a during the game, and the violation was not detected during the game, the penalty is forfeiture. Unlike many other penalties which the Umpire(s) may elect not to exact, this penalty must be exacted.

The provision of Rule 3.a applying to "member[s] of a team organization" will be strictly enforced in all USPA Events. The first violation will result in a penalty being given to the team or teams violating the provision. Any subsequent violation will result in a penalty being given to the team violating the provision and a yellow **card** being given to the player who is playing the mount ridden by the team organization member responsible for that violation. If that player cannot be immediately identified, a yellow **card** will be given to that team's Captain.

## **RULE 4 - OFFICIALS**

### **a. Host Tournament Committee**

A Host Tournament Committee, as set forth in USPA Tournament Conditions Section VII, will conduct all USPA and Club Events. The Host Tournament Committee shall be responsible for all aspects of the event including scheduling, conducting the draw,

appointment of officials, providing all facilities and equipment needed by the officials to conduct the event, and resolution of all questions which arise at times other than when the Umpire is in charge. Any conflict between these Rules and Tournament Conditions Section VII concerning the responsibilities of the Host Tournament Committee for a USPA Event shall be resolved in favor of Tournament Conditions Section VII. **(Note: The considerations under these Rules that the Host Tournament Committee should address before an event commences are printed in blue ink. See Rule 1.d (exceptions or variances); Rule 4.a(3) (team eligibility); Rule 4.b(1) (number of Umpires); Rule 5.a (length and number of periods); Rule 5.c (manner of breaking a tie); Rules 6.d and 8.e (continuous play option); Alternative Rule 7 (out-of-bounds procedures); Rule 14.h(1) (b) (yellow card procedure); Rule 14.h(2)(a) (red card procedure); Rule 15.a(4) (high hook definition); Rule 17.d (handicap or flat).)**

(1) The Host Tournament Committee shall consist of three or more individuals who shall be clearly identified to all participants.

(2) The Host Tournament Committee may designate any individual to represent the Host Tournament Committee in communicating with the participants.

**(3) The Host Tournament Committee, or its representative, shall determine the eligibility of all players and teams.**

(4) The Host Tournament Committee may impose penalties, including Penalty 9, and may initiate disciplinary action in accordance with the Association's Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures, Part I of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy.

b. Umpire and Referee

**(1) Every game shall have two Umpires and a Referee or just one Umpire at the discretion of the Committee.** Throughout these Rules, "Umpire" shall refer to one or two, whichever are serving. The second Umpire may be mounted or serve from a vantage point on the side.

(2) The authority of the Umpire and/or Referee shall extend from the time each game is scheduled to start until its end and shall include the ability to file a Conduct Violation Complaint against a player whose conduct is not in the best interest of the sport in accordance with the Association's Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures, Part I of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy. For the purpose of this rule, the "end" of a game will occur approximately 15 minutes following the final whistle.

(3) The Umpire shall be responsible for enforcing the Rules and maintaining proper control over players and teams during the game.

(4) Subject to Rule 18, all decisions of the Umpire, or agreed decisions of two Umpires, shall be final.

(a) In the event two Umpires are serving and they disagree, the Referee shall decide which Umpire's opinion is to prevail or call offsetting penalties, if confirming fouls called on both teams. The Referee's decision is to be final.

(b) The Officials are encouraged to discuss among themselves any aspect of the game; however, only the Umpire(s) can award a Penalty.

(5) Should any incident or question not provided for in these Rules arise during a game, such incident or question shall be decided by the Umpire or the Umpires and Referee.

(6) The authority of the Umpire is absolute and the Umpire’s decisions must be respected and complied with. The Umpire has the authority to impose any penalty as set down in Rule 9.

(7) Mounted Umpires shall appear in proper uniform and wearing a protective helmet of the same kind and in the same manner as is required of players by Rule 3a(2).

c. Timekeeper

(1) A Timekeeper shall be appointed by the Committee whose responsibility it shall be to keep track of time elapsed during and between periods of the game.

(2) The Timekeeper shall signal the expiration of time to the Officials. In all cases, time expires at the sound of the horn and the Umpire’s whistle confirms the end of a period.

(3) The authority of the Timekeeper shall be subordinate to that of the Umpire.

d. Scorekeeper

(1) A Scorekeeper shall be appointed by the Committee whose responsibility it shall be to keep track of goals scored, including goals by handicap or penalty, and fouls committed by both teams and to advise the Umpire of both.

(2) The Scorekeeper shall fill out any forms or score sheets required by the Association following the game or event.

(3) The authority of the Scorekeeper shall be subordinate to that of the Umpire.

e. Goal Judges

(1) Goal Judges may be appointed who shall give testimony to the Umpire at the latter’s request as to goals scored or other points of the game near the goal.

(2) The authority of the Goal Judge shall be subordinate to that of the Umpire.

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**4. OFFICIALS b.(4)(b)...INTERPRETATION:** Although Officials can, and should, discuss aspects of the game, these conversations should be held between periods. Only questions of immediate importance should be discussed during play and those conversations kept brief.

**RULE 5 - LENGTH AND NUMBER OF PERIODS**

a. A regulation game shall be four periods of 7-1/2 minutes with intervals of 4 minutes after each period except the second period. There shall be a 10 minute interval after the second period. **Should the Committee so designate, an event may be played under one of the following options:**

(1) An event may be played with “split periods” as follows:

(a) At the first play stoppage, including a goal, following the expiration of 3 1/2 minutes in any period, the timer shall sound a horn.

(b) During this stoppage, not more than 2 minutes will be allowed for players to change mounts.

(2) An event may be played with six periods of 5 minutes with intervals of 4 minutes after each period except the third period. There shall be a 10 minute interval after the third period.

b. The timer shall sound a horn to signal the end of the period.

(1) Play shall continue in all periods except overtime periods until ended by the final horn.

(2) Play shall stop at the sound of the timer's horn and the ball shall be dead at that instant. The Umpire shall confirm the end of the period by sounding the whistle.

(3) In an arena without a visible clock, it is recommended that a 30-second warning be sounded.

c. In the event of a tie at the end of the last regular period, a winner shall be produced under one of the following options as designated by the Committee prior to the commencement of the event:

(1) The game shall continue, after a 10 minute interval, with additional periods, as required, the team first scoring to be declared the winner.

(2) A "shootout" procedure, after a 4-minute interval, conducted as follows:

(i) The Umpire(s) will determine which goal to use. One Umpire will set up each ball, the other Umpire to serve as goal judge.

(ii) For the purpose of player substitution, the "shootout" shall be considered an additional period of the game.

(iii) The mounts in the shootout shall be those used in the final regular period unless replaced due to injury.

(iv) During a shootout, all mounts not being used shall be immediately excluded from the arena. Players may switch horses with members of their own team before or between turns only (not between approaches) as frequently as they choose so long as they do so within the 4-minute time limit set forth in Rule 5.c(2) above or within the 2-minute time limits set forth in Rules 5.c(2)(v) and 5.c(2)(ix) below, as applicable.

(v) Each player, in turn, will attempt a free hit from the 25 yard line at an undefended goal after the Umpire who sets up the ball calls "Play." A player must hit or hit at the ball on the first or second approach. After each player hits or hits at the ball, the Umpire who sets up the ball will measure an interval of up to 2 minutes and call "Play." Each player must promptly hit or hit at the ball within a reasonable time period after the Umpire calls "Play" or the Umpire(s) will declare that player's turn forfeited.

(vi) All players not hitting to be behind, and not closer than 10 yards from the ball.

(vii) The team to hit first shall be decided by lot.

(viii) Each shootout goal to score 1 point. After all players have hit, the team with more points will be declared the game winner by one goal.

(ix) Should a tie remain after all players have hit, following a 2-minute interval, all players will hit again, the team which hit first, now hitting last, until a winner is produced.

- d. When the Umpire sounds the whistle and stops play during a period for any cause provided in these rules, the clock shall be stopped, and the elapsed time shall not be deducted from the length of the period.
- e. When a goal is scored, the Umpire shall signal by raising an arm and time shall not be taken out.
- f. All penalties shall be exacted in the period in which they are awarded. If less than 5 seconds remain in the period, the clock shall be reset to 5 seconds prior to the free hit **or bowl-in in the case of a Penalty 1**. A penalty awarded between periods of a game will be executed at the start of the following period.

**5.f. ...INTERPRETATION: The bowl-in on resumption of play is an integral part of Penalty 1. A minimum of 5 seconds should be on the clock when the ball is bowled in.**

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#### **RULE 5A- ROUND ROBINS**

**Round Robins are not desirable as a tournament format. However, if an event has only three teams entered and time constraints, weather, or other adverse conditions prevent an alternate format, a Round Robin may be used as a single event to be played in one day.**

- a. **A Round Robin shall consist of three games of two periods each.**
- b. **Each team shall play in two games, playing each other team one game. The two teams to play in the first game shall be decided by lot. Should the first game result in tie, the team that plays the second game shall be decided by lot. The second game shall be between the loser of the first game and the team idled in the first game. The third game shall be between the team idled in the first game and the team idled in the second game.**
- c. **The winner of the Round Robin shall be the team with the best won-lost record, if there is such a team. In determining the best won-lost record, a win will count as 2 points, a tie will count as 1 point, and a loss will count as 0 points. In the event of a won/lost tie at the end of the Round Robin, the order of finish shall be determined based on net goals in both games played, if conclusive; or gross goals in both games played if net goals is inconclusive; or if both net goals and gross goals are inconclusive, the “shoot out” procedure set forth in USPA Arena Rule 5.c(2), except that only one player from each of the tied teams shall participate.**

#### **RULE 6 - SCORING**

- a. The team which scores more points shall win the game.
- (1) Goals awarded by handicap shall count as one point goals scored.
  - (2) A ball hit from beyond the 25 yard line which scores directly or off the wall but not off the roof structure and without being touched by any mout or any player other than one original hit by the striker, shall count two points unless it is hit by the striker into the goal his or her team is defending, in which case it shall count only one point for the other team.
  - (3) Goals awarded according to the conditions of Penalty 1 shall be counted:

(a) As two point goals scored if the hit met the criteria of Rule 6. a(2) above but did not score solely due to a defensive foul.

(b) As one point goals scored if the criteria of Rule 6. a(2) are not met.

(4) All other goals count one point.

b. In order to score a goal, the ball must pass between the goal posts, through the plane of the mouth of the goal, and beneath the top of the goal. If required, the Committee may state “house rules” for goal construction as permitted under Rule 1.c.

c. Where play is stopped in the belief that a goal has been scored, and it is subsequently ruled that no goal has been scored, play shall be resumed by a bowl-in at the 15-yard mark with the near goal to the Umpire’s right. In the event that the Officials cannot determine whether or not a goal has been scored, or whether or not it was a 2 point goal, the benefit of doubt shall be to the defending team.

d. Following a scored goal, at the option of the Committee, play is resumed by either:

(1) A bowl-in at the center of the arena; or

(2) A “free hit” by the team against which the goal was scored.

e. If a goal is scored at approximately the same time the whistle sounds:

(1) The goal shall be counted if the foul was called on the defending team regardless of whether or not the foul is confirmed.

(2) The goal shall not be counted, and the game resumed by the appropriate penalty hit, if a foul is confirmed against the attacking team.

(3) The goal shall be counted and play resumed with a bowl-in at the center of the arena if the whistle sounded for any other reason.

**6. SCORING a.(3)...INTERPRETATION:** The criteria for one vs. two points are: a) that the foul meets the criteria of Penalty 1; and, b) that had the foul not occurred, a two point goal would have scored.

**6. SCORING a.(2)...EXAMPLES:** Blue hits to goal from beyond the 25 yard line. Red makes a goal mouth save, but fouls. Penalty 1, the goal was prevented by the foul, two points awarded because the ball was hit from beyond the 25 yard line, and bowl in at the 15.

Blue hits from beyond the 25 yard line. Red, defending, backs the ball but fouls about 15 yards from goal. This foul does not qualify as a Penalty 1 because it is not “in the vicinity” of the goal and there is no certainty that it would, in fact, have scored. The Umpire may, however, award an open goal penalty due to the likelihood that the hit may have scored.

**6. SCORING b...INTERPRETATION:** Although a goal line may be used to assist the goal judge, the criteria for scoring a goal is that the ball must pass completely through the plane of the goal mouth. The front edge of the goal line (if used) should be at the plane of the goal mouth and the back edge of the goal line in the goal.

Whether or not a goal is scored at “approximately” the time of the whistle is the Umpire’s judgment and does not necessarily mean the goal must precede the whistle. To count as a goal, the ball should have been unstoppable by a defender had the whistle not sounded.



**6. SCORING b...EXAMPLES:** The following examples assume a recessed goal or goal box as outlined in Rule 1 a.2.

The ball trickles into goal mouth and comes to rest on the chalk goal line but the entire ball is in the goal box. Goal - the entire ball has passed through the plane of the goal mouth.

The ball comes to rest on the chalk line but part of the ball is still on the playing surface. No goal - the entire ball did not pass through the plane of the goal mouth.

The ball hits high on the edge of the goal box and rebounds into the arena. No goal the entire ball did not pass through the plane of the goal mouth.

The ball hits high on the side of the goal box and rebounds into the goal. Goal - the entire ball did pass through the plane of the goal mouth.

The ball hits the top piece of the goal and bounces out or back into the arena. No goal - the entire ball did not pass through the plane of the goal mouth.

### **RULE 7 - DEAD BALL**

a. At any time the Umpire sounds the whistle, the ball is dead and no further play may be made by any player. Play is resumed by a free hit or a bowl-in as specified elsewhere in these Rules. (*See Rules 8 and 9*).

b. The ball shall be declared dead and play resumed with a bowl-in toward the nearer sidewall at the point where the ball was considered dead, but not closer than 15 yards from the goal:

- (1) If the ball is broken or trodden into the ground so as to be unserviceable.
- (2) If the ball strikes the Umpire or Umpire's mount so as to affect the flow of play.
- (3) If the ball becomes lodged against a player, mount, or equipment and cannot be dropped immediately.
- (4) If the ball becomes involved in a melee such that neither team can properly make a play.
- (5) If the ball is driven outside or leaves the arena, **or hits the roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure**, whether or not it bounces back into the playing area.
- (6) If a foul is called and overruled and no goal is scored

c. A dead ball shall be put back in play with a bowl-in as specified in Rule 8.c.

### **ALTERNATIVE RULE 7 – DEAD BALL**

*(At the election of the Host Tournament Committee, to be communicated to the teams before the Event begins, this Alternative Rule may be used instead of Arena Rule 7.)*

a. At any time the Umpire sounds the whistle, the ball is dead and no further play may be made by any player. Play is resumed by a free hit or a bowl-in as specified below and elsewhere in these Rules. (*See Rules 8 and 9*).

b. The ball shall be declared dead and play resumed with a bowl-in toward the nearer sideboards at the point where the ball was considered dead, but not closer than 15 yards from the goal:

- (1) If the ball is broken or trodden into the ground so as to be unserviceable.

- (2) If the ball strikes the Umpire or Umpire's mount so as to affect the flow of play.
- (3) If the ball becomes lodged against a player, mount, or equipment and cannot be dropped immediately.
- (4) If the ball becomes involved in a melee such that neither team can properly make a play.
- (5) If a foul is called and overruled and no goal is scored.

c. A dead ball shall be put back in play with a bowl-in as specified in Rule 8.c.

d. When play is begun after the ball has been hit out over the side boards, netting, or end wall **or has hit the roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure:**

(1) If the ball is hit on a penalty shot over the end wall either directly or off the hitter's horse or a teammate or teammate's horse, or after glancing off the side boards or netting, **roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure**, the Umpire(s) shall blow the whistle and award the fouling team a free hit from no closer than 5 yards to the end wall as in Penalty 5.a. If the ball is hit on a penalty shot over the end wall after glancing off a member of the opposing team or his horse, the Umpire(s) shall blow the whistle and award the fouled team another penalty shot.

(2.) If, in the opinion of the Umpire(s), the ball **hits the roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure**, or is hit out across the side boards or netting at any time or over the end wall during live play either directly or off the hitter's horse or a teammate or teammate's horse, or after glancing off the side boards or netting, a free hit will be awarded to the team that did not hit the ball out.

(3) If, in the opinion of the Umpire(s), the ball **hits the roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure**, or is hit out across the side boards or netting at any time or over the end wall during live play after glancing off a member of the opposing team or his horse, a free hit will be awarded to the team that last hit the ball.

(4) In circumstances not governed by subparagraph (i) above, if the ball goes out of play over the end wall, side boards or netting, **or because it hits the roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure** between the center line and the goal being attacked by the team awarded the free hit, the free hit will be taken as in a Penalty 5.b and all procedures applicable to a Penalty 5.b shall apply.

(5) In circumstances not governed by subparagraph (i) above, if the ball goes out of play over the end wall, side boards or netting, **or because it hits the roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure** between the center line and the goal being defended by the team awarded the free hit, the free hit will be taken 5 yards from the side boards where the ball went out of play as in a Penalty 5.a and all procedures applicable to a Penalty 5.a shall apply.

(6) In all circumstances, if the ball goes out of play over the end wall, side boards or netting, **or because it hits the roof structure or anything suspended from the roof structure** after glancing off an Umpire or his horse, or if the Umpire is unable to determine what caused the ball to go out of play, play shall resume with a throw-in toward the side boards or netting at the point where the ball went out of play, but not closer than 15 yards to either goal.

(7) In each of the situations described in (2) through (5) above, the Umpire shall blow the whistle when the ball goes out of play and place a ball in the appropriate location (either a point not more than one foot beyond the mid-point of the center line for (4) or 5 yards inside the side boards or side line for (5)), call “Play,” and a member of the team awarded possession shall have 5 seconds to play the ball, either by tapping or hitting away.

## **RULE 8 - COMMENCEMENT AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY**

- a. The teams shall decide by lot which goal each shall defend initially. Thereafter, goals shall be changed at the beginning of each period including any extra period.
- b. The game begins with both teams positioning themselves, at the time designated by the Committee, for a center line bowl-in. Subsequent periods may begin with a center line bowl-in or Penalty hit as directed by the Umpire.
- c. When play is begun with a bowl-in:
  - (1) The Umpire shall indicate the “center line” of the bowl-in.
    - (a) At the arena center, this line will be marked on the floor.
    - (b) At all other points, the “center line” will extend from the Umpire’s hand perpendicular to the wall.
  - (2) Each team shall be positioned on the same side of the center line, as the goal each is to defend.
  - (3) Each player shall be at least 3 yards from the Umpire and shall not be moving toward the Umpire.
  - (4) There shall be no contact between players until the ball leaves the Umpire’s hand.
  - (5) The Umpire shall bowl-in the ball, underhand and hard, along the center line.
  - (6) The direction of any bowl-in shall be from the center of the arena to the nearer wall, but not closer than 15 yards to either goal.
  - (7) If the Umpire(s) inadvertently permit all players on both teams to line up the wrong way, the responsibility rests with the Umpire(s), and there is no redress. The teams must play on until a goal is scored or the period ends and any goal scored that is consistent with the “wrong-way line-up” counts for the team that scored it.
- d. When play is begun with a Penalty hit, the procedures outlined in Rule 9 shall apply. If the Umpire(s) inadvertently permit all players on both teams to line up the wrong way on a Penalty hit, the responsibility rests with the Umpire(s), and there is no redress. The teams must play on until a goal is scored or the period ends and any goal scored that is consistent with the “wrong-way line-up” counts for the team that scored it.
- e. **Play may be started after a goal with a free hit by the team against which a goal has been scored, rather than a bowl-in at the center of the arena (said option to be chosen and announced before the Event by the Host Tournament Committee).** When play is begun with a free hit by the team against which a goal was scored:
  - (1) The ball must be put in play at once, although the hitter is permitted to move the ball from a divot or the goal mouth to present a fair lie.
  - (2) The defending team must position at least one player between the hitter and

their goal when the ball is hit or hit at.

(3) No defender may be within 5 yards of the ball when it is hit or hit at.

(4) Should the defending team not position itself properly, a Penalty 5.b shall be awarded.

(5) Should the hitting team not put the ball in play promptly, the Umpire shall stop play and execute a bowl in at that team's 15 yard line.

f. The timer shall start the clock, if stopped, the moment the ball leaves the Umpire's hand for a bowl-in, or when the ball is hit or hit at, as in Rule 9.

## RULE 9 - PENALTIES

**a. SPECIFIC PENALTIES:** A violation of these Rules may be penalized by the Umpire in accordance with its severity, its location, or its effect on the game, by awarding to the offended team one of the following penalties:

### Penalty 1.

The team fouled shall be awarded a goal. On resumption of play, the Umpire shall bowl the ball in toward the sideboards at a point 15 yards in front of the center of the goal defended by the fouling team. The fouling team's goal shall be to the Umpire's right.

### Penalty 2.

A free hit at the ball by the team fouled from a spot 15 yards in front of the center of the goal, all players to be behind the point from where the free hit is made until the ball is hit or hit at, except one designated member of the fouling team, who shall be placed along the end wall to the left or right of the goal, no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge or the corner of the arena, if the corner is less than 10 yards from the edge of the goal. No opponent shall be within 5 yards of the player making the hit. If the ball is hit wide of the goal and the rebound is within 25 yards of the end wall, only the fouling team may play the ball, but it must do so immediately, and no member of the fouled team shall affect that play. As used in the prior sentence, the word "immediately" means within 5 seconds of the rebound, and the phrase "affect that play" describes conduct that includes but is not limited to being within a 5-yard radius of the designated player's play on the rebound. If a member of the fouled team affects that play, the Umpire(s) may award a center hit or more severe penalty. If the fouling team does not play the ball immediately, the Umpire shall stop play and another free hit shall be granted the team fouled as called for in the original Penalty 2. If the penalty shot rebounds off the wall and travels farther than the 25-yard line, the ball becomes live for both teams and all Right of Way rules apply. **If the ball is hit directly out of play on the penalty shot, the Umpire shall award the fouling team a free hit from no closer than 5 yards to the end wall as in Penalty 5.a.** If the goal is scored directly from the mallet of the hitter it shall count as one point. Play shall continue, in the event no goal is scored on the free hit.

**Penalty 3.**

A free hit at the ball by the team fouled from a spot 25 yards in front of the center of the goal, all players to be behind the point from where the free hit is made until the ball is hit or hit at, except one designated member of the fouling team, who shall be placed along the end wall to the left or right of the goal, no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge or the corner of the arena, if the corner is less than 10 yards from the edge of the goal. No opponent shall be within 5 yards of the player making the hit. If the ball is hit wide of the goal and the rebound is within 25 yards of the end wall, only the fouling team may play the ball, but it must do so immediately, and no member of the fouled team shall affect that play. As used in the prior sentence, the word “immediately” means within 5 seconds of the rebound, and the phrase “affect that play” describes conduct that includes but is not limited to being within a 5-yard radius of the fouling team’s play on the rebound. If a member of the fouled team affects that play, the Umpire(s) may award a center hit or more severe penalty. If the fouling team does not play the ball immediately, the Umpire shall stop play and another free hit shall be granted the team fouled as called for in the original Penalty 3. If the penalty shot rebounds off the wall and travels farther than the 25 yard line, the ball becomes live for both teams and all Right of Way rules apply. **If the ball is hit directly out of play on the penalty shot, the Umpire shall award the fouling team a free hit from no closer than 5 yards to the end wall as in Penalty 5.a.** If the goal is scored directly from the mallet of the hitter it shall count as one point. Play shall continue in the event no goal is scored on the free hit.

**Penalty 4.**

A free hit at the ball by the team fouled from a spot 25 yards in front of the center of the goal, all players to be behind the point from where the free hit is made until the ball is hit or hit at, except one designated member of the fouling team, who may be placed within a 5 yard arc of the goal. No opponent shall be within 5 yards of the player making the hit. If the defender in goal blocks the ball with his mallet, body or horse, **or plays a rolling ball**, the ball becomes live for both teams and all Right of Way rules apply. If the ball is hit wide of the goal and the rebound is within 25 yards of the end wall, only the fouling team may play the ball, but it must do so immediately, and no member of the fouled team shall affect that play. As used in the prior sentence(s), the word “immediately” means within 5 seconds of the rebound, and the phrase “affect that play” describes conduct that includes but is not limited to being within a 5-yard radius of the fouling team’s play on the rebound. If a member of the fouled team affects that play, the Umpire(s) may award a center hit or more severe penalty. If the fouling team does not play the ball immediately, the Umpire shall stop play and another free hit shall be granted the team fouled as called for in the original Penalty 4. If the penalty shot rebounds off the wall and travels farther than the 25-yard line, the ball becomes live for both teams and all Right of Way rules apply. If the goal is scored, whether directly or

off the wall, or after contact with the defender's mallet, body, or mount, it shall count as one point. **If the ball is hit directly out of play on the penalty shot, the Umpire shall award the fouling team a free hit from no closer than 5 yards to the end wall as in Penalty 5.a.** Play shall continue in the event that no goal is scored on the free hit.

### Penalty 5.

At the discretion of the Umpire, a free hit at the ball by the team fouled from:

a. The point of infraction, if 25 yards or more from the goal that the fouled team is attacking. Both teams shall position themselves anywhere in the arena except that no member of the fouling team shall be within five (5) yards of the ball when the Umpire calls "PLAY" and the ball is hit or hit at. No player may line up in the Right of Way unless at a minimum of 16 yards from the ball. Should the point of infraction be less than five (5) yards from the wall, the ball shall be hit or hit at from the nearest spot in the arena which is five yards (5) from the wall. Play shall continue in the event that no goal is scored on the free hit.

**If the ball is hit directly out of play on the penalty shot, the Umpire shall award the fouling team a free hit from no closer than 5 yards to the end wall as in Penalty 5.a.** If the goal is scored directly or off the wall but not off the roof structure, or after contact with the defender's mallet, body, or mount, it shall count as two points.

b. A point not more than one foot beyond the mid-point of the center line of the arena; both teams to position themselves anywhere in the arena except that no member of the fouling team shall be within 5 yards of the ball when the Umpire calls "PLAY" and the ball is hit or hit at. No player may line up in the Right of Way unless at a minimum of 16 yards from the ball. Play shall continue if no goal is scored on the free hit. **If the ball is hit directly out of play on the penalty shot, the Umpire shall award the fouling team a free hit from no closer than 5 yards to the end wall as in Penalty 5.a.** If the goal is scored directly or off the wall but not off the roof structure, or after contact with the defender's mallet, body, or mount, it shall count as two points.

**Penalty 5.a...INTERPRETATION:** The Penalty 5.a from the point of the infraction should be awarded only for the minor incidents that occur no closer than 25 yards from the goal that the fouled team is attacking, and the ball must be placed no closer than 25 yards from that goal. The ball placement for a Penalty 5.a shall be not less than five yards from the wall.

**Penalty 5.a...EXAMPLE:** Blue #1 carries the ball towards his goal. As Blue #1 shoots on goal, he is hooked by Red #2, leaving the ball five feet from the goal mouth. Red #3 following the Line of the Ball with the ball on his nearside, rides to clear the ball from goal with a nearside back shot. Blue #2, attempting to make a shot on goal, approaches

the ball on his offside, but allows his mount to run over the top of the ball, prohibiting Red #3 from completing his back shot. The foul is on Blue #2. The Umpires award a Penalty 5.a against Blue and place the ball at the point of the infraction, but not less than five yards from the wall.

### Penalty 6.

- a. In the event of a failure to correctly carry out the above Penalties 2, 3, 4 or 5 by the fouling team, another free hit shall be granted the hitter at the same place originally called for in the penalty awarded, if a goal has not been scored. However, if, in the opinion of the Umpire, the original free hit would have resulted in a goal, but was missed or blocked because of failure of the fouling team to correctly carry out the Penalty, Penalty 1 shall be awarded the team making the free hit.
- b. In the case of failure to correctly carry out Penalties 2, 3, or 4 by the team fouled, a free hit from the original spot of the foul shot shall be granted to the fouling team. Any goal scored as a result of the original free hit shall not be counted.
- c. In the case of failure to correctly carry out Penalties 5.a or 5.b by the team fouled, the ball shall be bowled in at the spot of the intended foul shot. The direction of any bowl-in shall be from the center of the arena to the nearer wall, but not closer than 15 yards to either goal.
- d. In the case of a failure to correctly carry out Penalties 2, 3, 4 or 5 by both teams, another free hit shall be granted to the hitter from the same spot regardless of whether a goal was scored. Any goal scored as a result of the original free hit shall not be counted.

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### Penalty 7.

If a player is disabled by a foul to the extent the Umpire permits or orders the player's retirement from the game, the Captain of the team fouled may:

- a. Have the option of providing a qualified substitute.
- b. Designate the removal of a player from the fouling team whose handicap is nearest above that of the disabled player. If the disabled player's handicap is equal to or higher than that of any player on the fouling team, any member of that team may be designated. In the event of a handicap game, there shall be no change in the handicap from as it was at the commencement of the game.

### Penalty 8.

The player or mount shall be disqualified. If the disqualification is for illegal equipment **other than horseshoes**, the player or mount may return when the offending equipment is removed. **(Note: the penalty for a violation of Rule 2.e is forfeiture.)**

**Penalty 9.**

The game shall be forfeited. In the event both teams commit a rule violation in the same game invoking Penalty 9, both teams shall forfeit the game regardless of which violation occurred first.

**b. EXECUTION OF PENALTIES:**

(1) On Penalties 2, 3, 4 and 5, one player may, with the Umpire's permission, position the ball for the free hit.

(2) The team fouled may hit or hit at the ball only once on Penalties 2, 3 and 4, and may not again affect the course of the ball until allowed to do so by the Penalty 2, 3 and 4 provisions above.

(a) On Penalties 2 and 3, no member of the fouling team may hit the ball until it rebounds off the end wall.

(b) Should the ball be hit at and missed, come to a stop or its course be altered by the hitting team before it touches the wall or an opposing mount or player, the Umpire shall stop play and award the opposing team a free hit from the point where play was stopped, but not less than 5 yards from the wall.

(3) In the event the hitter misses the ball completely, on a Penalty 5.a or 5.b, the ball remains in play and the Line of the Ball is defined in Rule 11.b.

(4) Once the Umpire has called "PLAY" any touching of the ball with the mallet constitutes the ball being "hit". A horse kicking the ball is not considered a hit at the ball unless the player has also hit or hit at the ball with the mallet.

(5) On Penalties 2, 3, 4 or 5, play shall begin and the clock started when the Umpire calls "PLAY" and the ball is hit or hit at. The hitter must hit or hit at the ball on the first or second approach after the call of "PLAY" or a Penalty 6.b may be awarded.

(6) On Penalties 2, 3, 4 or 5 there shall be no contact between any player and opponent until the ball is hit or hit at.

**9.b ...INTERPRETATION: When a Penalty 2, 3 or 4 is awarded and the ball is hit at and missed by the fouled team, or it comes to a stop or its course is altered by that team before it touches the end wall or an opposing mount or player, the subsequent award of a free hit to the other team is not a penalty. If less than 5 seconds remains on the clock when that free hit is to be taken, the clock should not be reset.**

**9.b(2)(a)...INTERPRETATION:** If the penalty shot on a Penalty 2 or 3 hits the designated member of the fouling team or his or her horse directly off the hitter's mallet, and the designated member is properly positioned (i.e., placed along the end wall no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge or the corner of the arena, if the corner is less than 10 yards from the edge of the goal), the rebounding ball will be treated as if it has rebounded off the wall as long as the designated member of the fouling team does not hit or hit at the ball or direct the course of the ball in violation of Rule 14.d when it hits him or her. If the penalty shot hits a designated member of the fouling team who is not properly positioned or hits a properly positioned designated member of the fouling team who hits or hits at



the ball or directs the course of the ball in violation of Rule 14.d when it hits him or her, another free hit shall be granted the team fouled as called for in the original penalty.

**9.b(2)(a)....EXAMPLES:** Blue is awarded a Penalty 3, and Blue No. 1 sets up to take the penalty shot. Red No. 3 is Red's designated defender. Red No. 3 is properly positioned because she is placed along the end wall to the right no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge. Blue No. 1 shanks the penalty shot wide to the right and the ball hits Red No. 3's arm on the fly, rebounding back toward the 15 yard line. The ball never hits the end wall. Because Red No. 3 did not attempt to hit or hit at the ball or direct the course of the ball in violation of Rule 14.d when it hit her, the rebounding ball is treated as if it has rebounded off the wall. If the rebound is within 25 yards of the end wall, only the fouling team may play the ball, but it must do so immediately, and no member of the fouled team shall affect that play.

Blue is awarded a Penalty 3, and Blue No. 1 sets up to take the penalty shot. Red No. 3 is Red's designated defender. Red No. 3 is not properly positioned because she is closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge. Blue No. 1 shanks the penalty shot wide to the right and the ball hits Red No. 3 or her horse on the fly, rebounding back toward the 15 yard line. The Umpires should stop play and grant the team fouled a re-hit because Red No. 3 was not properly positioned.

Blue is awarded a Penalty 3, and Blue No. 1 sets up to take the penalty shot. Red No. 3 is Red's designated defender. Red No. 3 is properly positioned because she is placed along the end wall to the right no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge. Blue No. 1 shanks the penalty shot wide to the right and the ball lofts toward Red No. 3, who hits it forward out of the air before it hits the end wall. The Umpires should stop play and grant the team fouled a re-hit because Red No. 3 hit the ball before it rebounded from the end wall in violation of Arena Tournament Condition for Rule 9.b(2)(a).

Blue is awarded a Penalty 3, and Blue No. 1 sets up to take the penalty shot. Red No. 3 is Red's designated defender. Red No. 3 is properly positioned because she is placed along the end wall to the right no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge. Blue No. 1 shanks the penalty shot wide to the right and the ball lofts toward Red No. 3, who unsuccessfully hits at it out of the air before it hits the end wall. The Umpires should stop play and grant the team fouled a re-hit. (*See Interpretation above.*)

Blue is awarded a Penalty 3, and Blue No. 1 sets up to take the penalty shot. Red No. 3 is Red's designated defender. Red No. 3 is properly positioned because she is placed along the end wall to the right no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge. Blue No. 1 shanks the penalty shot wide to the right and the ball lofts toward Red No. 3, who knocks it out of the air with a "header" using her helmet. The Umpires should stop play and grant the team fouled a re-hit because Red No. 3 directed the course of the ball in violation of Rule 14.d.

Blue is awarded a Penalty 3, and Blue No. 1 sets up to take the penalty shot. Red No. 3 is Red's designated defender. Red No. 3 is properly positioned because she is placed along the end wall to the right no closer to the goal than 10 yards from its edge. Blue No. 1 shanks the penalty shot wide to the right and the ball hits Red No. 3's horse on the fly, rebounding directly into the goal. The goal counts for Blue; bad luck for Red.

**9.b(5)....INTERPRETATION:** The hitter of the foul shot is considered to be approaching the ball when advancing forward toward the ball.

**9.b(4) and (5)....EXAMPLES:** A Penalty 2 is awarded to the Red Team. As Red #1 approaches, his horse becomes skittish. Red #1 does not hit or hit at the ball, but his horse runs over the top of the ball kicking it several yards towards the goal. The Umpires shall stop play, place the ball on the 15-yard line, and allow the Red Team a second approach.

A Penalty 2 is awarded to the Red Team. Red #1 does not hit or hit at the ball on his first approach. As Red #1 makes his second approach, his horse becomes skittish. Red #1 does not hit or hit at the ball, but his horse runs over the top of the ball kicking it several yards towards the goal. The Red Team has had its two approaches. The Umpires shall stop play and award the other team a Penalty 5.a.

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## **RULE 10 - CALLING OF FOULS AND SELECTION OF PENALTY**

a. The Umpire may declare any violation of the Rules of Play a foul when seen, or when not seen, upon satisfactory evidence to the Umpire.

(1) When a foul is called, the Umpire shall stop play by sounding the whistle and announce the foul and penalty.

(2) Should a foul be called when play has already been stopped, the Umpire shall so indicate by again sounding the whistle and/or by **displaying** a yellow or red **card** and announcing the foul and penalty.

(a) A “dead ball” foul may be penalized by offsetting an announced foul, or increasing or decreasing the severity of an announced foul.

(b) A “dead ball” foul may be called at any time play is stopped including following a goal or between periods of the game.

b. There are degrees of dangerous and unfair play. Where any penalty is prescribed, the selection is at the discretion of the Umpire. Among the considerations:

(1) Degree of danger or unfair advantage.

(2) Location of the violation.

(3) Position of players on the field.

(4) Frequency of similar violation.

(5) Location of the ball.

c. More than one penalty may be exacted by the Umpire where appropriate, whether or not multiple fouls are committed.

d. If both teams commit a foul at approximately the same time, no free hit is taken and the ball is bowled-in at the point where play was stopped but not less than 15 yards from nearer goal.

e. The following penalties may be exacted for violation of specific Rules:

| <b>RULE<br/>VIOLATED:</b> | <b>PENALTY<br/>EXACTED:</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2.b, c, d, e, g, h        | 8                           |
| 2.f                       | 9                           |
| 3.a 2), 3)                | 8                           |
| 3.a. 5), 6)               | 9                           |
| 3.b, c, d                 | 9                           |
| 7.a                       | 2, 3, 4, 5, 7               |
| 12                        | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7            |
| 13                        | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7            |
| 14                        | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7            |
| 14.h                      | 2, 3, 4, 5                  |
| 15                        | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7            |
| 16                        | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7            |

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- (1) Penalty 1 shall be exacted for a foul in the vicinity of the goal to prevent the scoring of a goal.
- (2) At the discretion of the Umpire, either a Penalty 2 or a Penalty 3 shall be exacted for a foul by the defending team that occurs inside the 25 yard line closest to the goal it is defending but which does not qualify for a Penalty 1.
- (3) Penalty 5.a and 5.b are to be awarded for fouls that are:
  - (a) Without danger;
  - (b) Inadvertent, not deliberate;
  - (c) Minor advantage or disadvantage to either team.

**RULE 11 - LINE OF THE BALL**

- a. The Line of the Ball (hereafter referred to as “Line”) is the line of its course or that line produced forward or backward at any moment.
- b. When the ball is put into play by a free hit:
  - (1) A Line is created from the ball to the center of the goal when the Umpire calls “PLAY”.
  - (2) If the ball is hit at and missed, the Line remains to the center of the goal until changed.
  - (3) Once hit, the Line assumes the direction of the hit, forward and backward from the ball.
- c. When the ball is put into play by a bowl-in, a Line is created at the instant the ball leaves the Umpire’s hand.
- d. Should the ball become stationary while still in play, the Line remains the last Line traveled before the ball became stationary except as provided in Rule 11.b.
- e. At any time the ball changes direction, from whatever cause, a new Line is immediately established and a new Right of Way (Rule 12) as determined by the new Line may be created.

**11. LINE OF THE BALL...INTERPRETATION:** The Line of the Ball exists at all times, even though the ball has not been hit by any player. Players positioning themselves for the commencement of play must respect this anticipated Line and the Right of Way determined by it.

**11. LINE OF THE BALL...EXAMPLES:** Red #3, defending a 25 yard Penalty 4 places herself broadside in the goal mouth and is across the Line when the Umpire calls “Play” and Blue #3 hits the ball. Red must make her play quickly, but if she does so, no foul has occurred.

Blue #2 defends a Penalty 5 by placing his mount 5 yards directly in front of the hitter and blocking the path to goal. This is not a safe distance and Blue fouls.

Red #3, hitting a defended Penalty 5 sees his opponent across the projected Line. Rather than canter to the ball, Red rides at a gallop, misses the ball, and collides with the Blue defender. Double foul: Blue for blocking the Right of Way and Red for dangerous riding.

Blue positions to meet Red’s Penalty 5 with the Line from ball to goal mouth on his off side. The ball, when hit, is a little to Red’s right and the new Line catches Blue on the Right of Way. Red must give Blue the chance to clear and Blue may not make a play. If the ball rebounds off Blue, new Line and new Right of Way.

As the Umpire bowls in, Red #2 turns his mount to block the ball. Blue #3 rides forward to meet the ball and runs into Red #2. Foul Red #2 - Line of the Ball is from Umpire’s hand through the line-up.

## **RULE 12 - RIGHT OF WAY**

- a. At each moment of the game there shall exist as between any two or more players in the proximity of the ball a Right of Way, which gives to the player entitled to it the right to proceed in the direction in which the player is riding.
- b. No player may enter, cross or obstruct the Right of Way of the player entitled to it unless at such a distance that no risk of collision or danger to either player is involved.
- c. When the Line of the Ball changes, and, as a result, the Right of Way changes, a player must be granted the necessary time to clear the new Right of Way. A player clearing the Right of Way may make no offensive or defensive play in doing so.
- d. Subject to Rule 12.g, no player may have the ball other than on the offside or the offside of the player’s course, if in so doing an opponent is endangered who could have safely attempted a play had the original player kept the ball on the offside, or the offside of that player’s course. This subsection takes precedence over 12.e and 12.f below.
- e. Subject to Rule 12.g, each of two players, when one is following and the other meeting the ball, must ride with the Line of the Ball on the offside until they have passed. (Note: A player who cannot be placed with the Line on the offside, or maintain the Line on the offside until the opponent has safely passed, without dangerously crossing the oncoming opponent who already has the Line of the Ball on the offside has no play at all.)
- f. As between two players when both are following or both are meeting the ball:

- (1) The player riding parallel to or at the lesser angle to the Line of the Ball has the Right of Way over the player riding at the greater angle to the Line of the Ball.
  - (2) In the case of two players on opposite sides of the Line of the Ball at equal angles to the Line of the Ball, both players have a Right of Way up to the Line of the Ball or until the angle of one becomes less than the angle of the other.
  - (3) A player waiting on the projected line for the ball must yield the Right of Way to a player following the course the ball has already traveled.
  - (4) A player riding at safe speed and distance ahead of the player carrying the ball shall assume the Right of Way if the ball is hit up and passes the lead player's stirrup. However, the player may not slow down or stop in another player's Right of Way in order to allow the ball to pass his stirrup.
- g. Subject to Rule 12.i, when playing the ball along the side or end wall, if the distance of the ball from the wall does not permit an offside play, a player who is both at the least angle to the Line of the Ball and following the direction of the Ball shall have the Right of Way even though playing the ball on the near side.
- h. Subject to Rule 12.i, the player with the Right of Way may play the ball at any speed and any player approaching from the rear must go around.
- (1) A player may not check suddenly so as to cause a following player to collide.
  - (2) A player carrying the ball along the boards has a further obligation to maintain pace.
- i. Two opponents riding together on, or at an angle to, the Line have the Right of Way over a single player riding at an equal or greater angle to the Line regardless of whether the opponents are meeting or following the direction of travel of the ball.

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**12. RIGHT OF WAY c...INTERPRETATION:** When the line and Right of Way change, for whatever reason, a player obstructing the new Right of Way must be given a chance to move off that Right of Way. An opponent who picks up the new Right of Way before it can be cleared and creates a dangerous situation has committed a foul. The obstructing player may not play the ball or the opponent and must select the route which most effectively clears the Right of Way. The obstructing player must simply get out of the way. The opponent must permit safe passage. A player who changes the Line of the Ball in front of an opponent may not assume the Right of Way except at such distance as does not create a risk of collision or danger to either player or opponent.

**12. RIGHT OF WAY c...EXAMPLES:** Blue executes a flip shot to the right creating a new line, checks, turns and prepares to follow the new line. Red, following, is unable to check and turn so follows the old line until clear of the play. Blue must hold up to let Red clear. Red must ride through to avoid fouling. Red fouls if he makes a play on the ball.

Blue hits the ball forward. The ball lands on a divot and bounces to the side. Red, previously out of the play, may now meet the ball fairly and assume the Right of Way. Blue can check and turn to remain safely out of Red's new path, but elects to ride through so as to be better positioned to defend Red's run down the arena. Foul on Blue for not taking the most immediate exit from the old Right of Way.

Blue flips the ball to the side under Red's mount. Red, trapped on the new Right of Way spurs his mount to clear the way. As he rides clear, his mount kicks the ball spoiling the follow up play for Blue. No foul. The kicked ball is a bad break for Blue, but is treated as just another line change. Red was not "making a play" when the ball was kicked.

A new line catches Red on the Right of Way. Red moves properly to clear the Right of Way and in moving off, his mount kicks the ball creating another line change and placing Red safely on a new Right of Way. Red may play the ball. The new line creates a new Right of Way and a new situation.

A quick line change traps Blue on the Right of Way. Blue checks and pulls off to the right clearing the way for Red who has held up to avoid a collision. As Red moves on the new, and now clear Right of Way, Blue executes a nearside hook and then plays the ball. Foul on Blue. Blue was given time to clear and may not take advantage of that privilege.

Blue holds up to permit Red to clear a new line. Red clears properly, but Red's teammate uses the opportunity to ride up and hook Blue. No foul, just the breaks of the game.

Blue holds up so Red #2 can clear a new line. Red clears slowly to give his teammate time to ride up and hook. Foul Red #2. This is "making a play."

**12. RIGHT OF WAY h...INTERPRETATION:** The player with the Right of Way may not create risk by checking suddenly. Along the wall, this obligation is greater, due to the close quarters.

**12. RIGHT OF WAY i...INTERPRETATION:** Two opponents are considered to be "riding together" when their concentration is on each other and not on another player riding from another direction. The two MUST be at an equal or lesser angle to the Line of the Ball to have the Right of Way.

**12. RIGHT OF WAY i...EXAMPLES:** Blue #2 carries the ball and Red #3 rides with her attempting a nearside hook. Blue #1 meets the play with the Line of the Ball on her right. Foul Blue #1. Even though Red #3 was on the nearside, she was engaged with Blue #2 and the two players on the Line of the Ball have the Right of Way.

Blue #1 dribbles the ball. Red #3 waits on the nearside for Blue to reach him and the two ride together on the Line of the Ball. Blue #2 sees that his teammate is in trouble and rides to meet intending to force Red #3 out of the play. Foul Blue #2. Red #3 and Blue #1 had engaged, were making a play against each other, and were concentrating on each other prior to Blue #2 entering the play.

As Red #1 follows the Line of the Ball down the arena, Blue #2 and Red #3 ride at an angle from Red #1's right. Red #1 has the Right of Way as he is at a lesser angle to the Line of the Ball than the two opponents.

## **RULE 13 - DANGEROUS RIDING**

- a. Careless or dangerous riding or lack of consideration for the safety of any player or mount, regardless of team, or right of way, is a foul.

- b. The following are examples of riding prohibited under this rule:
- (1) Riding off at an angle or speed dangerous to a player or to a mount. Factors to be considered in judging a dangerous speed or angle include:
    - (a) Relative speeds of the two mounts. It is very dangerous to ride off an opponent if you are not moving at approximately the same speed he is moving, whether it be fast or slow.
    - (b) Relative sizes of the two mounts.
    - (c) Relative positions of the two mounts. It is dangerous if either mount is more than a foot or two ahead of or behind the other.
    - (d) The angle at which the mounts converge. At high speeds, angles which might be safe at slower speeds become extremely dangerous.
    - (e) States of exhaustion of the mounts involved.
    - (f) Lack of readiness of an opponent for the ride off (blind siding).
  - (2) Running into or over the rear quarters of another mount.
    - (a) A player may ride from behind, between an opponent and the wall, if: i) the player's speed is reasonable relative to the opponent; ii) the player rides between the opponent and the wall, not into the legs of the opponent's mount; and, iii) the player executes a hook stopping the stroke of the opponent.
  - (3) Pulling up on or across the Right of Way of another player.
  - (4) Zigzagging in front of another player.
  - (5) Riding an opponent dangerously across the Right of Way of another player.
  - (6) Running the head of a horse into an opposing player.
  - (7) Riding an opponent's mount dangerously into the side or end walls.
  - (8) Two players of the same team riding-off an opponent at the same time whether or not it being on the Right of Way. However, it is not necessarily a foul for a player to hook or strike an opponent's mallet while the opponent is being ridden-off by a teammate of the player.
  - (9) Riding one's mount into the stroke of another player. For the purpose of this Rule, a "dribble", in which the mallet head is not raised above the mount's hock or knee, is not considered a "stroke".

**13. DANGEROUS RIDING b.(9)...INTERPRETATION:** A "stroke is defined as the mallet head in motion toward the ball. A "dribble", where the mallet head is kept below the level of the mount's hock or knee, is not considered a "stroke". The wind-up is not part of the "stroke".

**EXAMPLES:** Red #3, closely followed by Blue #2, turns the ball to the right. Blue checks, turns inside Red, and as Red dribbles around the turn, Blue executes a firm, but fair, shoulder-to-shoulder ride-off and comes up with the ball. No foul.

Blue #3, with the ball in front, leans forward and dribbles the ball down the arena. Red #2 reaches under his mount's neck to hook and puts the mount's head in Blue's lap. Foul Red for a dangerous ride-off, but not for riding into the dribble.

Blue #2 carries the ball. Red #3 rides from Blue's right, at an angle, and reaches under

his mount's neck to successfully hook Blue's stick. As Red completes the hook, his horse travels over the ball, makes solid, shoulder-to-shoulder contact with Blue's horse, rides Blue off, and permits Red to execute an offside tail shot. No foul. The hook was fair; and, once hooked, Blue was no longer swinging at the ball when Red's horse crossed the line of the ball and executed the legal ride-off.

As Blue #4, with the Right of Way, begins his back-swing for a forward shot, Red #1 bumps him on the mallet side. No foul - the mallet head was not in motion toward the ball.

## **RULE 14 - IMPROPER PLAY AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

a. Delay of Game: A player in possession of the ball, marked approximately 2 horse lengths or less by an opposing player, must keep moving. Should the player in possession of the ball either stop or reduce his speed to a walk or walking speed, the player (and or any member of the player's team) will have 5 seconds to either hit away or run with the ball. An infraction of this rule will result in a penalty against the team in possession of the ball. If the infraction occurs between the center line and goal being defended by the team in possession of the ball, a Penalty 4 should be awarded to the other team.

b. A player shall not strike the ball or interfere in the game when dismounted.

c. A player shall not seize with the hand, strike or push with the head, hand, arm or elbow, an opponent, but a player may push with the shoulder, provided the elbow is kept close to the side.

d. A player may not hold the ball in the hand, arm or lap; nor kick or hit at the ball with any part of the person in such a way as to direct its course. The ball, however, may be blocked with any part of the person or mount.

e. A player may not intentionally dismount while the ball is in play; but may request the Umpire(s) permission to do so at any time play is stopped under Rule 16.

f. Whip and spurs may not be used unnecessarily or excessively, such as:

- (1) Slash whipping - loud and repeated strokes.
- (2) Over whipping - in excess of three strokes or when mount is laboring.
- (3) Heavy whipping - following a missed play.

g. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including but not limited to the following, shall not be permitted:

- Appealing to the Umpires or Officials
- Unwelcome talking to the Umpire(s)
- Vulgar or abusive language
- Disrespectful attitude toward any official, player, coach, or spectator
- Arguing with Umpire(s) or other officials
- Inappropriate behavior by any member of a team organization
- Delay of game for a player or mount
- Unnecessary tack time out
- Swinging the mallet in a windmill or helicopter type fashion as in appealing for a foul
- Dangerous riding as described in Rule 13



- Improper use of the mallet as described in Rule 15
  - Rough or abusive play as described in these rules
  - Deliberately striking another player or a mount
  - Excessive violation of Rule 14.h (whipping rule).
  - Hitting the ball after the whistle or horn has sounded
  - Intentionally striking a ball during play in such a way that it may cause injury to a player, spectator or official, or damage property
- h. The Umpire will follow the procedure outlined below:
- (1) **Yellow Card:** The Umpire shall immediately award a yellow **card** to a player that demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct as described above.
- (a.) The player's first Yellow **card** (offense) in a game will result in a penalty and may increase or decrease an existing penalty's severity.
- (b.) A second offense will be a second yellow **card** and the player will sit out for either (i) the remainder of the period, or (ii) until the first play stoppage (including a goal) that occurs following the next two minutes of play (said option to be chosen and announced before the Event by the Host Tournament Committee), with no substitute at a location designated by the Umpire and/or the Host Tournament Committee.
- (2) **Red Card:**
- (a.) A player's third offense (red **card**) in a game will result in suspension for the remainder of the game with no substitute allowed for either (i) the remainder of the period, or (ii) until the first play stoppage (including a goal) that occurs following the next two minutes of play (said option to be chosen and announced before the Event by the Host Tournament Committee). At that time, a substitute will be allowed for the balance of the game and the player will remain suspended for the following game with a substitute allowed. All substitution rules apply. This penalty may be increased by the Host Tournament Committee and/or the Association. The Umpire(s), at their sole discretion, may award two yellow **cards** or a red **card** with imposed penalties as described above for a player's first offense.
- (b.) If a player demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct after the game ends, the Umpire(s) shall award a yellow **card** and the player will start his next game with a yellow **card**. This penalty may be increased by the Host Tournament Committee and/or the Association. If the player has no remaining games in the Event, the penalty will be carried over to the first game of the player's next Event of equal or higher handicap.

**14. STOPPING ON THE BALL a...INTERPRETATIONS:** The purpose of this rule is to keep the play moving. If the player stops or checks because an opponent has infringed or entered the right of way, a foul should be called against the opponent.

**14. IMPROPER PLAY g...INTERPRETATIONS:** Appealing for a foul may be by voice or action. A demeaning comment or gesture is an appeal. The raising of the mallet in an attempt to draw the Umpire's attention to a play is an appeal.

**14. IMPROPER PLAY h...INTERPRETATIONS:** Umpires are to take positive action to protect players and the sport from the perception of animal abuse.

The Umpires must award a Penalty, which not only penalizes the fouling side, but recognizes any advantage the fouled side lost when the play was stopped.

If a mount is deemed physically unfit, showing blood, exhaustion, distress, lameness, excessive sweating and/or labored breathing, the Umpires should remove the mount from the game and allow a maximum of 5 minutes for its replacement.

If any player abuses a mount, play should be stopped immediately and the appropriate penalty awarded.

A mount may return to the game later if its condition permits.

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#### **RULE 15 - USE OF THE MALLET**

- a. A player may hook or strike the mallet of an opponent with the mallet provided that:
  - (1) The opponent is in the act of striking at the ball, including both the upward and downward phases of the stroke; or
  - (2) The opponent is attempting to hook the hitter, in which case, the hitter may strike the opponent's mallet.
  - (3) The player is on the same side of the opponent as the ball or in a direct line behind.
  - (4) The hook is made below the level of the mount's back (except that at the option of the Host Tournament Committee in Events with a lower handicap limit of 12 or more goals, a player may hook or strike the mallet of an opponent with the mallet provided that the hooking player's mallet head is below the level of the shoulder of the player being hooked).
- b. A player may not reach over, under, in front of, or behind another's mount.
- c. A player may not strike another's mount with the mallet.
  - (1) If the striker began the down stroke while clear of the opponent's mount but struck the opponent's mount as a result of the distance between mounts being lessened during the course of the stroke, the foul would be called on the opponent who rode into what would have been a safe stroke had the original position been maintained.
  - (2) If the opponent's position relative to the striker is established before the stroke begins, the striker is guilty of hitting the opponent's mount.
- d. All players shall carry the mallet in the right hand with the exception of left-handers registered with the Association prior to January 1, 1982.
- e. A player shall not intentionally strike the player's own mount with the mallet. This includes using any portion of the mallet as an aid in managing the mount.
- f. No player may use the mallet carelessly or dangerously, for example:
  - (1) Taking a full swing in close quarters.
  - (2) Hooking, striking or slashing an opponent's mallet with unnecessary force.
  - (3) Carrying the mallet in such a way that it might become entangled in a player or mount's equipment.
  - (4) A player assumes the full responsibility for using the mallet safely.

- (5) Using the mallet to hit or hit at any player, mount, Official or spectator.
- g. A player is at all times responsible for the consequences of the stroke including back-swing, stroke and follow through. No player may swing the mallet in “windmill” or “helicopter” fashion as in appealing for a foul or celebration.

## **RULE 16 - INTERRUPTION OF PLAY**

- a. The Umpire shall stop the game immediately and take time out when a mount falls, or a player or mount is injured or in danger of being injured.
- b. Any player may request that the Umpire take time out in the event of equipment breakage which endangers a player or mount.
- (1) Time out may be requested when the ball is in play only for a situation which presents an immediate and serious hazard.
- (2) What constitutes a dangerous situation is left to the Umpire. A player who **asks** the Umpire **to** stop play for a reason which the Umpire later determines to be unjustified, may **be assessed a penalty**.
- c. Time out for equipment repair may be called for after a goal is scored or at any time the ball is out of play.
- d. In the event of a player falling, the Umpire shall stop play.
- e. There shall be no time out for a lost or broken mallet. However, time should be taken following a goal or when play is otherwise stopped to remove the mallet. Time should be taken immediately if the mallet presents a risk to player or mount.
- f. In the event of a lost helmet, play should be stopped as soon as possible but at such time that neither team is favored.
- g. In the event of a runaway or uncontrollable mount, the Umpire shall stop play and order the mount removed.
- h. In the event of injury to a player, the player shall have not more than fifteen minutes time out after which the player shall be considered disabled and the provisions of Rule 3 shall apply. Any injured player who has been unconscious shall be considered disabled and ineligible to continue.
- i. No person shall enter the arena to assist any player unless the Umpire has stopped play and granted permission.
- j. A player wishing to exchange mounts may do so only when play is stopped and with the permission of the Umpire. Any interference with the subsequent play of the game may occasion a penalty.

**16. INTERRUPTION OF PLAY 16.e...INTERPRETATION:** The intent of this rule is to eliminate “clock management” by players intentionally dropping their mallets. It is not intended to penalize a player whose mallet is legitimately lost or broken.

**16. INTERRUPTION OF PLAY 16.e...EXAMPLES:** Blue #2’s mallet becomes caught in the wire and is released. Blue rides for a replacement but the lost mallet protrudes into the arena from the wire. The mallet represents a hazard. Play should be stopped.

Red #1 breaks a mallet and drops it on the arena floor. Red obtains a replacement and

play continues until a goal is scored following which the whistle should sound and time be taken to remove the dropped mallet.

Blue #1 loses her mallet and play continues. When a foul is called and play stops, the lost mallet should be removed.

As Red #2 carries a broken mallet to the end gate to get a replacement, a goal is scored. There should be no stoppage of play.

## **RULE 17 - HANDICAPS**

a. A player's handicap is based on a game of four 7½ minute periods. The aggregate handicaps of the players of each team shall constitute the team handicap.

b. In games played with handicaps, the difference in team handicaps will be awarded to the team with the lesser handicap and will count as goals scored. Any fractional handicap awarded shall be counted as ½ goal. Fractional goals are used as tie-breakers and in net and gross goal calculations.

c. In games of other than four periods, the team handicap difference shall be divided by four, multiplied by the number of periods to be played, and awarded as goals to the team with the lesser handicap.

d. [The Committee shall decide if an event is to be played with handicap or on the flat.](#)

e. The aggregate handicap of a team must fall within the limits specified for an event. No team whose handicap is higher or lower than the specified limits shall be permitted to participate, except as provided in Rules 1.c and 3.c.

f. If a team has entered an event and has a player or players changed in handicap at any time from the draw through the team's last game in the event resulting in the team's total handicap being over or under the maximum handicap limit of the event, the team will remain eligible for that event but must play off the new handicap in all remaining games.

(1) Any substitution of players in such a team must bring the team handicap within the handicap limits of the event.

(2) In an event played on the flat, such a team must give an opponent the goal difference of the team handicap over the upper handicap limit of the event.

(3) In a handicap event, such a team must give an opponent the full handicap difference.

(4) Should a team's handicap be changed by more than two goals over the upper or below the lower limit during the event, the team may not continue and must conform itself to the original handicap limits of the event.

## **RULE 18 - USPA: PROTESTS, VARIATION FROM RULES**

a. Protests.

Protests of the decisions or manner in which the Host Tournament Committee and/or Officials conduct an event shall be resolved in accordance with the Sport Protest Procedures, Part III of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy.

b. Variations from Rules. (See the Association's By-Laws, Article VII, Section 3.)

The Chairman of the Association or, in his absence, in order of rank (i.e., President, Secretary, then Treasurer), the other Officers of the Association, with the majority consent of the Executive Committee, shall have authority to grant variations or deviations from these Rules in special circumstances deemed to be in the best interest of the Association.

c. No team may challenge the scorekeeping or timekeeping of a match once the final horn has sounded.

**18. USPA: PROTESTS, VARIATIONS FROM RULES...INTERPRETATION:**

Paragraphs a and b of Rule 18 describe issues that are dealt with either before or after the game by other than the game Officials. Paragraph c describes issues raised during the game that must be decided before the conclusion of the game. When a question of time or score is raised during the game, the Umpire is responsible for resolving the question before the game continues. At the end of the game, the Umpire must verify the final score.

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**18. USPA: PROTESTS, VARIATIONS FROM RULES...EXAMPLES:** During the third period, the scorekeeper notices a discrepancy between the score sheet and the scoreboard. When play next stops, the Umpire must be advised. The Umpire then acts as the “go-between” to resolve the difference. Only when agreement is reached should the game continue.

Blue scores a goal in the closing seconds and the game ends before the goal is posted to the scoreboard. The Umpire is responsible for seeing that the goal is included on the official score sheet.

At the start of the fourth chukker, the Blue Captain questions the score. The Umpire should check with the scorer, verify the score and notify both teams before putting the ball in play.

Before each chukker begins, the Umpire should announce the score. If there is a question, it must be resolved before the ball is thrown in.

At the start of the game, the Umpire announces that Red will receive 2 goals by handicap. The Blue Captain argues that the correct handicap is 1 goal. If the dispute cannot be settled on the spot, the game should be played to a conclusion under both handicaps and referred to the Committee for resolution.

Following a game, the Red Captain reviews the game tape and discovers that a score was not counted. Correcting the score would affect his team’s net goals in the tournament. It is too late. The question should have been raised during the game.

**ARENA HANDICAP MATRIX**

| No. of Periods<br>→→→→<br>-----<br>Net difference in<br>Team Handicaps ↓↓↓↓ | Two 7.5 minute<br>Periods<br><br>OR<br><br>Three 5 minute<br>Periods | Four 7.5 minute<br>Periods<br><br>OR<br><br>Six 5 minute Periods |
|---|--|--|
| 1   | .5   | 1  |
| 2   | 1  | 2  |
| 3   | 1.5  | 3  |
| 4   | 2  | 4  |
| 5   | 2.5  | 5  |
| 6   | 3  | 6  |

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| <b>ARENA RULES: MISEXECUTION OF PENALTY SHOTS</b>    |                                       |                                       |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| SITUATION  | Penalty 2                             | Penalty 3                             | Penalty 4                             | Penalty 5.a                               | Penalty 5.b                               |
| Swing and miss                                       | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Live Ball                                 | Live Ball                                 |
| Ball hit or hit at before Umpire calls Play          | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Bowl-in at the spot                       | Bowl-in at the spot                       |
| Ball not hit or hit at on second approach            | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Bowl-in at the spot                       | Bowl-in at the spot                       |
| Attacking team jumps line                            | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Defending team jumps line                            | Rehit if goal not scored              | Rehit if goal not scored              | Rehit if goal not scored              | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Contact by attacking team                            | Penalty 5.a (or move up for severity) | Penalty 5.a (or move up for severity) | Penalty 5.a (or move up for severity) | Bowl-in at spot (or Penalty for severity) | Bowl-in at spot (or Penalty for severity) |
| Contact by defending team                            | Rehit (or move up for severity)       | Rehit (or move up for severity)       | Rehit (or move up for severity)       | Rehit (or move up for severity)           | Rehit (or move up for severity)           |
| Ball doesn't reach end wall                          | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Missed goal - first play violation by attacking team | Penalty 5.b for defending team        | Penalty 5.b for defending team        | Penalty 5.b for defending team        | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Missed goal – 5 second violation by defending team   | Rehit                                 | Rehit                                 | Rehit                                 | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |

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## APPENDIX A

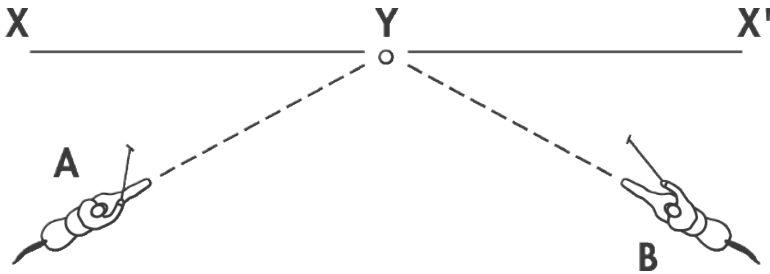
### Discussion of Right of Way

With the exception of play along the boards, and free hits, the Rules governing Right of Way in Outdoor and Arena Polo are quite similar. Appendix A of the Outdoor Rules illustrates many such situations.

Situations unique to Arena Polo are illustrated and discussed below:

#### Example

The Right of Way in this illustration will be awarded to A or B depending on the following circumstances:



1. If play is away from the wall, B is entitled to the Right of Way, regardless of whether the ball was hit from X to X' or from X' to X, under Rule 12.e because B is placed with the Line on the offside. A has no play at all.
2. If the wall is represented by the line between X and X', the Right of Way is determined as follows:
  - a. If the Line of the Ball is parallel to the wall, A may carry the ball from X to X', but may not meet it; and B may carry the ball from X' to X but not meet it, under Rule 12.g.
  - b. If A hits the ball to the wall at Y so it rebounds toward B, B may pick up the ball on the offside and assume the Right of Way. A loses the Right of Way the instant the ball rebounds at Y. A cannot be positioned on the offside of the Line from Y to B without crossing B's Right of Way.
  - c. If B hits the ball to the wall at Y so it rebounds toward A, A may pick it up on the offside. B, however, still has a play if B can turn toward A at Y and at all times keep the Line of the Ball on the offside.



# TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

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**TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS**

**I. DEFINITIONS**

Event: A USPA Event, Club Event or USPA-Supported Activity as defined herein.

League: A series of games among a group of teams in which the team with the best won-loss record is the winner.

Tournament: A game or series of games played in accordance with the Draw options defined in SECTION VI.B of the USPA Tournament Conditions.

Subsidiary/ Consolation Tournament: This may be a separate bracket of play for losers of the initial round in a tournament, or it may be considered a new event if a separate draw between eligible teams is held.

Club Event: Any club-level game, league or tournament that is not a USPA National, Circuit or Sanctioned Event. A Club Event is different from a USPA-Supported Activity (e.g., a clinic, meeting or forum conducted at or by a member club with USPA support), and does not include practices, practice games, clinics, drills, lessons, meetings or similar activities conducted at or by a member club, whether with or without USPA support. In a Club Event, a USPA member club’s Host Tournament Committee may adopt one or more variances from the USPA Rules before the event with notice to the teams, provided that (i) the USPA member club’s Host Tournament Committee believes that any such variance adoption is in the best interest of the USPA member club and the sport; and (ii) the USPA member club accepts responsibility and any liability for the consequences of any such variance adoption(s). Notwithstanding the foregoing, no USPA member club or Host Tournament Committee may adopt any variance from USPA Outdoor Rule 4a, USPA Arena Rules 3a(2), or USPA Arena Rule 4b(7) (regarding helmet requirements).

USPA Event: Any USPA National, Circuit or Sanctioned Tournament or League including but not limited to any I/I or NYTS Event.

USPA-Supported Activity: An activity such as a clinic, meeting or forum conducted at or by a member club with USPA support.

**II. USPA EVENTS - 2021**

**A. National Outdoor Events**

|       |                               |                                    |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 18-22 | *U.S. Open Polo Championship® | International Polo Club Palm Beach |
| 18-22 | C.V. Whitney Cup®             | International Polo Club Palm Beach |
| 18-22 | USPA Gold Cup®                | International Polo Club Palm Beach |

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|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 18-22 | Butler Handicap®                              | Port Mayaca Polo Club                 |
| 16-20 | National Twenty Goal®                         | Grand Champions Polo Club             |
| 16-20 | America Cup™                                  | Santa Barbara Polo Club               |
| 16-20 | Monty Waterbury®                              | Greenwich Polo Club                   |
| 16-20 | North American Cup®                           | Grand Champions Polo Club             |
| 16-20 | Silver Cup®                                   | Santa Barbara Polo Club               |
| 12-16 | Northrup Knox Cup®                            | New Bridge Polo Club                  |
| 12-16 | Continental Cup™                              | <b>Grand Champions Polo Club</b>      |
| 12-16 | Heritage Cup™                                 | Port Mayaca Polo Club                 |
| 12-16 | Eastern Challenge®                            | <b>Beverly Polo Club</b>              |
| 12-16 | Western Challenge                             | Houston Polo Club                     |
| 10-14 |   | Regional Classic-Southeastern         |
| 10-14 | Regional Classic-Southwestern                 | Houston Polo Club                     |
| 10-14 |   | Regional Classic-Western              |
| 8-12  | H. Ben Taub Memorial Tournament               | Houston Polo Club                     |
| 8-12  | Bronze Trophy®                                | New Bridge Polo Club                  |
| 8-12  | Chairman’s Cup                                | Myopia Polo Club                      |
| 8-12  | National Copper Cup®                          | New Bridge Polo Club                  |
| 8-12  | National Inter-Circuit Championship           | Sarasota Polo Club                    |
| 8-12  | Rossmore Cup                                  | Eldorado Polo Club                    |
| 4-8   | National Eight Goal                           | <b>Beverly Polo Club</b>              |
| 4-8   | Association Cup                               | <b>New Bridge Polo Club</b>           |
| 4-8   | Delegate’s Cup                                | Houston Polo Club                     |
| 4-8   | *National President’s Cup                     | New Bridge Polo Club                  |
| 4-8   | *Regional President’s Cup                     | Houston, <b>Port Mayaca,</b>          |
|       |   | <b>Beverly, Brandywine Polo Clubs</b> |
| 0-4   | National Amateur Cup                          | Empire Polo Club                      |
| •     | *U.S. Open Women’s Polo Championship®         | International Polo Club               |
|       |   | Palm Beach, Port Mayaca Polo Club     |
| •     | *U.S. Open Women’s Handicap®                  | Houston Polo Club                     |
| 0-4   | *NYTS Championship®                           | <b>Oak Brook Polo Club</b>            |
| •     | *Nat’l. Outdoor Commander in Chief Cup        | Sarasota Polo Club                    |
| •     | <b>*Nat’l. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. Cup</b> |                                       |

\* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

**B. Circuit Outdoor Events** (As awarded by Circuit Governors)

|      |                   |   |                   |
|------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8-12 | Intra-Circuit Cup | • | Congressional Cup |
| 4-8  | Officers Cup      | • | *Amateur Cup      |
| 0-4  | Players Cup       | • | Sportsmanship Cup |
| •    | *Centennial Cup   | • | Masters Cup       |
| •    | *Governor’s Cup   | • | Constitution Cup  |

\* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

**C. Special Circuit Events** (As awarded by Circuit Governors)

**Outdoor**

- \*Museum of Polo Hall of Fame Challenge Cup
  - \*USPA/PTF Seniors Tournament
  - \*Women’s Challenge
  - \*National Youth Tournament Series
  - 4-8 \*Outdoor- General S. Brown
  - 0-4 \*Outdoor- General George S. Patton, Jr.
- \* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

**Arena**

- \*Arena Museum of Polo Hall of Fame Challenge Cup
  - \*Arena Challenge Cup
  - \*Circuit Level I/I Alumni Tournament
  - \*Arena Women’s Challenge
  - \*Circuit Level I/I JV & Club Level Tournament
  - 3-6 \*Arena- General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller
  - 0-3 \*Arena- Admiral Chester W. Nimitz
  - \***Arena- General George S. Patton, Jr.**
- \* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

**D. National Arena Events**

|           |  |                               |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------|
| 12 & over | U.S. Open Arena Polo Championship®     | California Polo Club          |
| 12 & over | United States Arena Handicap™          | <b>Great Meadow Polo Club</b> |
| 9-12      | National Arena Chairman’s Cup          | <b>Great Meadow Polo Club</b> |
| 6- 9      | National Arena Delegate’s Cup          | <b>Brandywine Polo Club</b>   |
| 3- 6      | National Sherman Memorial              | <b>Boston Polo Club</b>       |
| 0- 3      | *National Arena Amateur Cup            | <b>Legend’s Polo Club</b>     |
| •         | *National Arena Challenge Cup          | <b>Brandywine Polo Club</b>   |
| •         | *National Arena Commander in Chief Cup | Virginia Polo Inc             |
| •         | * <b>Allied Services Cup</b>           |                               |
| •         | *USPA Women’s Arena Open™              | Virginia Polo Inc.            |
| •         | *USPA Women’s Arena Handicap®          | Virginia Polo Inc.            |

\* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

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**E. Circuit Arena Events** (As awarded by Circuit Governors)

- 12 & over Arena Championship
- 9-12 Arena Chairman’s Cup
- 6- 9 Arena Delegate’s Cup
- 3- 6 Sherman Memorial
- 0- 3 \*Arena Amateur Cup
- Arena Congressional Cup
- Arena Sportsmanship Cup

- Arena Constitution Cup
- Arena Masters Cup

\* *Specific Conditions apply - Refer to Section III*

**F. \*Intercollegiate Events**

- Men’s National Intercollegiate Championship
- Women’s National Intercollegiate Championship
- Central Regional Intercollegiate Championship
- Central Regional Intercollegiate Preliminary
- Northeastern Regional Intercollegiate Championship
- Northeastern Regional Intercollegiate Preliminaries
- Southeastern Regional Intercollegiate Championship
- Southeastern Regional Intercollegiate Preliminaries
- Western Regional Intercollegiate Championship
- Western Regional Intercollegiate Preliminaries

\* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

**G. \*Interscholastic Events**

- Open National Interscholastic Championship
- Girls National Interscholastic Championship
- Central Regional Interscholastic Championship (Girls and Open)
- Central Regional Interscholastic Preliminary (Girls and Open)
- Northeastern Regional Interscholastic Championship (Girls and Open)
- Northeastern Regional Interscholastic Preliminaries (Girls and Open)
- Southeastern Regional Interscholastic Championship (Girls and Open)
- Southeastern Interscholastic Preliminaries (Girls and Open)
- Western Regional Interscholastic Championship (Girls and Open)
- Western Regional Interscholastic Preliminary (Girls and Open)
- National I/I Alumni Tournament

\* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

**H. \*Middle School Events**

- Northeastern Region I, II, III
- Southeastern Region I, II, III
- Central Region I, II, III
- Western Region I, II, III

\* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III*

**I. USPA Sanctioned Events**

- |       |                    |                                    |
|-------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 18-22 | Hall of Fame Cup   | International Polo Club Palm Beach |
| 16-20 | East Coast Open    | Greenwich Polo Club                |
| 16-20 | International Cup  | Greenwich Polo Club                |
| 16-18 | Herbie Pennell Cup | International Polo Club Palm Beach |

|              |                                   |                                    |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 16-18        | Iglehart Cup                      | International Polo Club Palm Beach |
| 16-18        | Joe Barry Memorial                | International Polo Club Palm Beach |
| 16-18        | Ylvisaker Cup                     | International Polo Club Palm Beach |
| <b>14-16</b> | Pacific Coast Open                | Santa Barbara Polo Club            |
| 12           | Keleen & Carlton Beal Cup         | Houston Polo Club                  |
| 10-12        | Carlton & Keleen Beal Cup         | Eldorado Polo Club                 |
| 10-12        | Pete Bostwick Memorial            | New Bridge Polo Club               |
| 10-12        | Tommy Hitchcock Memorial          | New Bridge Polo Club               |
| 8            | Mack & Madelyn Jason Memorial     | Eldorado Polo Club                 |
| 8            | Champions Cup                     | Empire Polo Club                   |
| 8            | Eddie Moore Memorial              | Mashomack Polo Club                |
| 6-8          | Cyril Harrison Cup                | Myopia Polo Club                   |
| 6-8          | Gerald Balding                    | Brandywine Polo Club               |
| 6-8          | Polo Pony Memorial                | Brandywine Polo Club               |
| 4-8          | Forbes Cup                        | Myopia Polo Club                   |
| 4-8          | Tracey MacTaggart Challenge       | Mashomack Polo Club                |
| 4-6          | Lions Cup                         | Empire Polo Club                   |
| 4            | International Gay Polo Tournament | Palm City Polo Club                |
| 0-4          | Arby Dobb Cup                     | Tinicum Park Polo Club             |
| 0-4          | Max Berger Cup                    | Tinicum Park Polo Club             |
| 0-4          | Chris Prant Cup                   | Tinicum Park Polo Club             |
| 0-4          | Joe Stahl Cup                     | Tinicum Park Polo Club             |
| 0-4          | Teddy Roosevelt                   | Texas Military Polo Club           |
| •            | *Texas Women's Open               | Houston Polo Club                  |
| •            | *Women's Pacific Coast Open       | Santa Barbara Polo Club            |

\* *Specific Conditions Apply - Refer to Section III .*

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### III. SPECIFIC TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

#### A. U.S. Open Polo Championship®

This event will be played without handicap. All teams to assume the maximum handicap level.

#### B. National President's Cup

Any USPA member club may apply to host a Regional President's Cup Event by having a minimum of four teams. Regional Cup Events will be played with six periods at the 4-8 goal level. Winning teams from the Regional President's Cup Events shall have priority to enter in the National President's Cup Event of the same year.

(1) The National President's Cup must be played after July 31st of each year and shall give priority entry to 1st and 2nd place teams of same year or prior year Regional President Cup Events.

(2) Two USPA Professional Certified Umpires are suggested for all games.

### **C. Circuit Events**

All current Circuit Events will be played at the handicap level so designated, at any USPA Member Club under conditions to be specified by the Circuit Governor.

### **D. Governor's Cup**

To be played in each Circuit, either four or six periods, under conditions to be specified by the Circuit Governor, but not to exceed six goals. The Governor is encouraged to specify conditions which will maximize participation in the event.

### **E. Amateur Cup**

To be played in each circuit at team handicap levels to be determined by the Circuit Governor.

Outdoor: No player with an individual handicap of more than two goals is eligible to play.

Arena: In no case may the handicap of any individual player exceed the upper handicap limit of the event.

### **F. Armed Forces Events**

#### **(1) Allied Services Cup (National Arena Event)**

**(a) To be played at a goal level not to exceed 12 goals**

**(b) Required that all players shall have served in the military of any country to participate (active duty, retired, honorable discharge).**

**(c) If there is an insufficient number of players meeting this criterion, a military family member of any country can then participate.**

**(d) If available, a USPA staff member shall be appointed by the Host Club to the Host Tournament Committee for this event.**

**(e) The Armed Forces Committee is encouraged to specify additional conditions that will maximize participation in the event.**

#### **(2) National General George S. Patton, Jr. Cup (National Outdoor Event)**

**(a) Required to have at least one military member on each team (active duty, retired, honorable discharge, family member of military member or spouse).**

**(b) If all players meet the required military member tournament condition, those that have actually served have priority over spouse or family member.**

**(c) Any player participating in a Circuit General George S. Patton, Jr. tournament (outdoor) or a Circuit General George S. Brown tournament shall qualify to play, as an individual, in the National General George S. Patton, Jr. Cup. Points will accrue as determined annually by USPA Staff.**

**(d) If available, a USPA staff member shall be appointed by the Host Club to the Host Tournament Committee for this event.**

#### **(3) National Outdoor Commander in Chief Cup (National Outdoor Event)**

**(a) Required to have at least one military member on each team (active duty, retired, honorable discharge, family member of military member**

or spouse).

(b) If all players meet the required military member tournament condition, those that have actually served have priority over spouse or family member.

(c) If available, a USPA staff member shall be appointed by the Host Club to the Host Tournament Committee for this event.

**(4) National Arena Commander in Chief Cup (National Arena Event)**

(a) Required that all players shall have served in the U.S. Armed Forces or Reserve Components to participate (active duty, retired, honorable discharge).

(b) If available, a USPA staff member shall be appointed by the Host Club to the Host Tournament Committee for this event.

(c) The Armed Forces Committee is encouraged to specify additional conditions that will maximize participation in the event.

**(5) Circuit Armed Forces Events (General George S. Brown, General George S. Patton, Jr., General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz)**

(a) Required to have at least one military member on each team (active duty, retired, honorable discharge, family member of military member, or spouse).

(b) If all players meet the required military member tournament condition, those that have actually served have priority over spouse or family member.

### **G. Centennial Cup**

To be played for at any USPA member club so requesting at a handicap level and under conditions established by the club with the approval of the Circuit Governor. To be awarded only to clubs who have not been awarded a Circuit or National Event.

### **H. Women’s Tournaments (National, Circuit and Sanctioned)**

Handicap level to be specified by each prospective Host Club as part of its respective bid application. All Women’s Tournaments to be played using the Women’s Handicap.

### **I. USPA/PTF Senior Tournament**

To be played for at any USPA Member Club so requesting at a handicap level and under conditions established by the Club with the approval of the Circuit Governor. The following rules shall apply:

(1) Each player shall be a USPA member who reached his/her 50th birthday prior to the event. The aggregate age of each team must be a minimum of 220 years.

(2) Entry requirement of \$150 per player, payable to the Polo Training Foundation.

(3) Players must enter as an individual and the Host Tournament Committee shall form the teams to assure even competition.

### **J. National Youth Tournament Series Tournament Conditions (see page 165)**



**K. Museum of Polo Hall of Fame Challenge Cup**

To be played for at any USPA Member Club, so requesting at a handicap level and under conditions established by the Club with the approval of the Circuit Governor (and Tournament Committee for events at 12 goals and above). The fee is \$125.00 per participant made payable to the Museum of Polo.

**L. USPA Arena Challenge Cup**

Any USPA member club may qualify to host an USPA Arena Challenge Cup qualifying event. Qualifying events are to be played under conditions specified by the Circuit Governor, but not to exceed six goals. The Governor is encouraged to specify conditions which will maximize participation in the event. Governors shall have the authority to award multiple events within the Circuit.

Any USPA member club may apply to the Tournament Committee to become a Regional or National Host Center for the USPA Arena Challenge Cup finals. Any player participating in a club event shall qualify to play, as an individual, in a Regional or National USPA Arena Challenge Cup. The Tournament Committee is encouraged to specify conditions that will maximize participation in the event. The Tournament Committee shall have the authority to award multiple Regional events.

**M. I/I Alumni Cup**

To be played for at any USPA Member Club, under the conditions specified by the club with the approval of the Circuit Governor. Open to all I/I Alumni. Games may be played on handicap or on the flat, as decided by the HTC. Circuits may host multiple I/I Alumni events, one per club per year.

**N. I/I JV & Club Level Challenge Cup**

To be played for at any USPA Member Club, under the conditions specified by the club with the approval of the Circuit Governor. Open to all I/I JV & Club Level student or player members, no handicap required. Games to be played on the flat. Circuits may host multiple JV/Club level Events, one per club per year.

**O. Interscholastic/Intercollegiate Tournament Conditions (see page 173)****IV. AWARDING OF USPA EVENTS****A. National Outdoor and Arena Events**

(1) USPA National Events will be awarded to Host Clubs by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the Tournament Committee. Clubs wishing to bid for such tournaments must request, from the USPA office, a tournament bid application. The completed bid application must set forth the nature and maximum amount of any and all entry, grounds, and other event fees which the Host Club will charge for participation in the USPA National Event. The bid application must be filed with the USPA office no later than 15 days prior to the meeting of the Board of Governors at which the bid application is to be considered.

(2) All National Events will be awarded at the Spring meeting of the USPA in the year prior to that in which the event is played.

(3) When a National Event is played at a USPA Affiliate Member Club, the Registered Player Member required under Outdoor Rule 1. F. may be replaced by an Affiliate Player Member who is a citizen of the host country. When an Affiliate Member Club hosts a qualifying game, and a team qualifies under this section, with an Affiliate Member citizen of the host country replacing a Registered Player Member, the team shall be able to compete in all future games of the event, even when played at other Active Member or Affiliate Member Clubs.

### **B. Circuit Outdoor and Arena Events**

(1) USPA Circuit Events will be awarded to Host Clubs within each Circuit by their respective Circuit Governors. Each Circuit Governor shall submit a list of tournaments awarded to the USPA Tournament Committee Chairman prior to the Spring meeting of the USPA Board in the year in which the event will be played. In the event a Circuit Governor feels that additional participation can be achieved by awarding more than one division of a USPA Circuit Event, the Governor shall request authority to award such additional events from the USPA Tournament Committee.

USPA Special Circuit Events may be awarded by the Circuit Governor to multiple clubs within their respective circuit.

(2) When a Circuit Event is played at a USPA Affiliate Member Club, the Registered Player Member required under Outdoor Rule 1. F. may be replaced by an Affiliate Player Member who is a citizen of the host country. When an Affiliate Member Club hosts a qualifying game, and a team qualifies under this section, with an Affiliate Member citizen of the host country replacing a Registered Player Member, the team shall be able to compete in all future games of the event, even when played at other Active Member or Affiliate Member Clubs.

### **C. USPA Sanctioned Events**

In addition to the National Outdoor and Arena Events, the Board of Governors may also sanction certain events. Such USPA Sanctioned Events may, upon the request of the Host Club, be held in an invitational format in which entry is permitted solely by invitation from the Host Club. Clubs wishing to host sanctioned events above the 12 goal handicap level should request sanctioning, in writing, from the USPA Tournament Committee at its Spring meeting in the year prior to that in which the event will be played. Clubs wishing to request sanctioning for events at the 12 goal handicap level and below should request sanctioning from their respective Circuit Governors prior to the Spring meeting of the USPA Board in the year in which the event will be played.

### D. The Terminology “Open”

No USPA National event using the terminology “Open” shall (a) be played on the handicap or (b) have an upper **handicap** limit of less than **16** goals in outdoor polo or 12 goals in arena polo. (For Women’s Events, the handicap level will be based on the Women’s Handicaps.)

### E. Insurance Requirements

USPA Clubs must provide and maintain General Liability coverage (including liability coverage for club operations and participants in athletic or equine sports activities) with minimum limits of \$1,000,000.00 each occurrence and in the aggregate, and with United States Polo Association, its subsidiary & affiliated companies, directors, governors, officers, trustees, agents, employees, servants and volunteers included as additional insureds. Each USPA Club shall provide a certificate of insurance confirming compliance with these insurance requirements. USPA strongly recommends USPA Clubs purchase additional insurance coverage as necessary for all polo activities and business operations.

## V. TOURNAMENT FEES AND CHARGES

### A. Tournament Fees

Host Clubs of USPA National, Circuit or Sanctioned Tournament shall pay the USPA a Tournament Fee based on the tournament’s upper handicap level falling in the category as per the following schedule:

| GOAL LEVEL             | OUTDOOR    | ARENA    |
|------------------------|------------|----------|
| Handicap limit over 24 | \$5,000.00 | \$500.00 |
| 17 to 24 goals         | \$1,500.00 | \$500.00 |
| 13 to 16 goals         | \$1,000.00 | \$500.00 |
| 9 to 12 goals          | \$750.00   | \$400.00 |
| 5 to 8 goals           | \$500.00   | \$300.00 |
| 0 to 4 goals           | \$300.00   | \$200.00 |

The Tournament Fee must be paid prior to the tournament. No refund of tournament fees will be made after a tournament has been awarded to a club.

Tournaments are normally awarded annually for the following year. Clubs wishing to request a tournament award for two or three years into the future may do so, subject to a surcharge of 33% for the second year, 50% for the third year, or as otherwise set by the Board of Governors. A club may annually request a renewal of the second or third year award, subject to the surcharge. An award of more than three years may not be made without the specific approval of the Board of Governors.

### **C. Host Club Fees**

The fees charged by the Host Club for participation in a USPA National Event, shall not exceed the amounts approved by the Board of Governors. No additional fees or charges shall be imposed upon participants. Fees shall not be structured in a manner which causes the cost of participation by individuals who are not members of the Host Club to exceed the cost of participation by Host Club members. Failure to comply with this condition may result in the USPA National Event being withdrawn.

### **D. Late Fees**

All applications for National, Circuit, or Sanctioned Events above the 12 goal level that are received after the Spring Tournament Committee meeting may be assessed an administrative fee of \$100 per application to cover the costs of the approval process.

## **VI. ENTRIES, DRAWS, AND SCHEDULING**

### **A. Entries**

(1) At least thirty days prior to the draw date, the Host Club shall submit a letter of invitation to prospective entries with relevant tournament information: entry closing date, draw date, applicable fees, charges, stabling arrangements, etc.

(2) Entries may be limited due to the Host Club facilities, but any such limitation must be on an equitable basis for all prospective entrants. The most acceptable means of limitation is by chronological order of receipt of written entry form and applicable fee. Entries in excess of the limit shall be put on a priority wait-list and admitted if conditions permit. In no way may the limit on entries be discriminatory toward any potential entrant.

### **B. Draws**

(1) All draws shall be open to a representative of each team entered. All fees must be paid for a team to be eligible for the draw. A team which withdraws from the event after the draw shall forfeit all fees even though replaced by a team from the priority wait-list.

(2) It is recommended that all Events will be drawn according to either:

#### **a. Single Elimination**

A Single Elimination draw consists of putting a quantity of consecutively numbered markers equal to the number of teams entered in the event in a pool. Team representatives then draw from the pool and the team name is entered by its respective number as indicated by the diagram below. All unused positions shall be **BYE**. Single elimination events shall not be seeded.

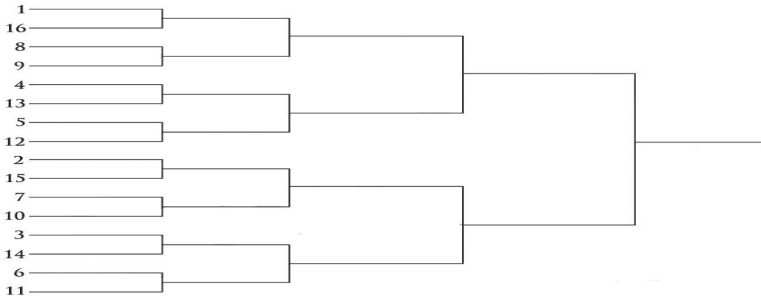
#### **b. American System**

The American System of tournament play involves dividing all competing teams, by lot, into one or more divisions with each division having a minimum of two teams, and not more than one team less than any other division.

Seeding the division is permissible for the purpose of equalizing handicaps among the divisions. In a series of two or more consecutive tournaments the Host Tournament Committee may seed the finalists and/or semi-finalists into the next tournament draw, to accommodate scheduling conflicts or inclement weather.

Each team in a division shall play a complete game against each other team in the division. The teams shall then be ranked according to their records, and the team, or teams, with the best records in each division shall advance to a single elimination round to determine the winner of the event; any byes shall go to the higher ranking teams.

Throughout the division play, no team should at any time have played more than one game less than any other team in that division.



**c. Round Robins**

Round Robins are not desirable as a tournament format. However, if an event has only three teams entered and time constraints, weather, or other adverse conditions prevent an alternate format, a Round Robin may be used as a single event to be played in one day.

- (1) A Round Robin shall consist of three games of two or more periods.
- (2) The winner of the Round Robin shall be the team with the best won-lost record, if there is such a team. In the event of a won/lost tie at the end of the Round Robin, the order of finish shall be determined using one of the following two methods, with the chosen method to be determined by the Host Tournament Committee, which shall notify the teams of that method before the Round Robin begins: (i) the “shoot out” procedure set forth in USPA Outdoor Rule 14.d, or (ii) based on net goals in both games played, if conclusive; or gross goals in both games played if net goals is inconclusive; or the “shoot out” procedure set forth in USPA Outdoor Rule 14.d, if both net goals and gross goals are inconclusive.
- (3) Each team shall play in two games, playing each other team one game. The two teams to play in the first game shall be decided by lot. The second game shall be between the loser of the first game and the team idled in the first game. The third game shall be between the team idled in the first game

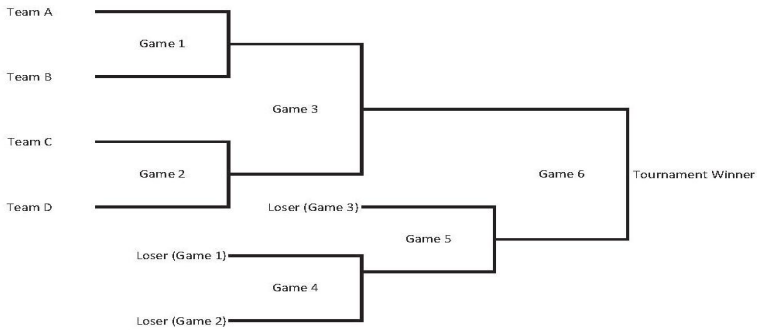
and the team idled in the second game. Should any game result in a tie, the winner shall be determined by the “shoot out” procedure set forth in USPA Outdoor Rule 14.d except that only one player from each of the tied teams shall participate. The shootout shall take place immediately following the end of the game between the two tied teams.

**d. Cross Division/ Cross Bracket Options**

Teams shall be allotted to divisions as in American System play. Each team in a division shall then play a complete game against each team in another division. The teams in both divisions shall be ranked together according to their won/lost record.

**e. [RESERVED]**

**4 Team Cross Bracket**



**8 Team Cross Bracket**



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### f. Order of Finish

The teams in a division or combination of divisions shall be ranked, from top to bottom, according to their won/lost record of play. Whenever a tie exists the following tests will be applied in order. Each time a tie is broken, the now untied teams shall be ranked and the procedure applied anew to any remaining tied teams.

- (1) In a tie, in which all the tied teams played each other:
  - (a) A tie between two or more teams with equal won/lost records in the division shall be decided by the won/lost records of the tied teams in games against each other.
  - (b) If a tie remains, the tie-breaker shall be each team's net goals (the sum of the team's winning margins less losing margins) in games against the remaining tied teams.
  - (c) If a tie remains, the tie-breaker shall be gross goals (the sum of all goals credited to the team including goals by handicap and Penalty No. 1) in games among the remaining tied teams.
  - (d) If a tie remains, the Committee shall determine the ranking by: 1) a play-off game, **if the outcome decides who advances (as opposed to seeding among advancing teams), which must be a minimum of two periods in four-period polo or three periods in six-period polo;** 2) a shootout as in section (g) below, **if the outcome decides who advances (as opposed to seeding among advancing teams); or** 3) a draw, coin toss, or some other random selection process, **as determined by the Committee.**
- (2) In a tie, in which all the tied teams did not play each other:
  - (a) A tie between two or more teams with equal won/lost records shall be decided by each team's net goals in all games played.
  - (b) If a tie remains, the tie-breaker shall be each team's gross goals in all games played.
  - (c) If a tie remains, the Committee shall determine the ranking by: **(1) a play-off game if the outcome decides who advances (as opposed to seeding among advancing teams), which must be a minimum of two periods in four-period polo or three periods in six-period polo;** **(2) a shootout as in section (g) below, if the outcome decides who advances (as opposed to seeding among advancing teams); or** **(3) a draw, coin toss, or some other random selection process, as determined by the Committee.**

**EXAMPLES:** In a four team division, Red, White and Green finished with 2-1 won/lost records and Blue with a 0-3 record. The three tied teams, in games against each other, were all 1-1. In the net goal tie-breaker, Red and Green are both +2 and White is -4. Green beat Red in their game, so the ranking is Green, Red, White, Blue.

In a Cross Bracket League, the three teams in Division A won all their games against Division B opponents. Ranking the combined divisions, three teams are 3-0, and three teams are 0-3. Because none of the tied teams played each other, the tie-breaker is net goals in all games played. If two or more teams are tied on net goals, their tie is broken by gross goals. **If two or more teams are tied on gross goals, their tie should be broken by one of the methods in section f(2)(c) above.**

**g. Shootout Tournament Tiebreaker- Outdoor**

**In the event of a two-way tie on won/lost record after bracket play or cross bracket play between teams who have played each other, “who-beat-who” will be used to break the tie.** In the event of a three-way tie or more on **won/lost** record after bracket play (i.e., teams playing within their bracket), or a two-way tie or more between teams when not all of the tied teams have played each other after the completion of cross bracket play, the “Penalty Shootout” system as described below may be used **to determine which team or teams advance.**

**Pairing/Seeding in Quarterfinals and/or Semifinals:**

**The “Penalty Shootout” system may not be used to determine seeding among teams that are advancing. A draw, coin toss, or some other selection process shall be used to determine seeding among teams that are advancing, unless teams can be paired in such a way that each advancing team will play a team that it has not played in bracket play, in which case, the Host Tournament Committee may elect to use such a pairing. In all events, the method to be employed in determining pairings in quarterfinals and/or semifinals must be determined by the Host Tournament Committee and announced to the teams at or before the initial Draw for the event.**

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**The Penalty Shootout:**

- (1) The shootout, if necessary, will take at a time and location determined by the Host Tournament Committee.
- (2) Prior to the draw, the Host Tournament Committee will determine how many players from each team will participate in the penalty shootout.
- (3) General conditions will follow the procedures are outlined below:
  - (a) The Penalty Shootout will be supervised by two professional umpires and one experienced adult goal Judge. Each team is required to provide an umpire pony unless notified otherwise.
  - (b) Players eligible to take part shall be restricted to those who were listed on the team entry form for the tournament or those who played the whole of the last qualifying game. There shall be no other change of players or substitution. Only eligible players from each team may take the penalties.



(c) Teams will draw from cards marked 1, 2, 3 etc. for the order of taking penalties.

(d) Players will be kept to one side in team groups and called forward individually to take the penalty. The player has only one hit at the ball and the hit may not be defended.

(e) The player will be asked if he is ready and if so the Umpire will drop the ball close to the penalty spot. The player will then have 15 seconds to place the ball; teeing up is not allowed.

(f) Once the player has placed the ball, the umpire will ask him if he is content and if he is, the umpire will then call 'play'. If the player has still not placed the ball after 10 seconds, the umpire will give a 5 second warning and will then call 'play' at 15 seconds. Once the umpire has called 'play' any contact with the ball will count as the one hit.

(g) Teams will take 40 yard penalties as individual team members in the order of cards marked, i.e.: a member of team 1 will be followed by a member of team 2, who will be followed by a member of team 3, etc. until all teams have completed their 40 yard penalties. Each penalty shall be taken by a different member of the team.

(h) The same process will be used for the taking of the 60 yard penalties.

(i) The team or teams (depending on the number of teams required) with the least number of goals will not qualify and if teams are level after the 6 penalties, players from each team shall continue in the same order to take one penalty each from the 60 yard line until one has less goals than the other having taken the same number of penalties.

In all other aspects USPA Rules apply. Officials, teams and ponies must be turned out as if for a game.

#### **h. Shootout Tournament Tiebreaker- Arena**

**In the event of a two-way tie on won/lost record after bracket play or cross bracket play between teams who have played each other, "who-beat-who" will be used to break the tie.** In the event of a three-way tie or more on **won/lost** record after bracket play, or a two-way tie or more between teams not having played each other on record after cross bracket play, the "Penalty Shootout" system may be used to determine which team **or teams** advance.

#### **Pairing/Seeding in Quarterfinals and/or Semifinals:**

**The "Penalty Shootout" system may not be used to determine seeding among teams that are advancing. A draw, coin toss, or some other selection process shall be used to determine seeding among teams that are advancing, unless teams can be paired in such a way that each**

**advancing team will play a team that it has not played in bracket play, in which case, the Host Tournament Committee may elect to use such a pairing. In all events, the method to be employed in determining pairings in quarterfinals and/or semifinals must be determined by the Host Tournament Committee and announced to the teams at or before the initial Draw for the event.**

### **The Penalty Shootout:**

- (1) The shootout, if necessary, will take at a time determined by the Host Tournament Committee.
- (2) Prior to the draw, the Host Tournament Committee will determine how many players from each team will participate in the penalty shootout and decide between Option 1 and Option 2.
- (3) General conditions will follow the procedures are outlined below:
  - (a) The Penalty Shootout will be supervised by two professional Umpires and one experienced adult goal Judge. Each team is required to provide an Umpire pony unless notified otherwise.
  - (b) Players eligible to take part shall be restricted to those who were listed on the team entry form for the tournament or those who played the whole of the last qualifying game. There shall be no other change of players or substitution. Only eligible players from each team may take the penalties.
  - (c) Teams will draw from cards marked 1, 2, 3, etc., for the order of taking penalties.
  - (d) Players will be kept to one side in team groups and called forward individually to take the penalty. The player has only one hit at the ball and the hit may not be defended.
  - (e) The player will be asked if he is ready and if so the Umpire will drop the ball close to the penalty spot. The player will then have 15 seconds to place the ball; teeing up is not allowed.
  - (f) Once the player has placed the ball, the Umpire will ask him if he is content and if he is, the Umpire will then call 'play'. If the player has still not placed the ball after 10 seconds, the umpire will give a 5-second warning and will then call 'play' at 15 seconds. Once the Umpire has called 'play' any contact with the ball will count as the one hit.

#### **Option 1:**

- i. Teams will take 15 yard penalties as individual team members in the order of cards marked (i.e. a member of team 1 will be followed by a member of team 2, who will be followed by a member of team 3, etc.) until all teams have completed their 15 yard penalties. Each penalty shall be taken by a different member of the team.
- ii. The same process will be used for the taking of the 25 yard penalties.

iii. The team or teams (depending on the number of teams required) with the least number of goals will not qualify and if the teams' are even after the 6 penalties, players from each team shall continue in the same order to take one penalty each from the 25 yard line until one has less goals than the other having taken the same number of penalties.

**Option 2:**

i. Teams will take 25 yard penalties as individual team members in the order of cards marked (i.e. a member of team 1 will be followed by a member of team 2, who will be followed by a member of team 3, etc.) until all teams have completed their 25 yard penalties. Each penalty shall be taken by a different member of the team. The goal will be undefended in the first round of penalty shots.

ii. In the second round the defending team may place a player in the goal to defend the goal. Teams will take 25 yard penalties as described above.

iii. The team or teams (depending on the number of teams required) with the least number of goals will not qualify and if the teams are even after the 6 penalties, players from each team shall continue in the same order to take one defended penalty each from the 25 yard line until one has less goals than the other having taken the same number of penalties.

In all other aspects USPA Rules apply. Officials, teams and ponies must be turned out as if for a game.

**i. Combination Events - Flat/Handicap**

The teams shall be ranked in their divisions as described above, first, by scoring all games on the flat and second, by scoring all games on the handicap. All teams in the division shall be included in both rankings.

The "Open" winner, or winners, shall be selected from the rankings and those teams assigned to the "Open" playoffs. The "Open" winners shall then be removed from the "Handicap" rankings.

The "Handicap" winner, or winners, shall be the highest ranked teams remaining after the "Open" winner(s) have been removed.

The team which qualifies for the "Open" playoffs, in a combination event, must play in the "Open" and may not elect to remain in the "Handicap" rankings.

**j. Forfeiture and Withdrawal**

Forfeiture is a game declared a loss by the Umpires or Host Tournament Committee as a result of a rules violation. In the event a team is required forfeit a game or games as a result of Penalty 9, or a decision of the Committee, each game forfeited shall be considered a loss by the forfeited team and a win by

the opponent. The forfeited team shall earn no positive net or gross goals and will be charged with any negative net or gross goals earned in the forfeited game(s). The opponent shall be allowed all gross goals and positive net goals scored in the forfeited game(s).

A withdrawal is the voluntary decision by a team not to continue in the event. If a team withdraws from a scheduled game, it shall be disqualified from the tournament and the results of all games played by that team shall not be counted as to wins, losses, net or gross goals for the opponents.

A team wishing to withdraw for cause - horse sickness, etc., - must satisfy the Committee that the withdrawal is justified. If a team does not appear for a scheduled game or quits during a game without the permission of the Committee, the team may be charged with a conduct violation under the By-Laws of the Association.

### **C. Scheduling**

All games of an event will be scheduled by the Host Tournament Committee. Due consideration may be given to travel distance, conflicting schedules of participants and other factors; however, no team shall intentionally be favored or disadvantaged as a result of the schedule.

The Host Tournament Committee may schedule certain games or divisions at other than the Host Club. However, the Host Tournament Committee is responsible for the scheduling and conduct of all games regardless of location.

The USPA will allow utilization of fields approved or authorized by the Host Tournament Committee.

## **VII. HOST TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. The Host Club is responsible for the collection and remittance of all USPA entry fees, contract fees, club dues, player dues, Host Club entry fees, and any other charges related to any USPA Event.

B. The Host Club shall communicate the details of any USPA Event in such a way as to encourage maximum participation.

C. USPA Clubs shall collect and retain signed waiver and release of liability forms from all participants, volunteers and persons involved in polo activities, including, but not limited to, USPA sanctioned activities, tournaments or games (each, a “USPA Event”), with language indemnifying United States Polo Association, its subsidiary & affiliated companies, directors, governors, officers, trustees, agents, employees as released parties.

All USPA Member Clubs assume any and all risks with respect to participation in any USPA Event and hereby agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the sponsoring club and any other sponsor or Member Clubs of the USPA; any charity or other beneficiary which may benefit from the USPA Event; the USPA and its subsidiary and affiliated companies and divisions (including but not limited to USPA Umpires, LLC, USPA Polo Development, LLC and USPA Marketing, LLC); the owners, lessees or lessors of any premises where a USPA Event may be held; and all directors, governors, officers, trustees, agents, employees, volunteers or servants of any of the above-named entities (collectively the “Indemnified Parties”), from any claim including but not limited to any bodily injury, personal injury or property damage sustained by any person or entity, including, without limitation, all third parties, all other members, participants, entrants, and any person performing services for any of the Indemnified Parties.

D. The Host Club shall appoint a Host Tournament Committee which shall be responsible for conducting any USPA Event or series of USPA Events. A senior USPA staff member shall be appointed by the Host Club to serve on the Host Tournament Committee for any National Outdoor Event with a lower handicap limit of sixteen goals **and above** and any National Arena Event with a lower handicap limit of nine goals **and above**. As a condition for awarding or sanctioning an event, the Board of Governors may reserve unto itself the right to designate and/or approve appointments to the Host Tournament Committee. The responsibility of the Host Tournament Committee starts at the time of the draw and ends at the conclusion of the final game. In the case of multiple USPA Events, this authority begins with the draw for the first USPA Event and ends with the final whistle of the last USPA Event.

E. The Host Tournament Committee shall select officials, including umpires, timer, scorer, and goal judges, for all games in any USPA Events. When possible, Umpires shall conform to the standards outlined in the USPA Umpire Guide.

USPA Certified and/or Professional Umpires are to be used in accordance with the USPA Umpire Guide. As a condition for awarding any USPA Event to the Host Club, the Board of Governors may reserve unto itself the right to designate and/or approve the umpires to be employed for the USPA Event. The USPA may also require that the Host Club enter into a contract with the USPA for the provision for umpires.

As a condition to awarding USPA Outdoor Events with an upper handicap limit of 16 goals and above, the Host Club will be required to contract with the USPA for at least two USPA professional umpires certified at the goal level of the event. As a condition to awarding USPA Arena Events with an upper handicap limit of 12 goals and above, the Host Club will be required to contract with the USPA for at least one USPA professional umpire certified at the goal level of the event and to use a second umpire who is certified by the USPA at the goal level of the event or one level below. If the Host Tournament in any such USPA Arena Events elects to use only one mounted

umpire, it must be the USPA professional umpire.

Horse emergency equipment (i.e. designated horse ambulance, screen, leg splint) must also be at field side during all USPA Outdoor Events with an upper handicap limit of 16 goals and above and USPA Arena Events with an upper handicap limit of 12 goals and above.

F. The Host Tournament Committee shall apply and enforce USPA Rules and Policies throughout any USPA Event and shall, where necessary, make decisions regarding the interpretation of such Rules and Policies. The decision of the Committee is final, subject only to the authority of the USPA Board of Governors.

In USPA Events **played under the Outdoor Rules** with an upper handicap level of **8 goals and above**, the Host Tournament Committee may choose the Defended or Undefended procedure for Penalty 3 with notice to the teams before the Event begins, **provided that all games in the Event are officiated by two certified professional Umpires unless otherwise approved by USPA Umpires LLC.**

G. All Member Clubs and Individual Members of the USPA are subject to the Broadcast Rights, Title Sponsorships, and Trademark Policy of the USPA, as in effect from time to time. In addition to matters addressed in that Policy, all Host Clubs (as that term is defined in the Broadcast Rights, Title Sponsorships, and Trademark Policy of the USPA) shall obtain and grant to the USPA the right to use, and to permit others designated by the USPA to use, the name and pictures of the Host Club and all facilities and grounds used in connection with or related to the USPA Event.

## VIII. INSTANT REPLAY

**Where the Minimum Requirements set forth below are met**, Instant Replay may be used for both “Challenges” and “Umpire Reviews.” **In this case, Instant Replay will be conducted by a fourth official (the “Instant Replay Official” or “IRO”),** who **will** watch one or more monitors of live video of the game in a different location from the Referee.

**Where the Minimum Requirements set forth below are not met, but video is instead taken by a single “Dartfish” camera located in an elevated position back from the sideline or sideboards at the center of the field or arena, Instant Replay may still be used by the Referee, but only when the Umpires call for an Umpire Review as described below.**

**Challenges (available in Outdoor Polo generally, and in Arena Polo and Alternative Format Polo Events with a lower handicap limit of 12 goals and above):**

Should the Umpires make a final decision either on their own, or after consulting the Referee, a team not in agreement with the Umpires' decision may challenge the decision (exercising their challenge). The Instant Replay Official will then view the Instant Replay video of the call in question to determine if the call of the other three officials is correct, or he/she may overturn the final decision of the other three officials. When there is a challenge, the Instant Replay Official may also call a foul that was not originally called by the Umpires, whether or not he or she upholds or overturns the final decision of the other three officials. In order for the Instant Replay Official to overturn the original decision, the video replay must provide the Instant Replay Official with indisputable evidence that the original decision was incorrect. In order for the Instant Replay Official to call a foul that was not originally called by the Umpires, the video replay must provide the Instant Replay Official with indisputable evidence that the foul occurred.

Each team will have one initial challenge per half and one initial challenge in overtime. If the challenging team wins the challenge, it will maintain its challenge. Upon exercising a challenge, should the Umpires' final decision stand after a replay review by the Instant Replay Official, the challenging team will lose the challenges for half of the game or the overtime, whichever portion of the game is currently being played. This process will be repeated until the challenging team loses a challenge. Regardless of whether or not a team chooses to exercise its challenge, and/or maintains its challenge in the first half, it will be entitled to only one initial challenge in the second half and again in overtime, subject to the same conditions described above. When there is a challenge and the Instant Replay Official calls a foul that was not originally called by the Umpires, **that foul shall affect the team's challenge in the following manner: if the call on the field is reversed, whether the decision is no foul or a new foul is called against the opposing team, the team will retain its challenge for use later in the half or overtime then underway; if the call on the field is upheld, the challenging team will lose its challenge for the portion of the game being played.**

Once a call is announced by the Umpire(s), teams will have 15 seconds to announce a Challenge (Challenge Period) to the Umpire(s). Any Challenge announced after the Challenge Period will not be recognized. Any on-field, game-related decision may be challenged, including placement of the ball after the umpires have announced a foul.

### **Umpire Reviews (available in Outdoor Polo, Arena and Alternative Format Polo):**

In addition to challenges by team members in Outdoor Polo generally and in Arena Polo and Alternative Format Polo Events with a lower handicap limit of 12 **goals and above**, and in Arena Polo and Alternative Format Polo with a lower handicap limit of less than 12 goals (i.e., where there are no Challenges), the Umpires may request **an Umpire Review** for the following incidents only:

#### **1) If there is a collision or a mount falls**

- 2) **To determine whether a goal was scored**
- 3) To determine (in Outdoor Polo only) whether a Safety occurred
- 4) To determine whether **Unsportsmanlike Conduct, including Dangerous Riding**, occurred.

**In order for the Umpires to impose a Penalty based on an Umpire Review, the video replay must provide the Referee with indisputable evidence that a foul occurred.**

**EXAMPLES:** The trailing umpire sounds the whistle against Blue for entering the ROW in front of Red. The focal umpire thinks there was enough room, and the two umpires consult the referee. The referee feels there was not enough room for Blue to enter the ROW. The Blue team challenges the call, and the play is reviewed by the Instant Replay Official who, after reviewing the various camera angles available, will either uphold or overturn the original decision.

Umpire A sounds the whistle against Blue and Umpire B agrees. Umpire A announces a “ROW Violation” against Blue. Blue challenges the decision. The play will be reviewed if the Blue team has a challenge available to it during the half, before the Umpires continue play. Once the play has been reviewed by the Instant Replay Official, the Umpire’s final call may not be questioned further.

In the second **period**, **Umpire A** sounds the whistle against Green, for an illegal ride-off on White. **Umpire B** thought the ride-off was even and fair. The Umpires consult the Referee. The Referee calls a foul against Green. The Green team has an available challenge and wishes to exercise their challenge and the play is reviewed by the Instant Replay Official. This is a legitimate challenge, and should the Umpires’ decision stand, Green will not have another challenge for the remainder of the half.

A collision occurs behind the play, out of view from both Umpires and the Referee. A mount goes down as a result of the collision. The Umpires may call for **an Umpire Review**. Upon satisfactory evidence from the video replay by the Instant Replay Official, the Umpire may impose a Penalty.

### **Minimum Requirements for Challenges using Instant Replay:**

1. The Instant Replay Official must be a USPA Certified Umpire with a certification of no less than one level below the required certification of the handicap level of the game being held.
2. For Arena Polo or Alternative Format Polo: The number and location of video cameras, camera operators and TV monitors used shall be subject to guidelines and approval set forth, prior to the event, by the Executive Director or Head Umpire of USPA Umpires, LLC.
3. For Outdoor Polo: Three video cameras; 1 camera positioned to the side of



the field opposite the sun and at least 30 feet back from the side line at the center point of the field and at least 20' high, 1 camera positioned in each end zone of the field either to one side of the goal, at least 40 yards from the end line of the field or directly behind the goal each at least 50 yards from the end line of the field, each to be at least 20' high. Note, an optional 4th camera mounted on a drone may be allowed subject to guidelines and approval set forth, prior to the event, by the Executive Director or Head Umpire of the USPA Umpires, LLC.

4. For Outdoor Polo: Three separate camera operators.

5. For Outdoor Polo: Three TV Monitors.

6. Qualified technician to operate and monitor all video equipment and take direction from the IRO.

7. Trailer or tent location for IRO to view monitors and communicate with IT/Tec, apart from the location of the Referee.

8. DVR capable of tagging plays and quickly returning to the previous plays.

9. DVR capable of returning to previous **periods**.

10. **One camera to show scoreboard after every goal is scored.**

11. **Radio communication between Umpires and Referee.**

12. **Radio communication between Referee and IRO.**

The following list for tagging plays on video:

Tagging Codes:

|                           |                   |                    |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1: "ROW"                  | 2: Gap            | 3: Turning         | 4: Quick Line Change      | 5: Missed Call              |
| 6: Meeting the Ball       | 7: 1 Meeting 2    | 8: Near side       | 9: Dangerous Riding       | 10: Dangerous use of Mallet |
| 11: Cross hook/ high hook | 12: Delay of Game | 13: Ball Placement | 14: Off-Setting Penalties | 15: Appealing               |

Umpire Triggers:

UM 1: Collision **or a mount falls**

UM 2: Goal Review

UM 3: Safety (Penalty 6)

UM 4: Unsportsmanlike Conduct **including possible dangerous riding**

**IX. OPTIONAL TOURNAMENT CONDITION FOR FAIR PLAY THROW-IN**

With notice to the teams before the Draw, the Host Tournament Committee may direct the Umpires to employ the “undefended” or “fair play” throw-in as described below:

Notwithstanding USPA Outdoor Rules 21.1, 22.e, and 22.e(4), which remain in force, if the Umpire or Umpires stop play due to an inadvertent whistle, a damaged or buried ball, a fallen or injured Umpire, player or horse, or some other perceived emergency or unexpected event, and the team in possession of the ball is significantly disadvantaged by the interruption of play, to be determined by the Umpires in their discretion, that team will be awarded possession in an “undefended throw-in” from the point where the ball was considered dead toward the nearer side boards or side lines. In the event this point does not allow sufficient room for the teams to line up on the field, the Umpire shall throw the ball in, in the same manner, from the nearest point that allows it.

In an undefended throw-in, the Umpire shall announce “fair play throw-in to the [color] team” and line the teams up with the team not getting possession at least one horse-length wide of the line along which the ball will be thrown. When the ball is thrown in, only the team awarded possession may play the ball, but it must do so immediately, and no member of the other team shall affect that play. As used in the prior sentence, the word “immediately” means within 5 seconds of the throw-in, and the phrase “affect that play” describes conduct that includes but is not limited to being within a one horse-length radius of the first play by the team awarded possession. If a member of the team awarded possession does not play the ball immediately or a member of the other team affects the first play by the team awarded possession, the Umpire(s) may award an appropriate penalty.

## X. OPTIONAL TOURNAMENT CONDITION FOR USPA OUTDOOR RULE 2d

**With notice to the teams before the Draw, the Host Tournament Committee may direct the Umpires to employ the version of USPA Outdoor Rule 2d set forth below:**

- d. A player registered with the USPA is eligible to play in any USPA Event except that:
- (1) A player with a handicap of -1 goal may not play in a USPA Event above the 12 goal level.
  - (2) There shall be no more than one -1 goal or -0.5 goal rated player per team in any USPA Event with an upper handicap limit above 6 goals. In a USPA Event rated 7 to 12 goals, should a substitute be required in the event a player is removed from the game due to an inability to continue or by disqualification or penalty, and only a -1 goal or -0.5 goal player is available, and the substitution would result in more than one -1 goal or -0.5 goal rated player being on the team, the substitution nevertheless may be made for that game only so long as the team substituting plays with its original (higher) handicap.
  - (3) In any USPA Event with an upper handicap limit of **7 goals** or above, the handicap of any player may not exceed 3/4 of the upper handicap limit.
  - (4) In any USPA Event with an upper handicap limit of 3 goals or below, the handicap of the highest rated player on the team may not exceed the upper handicap limit of the Event by more than one goal.
  - (5) In any USPA Event with an upper handicap limit of between 4 goals and 6 goals, if the handicap of any player exceeds 3/4 of the upper handicap limit, that player's handicap may not exceed the upper handicap limit of the Event and the handicap of that player and the next highest rated player on the team may not exceed the upper handicap limit of the Event by more than one goal.**

## XI. OPTIONAL TOURNAMENT CONDITION FOR USPA OUTDOOR RULE 26A

**With notice to the teams before the Draw, the Host Tournament Committee may direct the Umpires to employ the version of USPA Outdoor Rule 26A set forth below:**

### **RULE 26A – IMPROPER BLOCKING**

During the execution of a knock-in, Penalty 5.a or 5.b, or a free hit resulting from a ball hit out of bounds, an offensive player may not block a defensive player from marking the offensive player's teammate who has a play on the ball (i.e., set a pick on the defending player). **At all other times, when a player in possession of the ball either stops or reduces his or her speed to a slow canter or walk, no teammates of the player in possession may block a defending player from making a play on that player or the ball unless the defending player is clearly behind the player in possession of the ball or was already being marked by the blocking offensive player**

**when the player in possession slowed down.** When an offensive player improperly blocks a defensive player, the Umpires shall call a foul and award an appropriate penalty. Improper Blocking may or may not constitute Dangerous Riding, and result in a yellow or red flag under Rule 33, depending on the degree of danger as determined in the discretion of the Umpire.

Note: When **Optional Tournament Condition XI** is used, the second sentence of the Outdoor Rule 26A Interpretation does not apply. (The sentence that does not apply reads as follows: “During that time period, improper blocking may occur and be penalized anywhere on the field where an offensive player is blocking a defensive player from marking the offensive player’s teammate who has a play on the ball.”)



# NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT SERIES TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

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## 2021 NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT SERIES TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

### I. National Youth Tournament Series

National Youth Tournament Series (NYTS) are to be played at USPA clubs between March 1<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year with the approval of the Circuit Governor. All NYTS regional qualifying events outside these dates shall require approval from the Junior Polo NYTS Sub-committee. NYTS are encouraged to run in conjunction with local level, unrated, junior polo chukkers/competitions and other qualifying USPA tournament events at the local club. The host club should submit the USPA Circuit Event Application to the USPA a minimum of 7 days prior to the event.

Circuit Events Qualifying for National Championships:

- (1) Lifetime, Registered Player and Affiliate USPA Members who have not exceeded their 19th birthday on January 1st of the calendar year of the given NYTS will be eligible to compete.
- (2) Players must have a USPA handicap of -1 or above and must be in good standing with the USPA in order to participate.
- (3) The NYTS tournament goal level will be determined by the host club. Games will be 4 to 6 chukkers, and completed within the dates of the tournament.
  - a. A four team tournament may be played in one day using the following format:
    - Team A vs B – 2 chukkers
    - Team C vs D – 2 chukkers
    - Final: Winner (A vs B) plays Winner (C vs D) – 2 chukkers
    - Consolation: Loser (A vs B) plays Loser (C vs D) – 2 chukkers
- (4) **The USPA round robin format is acceptable (see USPA Outdoor Rule 17). In the event of a tied score between teams within the NYTS round robin games, the NYTS Shootout Tiebreaker Procedure set forth below shall be used to determine a winner, with the modification that only one player from each team will take the penalties.** In the event of a won/lost tie at the end of the Round Robin, the order of finish shall be determined using the NYTS Shootout Tiebreaker Procedure set forth below.
- (5) Players will be entered as individuals and team assignments will be determined by the host club.
- (6) Player Substitutions: Player substitutions for injury or otherwise are governed by the USPA Outdoor Rules. (See Rules 2 and 3.)
- (7) Mounts: USPA Outdoor Rule 5 governs the use of mounts, except that, in addition, no mount may play more than 2 chukkers in one day.
- (8) The host club will assemble a Host Tournament Committee with a minimum of 3 members.
- (9) USPA Circuit Event Application must be approved by the Circuit Governor prior to the event.
- (10) Two teams of four players minimum are required to qualify as a NYTS

tournament. USPA Outdoor Rule 1.a applies during games. USPA Rule 1.d applies during games with the following modification: “In the event one or more players are not available to start a game, and no eligible substitute is available, the team may play the entire game with less than the full team provided the aggregate team handicap on the field meets the upper and lower handicap requirements of the Event. The team handicap may be altered when the team is changed.”

(11) -1 rated players are allowed to play on the same team.

(12) The Host Tournament Committee will be responsible for selecting All-Star players from the event. It is recommended to consult All-Star selections with the event umpires.

(13) The number of All-Stars selected is determined by the number of teams in the tournament. 2 teams-4 All-Stars, 3 teams-5 All-Stars, 4 teams-7 All-Stars, 5 teams-8 All-Stars, 6 teams-9 All-Stars.

(14) All-Stars may be selected from any participating team.

(15) NYTS tournament results and All-Stars will be published in the USPA Blue Book.

(16) The names of the All-Star Players must be submitted to the USPA office by August 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for National Championship consideration.

(17) Except as stated herein, all USPA Outdoor Rules, forms and reporting guidelines will apply.

(18) The entry fee for the NYTS will be determined by the host club.

(19) There will be no tournament fee for hosting a NYTS regional event.

(20) Multiple NYTS events may be awarded within the circuit.

a. Multiple NYTS events may be awarded to the same club.

(21) Trophies and All-Star medals will be provided to the NYTS host club upon completion of the application process. First and second place trophies will be provided, as well as a Best Playing Pony Award.

(22) Games may be played on the flat or with a handicap.

(23) Player equipment in addition to as described in the USPA White Book: Eye protection must be worn by all participants competing in the event and players must wear heeled boots.

(24) NYTS are encouraged to run in conjunction with local level, unrated junior polo chukkers/competitions and other qualifying USPA tournament.

(25) Equine Safety: protection of the horse by boots or bandages will be used on the front and hind legs, players are required to compete using two reins and over-girths.

(26) Equine Welfare: The Heat Index (please refer to p. 24 of the USPA Equine Welfare Handbook) should be taken into account when scheduling NYTS Tournaments. No games should take place in the ‘Red Zone’ and games should be rescheduled for cooler times of day.

(27) **Inclement Weather:**

a. **In extreme weather conditions, the Host Tournament Committee or officials may shorten chukkers OR a break can be taken halfway through the chukker to allow horses to recover.**



- b. **Chukkers may be shortened to no less than five minutes.**
- c. **If officials call a game due to inclement weather or darkness and it cannot be rescheduled, the score at the time the game was called shall stand and the game may be considered complete. In order to be considered complete, 1/2 of the game must have been played in 4+ chukker game and 2/3rds of a round robin must have been played.**
  - i. **If the score is tied at the time the game is called, the game may be abandoned as described in Rule 22.g at the discretion of the Host Tournament Committee.**

- (28) In the event of a tie, a shoot-out will take place, using the outlined procedure below:  
 NYTS Shootout Tiebreaker Procedure:
- a. In the event of a tie in a game of bracket play or the NYTS Qualifier Final, the “Penalty Shootout” system will be used to determine the winner.
  - b. The shootout will take place immediately following the completion of the game, on the same field.
  - c. General conditions will follow the procedures outlined below:
    - i. The Penalty shootout will be supervised by the game umpires and one experienced adult goal Judge.
    - ii. All four players from each team must take the penalties. When there are more than four players on the roster the four players from each team who played in the last chukker will participate in the shootout procedure.
    - iii. Teams will draw for the order of taking penalties.
    - iv. Players will be kept on one side in team groups and called forward individually to take the penalty. ONLY the players who are participating and umpires are allowed on the field. The player has only one hit at the ball and may not be defended.
    - v. Once the umpire has called “play” any contact with the ball will count as one hit.
    - vi. Teams will take four 40-yard penalties as individual team players in the order of the draw i.e.; a member of team 1 will be followed by team 2, who will be followed by a member of team 1, etc. until all teams have completed their 40-yard penalties.
    - vii. The team with the least number of goals will not qualify, and, if the teams are level after the penalties, players from each team shall continue in the same order to take one penalty each from the 60-yard line until one has less goals than the other having taken the same number of penalties.
  - d. In all other aspects USPA rules apply.

#### National Championship Event:

- (1) USPA circuits will be divided into 4 geographical zones; each zone will have a Zone All-Star Selection Committee (ZASC) of 3 or 5 members.
- (2) A player may only represent their affiliate USPA Club Zone in the National Championship Event. USPA Club affiliation will be determined by where the

participant has registered as of January 30<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year or the affiliation after that date.

(3) The Zone All-Star Selection Committee will choose up to two teams consisting of 4 players and 4 alternates to represent their Zone in the NYTS National Championship from the list of eligible All-Stars. The selection committee reserves the right to determine that eligible All-Stars are not sufficiently experienced to compete at the level of the National Championship. If the remaining eligible participants in a zone are determined not to be sufficiently experienced to compete in the National Championship, a Wild Card may be chosen from other zones. Wild Cards are defined as eligible All-Stars who were not selected to their respective zone team.

(4) The selected players must conform to the team handicap requirement established August 1<sup>st</sup> by the USPA Junior Polo NYTS Sub-Committee.

(5) A player may compete in one or more qualifying NYTS event in any zone.

(6) In the event of a tie, a shootout will take place. See NYTS Shootout Tiebreaker Procedure outlined in the NYTS Circuit Event conditions (21).

(7) NYTS National Championship host center locations will be determined by the USPA Junior Polo NYTS Sub-committee. Championships will rotate between geographical areas of the United States. Host centers must qualify and adhere to host site criteria outlined by the Junior Polo NYTS Sub-committee. The application to host the NYTS National Championship must be submitted to the USPA office a minimum of six months prior to the event. The application must be approved by the Junior Polo NYTS Sub-committee and the Tournament Committee.

(8) From the time of the draw through the final game, the Host Tournament Committee shall apply and enforce (i) all USPA Outdoor Rules, except as those Rules are specifically modified or supplemented in this or the above section titled "Circuit Events Qualifying for National Championships"; and (ii) all NYTS rules and policies, and make decisions regarding interpretation of such. The Host Tournament Committee is to present and protect the vision of NYTS to the fullest extent, including but not limited to: player substitution, schedule changes, and weather related or other unforeseen circumstances as they arise.

(9) Trophies will be provided to the NYTS National Championship host center.

(10) One or two divisions may be played.

(11) NYTS Championships will be played on the handicap.

(12) Additional levels played as invitational events will be under the discretion of the NYTS Sub-Committee.

The background of the page is a photograph of arena polo players on horseback. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible. The players are wearing helmets and riding gear. One player in the foreground is wearing a white helmet and a light blue shirt, while another player to the left is wearing an orange and blue shirt. They are all holding mallets and appear to be in the middle of a game on a dirt arena.

# **OPTIONAL TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMAT ARENA POLO**

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## OPTIONAL TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMAT ARENA POLO (BEACH, SNOW & STADIUM POLO, ETC.)

### INTRODUCTION; OVERVIEW; EXCEPTIONS

Alternative format polo includes beach polo, snow polo, stadium polo, and other forms of arena polo played in non-standard arenas or facilities. When adopted by the Host Tournament Committee (also referred to herein as the “Committee”) for use in Events in which alternative format polo is played, these Optional Tournament Conditions replace the USPA Arena Rules or Optional Tournament Conditions to which they numerically correspond. Accordingly, although they are Tournament Conditions, they are also referred to herein as “Rules” for the sake of simplicity. As indicated below, USPA Arena Rules 2 through 5 and 11 through 18 may not be waived or replaced except through the USPA’s variance procedures in Events in which alternative format polo is played.

These Rules should, to the extent possible, be enforced in all USPA Events in which alternative format polo is played. USPA member clubs are strongly encouraged to enforce these Rules in all Club Events in which alternative format polo is played. It is recognized that some limitations may from time to time exist which make it impossible or impractical for the Host Tournament Committee to fully enforce these Rules. In such cases, the Committee shall spell out such exceptions prior to any Club Event.

The Committee shall make every effort to comply with the intent of these Rules if an exception must be made for a USPA Event. In the event the Committee seeks to apply any exception to these Rules in a USPA Event or use facilities or procedures in a USPA Event that are not recommended by these Rules, it must first seek and obtain permission to do so from the USPA Tournament Coordinator and second notify all participating teams and officials at least one week before the USPA Event begins of each of the approved exceptions, facilities and procedures that vary from those required or suggested by these Rules.

In a Club Event, a USPA member club’s Host Tournament Committee may adopt one or more variances from these Rules before the event with notice to the teams, provided that **(i)** the USPA member club’s Host Tournament Committee believes that any such **variance** adoption is in the best interest of the USPA member club and the sport; **and (ii)** the USPA member club accepts responsibility **and any liability** for the consequences of any such **variance** adoption(s). **Notwithstanding the foregoing, no USPA member club or Host Tournament Committee may adopt any variance from USPA Arena Rules 3a(2) or 4b(7) (regarding helmet requirements).** The Committee should use restraint in making “house rules” and do so only if it is in the best interest of the players and the event. House rules could include, but are not limited to: definition of “goal line,” “goal mouth,” “wall,” or “out of play.”

**RULE 1- FACILITIES****a. Playing Area**

- (1) The recommended playing area for alternative format polo is 300 - 500 feet in length by 150 - 240 feet in width.
- (2) Goals shall be centered at opposite ends of the playing area. The recommended goal size is 18 - 24 feet in width by 12 - 15 feet in height.
- (3) Where practicable and appropriate, it is recommended that the playing area be clearly marked with goal lines, penalty lines, a center line and end lines.
- (4) Where practicable and appropriate, it is recommended that the yardage and yard-line references found elsewhere in the USPA Arena Rules and Optional Tournament Conditions (e.g., for penalties, throw-ins, scoring, shoot-outs, etc.) be used in alternative format polo.
- (5) Where practicable and appropriate, end wall boards and/or side boards measuring between 4.5 and 5 feet in height are recommended. If they are used, it is recommended that side boards be marked with penalty lines and a center line.
- (6) Where practicable and appropriate, alternative format polo may be played with open ends, goal lines and goal posts. If so, it is recommended that Rules 18, 22.a, 21.a and Penalty 6 in the USPA Outdoor Rules be followed with the exception that the free hit called for in Penalty 6 be taken from the same yard line as a Penalty 4.
- (7) When side boards are not used, the Host Tournament Committee shall designate a safety side zone outside and parallel to the sidelines of the playing area that is recommended to be a minimum of 5 yards.
- (8) When end boards are not used, the boundaries at the ends of the playing area shall be known as the end lines, except for that portion between the goal posts, which shall be known as the goal lines.
- (9) When side boards and/or end boards are not used, there shall be an area beyond the side and/or end lines, known as the run off area, and incidents of the game which occur here shall be treated as though they were in the playing area.

**b. Balls**

It is recommended that the ball be not less than 12.5” or more than 15” in circumference when fully inflated, and that it be either white or an easily visible color.

**c. Definition of Event**

For the purposes of these Rules, an “event” or “Event is a USPA Event or Club Event as those terms are defined in Section I of the Tournament Conditions.

**RULE 2- MOUNTS AND EQUIPMENT**

USPA Arena Rule 2 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 3- PLAYERS AND ALTERNATES**

USPA Arena Rule 3 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 4- OFFICIALS**

USPA Arena Rule 4 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 5- LENGTH AND NUMBER OF PERIODS**

USPA Arena Rule 5 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 6- SCORING**

USPA Arena Rule 6 (or Optional Tournament Condition for Arena Rule 6, if it is used by the Committee) may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo, except that, where practicable and appropriate, the yardage and yard-line references found in the Rule or Optional Tournament Condition for Arena Rule 6 may be adjusted pursuant to the provisions and procedures of the “Introduction; Overview; Exceptions” section set forth above.

**RULE 7- DEAD BALL**

USPA Arena Rule 7 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo, except that, where practicable and appropriate, the yardage and yard-line references found in the Rule may be adjusted pursuant to the provisions and procedures of the “Introduction; Overview; Exceptions” section set forth above.

**RULE 8- COMMENCEMENT AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY**

USPA Arena Rule 8 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo, except that, where practicable and appropriate, the yardage and yard-line references found in the Rule may be adjusted pursuant to the provisions and procedures of the “Introduction; Overview; Exceptions” section set forth above.

**RULE 9- PENALTIES**

USPA Arena Rule 9 (or Optional Tournament Condition for Arena Rule 9, if it is used by the Committee) may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo, except that, where practicable and appropriate, the yardage and yard-line references and/or the procedures found in the Rule or Optional Tournament Condition for Arena Rule 9 may be adjusted pursuant to the provisions and procedures of the “Introduction; Overview; Exceptions” section set forth above.

**RULE 10- CALLING OF FOULS AND SELECTION OF PENALTY**

USPA Arena Rule 10 (or Optional Tournament Condition for Arena Rule 10, if it is used by the Committee) may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo, except that, where practicable and appropriate, the yardage and yard-line references found in the Rule or Optional Tournament Condition for Arena Rule 10 may be adjusted pursuant to the provisions and procedures of the “Introduction; Overview; Exceptions” section set forth above.

**RULE 11- LINE OF THE BALL**

USPA Arena Rule 11 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 12- RIGHT OF WAY**

USPA Arena Rule 12 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 13- DANGEROUS RIDING**

USPA Arena Rule 13 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 14- IMPROPER PLAY AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

USPA Arena Rule 14 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 15- USE OF THE MALLETT**

USPA Arena Rule 15 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 16- INTERRUPTION OF PLAY**

USPA Arena Rule 16 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE-17 HANDICAPS**

USPA Arena Rule 17 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

**RULE 18- USPA: PROTESTS, VARIATION FROM RULES**

USPA Arena Rule 18 may not be waived or replaced in Alternative Format Polo.

# INTERCOLLEGIATE/ INTERSCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

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**2021 INTERCOLLEGIATE/INTERSCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS****A. General Program Information**

(1) The USPA Intercollegiate/Interscholastic (I/I) Committee shall **be led by the I/I Chairman. The I/I Committee will be broken into three sub-groups: I/I Tournament & Regular Season, I/I Funding & Awards, and I/I Program & Club Sustainability. The I/I Chairman will serve as the chair of one of the sub-groups and will appoint a chair to each of the remaining two sub-groups. The three sub-group chairs, in addition to the two I/I Coaches Representatives as ex-officio (non-voting) members, will serve as the I/I Leadership Group. The I/I Chairman shall** appoint a National Host Tournament Committee (NHTC), which will include the following persons: CEO of the USPA or their designee, the I/I Committee Chair(s), **the chairs of the remaining two sub-groups, and three I/I Tournaments & Regular Season sub-group designees: Tournament Umpire, Tournament Experience, and Arena Rules.** The NHTC shall conduct each I/I event/tournament. A coach of a participating team may not serve on the NHTC. All NHTC members shall serve one-year terms with no limit to number of years served.

(2) Any exceptions or clarifications to the I/I Tournament Conditions will be handled and ruled upon by the NHTC. The decision of the NHTC shall be final.

(3) To the extent there is an issue with eligibility or play that is not addressed in these conditions, the NHTC will turn to the NCAA rules for guidance.

(4) In the event of any circumstances that may not be covered by these conditions, the decision of the NHTC shall be final.

(5) The USPA I/I Committee will have **two Coaches' Representatives that are nominated and voted on by the current year I/I coaches. There will be one Interscholastic Coach and one Intercollegiate coach represented. Coaches' Reps will serve a two year term, with a staggered rotation.**

(6) The USPA I/I Chairman will appoint a Hardship Waiver Sub-Committee which will include the following persons: **the I/I Chairman**, one member from each of the **three I/I subgroups**, one at-large member and the two Coaches' Representatives as ex-officio (non-voting) members, to total seven members.

(7) I/I Communication

a. The primary method of communication for the I/I Program shall be through email and the USPA website.

b. For the purpose of reminding teams of approaching deadlines, communication shall occur in the following order: 1. website 2. email 3. telephone

c. All teams must supply current contact information to the USPA I/I Program Director and advise the Program Director of any changes. Teams are responsible for maintaining current contact information with the USPA.

**B. Games/Events**

(1) All games, events, and tournaments shall be played under the USPA Arena

Rules, as outlined in the current year official USPA Rule Book, subject to such modifications as the I/I Committee may impose. Any modifications shall be published prior to the event.

Current year modifications:

a. All I/I Tournaments and Qualified Games will be played using a “Split String” as outlined in the I/I Information Packet. Procedures for using a split string as well as the procedure for utilizing a spare if needed shall be followed as outlined on the split string sheet.

b. Teams are required to play four chukker games.

i. Prior staff approval with a minimum of 24-hour notice is required for the following exceptions:

a. To hold a shortened game on the following terms:

i. In the case of insufficient horses, teams may agree to play abbreviated games of no less than two chukkers.

b. Cases of last-minute scheduling will not be considered an acceptable reason to host a game of less than 4 chukkers.

c. Two chukker round robins

d. If shortened games are granted, a total of eight chukkers must be played by a team to meet the minimum tournament qualifications.

ii. NHTC approval may be granted after a game has been completed for the following exceptions:

a. If officials call a game due to inclement weather or darkness and it cannot be rescheduled, the score at the time the game was called shall stand and the game shall be considered complete.

b. In extreme weather conditions, chukkers may be shortened to no less than five minutes.

c. In the case of fatigued horses, chukkers may be shortened or a **walk** break can be taken halfway through the chukker to allow horses to recover.

iii. In the case of inclement weather during a tournament game, if the tournament game is to be canceled and not able to be re-scheduled, at least two chukkers must have been played to determine a winner.

c. All I/I games shall be played without handicap. In the event of a Penalty 7, if a player is disabled by a foul to the extent the Umpire permits or orders the player’s retirement from the game, the Captain of the team fouled may:

i. Have the option of providing a qualified substitute.

ii. Request a player from the fouling team whose ability is closest to that of the disabled player, as determined by the **Host Tournament Committee** (HTC), with the advice of the umpires, be removed. The HTC shall have not more than 20 minutes from the time the foul occurred to make a determination. The Captain must decide how to proceed immediately following the HTC’s determination.

d. The umpire may remove a player from a game if in the opinion of the umpire, that player is creating an unsafe situation. Actions deemed unsafe include but are not limited to endangerment to other participants and/or mounts and repeated fouls caused by these actions. Eligible substitutes shall be allowed within the chukker the unsafe player has been removed. If no eligible substitute is available, then the game will continue two on three unless the opposing team opts to remove one of its players, in which case the game will continue two on two.

e. All I/I teams participating in post season tournaments will be assigned work duties as outlined in the General Work Routine Guidelines included in the I/I Information Packet.

f. All participants in any USPA I/I Tournament or any Qualified Game shall wear face

and/or eye protection during competition.

g. Participants in any USPA I/I Tournament or Qualified Game shall only use artificial aids that adhere to the following standards:

i. Spurs

a. A participant shall not wear spurs with a sharp, square, or rough end.

b. Traditional type polo spurs; spurs must have a smooth, round, rolling rowel. The length of the spur's shank including the rowel, shall not exceed 1.5", and the diameter of the rowel shall be between .75" – 1" (*figure a*).

Figure a.



c.. A Prince of Wales type spur with a rounded shank that shall not exceed .5" in length (*figure b*).

Figure b.



ii. Whip

a. The length of the whip's popper may not exceed 3".

h. Unnecessary use of whip and/or spurs will not be tolerated at any USPA I/I event.

i. Whip and spurs may not be used unnecessarily or excessively, such as:

a. Slash use of whip - loud and/or repeated strokes.

- b. Over use of whip – To include but not limited to:
    - (1). In excess of two strokes behind the saddle
    - (2). When mount is laboring
    - (3). Following a missed play or shot
    - (4). On the way back to the lineup
    - (5). During a dead ball.
  - c. Over use of spurs – To include but not limited to:
    - (1). Excessive force
    - (2). Unnecessary use of spurs
  - i. Umpires shall not appear in any I/I event in other than proper uniform and wearing a protective helmet of the same kind and in the same manner as is required of players.
  - j. All participants in any USPA I/I Tournament/Event shall wear suitable shoes when working around horses. All shoes must be closed toed and closed heeled.
  - k. Teams will be allowed one (1), ninety (90) second timeout per half. Unused first half timeouts will not transfer to the second half. Timeouts will not transfer or be awarded during an overtime shootout. A timeout may be used at any dead ball opportunity or after a goal is scored. A team member must ride to the umpires and indicate that he/she would like to use their timeout, or a coach may get an official's attention from the sideline in order to call the timeout. Coaches may elect to enter the arena or have their team stand near the coaching area. If a coach elects to enter the arena, they must enter immediately after a timeout is requested. Once teams have converged on their coach, or around their captain if no coach is available, the timer shall begin the count down. Substitutions may only be made during the timeout. The substitute(s) must be ready to play when the timeout ends. No warmup time shall be given to the substitute(s). A team wanting to substitute during a stoppage of play that they have not called, i.e. walk break or an opposing team's timeout, must have a timeout available. If a team has previously used their timeout for the half, then they forfeit the right to substitute that half during game play. If they have not, the coach or player must notify the umpire that they will also be using their timeout for the half to proceed with the substitution process. The end of a time out shall be indicated by a horn or the official's whistle. In the event teams do not return to the area where play shall be resumed in a timely manner or coaches do not leave the arena within 15 seconds of the horn, the umpires shall blow the whistle to indicate improper play and determine the appropriate penalty assessment.
    - i. A timeout will not be charged if team members need to switch horses within their string.
    - ii. A timeout will not be charged if a player needs to fix a part of their tack.
    - iii. A timeout will not be charged if a player must take an injury timeout. A substitution will not be charged if a player must be brought in to take the place of an injured player.
1. All games must end in a win/loss situation. All ties at the end of regulation play shall be broken by a shootout. Shootout procedures can be found in USPA Arena Rule 5. c. 2. The following modifications can also be made:

- i. Coaches shall be allowed into the arena during the shootout but must remain behind the 25-yard line opposite of where the penalty shots are taking place.
  - ii. If the shootout is still tied after two rounds at a Preliminary tournament and no shot has scored or touched the end wall, the Host Tournament Committee may elect to move the shootout to the 15-yard line.
- m. Tournaments with three teams may be played under the American System, the Single Elimination System or as a round robin depending on availability of horses, weather or other factors.**
- i. If a round robin is played, all games must end in a win/loss situation. All ties at the end of regulation play shall be broken with a shoot-out. In the event of a three-way tie at the end of the tournament, net goals shall be used to determine a winner (goals score by team – goals scored by opponents = net goals). If a tie remains, gross goals shall be used (goals scored). If a tie remains after gross goals, a shoot-out between teams will take place to determine a winner.**
- n.** The 2021 National Intercollegiate Tournament will be played using a six, five-minute chukker format, using three strings for each game.
- (2) All games played by teams to determine rankings in tournaments shall be under the jurisdiction of the I/I Committee.
- a. In order for the NHTC to accurately seed regional tournaments, all I/I teams are required to play a mandatory minimum of two Qualified games by **January 6, 2021** for Interscholastic (IS) teams and **January 28, 2021** for Intercollegiate (IC) teams.
  - b. A Qualified Game is competition between two teams in which all players meet the requirements of individual and team eligibility as defined in the USPA I/I Tournament Conditions. Games played against teams not meeting the standard qualification requirements will be sent to the NHTC for review and approval. Qualified games must start with three players per team. Games may only be qualified by the NHTC. All regular season qualified games must end in a win/loss situation. All ties at the end of regulation play shall be broken by a shoot-out.
    - i. IC teams must play a minimum of one Qualified games against a team in their assigned region/division (see below). A second Qualified game may be against a team from a different region.
    - ii. IS teams must play a minimum of one Qualified games against a team in their assigned region/division (see below). A second Qualified game may be against another I/I team from a different region or division.
      - 1. If no other in-division team resides within 600 miles of a club, a team may play any other IS team for their Qualified games. If no other IS team resides within 600 miles of the club, the team may play an IC team for their qualified games. The team’s coach must alert I/I staff if they believe there is no other in-division team within 600 miles of their club. Staff can verify, and then aid in finding opponents if necessary.

2. IS teams may be granted permission by the NHTC to play the required two games against any IS team, regardless of region, or against an IC team if necessary. The NHTC may ask that additional games be played for seeding preliminary/regional tournaments.

| <b>Intercollegiate Regions</b> |                     |                     |                             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Central</b>                 | <b>Northeastern</b> | <b>Southeastern</b> | <b>Western</b>              |
| Arkansas                       | Connecticut         | Alabama             | Alaska                      |
| Colorado                       | Maine               | Delaware            | Arizona                     |
| Iowa                           | Massachusetts       | Florida             | California                  |
| Kansas                         | New Hampshire       | Georgia             | Hawaii                      |
| Louisiana                      | New Jersey          | Illinois            | Idaho                       |
| Minnesota                      | New York            | Indiana             | Montana                     |
| Missouri                       | Pennsylvania        | Kentucky            | Nevada                      |
| Nebraska                       | Rhode Island        | Maryland            | Oregon                      |
| New Mexico                     | Vermont             | Michigan            | Utah                        |
| North Dakota                   | Ontario, Canada     | Mississippi         | Washington                  |
| Oklahoma                       |                     | North Carolina      | British Columbia,<br>Canada |
| South Dakota                   |                     | Ohio                |                             |
| Texas                          |                     | South Carolina      |                             |
| Wyoming                        |                     | Tennessee           |                             |
|                                |                     | Virginia            |                             |
|                                |                     | West Virginia       |                             |
|                                |                     | Wisconsin           |                             |

| <b>Interscholastic Regions</b> |                     |                     |                             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Central</b>                 | <b>Northeastern</b> | <b>Southeastern</b> | <b>Western</b>              |
| Arkansas                       | Connecticut         | Alabama             | Alaska                      |
| Colorado                       | Maine               | Delaware            | Arizona                     |
| Iowa                           | Massachusetts       | Florida             | California                  |
| Illinois                       | New Hampshire       | Georgia             | Hawaii                      |
| Indiana                        | New Jersey          | Maryland            | Idaho                       |
| Kansas                         | New York            | Mississippi         | Montana                     |
| Kentucky                       | Rhode Island        | North Carolina      | Nevada                      |
| Louisiana                      | Vermont             | Pennsylvania        | Oregon                      |
| Michigan                       | Ontario, Canada     | South Carolina      | Utah                        |
| Minnesota                      |                     | Tennessee           | Washington                  |
| Missouri                       |                     | Virginia            | British Columbia,<br>Canada |
| Nebraska                       |                     | West Virginia       |                             |
| New Mexico                     |                     |                     |                             |
| North Dakota                   |                     |                     |                             |
| Ohio                           |                     |                     |                             |
| Oklahoma                       |                     |                     |                             |
| South Dakota                   |                     |                     |                             |
| Texas                          |                     |                     |                             |
| Wisconsin                      |                     |                     |                             |
| Wyoming                        |                     |                     |                             |
| Guatemala                      |                     |                     |                             |

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- c. The official roster of an I/I team shall be the qualified players listed on the official eligibility paperwork submitted to the USPA, with all eligibility requirements signed off on and verified. Only qualified players appearing on the USPA I/I official roster will be eligible to participate in USPA I/I official regular season games. Clubs allowing players to play in regular season games who are not listed on the official USPA I/I roster, will be subject to penalties by the USPA, and potential disqualification from the tournament season.
- d. A Qualified Player is a current USPA member that meets all I/I eligibility requirements as defined in the USPA I/I Tournament Conditions.
- e. Scrimmages do not count towards a player's use of eligibility.
- f. The NHTC reserves the right to review all games played (Qualified and Nonqualified) when necessary for seeding purposes.
- g. **Official USPA** score sheets shall be used at all regular season and tournament games. Score sheets can be obtained from the USPA.
- h. Score sheets must be legible and include team names, official team rosters (player's full names), umpire's full names, game date and host club name. To be valid, a score sheet must be signed by both coaches and/or captains. Each team's coach/captain shall be given a copy of the score sheet.
- i. The signed score sheet for each Qualified Game must be submitted to the USPA within seven days from the day the game is played. Score sheets may be either submitted via Sportsengine or emailed (scanned copies or legible photos) to the USPA (see information below).

(3) The official I/I season starts September 1st of the current year and ends at the conclusion of the National Tournament for that academic year.

### C. Tournaments

(1) All I/I Tournament games will follow the Tournament Conditions as written in the I/I Section of the current year USPA Rule Book.

- a. The National Intercollegiate Championships will be played utilizing a six, five-minute chukker format, on a split string.
- b. All Regional Tournaments will be played utilizing a four, six and a half minute chukker format, on a split string; unless otherwise determined by the **Tournament & Regular Season Committee/NHTC**.

(2) All I/I teams, provided they have complied with all rules and regulations outlined in the USPA Rule Book and Tournament Conditions, will be given an opportunity to compete in post-season play. Teams will be seeded into either a preliminary tournament or receive a bye into a regional tournament based on the results of regular season play and other information available to the NHTC. All I/I regional winners will advance to their National Tournament. Regions and team assignments will be defined prior to the start of the I/I tournament season.

- a. All I/I tournaments will be seeded by the NHTC and played by Single Elimination unless otherwise designated by the NHTC and/or the **Tournament & Regular Season Committee** prior to the event. Seeding will be based on win-



loss records and other information available to the Committee. This information may include but is not limited to:

- i. The addition or loss of a player(s) to a team's roster due to that player(s)' eligibility or availability.
  - ii. Strength of playing schedule.
  - iii. Other circumstances with regard to a team's win-loss record.
- b. The NHTC reserves the right to select one or more "wild card" teams to compete in Regional/National Tournaments. Selection is based on the observation of teams, primarily at the preliminary and/or regional tournaments and during the regular season, by the **I/I Committee**, I/I Program Director, the I/I Tournament Manager, the I/I Tournament Coordinator, I/I umpires, and I/I tournament managers.
- i. Team strength, win/loss record, regular season strength of schedule, and ability to advance in the Regional/National Tournament shall be taken into consideration. Priority shall be given as follows: 1. to invite teams which can potentially win the Regional/National Tournament, 2. to assemble the strongest teams in the region/country.
  - ii. Availability of horses, both physically and financially, shall be taken into account.
  - iii. Wild card consideration shall first be given to regional second place teams.
  - iv. Lower placed regional teams may also be considered provided that the regional second place team has been selected.
  - v. In the event of limited horses and space at the National Tournament, the NHTC has the authority to organize a play-off between potential wild card teams, including: a lower placed team with a second-place team, with the winner advancing to the National Tournament. Teams offered a play-off do not have to be from the same region. At least one USPA certified umpire will be provided for the play-off.
  - vi. In the event of disciplinary issues, the NHTC may bypass a team no matter what place they finished at the Regional Tournament.
- c. Consolation chukkers will be provided at the interscholastic preliminary and regional tournaments if sufficient horses are available.
- d. The I/I committee, NHTC, I/I Program Director or their representative reserves the right to alter the number or length of chukkers played in any USPA I/I Tournament to accommodate all participating teams, availability of horses, and/or condition of horses.
- e. If sufficient horses are not available and all possible solutions have been exhausted, the following options may be exercised:
- i. Playing priority shall be given to teams supplying or sourcing horses for the tournament. The remaining teams without an assigned string will not compete in the tournament. Teams outside of the 600-mile shipping limit will be aided by the USPA in sourcing a string.

- f. There shall be no practice, game play, or stick and balling:
- i. Of any horses scheduled to be used in the tournament, at any location, by any individual, from the beginning of the tournament team meeting through the end of the last tournament game.
  - ii. By any individuals or teams participating in the tournament from the beginning of the tournament team meeting through the end of the last tournament game or a player's team plays their final game in the tournament. (This does not preclude pre-game warm-up.)
- (3) The I/I Committee shall establish a tournament entry fee schedule in addition to providing reimbursement of appropriate costs for participants of specific tournaments.
- a. Any monies received to defray tournament expenses from USPA, member schools and clubs or any sponsor shall be allocated by the USPA I/I Committee in such a way that no individual or team is favored. Primary consideration in allocating such funds will be towards the expense of shall be final.
  - b. Grounds fees may be charged in addition to tournament entry fees if necessary to provide adequate facilities for the event.
- (4) All teams entering an I/I Tournament shall be subject to the following fees:
- a. All teams shall submit a non-refundable \$800 tournament entry fee, payable to the USPA (due December 1).
  - b. Teams entering a second I/I Tournament (Regional or National) shall be charged an additional \$800.00 entry fee (payable to the USPA) prior to the first game of the tournament.
- (5) USPA member schools and clubs are required to supply or source horses to preliminary, regional, and/or national tournaments that they are attending.
- a. Individuals/Programs supplying horses to a preliminary, regional, or national tournament, shall be reimbursed shipping rates and game rates as published in the yearly I/I Information pack. Less than a full string will be reimbursed on a prorated basis. All published host site and horse provider reimbursement rates apply, unless a negotiated amount is agreed on in advance. Reimbursements shall be made upon receipt and approval of an official Tournament Invoice (available from the I/I Tournament Manager). The invoice must be signed by the I/I Tournament Manager or the I/I Program Director with all required information and receipts included. Completed invoices shall be submitted to the USPA (see address below) no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year or returned to the I/I Tournament Manager. Event name, location and date must be included on the invoice.
  - b. A horse owner providing horses to play or umpire in an I/I tournament will be required to provide the following to the I/I staff no later than one (1) week before the scheduled tournament start date.:
    - i. A negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA or Coggins) test result dated within twelve (12) months of the tournament end date
    - ii. A certificate of veterinary inspection (health certificate) and/or the I/I Horse Health Document dated within thirty (30) days of the tournament

- end date. The chosen document must include the Henneke Body Condition Score of each horse participating in the tournament. Horses that do not score a 4, 5, or 6 on the Henneke scale will not be allowed to participate or receive reimbursement.
- iii. Additional proof of vaccinations as requested by tournament host sites. Horse providers will be advised of any additional host site vaccination requirements by January 1 of the tournament year.
- c. All playing and umpiring horses will undergo a pre-tournament veterinary inspection at the tournament site before their first game. The inspection will include a body condition score assessment, a “menace” test to check vision, and a jog pattern to assess soundness for play. Horses shipped that are determined by the Tournament Veterinarian and/or Host Tournament Committee to be unsuitable for play due to a failed Body Condition Score, jog test, or other factors will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- d. All playing and umpiring horses must appear in proper fitting tack, to include, but not be limited to: saddles with over-girths and appropriately sized stirrups; bridles including a standing martingale, breast plate, two (2) sets of reins (straight or draw reins) for Intercollegiate and Interscholastic (recommended but not required for Middle School); wraps and/or protective boots for all four (4) legs and tape to secure the wraps; and grooming supplies. Saddle pads are highly recommended.
- e. Unless injured, horses scheduled to play in a tournament must remain available as scheduled in order to receive tournament reimbursement.
- f. Reasonable veterinary expenses will be reimbursed for injuries that occur during a tournament. This does not include injuries sustained in transit either to or from the tournament. This reimbursement is only for care given at the tournament site.
- (6) The I/I Committee, NHTC, Program Director, the USPA or any of their employees or representatives shall not be held responsible for any personal and/or team equipment at the tournament site.
- (7) The I/I Committee, NHTC, Program Director, the USPA or any of their employees or representatives do not assume any responsibility for the value of horses loaned to the tournament, or for the value of equipment broken, lost or stolen at the tournament.
- (8) The USPA I/I Committee shall ensure that the following will be at each tournament:
- a. Suitable arena for tournament polo
  - b. Tournament Manager
  - c. Host Tournament Committee to include the following persons:  
Tournament Manager, Tournament Umpires, any **I/I Committee members** and NHTC members present and select USPA members as named by the referenced individuals
  - d. Umpires and referee

- e. Equine Welfare Representative
  - f. Tournament balls, split string sheets, score sheets
  - g. Team Packets for all participating teams
  - h. Awards for tournament winners
  - i. Certificates for tournament all stars and sportsmanship recipients
  - j. Best Playing Pony and Best Playing String certificate/award
  - k. Horsemanship Award
  - l. Hay and water for tournament horses during the event
- (9) Tournament Voting Procedures
- a. All Star and Sportsmanship
    - i. Each team playing in a tournament will receive an All Star and Sportsmanship ballot. Each team shall vote for four All Star candidates and each team member will vote for one Sportsmanship candidate (up to four sportsmanship votes per team) as instructed on the official ballot, based on the listed criteria.
    - ii. All Star and Sportsmanship Award candidates are for the present tournament only and candidates must be on a participating team's roster that is playing in the tournament.
    - iii. Teams may not vote for players on their own team.
    - iv. A player that has received a red flag during the Tournament is not eligible for the Sportsmanship Award. Nominees that have received yellow flag(s) are subject to review by the Host Tournament Committee.
    - v. Collegiate: men's teams will vote for men recipients, women's teams will vote for women recipients. There shall be one male and one female sportsmanship recipient per IC tournament and four male All Stars and four female All Stars per IC tournament.
    - vi. Scholastic: Open teams will vote for open division player recipients, Girls' teams will vote for Girls' division players vote for Girls' division players. There shall be one sportsmanship recipient per IS tournament and four All Stars per IS divisional tournament.
    - vii. The Host Tournament committee shall also submit a collective vote for all star and sportsmanship candidates with advice from the tournament manager and tournament officials.
    - viii. The Host Tournament Committee shall have the ability to break any ties. With a unanimous vote, the HTC may change the recipients of tournament awards if they feel that a deserving individual was omitted from the team's ballots. The HTC may disqualify individuals for conduct exhibited at the tournament.
  - b. Best Playing Pony and Best Playing String
    - i. The Tournament Manager or designated individual shall collect horse scores from teams playing at the conclusion of each game. Horses shall be scored 1 – 10, 10 being the best score. The tournament manager/HTC reserves the right to request more accurate horse scores if, in their opinion,

- a player or team is manipulating the scoring in any way.
- ii. The horse receiving the highest average score shall be named Best Playing Pony (BPP) of the tournament. Horses must have played at least two games in the tournament to be eligible for BPP. Any ties for BPP will be broken by random draw.
- iii. All total scores of horses within a string, including spares, shall be added and divided by the number of horses played in that string. The string with the highest average shall be named Best Playing String (BPS) of the tournament. Strings must have played at least two games in the tournament to be eligible for BPS. All tied strings will be recognized.
- c. All Star and Sportsmanship ballots and horse scores shall be turned in to the tournament manager or HTC representative, promptly at the time designated.
- d. The Horsemanship award will be awarded based on the decision of the HTC to the player who best demonstrates horsemanship, both on and off the field.
- If multiple tournaments are played in the same location at the same time, one Horsemanship award will be given for each division playing (Girls', Open, Women, Men).**

#### D. Intercollegiate Eligibility

##### (1) Individual Eligibility

- a. An individual must be a current Lifetime, Registered or Affiliate Player member of the USPA to be eligible for participation in any IC Tournament or Qualified Game(s). Non-members are not covered by USPA excess liability insurance. New students must join in the fall and renew membership in the spring. Students may join online at [www.uspolo.org](http://www.uspolo.org).
- b. A student must be enrolled as a full-time student in good standing, making progress toward a degree on the main campus which the college/university polo team represents.
- c. A student must be an undergraduate or first year graduate student of the college that he/she represents, as verified through the college/university's Registrar's office. First year graduate students must meet all other eligibility requirements.
- d. A student may not have reached his/her 26th birthday prior to September 1st preceding the date of the intercollegiate season for which eligibility is sought.
- e. A student may have five **and one-half** consecutive years from the time of first matriculation (as a full-time student), at any college or university regardless if the student has transferred to its current institution, in which to complete four years of eligibility.
- f. A student who enters active duty military service immediately following high school and/or a student entering active duty military service after being enrolled at a college or university will have the five-year period extended for the length of that military service. The five-year period will commence beginning the first academic school year after discharge. The upper age limit will be waived.

- g. The Registrar of the institution at which the student is enrolled must verify the following:
- i. Student is enrolled as a full-time student (undergraduate or first year graduate student) on the main campus which the college polo team represents.
  - ii. Student's first year of matriculation (full time).
  - iii. If the Student has transferred any credits from another institution.
  - iv. If student is in his/her final semester/quarter, the student may carry less than a full-time academic load. The registrar must verify that this is the student's final semester/quarter. This allowance is only permitted once and only if the player is a graduating senior and a letter from the Registrar confirming such status is obtained.
- h. An Official Representative from the institution's governing body of the polo program (i.e. Recreation Sports Dept., Student Government, Athletic Dept., etc.) which the student is enrolled must verify the following:
- i. Student maintains a passing average, is in good standing, making progress toward a degree on the main campus which the college polo team represents.
  - ii. Student is scholastically eligible to participate in sports at his/her college/university.
  - iii. If the Student was enrolled in active military service.
- i. Students must complete the Full Time Student Verification Form, completed by their academic advisor or school registrar, and submit to the USPA by the dates of December 1<sup>st</sup> for those students competing during the fall season and one week before NIC for those students who advance to the national tournament.
- j. A student, including one who has misrepresented his or her Individual Eligibility, who has played in any intercollegiate qualified game in any region during the I/I season (September 1st through the National Tournament), is considered to have used a year of eligibility whether or not the student plays in a USPA intercollegiate tournament.
- k. A student may request a waiver to the Tournament Conditions as written in section 3 following the guidelines and procedure as outlined in the I/I Information Packet.

## (2) Team Eligibility

- a. An Official Representative from the institution's governing body of the polo program (i.e. Recreation Sports Dept., Student Government, Athletic Dept.) which the students are enrolled must verify that the team is recognized by the Institution and is authorized to represent the college/university at local, regional and national events.
- b. A team in the Intercollegiate Program must be or be hosted by a USPA member club as defined in the USPA By-Laws with dues paid for the current calendar

year of intercollegiate competition. Hosted teams must renew their club form at the start of each I/I Season, due Oct 1.

(3) Gender

a. As intercollegiate tournaments are available for both men and women, no man may play in a women's intercollegiate event/tournament, and no woman may play in a men's intercollegiate event/tournament.

b. The USPA acknowledges that certain individuals are transgender and may be undergoing treatment for gender transition. Any transgender individual who has not taken or received hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate on any team in accordance with his or her gender assigned at birth. A trans male (FTM) who has not received or taken testosterone or other gender transition hormone treatment may participate on either a men's team or a women's team; however, a trans female (MTF) who has not received or taken gender transition hormone treatment may participate only on a men's team, and shall not participate on a women's team.

A trans male (FTM) who has received a medical exception for treatment with testosterone for diagnosed Gender Identity Disorder, gender dysphoria, or transsexualism may compete on a men's team, but is no longer eligible to compete on a women's team. Any individual who has received a medical exception for treatment with testosterone must provide documentation of the medical exception, as well as documentation verified by a medical doctor of a diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder, gender dysphoria, or Transsexualism. A trans female (MTF) who has received or taken, or is receiving or taking, testosterone suppression medication or other hormone treatment related to Gender Identity Disorder, gender dysphoria, or Transsexualism may participate on a men's team, but may not participate on a women's team until completing at least one calendar year of continuing hormone treatment. Any individual who has received or is receiving hormone treatment shall provide documentation of such treatment, including information reflecting any relevant diagnoses, the type of medication or treatment taken or received, the dates of treatment and diagnosis, and any other information that may be requested by the USPA. Any transgender athlete who fails to provide appropriate documentation shall be declared ineligible until satisfying all requests from the USPA. The USPA reserves the right at its discretion to investigate the eligibility of any individual seeking to participate in any event as a member of the USPA. Such investigation may include requiring an individual to provide to the USPA or its investigators blood samples, urine samples, or other medical information.

In order to avoid challenges to an individual's participation during a season, an individual who has completed, plans to initiate, or is in the process of taking or receiving hormone treatment in connection with a gender transition should submit to the USPA a written request to participate on a team, noting the individual's name, address, contact information, prospective team, and

current status of gender transition (e.g., completed male-to-female transition or anticipated female-to-male transition) with relevant dates of initiation and completion. Students seeking to participate in interscholastic and/or intercollegiate competition should submit such requests to the director of athletics (or appropriate club representative) of the individual student's academic institution, who must assume responsibility for notifying the USPA of the student's request and communicating any information necessary for an eligibility decision to be made. The athletic director shall maintain confidentiality with respect to all such communications, unless the student waives such confidentiality.

Retaliation is strictly forbidden against anyone who complains about discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Retaliation by a team or institution may result in any such organization forfeiting its right to participate in one or more USPA events, at the discretion of the USPA.

While the USPA endeavors to maintain standards that would permit individuals to compete in NCAA-, Pan American Sports Organization-, and/or US Olympic Committee-sanctioned events, it is noted that the standards imposed by competitions affiliated with such organizations may in some cases vary from the eligibility standards provided herein, and therefore elite-level athletes seeking to potentially compete at a high level within any other organization should be mindful of independent standards enforced by each organization.

(4) Coaches – All intercollegiate teams are required to have a designated coach who meets all the requirements contain in H. Coaches' Eligibility. An Intercollegiate team that does not have a designated coach meeting each of the requirements of section H. Coaches' Eligibility, shall be ineligible to participate in and may be disqualified from participating in, a USPA-Sanctioned event.

## E. Interscholastic Eligibility

### (1) Individual Eligibility

a. An individual must be a current Lifetime, Registered or Affiliate Player member of the USPA to be eligible for participation in any IS Tournament or Qualified Game(s). Non-members are not covered by USPA excess liability insurance. New students must join in the fall and renew membership in the spring. Students may join online at [www.uspolo.org](http://www.uspolo.org).

b. A student must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to September 1st preceding the date of the interscholastic season for which eligibility is sought.

c. An official school representative must verify the following:

i. Student must be enrolled at a public, private or parochial school or an approved home school **or online** program, grade 7 through 12, and be making progress toward graduation.



- ii. Student must maintain a passing grade average and be scholastically eligible for other interscholastic sports at the school.
- d. A student may request a waiver to the Tournament Conditions as written in section 3 as per the guidelines and procedure as outlined in the I/I Information Packet.
- (2) Team Eligibility
- a. Coaches – All interscholastic teams are required to have a designated coach who meets all the requirements contain in H. Coaches’ Eligibility. An interscholastic team that does not have a designated coach meeting each of the requirements of section H. Coaches’ Eligibility, shall be ineligible to participate in and may be disqualified from participating in, a USPA-Sanctioned event.
- b. The coach of each team shall verify the team’s collective eligibility.
- c. A member school team in the Interscholastic Program must be composed of individually eligible students enrolled at the member school. The school must recognize polo as an organized school activity at the varsity or club level.
- d. A member school or youth organization must be a USPA member club as defined in the USPA By-Laws with dues paid for the current calendar year of interscholastic competition.
- e. A team representing a member club of the USPA shall be composed of individually eligible students associated with the member club. **Members are eligible to participate on any team whose member club’s physical address is within a 100-mile radius of their residence and/or boarding school. Online or home school students must use an address they reside in during the interscholastic season for eligibility purposes.**
- i. Students that do not have a club within a 100-mile radius shall have the opportunity to participate with **a club with an interscholastic program that will accept the student. If a student requests to play outside of their 100-mile radius they will need to complete a 100-Mile Waiver Request. The request will be reviewed by the NHTC and the player will be notified of their approval status within 10 business days.**
- ii. Once the student has the approval of the NHTC and the acceptance of the club, they will be allowed to continue playing for the club until their graduation from high school. If the student decides to leave the club for any reason and join another club, the process must begin again unless the new club’s address is located within a 100-mile radius of the student’s address.
- f. Players may be added or deleted from an official IS roster up until the IS eligibility deadline as stated in the Required Forms section of the USPA I/I Tournament Conditions.
- g. No player may play for more than one member school or club within the same I/I season. From the time the score sheet of a Qualified Game is submitted to the USPA to the time an official roster is submitted to the USPA, the players

whose names appear on that score sheet may transfer to other teams within a member school or club but may not transfer to a different member school or club. The NHTC may waive this limitation in the event a documented medical injury to one team member will leave the team without a sufficient number of players to participate in the tournament. In such an event, a written request must be presented to the USPA within 7 days of the injury/incident, and no less than 2 weeks prior to the start of the first tournament of the proposed new team.

(3) Gender

a. An all Girls' Interscholastic team representing a USPA member school or club may enter either the Girls' Interscholastic Tournament or the Open Interscholastic Tournament, but not both.

b. The USPA acknowledges that certain individuals are transgender and may be undergoing treatment for gender transition. Any transgender individual who has not taken or received hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate on any team in accordance with his or her gender assigned at birth. A trans male (FTM) who has not received or taken testosterone or other gender transition hormone treatment may participate on either a men's team or a women's team; however, a trans female (MTF) who has not received or taken gender transition hormone treatment may participate only on a men's team, and shall not participate on a women's team.

A trans male (FTM) who has received a medical exception for treatment with testosterone for diagnosed Gender Identity Disorder, gender dysphoria, or transsexualism may compete on a men's team, but is no longer eligible to compete on a women's team. Any individual who has received a medical exception for treatment with testosterone must provide documentation of the medical exception, as well as documentation verified by a medical doctor of a diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder, gender dysphoria, or Transsexualism. A trans female (MTF) who has received or taken, or is receiving or taking, testosterone suppression medication or other hormone treatment related to Gender Identity Disorder, gender dysphoria, or Transsexualism may participate on a men's team, but may not participate on a women's team until completing at least one calendar year of continuing hormone treatment. Any individual who has received or is receiving hormone treatment shall provide documentation of such treatment, including information reflecting any relevant diagnoses, the type of medication or treatment taken or received, the dates of treatment and diagnosis, and any other information that may be requested by the USPA. Any transgender athlete who fails to provide appropriate documentation shall be declared ineligible until satisfying all requests from the USPA. The USPA reserves the right at its discretion to investigate the eligibility of any individual seeking to participate in any event as a member of the USPA. Such investigation may include requiring an individual to provide to the USPA or its investigators blood samples, urine samples, or other medical information.

In order to avoid challenges to an individual's participation during a season, an individual who has completed, plans to initiate, or is in the process of taking or receiving hormone treatment in connection with a gender transition should submit to the USPA a written request to participate on a team, noting the individual's name, address, contact information, prospective team, and current status of gender transition (e.g., completed male-to-female transition or anticipated female-to-male transition) with relevant dates of initiation and completion. Students seeking to participate in interscholastic and/or intercollegiate competition should submit such requests to the director of athletics (or appropriate club representative) of the individual student's academic institution, who must assume responsibility for notifying the USPA of the student's request and communicating any information necessary for an eligibility decision to be made. The athletic director shall maintain confidentiality with respect to all such communications, unless the student waives such confidentiality. Retaliation is strictly forbidden against anyone who complains about discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Retaliation by a team or institution may result in any such organization forfeiting its right to participate in one or more USPA events, at the discretion of the USPA.

While the USPA endeavors to maintain standards that would permit individuals to compete in NCAA-, Pan American Sports Organization-, and/or US Olympic Committee-sanctioned events, it is noted that the standards imposed by competitions affiliated with such organizations may in some cases vary from the eligibility standards provided herein, and therefore elite-level athletes seeking to potentially compete at a high level within any other organization should be mindful of independent standards enforced by each organization.

#### **F. National Alumni Tournament**

- (1) Player must have participated in an interscholastic or intercollegiate program at his or her school/club.
- (2) Player must be a current registered member of the USPA. A handicap is not required.
- (3) To be eligible for the National tournament, a Player must have participated in at least one of the following:
  - a. An alumni event at his or her school/club within the last year
  - b. An active coach of an I/I team.
  - c. Umpired at least 3 USPA I/I Regular season games or tournament games
  - d. Tournament managed at a USPA I/I tournament
  - e. Made a donation in the form of a horse, tack, equipment, or monetary to an I/I program
- (4) An entry fee of \$100. per player will be collected prior to the start the event. Check to be made to the I/I program of player's choice. The USPA will supply the following: Arena rental, USPA Certified Umpires, trophies, EMT and tournament manager.

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## G. Middle School Tournament

- (1) Player must be enrolled in an academic program in which they are currently in the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
  - a. Players that meet both the eligibility requirements for the Middle School and Interscholastic Tournaments will be allowed to play in both sets of tournaments.
- (2) Player must be a current registered member of the USPA. A handicap is not required, but Player needs to be ready for tournament play.
- (3) A registration fee of \$50 per Player will be collected before a player may register for any Middle School Tournament.
- (4) If space allows, player will be allowed to play in more than one middle school tournament.
- (5) Game setup
  - a. Games will be played in a 4 chukker format. Players will have the option to play either 2 or 4 chukkers based on the number of horses they bring to play.
  - b. Taking into consideration the safety of the players in the Middle School Tournaments, games will not be played in the split string format for this tournament only. Players will be responsible for using their own horse(s) or leasing appropriate horses for the Tournament.
    - i. The Player is responsible for the shipping and housing of their horse(s). The Host site will provide housing options to Players and Coaches before the Tournament.
    - ii. If the Tournament Manager and Equine Welfare Representative determine that a player's horse is unfit to play for the number of chukkers it has been assigned, the horse will be pulled from the game and a replacement found, if possible.
  - c. Shootouts for Middle School Tournament Games will take place at the 15-yard line. If the shootout moves into multiple rounds, the Host Tournament Committee may move the shootout to the 25-yard line.
- (6) Tournament setup
  - a. Tournaments will be played in an "open" format. Boys and girls will be allowed on the same teams
  - b. Players will be placed in a pool for coaches and the Tournament HTC to create appropriate teams from, keeping in mind each Player's ability and horse availability.
  - c. Work guidelines
    - i. Players will be required to follow the assigned work guidelines of the tournament **as set by the Tournament HTC**. These guidelines may include, but are not limited to: walking horses, lining the arena, and goal judging.
  - d. Voting Procedures
    - i. Best Playing Pony – The Umpires will choose the BPP. Other RHTC members in attendance may have a vote as well.
    - ii. **Horsemanship Awards – The HTC will choose the Horsemanship**

**Award winner.**

- (7) Paperwork
- a. The following paperwork is due to the USPA ten (10) days before the tournament start date:
    - i. Registration Fee
    - ii. Player Application
    - iii. Current USPA membership
- (8) There will be no requirement for qualifying games to be eligible to play in the Middle School Tournaments.
- (9) USPA will supply trophies and awards.

**H. Coaches' Eligibility**

- (1) All designated I/I coaches must meet the following requirements: **Due October 1**
- a. Must be a current Lifetime, Registered Player, Affiliate Player, or Social-Non Playing, of the USPA to be eligible to coach any I/I team. USPA members are subject to the USPA's Code of Conduct. New coaches must be current at the beginning of the I/I season and must maintain membership through the conclusion of I/I season. Coaches may join online at [www.uspolo.org](http://www.uspolo.org).
  - b. Coaches must submit to and pass a yearly criminal background check at the beginning of the I/I season.
  - c. Coaches are required to take the CDC Heads Up Online Concussion training and the USOC Safe Sport Online Training and to take any training updates offered in the future as designated by the I/I staff.
  - d. Coaches are required **yearly** to sign the USPA's I/I Coaches Code of Conduct.
  - e. Coaches are required to complete the USPA CPI Safety Training Modules: Rider, Equine, and Facility Safety.

AN INDIVIDUAL THAT DOES NOT SATISFY EACH OF THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH ABOVE IN THIS SECTION H., SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO ACT AS A DESIGNATED COACH FOR AN I/I TEAM, AND MAY JEOPARDIZE THE I/I TEAM'S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A USPA-SANCTIONED EVENT.

**I. Required Forms**

- (1) All Tournament Conditions, Individual Eligibility and Team Eligibility requirements must be met by the following deadlines:
- a. October 1 – IS and IC Team deadlines
    - i. Intent to Compete Forms - Used for the purpose of planning preliminary/regional tournaments. Teams which do not submit an Intent to Compete Form by October 1<sup>st</sup> will not be allowed to compete in an I/I Tournament.
    - ii. Coaches Forms
    - iii. Tentative Rosters
    - iv. IC Team Host Club form. (For those teams that are not their own club)

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- b. **December 1** – IC team deadlines
- i. Tournament entry fee of \$800
  - ii. Advertising deadline for the annual I/I Magazine. Teams submitting ads to the magazine will receive a waiver to the \$100 Magazine Fee plus additional published program reimbursements if applicable.
  - iii. Intercollegiate Full Time Student Check form
- c. **December 14** – Interscholastic team deadlines
- i. Tournament entry fee of \$800
  - ii. Advertising deadline for the annual I/I Magazine. Teams submitting ads to the magazine will receive a waiver to the \$100 Magazine Fee plus additional published program reimbursements if applicable.
  - iii. Interscholastic Individual Eligibility Form (IS players) – one per player
  - iv. Interscholastic Team Eligibility Form (IS players) – one per team
  - v. I/I Rules Test – tests shall be taken individually or as a team and is intended to be taken open book. The I/I rules test can be obtained on the USPA website and taken online.
  - vi. Final Roster – one per team
- d. **January 1**–
- i. USPA Club dues
  - ii. USPA Individual Membership
- e. **January 8** – Interscholastic team deadline
- i. Scoresheets for two Qualified Games
- f. **January 28**– Intercollegiate team deadlines
- i. Intercollegiate Registrar Verification Form – one per team
  - ii. Intercollegiate Team Eligibility Form – one per team
  - iii. I/I Rules Test – tests shall be taken individually or as a team and is intended to be taken open book. The I/I rules test can be obtained on the USPA website and taken online.
  - iv. Final Roster – one per team
  - v. Scoresheets for two Qualified Games
- g. **March 17** - Intercollegiate team deadline (if advancing to NIC)
- i. Full Time Student Check form
- h. All required forms are included in the I/I Information Packet and on the USPA website's I/I pages, [www.uspolo.org](http://www.uspolo.org).
- i. Completed forms, score sheets, and payments shall be directed to the USPA (see address below).

United States Polo Association  
 Attention: I/I Program  
 9011 Lake Worth Road  
 Lake Worth, FL 33467  
 Phone: 1-800-232-8772  
 Email: [adavidge@uspolo.org](mailto:adavidge@uspolo.org)

(2) All forms will remain in effect for the entire academic year, providing the student does not subsequently become ineligible. It is the responsibility of the player and the team coach/advisor to report changes in eligibility status to the USPA immediately. Failure to report changes in eligibility could result in:

- a. Suspension of the player or team for future games, for the entire season or for future seasons.
- b. Forfeit of all games played while player was ineligible.
- c. Additional penalties that may be imposed by the I/I Committee.

## **J. Violations and Penalties**

(1) Violations and Penalties for not complying with USPA I/I Tournament Conditions shall be determined by the NHTC per the following guidelines:

- a. Failure to meet paperwork deadlines shall result in a loss of opportunity to compete in I/I Tournaments and Qualified Games.
- b. Failure to meet eligibility requirements shall result in an individual's or a team's loss of opportunity to compete in I/I Tournaments and Qualified Games.
- c. Failure to meet code of conduct or tournament work requirements shall result in a penalty to be determined by the NHTC, which may include a loss of opportunity to compete in both present and future I/I Tournaments and Qualified Games.
- d. Failure to meet any other Tournament Condition shall result in a penalty to be determined by the NHTC.

(2) The USPA I/I Chair(s) may convene a select committee to review violations of or conduct detrimental to I/I polo and the Committee's decision shall be final.

(3) All protests are governed by the Association's Sport Protest Procedures, Part III of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy.





# EQUINE DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS RULES

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## EQUINE DRUGS & MEDICATIONS RULES

### 1. PERMITTED MEDICATIONS

The USPA will impose no penalty for the administration of the following classes of medications to polo horses:

1. Antibiotics, antiprotozoals
2. Dewormers
3. Hormonal therapies in mares (e.g. Regumate<sup>®</sup>, altrenogest)
4. Anti-Ulcer medications (e.g. Gastrogard<sup>®</sup>/Ulcergard<sup>®</sup>, Cimetidine, Ranitidine)
5. Anti-arthritic medications (e.g. Adequan<sup>®</sup>, Legend<sup>®</sup>)
6. Navicular Syndrome management medications
  - Salicylic Acid (Aspirin)
  - Isoxuprine
  - Bisphosphonates (e.g. Tildren<sup>®</sup>, OsPhos<sup>®</sup>)\*

\* Bisphosphonates are not to be used in horses under 5 years of age

The USPA neither supports nor condones excessive dosages and/or introduction of non-therapeutic levels of the above Permitted Medications and/or vitamins and minerals for performance enhancing purposes. See Rule 3.3.4, below. Responsible Parties are urged to consult their veterinarians for proper dosage levels consistent with these Rules.

### 2. RESTRICTED USE MEDICATIONS

2.1 The medications listed in Table 1 are allowed by the USPA at the listed Allowable Blood Levels and therefore are not required to be listed on USPA Medication Report Form.

The Maximum Dosage and Latest Administration Hour Guidelines in Table 1 are for informational purposes only. The Maximum Allowable Blood Plasma Levels indicated in Table 1 are incorporated in this Rule 2.1 by reference and therefore any horse testing in excess of those levels will subject the Responsible Parties under these Rules to a Conduct Violation charge.

Caution is urged when using compounded medications with varying administration routes not specified in Table 1. Only the listed administration routes with non-compounded medications have been evaluated for the dose and time recommendations.

2.2A horse may not be administered more than one permitted Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) within 72 hours of competition. This rule does not apply to Aspirin.

**TABLE 1:  
RESTRICTED MEDICATION ALLOWABLE BLOOD LEVELS and  
RESTRICTED MEDICATION DOSE AND TIME GUIDELINES**

| Class of Drug                          | Generic Name (Trade Name)      | Max Dosage per lb of body weight           | Latest Administration Hour  | Administration Method                | Max allowed blood plasma levels permitted |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Corticosteroid                         | Dexamethasone (Azlum®)         | 1.0 mg/100 lb (10 mg/1000 lb)              | >12 hours                   | IV, IM<br>Oral                       | <0.003 micrograms/ml                      |
| Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory (NSAID) | Diclofenac (Surpass®)          | 5 inch ribbon, ½ inch thick                | >12 hours                   | Topical, 2 doses each 12 hours apart | <0.005 micrograms/ ml                     |
|  | Firocoxib (EquioXX®)           | 0.1 mg/kg (0.0455 mg/lb) (45.5 mg/1000 lb) | >12 hours                   | Oral                                 | <0.240 micrograms/ ml                     |
|  | Phenylbutazone (Butazoludin®)  | 2.0 mg/lb (2.0 g/1000 lb)                  | >12 hours                   | Oral, IV                             | <15.0 micrograms/ ml                      |
|  |                                | 1.0 mg/lb (1.0 g/1000 lb)                  | >12 hours                   | Oral, 2 doses, 12 hrs apart          |   |
|  | Flunixin Meglumine (Banamine®) | 0.5 mg/lb (500 mg/1000 lb)                 | >12 hours                   | Oral, IV                             | <1.0 micrograms/ ml                       |
|  | Ketoprofen (Ketofen®)          | 1.0 mg/lb (1.0 g/1000 lb)                  | >12 hours                   | IV                                   | <0.250 micrograms/ ml                     |
|  | Meclofenamic Acid (Arquel®)    | 0.5 mg/lb (500 mg/1000 lb)                 | >12 hours                   | Oral                                 | <2.5 micrograms/ ml                       |
| Naproxen (Naprosyn®)                   | 4.0 mg/lb (4.0 g/1000 lb)      | >12 hours                                  | Oral, 2 doses, 12 hrs apart | <40.0 micrograms/ ml                 |   |
| Muscle Relaxant                        | Methocarbamol (Robaxin®)       | 5.0 mg/lb (5.0 g/1000 lb)                  | >12 hours                   | Oral, 2 doses each day, 12 hrs apart | <4.0 micrograms/ ml                       |

### 3. PROHIBITED DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES

3.1 All medication classes not specifically permitted by these Rules are prohibited. Prohibited drugs and substances include any corticosteroid (other than Restricted Use of Dexamethasone), Anabolic Steroid (including but not limited to Boldenone, Nandrolone, Stanozolol and Testosterone), stimulant, depressant (stimulants and/or depressants are defined as substances which stimulate or depress the cardiovascular, respiratory or central nervous systems), tranquilizer, local anesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behavior altering) substance, or drug which might affect the performance of a horse, or any metabolite and/or analog of any such substance or drug, except as expressly permitted by these Rules.

3.2. Prohibited drugs and substances also include any substance (or metabolite and/or analogue thereof) permitted by these Rules when introduced, applied or administered in excess of the maximum limit or other restrictions prescribed herein.

3.3 Notwithstanding any of the foregoing Rules, the following drugs and substances are specifically prohibited when introduced or applied as described below:

1. Adenosine Triphosphate (“ATP”) in any application or dosage amount;
2. Selenium injections in any application or dosage amount;
3. Magnesium sulfate given intravenously in any dosage amount;
4. All vitamins and minerals, no matter how administered, when given in excessive dosages or quantities for non-therapeutic reasons.

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE TIME PERIOD FOR PROHIBITED DRUG DISSIPATION**

The following Guideline information is for horses competing in USPA Events. This information does not apply to any horse competing under any drug testing program using a laboratory other than the USPA Designated Laboratory (*see* Rule 5.2.7 below). This information is current at the time of writing; however, the USPA Designated Laboratory may refine existing drug tests to be more sensitive and develops new tests. Improved testing procedures may be implemented at any time without prior notice. The time periods indicated are intended to be only informative Guidelines for the dissipation from the horse’s system of Prohibited Drugs or Medications, but may become obsolete as new and more sensitive procedures are implemented. Responsible Parties are therefore warned that reliance on these Guidelines will not serve as a defense to a violation of the USPA Equine Drugs and Medications Rules in the event of a positive test. Although these Guidelines apply to many horses, they cannot account for normal variation in metabolism of drugs by individual horses. Responsible Parties should consult drug manufacturers and knowledgeable veterinarians for more specific advice concerning the administration of any drug or medication, its duration and dissipation. This Guideline information is presented with the assumption that any and all drugs and medications are used for a therapeutic purpose in the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury, and that any dose administered is a conservative and therapeutic dose consistent with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

\* These are Guidelines only and do not address a complete list of prohibited drugs and substances.

**TABLE 2: Guidelines for Approximate Time for Dissipation**

|   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| Long-acting Tranquilizers and Psychotropics | Fluphenazine and reserpine                     | 90 days |
| Anabolic Steroids                           | Boldenone                                      | 82 days |
|   | Nandrolone                                     | 35 days |
|   | Stanozolol                                     | 47 days |
|   | Testosterone                                   | 30 days |
| Short-acting Tranquilizers and Sedatives    | Acepromazine, Romifidine, Detomidine, Xylazine | 7 days  |
| Local Anesthetics                           | Lidocaine and Mepivacaine                      | 7 days  |
| Long-acting Corticosteroids                 | Methylprednisolone                             | 14 days |
| Other Corticosteroids                       | Triamcinolone and Betamethasone                | 7 days  |
| Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs        | Phenylbutazone and Flunixin                    | 7 days  |
| Antihistamines                              | Cyproheptadine and Pyrilamine                  | 7 days  |
| Respiratory Drugs                           | Albuterol, Ventipulmin                         | 7 days  |

#### 4. THERAPEUTIC DRUG USE

4.1 Certain conditions requiring immediate medical attention occurring within 24 hours prior to an Event, including minor injuries, colic episodes or any other medically valid non-lameness related emergency condition (1) must be treated by a veterinarian, licensed in the State within the United States wherein the Event occurs; and (2) require that a USPA Medication Report Form be submitted by the owner or his or her representative to explain the presence of medications that may later appear on a Drug Test Screen.

4.2 The submission of a USPA Medication Report Form is not intended to create a “free pass” for a positive test of samples taken from a horse. In assessing whether a violation of these Rules has occurred, the USPA will consider the entire factual and medical context surrounding the administration of the treatment reported in a USPA Medication Report Form, including but not limited to the reason for the treatment and the necessity of the type and amount of drug or medication utilized.

4.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing Rule 4.1, the following drugs in Table 3 may be administered at the following dose and time limits, and if administered require that a USPA Medication Report Form be submitted.

| TABLE 3                   |                         |            |            |                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Medication (Generic Name) | Medication (Trade Name) | Max Dosage | Time Limit | Administration Method |
| Dantrolene                | Dantrium®               | 800 mg     | > 3 hours  | Oral                  |
| Furosemide                | Salix®                  | ≤ 250 mg   | > 3 hours  | IV or IM              |

**4.4 Medication Report forms must be filed under the following conditions:**

- 1. Any intra-articular or musculoskeletal injection containing corticosteroids that may be present in testing results should be reported within 48 hours of treatment.**
- 2. Emergency treatments within 24 hours of game time that contain any medications that may be present in testing results should be reported within 12 hours of treatment or as soon as possible before game time if less than 12 hours prior. (See Rules 4.1 and 4.2)**
- 3. Lasix and Dantrolene use must be reported before game time but need only be reported once for any given tournament(s). (See Rule 4.3)**

CAUTION AGAINST THE USE OF HERBAL/NATURAL PRODUCTS

Responsible Parties are hereby warned that the administration of so-called “herbal” and “natural” products to a horse may result in a positive drug screen test indicating the presence of Prohibited Drugs or Substances under these Rules. This testing result may in some cases be contrary to claims of safety or permitted use by those who manufacture and/or market such products. In this regard, Responsible Parties should be skeptical of any claims by manufacturers or others that such products are “legal” or permissible for use at competitions or Events recognized by the USPA. Responsible Parties under these Rules are further cautioned that the plant origin of any ingredient does not preclude its containing a pharmacologically potent and readily detectable prohibited substance, (e.g., cocaine, heroin and marijuana all are derived from plants). Specifically, this applies to cannabinoids such as CBD. Currently these products are known to effect mentation and behavior in horses and are thus prohibited. Further, Responsible Parties are also warned that although the use of some of these products may not have resulted in positive drug tests in the past, this does not preclude their triggering a positive drug screen test in the future. For these reasons, the USPA warns most strongly against the use of such products. The ingredient labeling for such preparations is often not complete or accurate. Especially suspect are preparations that are claimed to “calm” or “relax” a horse, while at the same time being said to contain no prohibited substances. Such products include, but are not limited to: valerian, kava kava, passionflower, skullcap, chamomile, vervain, lemon balm, leopard’s bane, night shade, capsaicin, comfrey, devil’s claw, hops, laurel, lavender, red poppy and rauwolfia.

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RESPONSIBLE PARTIES UNDER THESE RULES, AND THEIR VETERINARIANS, ARE THEREFORE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, POWDERS, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THOSE USED TOPICALLY, THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS THEY MAY CONTAIN A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THOSE CONTAINING PLANT INGREDIENTS.

#### REGARDING “APPROVED” OR “ENDORSED” PRODUCTS

The USPA does not endorse or sanction herbal, natural, or medicinal products of any kind.

### THE VETERINARIAN’S RESPONSIBILITIES

When dealing with illness or injury in a horse appearing in an Event, the veterinarian should prescribe or administer whatever substance is indicated as medically necessary for therapeutic purposes. Whenever prescribing or administering a substance prohibited or restricted by these Rules, the veterinarian should advise the Responsible Parties under these Rules or their representative of the possible interaction of that treatment with these USPA Equine Drugs and Medications Rules.

Furthermore, no veterinarian should be party to the administration of a drug or medication to a horse or pony in excessive dosages and/or for non-therapeutic purposes or to affect the performance of the horse. The USPA considers such conduct unethical and likely to encourage further unethical conduct among Responsible Parties under these Rules. Therefore, such conduct is contrary to USPA Rules and undermines the fairness of competition at Events.

## 5. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES UNDER THESE RULES

5.1 Responsible Parties under these Rules include the Owner and Player of the horse, as well as all parties defined in Rule 5.2. Responsible Parties are accountable for the condition of the horse and compliance with these Rules. In the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, Responsible Parties are also responsible and accountable under the disciplinary and penalty provisions of the USPA Rules and/or By-Laws. They are additionally responsible for guarding each horse at and sufficiently prior to an Event, so as to prevent the administration by anyone of, or the horse’s exposure to, any Restricted Use Medication or Prohibited Drug or Substance. Responsible Parties under these Rules are presumed to be aware of all the provisions of these Rules and all other rules and regulations of the USPA and the penalty provisions of those rules and regulations. A violation of these Rules shall be considered a Conduct Violation under applicable USPA Rules and/or By-Laws.

## 5.2 Definitions.

5.2.1 An “Owner” is defined as any adult (or adults) who has or shares the responsibility for the care, training, custody, control, condition or performance of the horse, financial or otherwise. This could be one person or several individuals. In the event a corporate entity is the Owner or the Owner is otherwise not responsible under these Rules, then the primary Sponsor of the team for whom the horse appears shall stand in place of the Owner as a person who may be charged with any violation of these Rules. In the event the Owner is a minor (under age 18 years of age at the time of alleged violation) who is also a member of the USPA, then the parent of the minor, if a member of the USPA, and the minor shall both be responsible under these Rules. The Sponsor of the team for which the minor’s horse appeared shall also be responsible along with the child and parent.

5.2.2 As used in these Rules, “Sponsor” is defined consistent with USPA Outdoor Rule 1.f. and Interpretation 1.f.

5.2.3 “Player” is defined as the person riding the horse in an Event and can be the same person as the Owner. The Player is responsible for a violation of these Rules.

5.2.4 “Substantial evidence” means affirmative evidence of such a clear and definite nature as to reasonably establish a fact. It is not the same burden of proof as that required in a court of law.

5.2.5 Leased or Borrowed Horses. The Owners of leased or borrowed horses are also responsible for any violations of these Rules by the party leasing or borrowing those horses.

5.2.6 For the purposes of these Rules, an “event” or “Event” is a USPA Event or a Club Event as those terms are defined in Section 1 of the USPA Tournament Conditions.

5.2.7 For the purposes of these Rules, “USPA Designated Laboratory” is the laboratory designated by the USPA Equine Welfare Committee, with notice to the USPA membership, to conduct testing under Rule 6.9 below.

## 6. TESTING PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOL

6.1 At any given Event, the USPA may designate one or two licensed veterinarian(s) (the “Sampling Veterinarian(s)”) to take samples from horses being played at that Event.

6.2 A USPA Representative shall arrive at least one hour prior to start of a game to meet with teams, the Sampling Veterinarian(s) and technician(s), to explain that testing will be taking place, identify the designated testing location, and answer any questions.



6.3 After the pre-game meeting, the USPA Representative will draw at random which players' horse(s) will be selected from each period and which players will have more than one horse selected. At least one horse will be selected per period, with each player having a minimum of one horse tested per game. A minimum of 8 horses will be tested per game for a 6-period game and a minimum of 6 horses will be tested for a 4-period game.

6.4 During the game, the Sampling Veterinarian(s) and their technicians or assistants are to identify horses for testing by taking photographs and written descriptions. They may also identify them by using any of the following options:

- a. Mark hoof with grease pen
- b. Microchip Scanned
- c. Apply fetlock band with number code

6.5 If a fetlock band is used and breaks before testing the Sample Veterinarian(s) will refer to the photographs to identify the horse and apply a new fetlock band.

6.6 After the completion of the Event, the Sampling Veterinarian(s) shall inform the Owner or Player that the selected horses are to be brought to the designated testing location for a blood sample to be taken. Upon such notice by the Sampling Veterinarian(s), the Owner or Player must ensure that the horse does not leave field-side until the sample has been taken.

6.7 An Owner, Player or his or her designated representative must accompany the Sampling Veterinarian(s) and observe the sample being collected from the horse. The Owner, Player or his or her designated representative shall then acknowledge in writing on the USPA Field Testing Form that the given sample was taken from the horse identified on the form. Failure or refusal by an Owner, Player or his or her designated representative to comply with this Rule creates an irrefutable presumption that the sample was correctly taken from the Owner's or Player's horse.

6.8 Three separate tubes of blood shall be collected from each horse by the Sampling Veterinarian(s). These three samples will be designated as Sample A (two tubes) and Sample B (a single tube). Samples shall be securely labeled with the date, name of the Event, sex, approximate age of the horse, and a pre-printed barcode and corresponding number.

6.9 Samples shall be transferred as quickly as possible to the USPA Designated Laboratory for testing consistent with these Rules. Only Sample A shall be tested initially. Sample B shall be preserved for further testing as permitted under these Rules.

6.10 Weather Policy: It is in the discretion of the Sampling Veterinarian and USPA Representative to cancel testing if extreme weather (excessive rain, lightning, exces-

sive heat, etc.) exists.

## **7. PRESUMED VIOLATION FOR POSITIVE TEST**

7.1 A positive test for a Prohibited Drug or Substance presumes a violation of these Rules.

7.2 It shall not be a defense to a violation of these Rules nor to any Conduct Violation that the veterinarian that initially administered the Prohibited Drug or Substance failed to render proper advice or provided improper advice about compliance with these Rules.

7.3 A presumed violation may be rebutted by substantial evidence that the horse sampled was not owned by, ridden, or played by the Owner or Player charged with the violation or by substantial evidence that the test results are faulty, or otherwise the result of error.

7.4 The Owner, Player or other Responsible Party under these Rules charged with a violation of these Rules may request that Sample B be tested by the USPA Designated Laboratory or another qualified laboratory to confirm the results of the testing of Sample A.

7.5 A Conduct Violation arising from a violation of these Rules shall proceed under the Disciplinary provisions of the Association's Equine Drugs and Medications Rules Violation Procedures, Part IV of the Association's Disciplinary Procedures Policy, which apply to violations of these Rules.

7.6 Responsible Parties under these Rules are cautioned that they are ultimately responsible for every substance that enters into their horse's system.

## **8. USE OF GUIDELINES AND COMMENTS**

The USPA has provided herein certain GUIDELINES and COMMENTS with these Rules. The GUIDELINES and COMMENTS are provided to assist the Owner, Player and other Responsible Parties as well as the veterinarian with the interpretation and application of these Rules. However, the GUIDELINES and COMMENTS are neither intended to be, nor should be construed as, Rules by themselves, nor as defenses to any finding of a violation of these Rules.

For further information regarding these Rules, please contact the USPA by phone: 800-232-8772, or by email: [equinewelfare@uspolo.org](mailto:equinewelfare@uspolo.org).



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## UMPIRE GUIDE

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF UMPIRE PROGRAM

#### INTRODUCTION

The USPA Umpires, LLC Certification and Training Program uses high standards of training and certification to meet the ever-increasing demand for consistent and quality umpiring. Every player can attest that consistent, unbiased, and quality officiating adds to the fulfillment and enjoyment of playing the sport of polo.

Approximately one million dollars is spent annually by USPA Umpires, LLC on professional Umpire services. The more competitive the tournament, the more interest generated in acquiring professional Umpires. For information about the USPA Umpires, LLC Professional Umpire Program, please contact Charlie Muldoon at 240-731-2248. For more information about the USPA Umpires, LLC Certification and Training Program, or USPA Umpires, LLC Umpire Clinics, please contact Fergus Gould at 760-391-8373, Bradley Biddle at 803-221-4080, or Dana Fortugno at (561) 215-0566. For more information about the USPA Umpires, LLC PUMP 8 Program contact Maggie Mitchell at 941-928-4600.

#### UMPIRE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

There are four steps to becoming a USPA Certified Umpire.

1. Pay the current year USPA Individual Member fee.
2. Take the current year Outdoor or Arena Rules test (annually) and obtain a grade from the USPA. (Note: In order to receive or maintain an Umpire Certification from “CU” to “C4” the minimum grade of 95% (Outdoor), 94% (Arena), must be met on the Annual Rules Test. This applies to Certified Umpires. Each Certified Umpire must complete the Rules Test by December 1 each and every year in order to maintain certification for the coming year.
3. Be observed (every three years) and have a recommendation made by a designated USPA Umpire Certifier. (Note: It is not a certainty that members will be awarded an Umpire Certification after being evaluated. Umpire Certification recommendations must be forwarded to Bradley Biddle at [bbiddle@uspolo.org](mailto:bbiddle@uspolo.org).)
4. All USPA Umpire Certifications are approved and recorded by the USPA Umpires, LLC. USPA Umpires, LLC Professional Umpires are able to certify Umpire(s) one level below their own certification and professional status. Bradley Biddle and Fergus Gould are able to certify at all certification levels.

Individuals seeking Umpire Certification will be responsible for insuring that items 1-3 are completed. Rules tests can be obtained at [www.uspolo.org](http://www.uspolo.org) and must be completed online. After items 1-3 above are completed by the individual requesting Umpire Certification, all Umpire Certifications will be approved by the USPA. A list of approved Umpire Certifications will be posted on the USPA website at [www.uspolo.org](http://www.uspolo.org) and updated periodically. If there are any questions, or additional information is needed, please email [bbiddle@uspolo.org](mailto:bbiddle@uspolo.org).

### HOSTING AN UMPIRE CLINIC

USPA member clubs are encouraged to host Umpire Clinics to refine the skills of club umpires and to review USPA Rules, Interpretations, Examples, and their implementation. The USPA Umpires, LLC will schedule instructors for both outdoor and arena clinics based on their availability.

### UMPIRE CLINIC REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

- Programs are instructional and oriented toward improving the skill and safety levels of all participants.
- Programs are generally applicable to a broad range of participants.
- Programs may require certain levels of riding experience for safety.
- USPA Umpires, LLC will arrange for an instructor that is qualified to teach at the level of your clinic.
- Clubs will be invoiced \$700.00 for each clinic. This fee covers the instructor's fee, airfare, transportation and lodging.
- To allow for lower airfares and to help with the availability of an instructor, a minimum of four weeks' notice is required when requesting a clinic
- All attendees seeking certification in the clinic must be current members of the USPA. This membership requirement assures Participant Excess Liability Insurance coverage.
- An Umpire Clinic and a PUMP/8 tournament may coincide; however, the club will be invoiced for both an instructor and a professional umpire.
- USPA Umpires, LLC is available to discuss special circumstances or programs which do not fit the standard package.

For further assistance, please contact Bradley Biddle 803-221-4080 or [bbiddle@uspolo.org](mailto:bbiddle@uspolo.org).

### HOW TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL UMPIRE

Club representatives can contact USPA Umpire, LLC's Charles Muldoon at [cmuldoon@uspolo.org](mailto:cmuldoon@uspolo.org) or Maggie Mitchell at [mmitchell@uspolo.org](mailto:mmitchell@uspolo.org) for information on USPA Umpire, LLC's Professional Umpires. The USPA Umpire LLC, based on availability, will assist in the coordination of Umpire assignments. The information conveyed should include:

1. Goal level of the tournament
2. Play dates of the tournament
3. Number of Professional Umpires required
4. Event format, number of teams, games

### PUMP/8 PROGRAM

USPA clubs hosting a USPA National or Circuit tournament 8 goals or below may be eligible for a professional umpire through the PUMP/8 Program.

### REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR PUMP/8 PROGRAM

- A maximum of three USPA National or Circuit Events is allowed per club per year. All Events available for PUMP/8 funding must have an upper handicap limit of 8 goals

- or below. USPA Sanctioned Events are not eligible for PUMP/8 funding.
- Tournaments must have a minimum of four teams participating.
  - Clubs must reserve an Umpire with a minimum of 14 days notice prior to the beginning of the event.
  - Clubs must pay a \$500 fee (per Event), before an Umpire will be scheduled. Clubs will receive one Umpire per Event, and all of his or her expenses will be paid by the USPA Umpires, LLC: travel, hotel and salary. Only games played in the specified Event will be covered under the \$500 fee. Additional club or tournament games will be invoiced accordingly.
  - The Event must be played and completed within 10 consecutive days.
  - Clubs must follow USPA Tournament Conditions and USPA Rules. Outdoor tournaments must have two mounted Umpires, plus a referee. All players participating in the tournament must be current members of the USPA.
  - Clubs that have already acquired a Professional Umpire under contract will be credited for games played. Club requests for credit will not be considered or accepted after 60 days of the Event end date.
  - Umpires are limited, and will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

For further assistance, please contact Maggie Mitchell (941) 928-4600 or [mmitchell@uspolo.org](mailto:mmitchell@uspolo.org)

## UMPIRE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

### Outdoor Certification

USPA Professional and Certified Umpires will be required to meet certain standards of achievement appropriate to the level of certification sought. Obtaining a specific rating means that the Umpire can be a lead Umpire at that certification. An Umpire can work a game that is one level above his/her rating for possible increase in certification as long as he/she works with an Umpire certified at that level. An Umpire who wants to work a game that is two or more levels above his/her rating must be approved to do so by USPA Umpires, LLC.

**P4-P1 Status** - A “P4-P1” certification indicates that the Umpire is part of the Professional Umpire Program. The “P4-P1” designation can be awarded or removed at any time by USPA Umpires, LLC. Updated “P4-P1” designations are listed on the USPA website.

**P4 - International Class** – “P4” International Class Umpires are a select group of individuals certified by USPA Umpires, LLC. These individuals are qualified to officiate any game at any club. Each is required to have a current Rules Test on file (minimum score of 95%) and to undergo regular training and evaluation sessions, and each is subject to re-certification after each major event.

**P3 - National Class** - “P3” National Class Umpires are certified based on a minimum score of 95% on the Rules Test and recommendation following observation over the course of several games by USPA Umpires, LLC. “P3” Umpires are considered qualified to officiate games with an upper handicap limit of 20 goals and below.

**P2 - Circuit Class** - “P2” Circuit Class Umpires must score a minimum of 95% on the Rules Test, have been trained by an individual qualified by USPA Umpires, LLC, and be recommended based on observation over the course of several games. “P2” Umpires

**C4, P1 - Circuit Class** – “C4” and “P1” Circuit Class Umpires must score a minimum of 95% on the Rules Test, have been trained by an individual qualified by USPA Umpires, LLC, and be recommended based on observation over the course of several games. “C4” and “C1” Umpires are considered qualified to officiate games with an upper handicap limit of 12 goals and below.

**C3 - Club Class** – “C3” Club Class Umpires must attend at least one Umpire Training clinic conducted by an individual qualified by USPA Umpires, LLC, score a minimum of 95% on the Rules Test, be observed umpiring one or more games by a qualified individual. A “C3” Umpire is qualified to officiate games with an upper handicap limit of 8 goals and below.

**C2 - Club Class** – “C2” Club Class Umpires must attend at least one Umpire Training clinic conducted by an individual qualified by USPA Umpires, LLC, score a minimum of 95% on the Rules Test, be observed umpiring one or more games by a qualified individual. A “C2” Umpire is qualified to officiate games with an upper handicap limit of 6 goals and below.

**C1- Club Class** – “C1” Club Class Umpires must attend at least one Umpire Training Clinic conducted by an individual qualified by USPA Umpires, LLC, score a minimum of 95% on the Rules Test, be observed umpiring one or more games by a qualified individual, and be recommended by the Club Delegate. A “C1” Umpire is qualified to officiate games with an upper handicap limit of 4 goals and below.

**CU - Club Umpire** – A Club Umpire must score a minimum of 95% on the Rules Test, be observed umpiring one or more games by a qualified individual, recognized by USPA Umpires, LLC. A Club Umpire has not attended an Umpire Training Clinic, but does have some knowledge of Field Judgment and Umpire Positioning. A Club Umpire is considered qualified to umpire club games, but the “CU” designation is not a nationally recognized certification.

\*ARENA CERTIFICATIONS ARE DIFFERENT AS SHOWN BELOW BUT THE REQUIREMENTS ARE THE SAME EXCEPT THAT A MINIMUM SCORE OF 94% IS REQUIRED ON THE ARENA UMPIRE TEST.



**CERTIFIED UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS**

| <b>OUTDOOR</b>       |                                | <b>ARENA</b>         |                               |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Certification</b> | <b>Level of Certification.</b> | <b>Certification</b> | <b>Level of Certification</b> |
| “P4” Rated           | Any goal level                 | “P4” Rated           | Any goal level                |
| “P3” Rated           | Up to the 20-goal level        | “P3” Rated           | Up to the 15-goal level       |
| “P2” Rated           | Up to the 16-goal level        | “C4, P2” Rated       | Up to the 12-goal level       |
| “C4, P1” Rated       | Up to the 12-goal level        | “C3, P1” Rated       | Up to the 9-goal level        |
| “C3” Rated           | Up to the 8-goal level         | “C2” Rated           | Up to the 6-goal level        |
| “C2” Rated           | Up to the 6-goal level         | “C1” Rated           | Up to the 3-goal level        |
| “C1” Rated           | Up to the 4-goal level         | “CU” Rated           | Club level                    |
| “CU” Rated           | Club Level                     |                      |                               |

**USPA INSTRUCTORS**

The following individuals are qualified to conduct clinics, instruct groups and individuals, and to certify Umpires according to the procedures defined by the USPA:

| <b>OUTDOOR</b>      |    | <b>ARENA</b>        |    |
|---------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Fergus Gould        | P4 | Bradley Biddle      | P4 |
| Bradley Biddle      | P2 | Robert Lyn Kee Chow | P4 |
| Robert Lyn Kee Chow | P2 | Dan Healy           | P1 |
| Dan Healy           | P1 | Dana Fortugno       | P2 |
| Robin Sanchez       | P1 | Robin Sanchez       | P2 |
| Dana Fortugno       | P2 |                     |    |

**USPA UMPIRES, LLC PROFESSIONAL UMPIRES**

| <b>OUTDOOR</b>  |    | <b>ARENA</b>        |    |
|-----------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Julian Appleby  | P4 | Robert Lyn-Kee-Chow | P4 |
| Hamish Bray     | P3 | Ronnie Hayes        | P4 |
| Keven Fawcett   | P4 | Horton Schwartz     | P4 |
| Hector Galindo  | P4 | Bradley Biddle      | P4 |
| Fergus Gould    | P4 | Robin Sanchez       | P2 |
| Ronnie Hayes    | P4 | Dan Healy           | P1 |
| Kimo Huddleston | P4 | Kimo Huddleston     | P1 |
| Sain Joseph     | P3 | Dana Fortugno       | P2 |
| George Olivas   | P4 |                     |    |
| Horton Schwartz | P4 |                     |    |
| Darrell Schwetz | P3 |                     |    |
| Chad Kraml      | P2 |                     |    |
| Bradley Biddle  | P2 |                     |    |
| Ka’aina DeCoite | P2 |                     |    |
| Daniel Gallegos | P2 |                     |    |

If the above Professional Umpires are not available, I/I umpires with a C3 rating or higher are eligible to umpire a PUMP/8 Arena Event.

U  
M  
P  
I  
R  
E

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Dana Fortugno        | P2 |
| Juan Carlos Gonzalez | P2 |
| Dan Healey           | P1 |
| Robert Lyn- Kee-Chow | P2 |
| Brent Mirikitani     | P2 |
| Jamie Mirikitani     | P3 |
| Robin Sanchez        | P1 |
| Cristina Vasquez     | P1 |
| Marcos Bignoli       | P1 |
| Brian Pritchard      | P1 |

For the listing of Certified Umpires, please view the Umpire list found on the USPA website at [www.uspolo.org](http://www.uspolo.org).

### **PROFESSIONAL UMPIRES CODE OF POLO OFFICIATING THE “TOP 10 POINTS”**

1. Competency and integrity are basic requirements.
2. Excellent physical condition and projected positive image.
3. Complete understanding of the rules and interpretations.
4. Consistency on all calls is mandatory.
5. Field presence and “control of game and players” are essential.
6. Only 100% calls are acceptable; No calls when there is doubt.
7. Always be decisive when making a call; Announce the foul called, the penalty and team color; Do not engage in an explanation or a conversation with any player.
8. Be precise in verbal communications on the field.
9. Be “calm” and “professional” at all times on the field.
10. Do not engage in arguments during or after the game.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICIALS WITH EXAMPLES**

USPA Outdoor Rules 7, 8, 9, and 10 outline the duties of the Host Tournament Committee, Umpires, Referee, Timer, Scorer, and Goal Judges. Once defined, however, these entities must work together during the course of a game or an event. USPA Arena Rule 4 serves as a guide for arena officials.

The **HOST TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** is the governing body of the event. This group is responsible for all aspects of the event other than during the course of the game

itself when the Umpire(s) assume the absolute authority. The Committee must see that everything necessary is done before the game is scheduled to begin, and resolves any matters referred to it before or after the game. Team and player eligibility, handicap verification, designation of time and place of the game, field preparation, collection of fees, and selection of officials are all included in the Committee's responsibilities. The Committee is the ultimate authority for the event.

The **UMPIRES and REFEREE** are the absolute game authority from 15 minutes before the time the game is scheduled to start until 15 minutes after the game ends. The Umpires and Referee conduct the game, apply the rules of play and refer to the Committee questions which cannot be resolved on the field. Other game officials - Timer, Scorer, Goal Judges - are under the final authority of the Umpires and Referee. The relationship between Umpires, Referee and Deputy Referees is outlined in USPA Outdoor Rule 8.

The **TIMER** is responsible for running the clock and sounding the appropriate notifications as required under the rules. Any question raised concerning the timing operation is to be raised with the Umpire who then resolves the question with the timer and announces the decision. A player wishing to question any aspect of timing must direct the question through the Team Captain to the Umpire.

The **SCORER** is responsible for maintaining the scoring and statistics of the game and reporting to the Umpire. Any discrepancy between score sheet and scoreboard is to be reported to the Umpire at the earliest opportunity. A player questioning the score must address the question to the Umpire through the Team Captain. Any scoring question must be resolved before the game is resumed. The Scorer should communicate to the teams through the scoreboard or the Umpire, the score of the game at any time. At the conclusion of the game, the Umpire must immediately confirm the "official" final score.

The **GOAL JUDGES** are charged with signaling whether or not goals are scored. In fact, they are signaling their opinion of any goal to the Umpire who then is responsible for the final decision. It is the Umpires' call. If there is any doubt in the mind of either Umpire about the call, the whistle should stop play and the Umpires confer with the Goal Judge before making their decision. (Outdoor only.) Because the Goal Judge is positioned in the runoff area, players will often comment to the Goal Judge. This must not be permitted. Players wishing to question the signal of a Goal Judge must do so through their Team Captain to the Umpire. No player may directly confront any Goal Judge. In the event the Umpires disagree after hearing the testimony of the goal judges, as to whether a goal has been scored, the Umpires shall give the benefit of any doubt to the defending team.

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## PRE-GAME UMPIRE PROCEDURES CHECKLIST BEFORE GAME

A USPA Certified Umpire must maintain a high degree of professionalism in every aspect of his organization, demeanor, and approach to the game. Each Umpire must review the following checklist to be sure each task is accomplished. It is advised that the Umpires confirm all details of the game and report any problems to the Committee or Club Manager.

- Review the Rules, especially the procedural rules, prior to the game. Review with the Host Tournament Committee USPA Outdoor Rule 7 or USPA Arena Rule 4a, as appropriate, and make sure you know what Rules, Alternative Rules, and Tournament Conditions you are using.
- Arrive at the field at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start. Meet with other Umpire and/or Referee and confirm responsibilities. Get Captain's armbands to each team, if applicable.
- Resolve optional rules or other non-standard procedures with the Host Tournament Committee, or Club Manager.
- Carry all essential equipment with you - boots, whites, shirt, helmet, whistle, ball bag, and, if possible, pick-up stick. Leave nothing to chance.
- Identify the location to be used, if necessary, for Rule 33 suspensions (Penalty Box).
- Check field conditions: Field suitable for play. Goal mouth width. Make sure field is marked properly.  
Adequate run-off areas. Identify areas for spare horses.
- Arrange for Umpire horses, two for each mounted Umpire, to be ready 10 minutes before game time at the Umpire enclosure. Be absolutely certain that the responsible person understands, and can provide, the type of Umpire horse you will require.
- Review team rosters, handicaps, eligibility, colors, etc. Identify the Captains. Determine if the game is to be played on the handicap or flat.
- Review ground crew: Timer, Scorer, Goal Judges, Referee, and Deputy Referee(s) if used
- Review emergency procedures for players and mounts. Who is in charge?
- Review Opening Ceremony procedure: entry, introduction, anthem, throw-in.
- Selection of which goal each team will defend, and give any necessary instructions to teams.
- **Note that the Umpire's authority extends from 15 minutes before the time the game is scheduled to start until 15 minutes after the game ends.**

## MECHANICS AND PROCEDURES

### BEFORE YOU BUY A STRIPED SHIRT

Once an individual has expressed an interest in umpiring polo, three elements must come together before that individual can be considered a “polo Umpire”.

#### Knowledge of the Rules

The first requirement of a polo official is to have a thorough, comprehensive knowledge of the rules of the game. This knowledge may be obtained by study, by clinic attendance, and by personal conversations with others familiar with the rules. In the end, however, it is study of the Rule Book, Mechanics Manual (**Umpire Guide**) and video review that will produce the encyclopedic knowledge required of a polo Umpire. Only after the rules are digested and understood can they be put into practice.

#### Knowledge of the Approved Procedures

In addition to the rules and interpretations, certain procedures must be followed to properly officiate a polo game. Pre-game checklists, positioning on penalty hits, emergency procedures, qualification of substitutes, and a myriad of other topics must be learned and become automatic. It is too late to reach for the book when the clock is running. A thorough study of the USPA Interpretations and Examples and this Umpire Guide is mandatory for any polo official.

#### Field Judgment

Once the rules and procedures are second nature, an aspiring polo official can concentrate on developing the subjective field judgment that, in the final analysis, distinguishes top officials. Anyone can memorize rules and procedures. The ability to think quickly, in the saddle, and react in the correct way is field judgment. Field judgment can be developed and nurtured. However, like any other personality quality, it is easier to develop in some individuals than in others. The foundation for field judgment, however, is confidence in the fundamental understanding of the rules, their interpretations and procedures.

#### 13 Unwritten Rules of Officiating

1. When you “think” you saw something, **YOU DIDN’T**.
2. The **CAPTAIN** is not always the team leader.
3. Keep the game **MOVING**.
4. Provide **COURTESY** to players when it’s needed.
5. Give the **BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT** to those who have earned respect.
6. **WHEN IN DOUBT**, do what is expected.
7. Answer **QUESTIONS**, not statements.
8. Don’t answer the question you don’t have **INFORMATION** about.
9. Get the game going after a **MISTAKE** or **EJECTION**.
10. **CREW TALKS** should lean toward, crew making final decision.
11. Be **100 percent** sure if making the **UNEXPECTED CALL**.

**12. Don't insert yourself or disrupt GAME RHYTHM if it's not necessary.**

**13. When a game is obviously over, CONCENTRATION needs to be stronger, to re-think your calls or mistakes.**

### UMPIRE POSITIONING

During the Pre-Game Review, the Officials, including Umpires, Referee, and Goal Judges, must all be made aware of and confirm their positions and assignments during the game.

The Referee is to be positioned away from distractions and with the best view (preferably high) available. It is advisable that the Referee be able to communicate with the Timer and Scorer, if needed.

The Umpires are a team and must work together at all times. This includes confidence in the other's abilities and respect for his position on the team. The purpose of this team is to make solid calls based on good knowledge and positioning. In general, this positioning and teamwork will be as follows:

### OUTDOOR POSITIONING

- Each Umpire will cover half the field-split lengthwise, goal to goal.
- Each Umpire will be responsible for center field throw-ins. Each will handle throw-ins on his/her own side of the field. These responsibilities may be interchanged to expedite the game.
- After a goal is scored, the teams have 25 seconds to get back to center and change directions for the throw-in. If one team does not get back to center in that time, without an adequate reason, to be determined by the Umpire in his or her discretion, the ball shall be thrown-in.
- The Umpire on whose side the play is taking place will follow the play (trailing Umpire). The second Umpire will ride slightly ahead and to his own side of the play (focal Umpire). The Umpire trailing the play will see a ROW violation, and the focal Umpire at the lateral position, may determine if there was proper distance or not.
- Both Umpires are to follow the play all the way to the end line and in to the corners.
- When play dictates, Umpires will exchange positions but resume their normal position when time permits.
- On knock-ins, the Umpire on the side of the knock-in will position himself behind the hitter and follow the play. The second Umpire will position himself 50 to 60 yards

out, and on the side the Umpire is to cover, and lead the play. The Umpire following the hitter will call “Play”.

- On bowl-ins from the side, the Umpire throwing in will be positioned 10 yards inside the field boundaries and will be responsible for the proper alignment of the teams. The second Umpire will be behind the throw-in and responsible for seeing the players riding to the line-up have the correct time allowed.
- When a foul is called, the Umpire first sounding the whistle shall indicate to the second Umpire the direction and severity of the Penalty. When the second Umpire signals confirmation, the foul and Penalty are announced, and players and officials line up.
- If the two Umpires disagree after a brief conference, they are to signal, speak, or ride to the Referee for a resolution.
- Umpires will be polite and courteous at all times. All communications with both teams are directed to the Team Captains. Umpires should have no unnecessary or casual conversations with any players. Once announced, a call is not debatable by either Team Captain unless there is a question about procedure.

### **PENALTY AND KNOCK-IN POSITIONING (OUTDOOR)**

Following is the standard positioning for knock-ins and Penalty hits. Consistent and uniform positioning are important. Officials must not only cover the playing area in the most effective way possible, they must do so without inadvertently becoming involved with the play.

When a player prepares to execute a Penalty hit or knock-in, he expects his players to position themselves according to a plan. He should also expect consistent positioning from the officials. Officials must assume the position with the best opportunity to observe and the least chance of interference.

On all Penalties and knock-ins, the Umpire behind the hitter calls “Play”. There is no preliminary call of “ready” or need to tell a player to “wait” or “hurry up”. The Umpire is to call “Play” at the appropriate time and if the play is not executed properly, the Umpire should sound the whistle and set up the next situation. The Umpire is not a “coach”.

All penalty shots and knock-ins are now timed. A knock in must be executed within 10 seconds after the Umpire calls “Play.” A penalty shot must be executed within 20 seconds after the Umpire call “Play.”

**Knock-in:** The Umpire on whose side of the field the knock-in is taking place is positioned behind, not alongside, the hitter. The second Umpire is 50-60 yards out and

to the side he/she normally covers. The Umpire behind the hitter determines when the ball is properly positioned and calls “Play”. The focal Umpire watches the positioning of all other players and stops play if one is incorrectly lined up. The trailing Umpire can best watch for Right of Way infringements. On a long knock-in the trailing Umpire must ride hard to get to position.

**Penalty 5:** This is the same as on a knock-in. One Umpire behind the hitter and the other 50 yards out. Trailing Umpire watches encroachment, calls “Play,” and watches for Right of Way infractions.

**Penalty 6:** The Umpire bowling in the ball after a goal is scored, is positioned directly behind the hitter. Trailing Umpire behind the goal post on their side of the field, watching for ball to cross goal line and infractions in goal mouth, with the flag judge behind the other post. Generally in best position to signal a goal.

**Penalty 4:** Same as Penalty 6 except better centered. Umpire bowling the ball in is directly behind hitter, trailing Umpire has post on the side he/she is covering (from the field).

**Penalty 2 and 3 (including spot hit Penalty 2):** The Umpire bowling the ball in is positioned behind the hitter and the trailing Umpire is behind the goal post on his or her side. A spot hit Penalty 2, the Umpire who bowls in, shall remain behind the hitter during the Penalty shot. If goal is scored, signal and ride to throw-in. If hit is wide, Umpire on that side trails knock-in. If ball does not clear the field, Umpire closer to the ball trails free hit.

**Defended Penalty 3:** The Umpire bowling in the ball is positioned behind the hitter, and is lined up with the ball and right-hand goal post. The trailing Umpire is on goal line to judge if defending team crosses goal line before ball is hit. The trailing Umpire will ensure goal judge is in line with the ball behind the left goal post.

## ARENA POSITIONING

- **Lateral View (Focal Position):** This view is to the side of the play and is usually the view that allows the Umpires to determine speed and distance in ROW violations. The view allows for a wider view of the entire play allowing better decisions in close play situations - i.e., improper use of the mallet and ride-off situations.

- **Line View (Trailing Position):** This view can be ahead of but is normally trailing the line of the ball. The line view is considered the best position in determining crossing situations. Remember that you and your fellow Umpire are a team. Sometimes you see a crossing situation by trailing the play, whereas your fellow Umpire may be at the lateral position and can determine if there was proper distance or not.



- The two Umpires must continually check each other's positioning in relation to the play to avoid being caught together with the same view.
- As the direction of arena polo changes much more often and more quickly due to the small area, Umpires will continually be switching from lateral (focal) and line (trailing) dependent upon the play and/or the position of their fellow Umpire.
- In corner play, one Umpire should try to move into the trail position, closer to the wall (it is recommended not to be within 5 yards of the wall), while the other Umpire maintains the focal view, yet stays alert for a possible break down the arena. Proper corner positioning is the most challenging, as the play can change very quickly with a clearing shot across goal, trapping the Umpire against the wall.
- Both Umpires should carry a pick-up stick. In throw-in situations, the Umpire with a ball in hand should execute the throw-in and the second Umpire should be quick to retrieve a ball. (If the ball goes out of play, the ball shall be retrieved from the officials' station).
- On foul shot situations, one Umpire, with the ball in hand, shall trail the hitter and the second Umpire shall stand on the 25 yard line for penalties 2, 3 and 4 on the far right side of the hitter, close to the wall. (In certain cases, the Umpire might choose to line up on the far left side as opposed to the right side). The Trailing Umpire is responsible for: a) No opponent shall be within 5 yards of the ball when the ball is hit or hit at, b) No contact among opponents until the ball is hit or hit at, c) Determine whether a goal has been scored, d) Determine the first play of the defender if the goal is missed or hits the defender or the wall, e) Check to see if ball has passed 25 yard line on the rebound for live play, and f) Position himself or herself for the next play and away from his fellow Umpire in case no goal is scored.
- The Umpire positioned on the wall is responsible for calling foul line violations- i.e., all players (player refers to mount's front feet) are to be behind the point from where the free hit is made until the ball is hit or hit at.
- When a foul is called, the Umpire first sounding the whistle shall indicate to the second Umpire the direction and severity of the penalty. When the second Umpire signals confirmation, the foul and the penalty are announced, and the ball quickly put in place by the Umpire.
- If the two Umpires disagree after a brief discussion, they are to signal, speak, or ride to the Referee for a resolution.
- Umpires will be polite and courteous at all times. All communications with both teams are directed to the Team Captains. Umpires should have no unnecessary or casual conversations with any players. Once announced, a call is not debatable by either Team Captain unless there is a question about procedure.

| <b>OUTDOOR RULES: MISEXECUTION OF PENALTY SHOTS, KNOCK-INS</b> |  |  |  |  |   |  |                                |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Situation</b>   | <b>Penalty 2</b>   | <b>Penalty 3</b>   | <b>Penalty 4</b>   | <b>Penalty 6 (Safety)</b>  | <b>Penalty 5.a</b>  | <b>Penalty 5.b</b>   | <b>Knock-In</b>                |
| Swing and miss   | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Live Ball  | Live Ball  | Live Ball   | Live Ball  | Live Ball                      |
| Ball hit or hit at before Umpire calls Play                    | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Less severe of Spot hit or Penalty 4 for defending team   | Spot hit for defending team  | Penalty 4 for defending team   |
| Ball not hit or hit at on first approach                       | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | Less severe of Spot hit or Penalty 4 for defending team   | Spot hit for defending team  | Penalty 4 for defending team   |
| Attacking team – improper position                             | Spot hit for defending team  | Spot hit for defending team  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A   | N/A  | N/A                            |
| Defending team – improper position                             | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise rehit for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 2 for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 3 for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 3 for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise next more severe penalty for attacking team | If goal scored or prevented by improper position it counts; otherwise Penalty 4 for attacking team | Penalty 5.b for attacking team |

| <b>ARENA RULES: MISEXECUTION OF PENALTY SHOTS</b>    |                                       |                                       |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| SITUATION  | Penalty 2                             | Penalty 3                             | Penalty 4                             | Penalty 5.a                               | Penalty 5.b                               |
| Swing and miss                                       | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Live Ball                                 | Live Ball                                 |
| Ball hit or hit at before Umpire calls Play          | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Bowl-in at the spot                       | Bowl-in at the spot                       |
| Ball not hit or hit at on second approach            | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Bowl-in at the spot                       | Bowl-in at the spot                       |
| Attacking team jumps line                            | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Defending team jumps line                            | Rehit if goal not scored              | Rehit if goal not scored              | Rehit if goal not scored              | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Contact by attacking team                            | Penalty 5.a (or move up for severity) | Penalty 5.a (or move up for severity) | Penalty 5.a (or move up for severity) | Bowl-in at spot (or Penalty for severity) | Bowl-in at spot (or Penalty for severity) |
| Contact by defending team                            | Rehit (or move up for severity)       | Rehit (or move up for severity)       | Rehit (or move up for severity)       | Rehit (or move up for severity)           | Rehit (or move up for severity)           |
| Ball doesn't reach end wall                          | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | Spot hit for defending team           | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Missed goal - first play violation by attacking team | Penalty 5.b for defending team        | Penalty 5.b for defending team        | Penalty 5.b for defending team        | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |
| Missed goal – 5 second violation by defending team   | Rehit                                 | Rehit                                 | Rehit                                 | N/A                                       | N/A                                       |

**OUTDOOR HANDICAP MATRIX**

| No. of Periods<br>→→→→<br>-----<br>Net difference<br>in Team Handi-<br>caps ↓↓↓ | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| .5  | .5  | .5  | .5  | .5  | .5  |
| 1.0   | .5  | .5  | .5  | .5  | 1.0 |
| 1.5   | .5  | .5  | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| 2.0   | .5  | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 2.5   | .5  | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| 3.0   | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| 3.5   | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3.5 |
| 4.0   | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 |

**ARENA HANDICAP MATRIX**

| No. of Periods<br>→→→<br>-----<br>Net difference in<br>Team Handicaps ↓↓↓ | Two 7.5 minute<br>Periods<br><br>OR<br><br>Three 5 minute<br>Periods | Four 7.5 minute<br>Periods<br><br>OR<br><br>Six 5 minute Periods |
|---|--|--|
| 1   | .5   | 1  |
| 2   | 1  | 2  |
| 3   | 1.5  | 3  |
| 4   | 2  | 4  |
| 5   | 2.5  | 5  |
| 6   | 3  | 6  |



# USPA POLICIES

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**BROADCAST RIGHTS, TITLE SPONSORSHIPS, AND TRADEMARK  
POLICY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**

*Adopted by the Board of Governors on September 22, 2018*

The United States Polo Association (the “USPA” or the “Association”) welcomes broadcast, publicity, and sponsorship opportunities that do not conflict with its mission, reputation, and values, subject to the USPA Rules and the principles and procedures set forth in this Broadcast Rights & Title Sponsorships Policy (this “Policy”).

**Broadcast and Publicity Rights**

Each Member Club and Individual Member grants, conveys, transfers and assigns to the Association all of its, his or her right, title and interest in and to all copyright, right of publicity and any other intellectual property rights in and to the broadcasting, taping, filming, televising, or other transmission (which includes streaming) or recording (each, a “Capture”) of USPA Events (as defined in the USPA Rules) and related polo activities. Each Member Club and Individual Member also grants to the Association the authority to use his/her or its name, picture, likeness, logo, art work, or biographical details and other identification, for the publicity, advertising and promotional purposes of the Association in conjunction with the rights referred to in the preceding sentence.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, (1) an Individual Member may take on-site photos or short video clips at USPA Events for personal, non-commercial use and personal social media purposes, using a personal hand-held cell phone, camera, or other similar device, and (2) a Member Club may take on-site photos and short video clips at USPA Events taking place at such Member Club exclusively for the purpose of publicizing, advertising, and promoting the Member Club; all other forms of Capture and commercial uses are prohibited unless otherwise authorized in writing in advance by the Association. Only USPA and its authorized affiliates have the authority to sell advertising, product placements, or other marketing exposure in connection with the USPA media rights as set forth above.

**Definitions**

In addition to the terms defined elsewhere in this Policy, the following terms shall have the following meanings when used herein:

- (a) “Host Club” means the Member Club hosting a USPA National Event.
- (b) “Title Sponsor” and “Title Sponsorship” shall mean a sponsor (including



individuals, entities and other enterprises) whose name appears in the title of the Tournament (*e.g.*, the “[Sponsor]” USPA Gold Cup®,” and including “presenting” sponsorships whereby the presenting sponsor’s name appears in the title of the tournament, *e.g.*, the “USPA Gold Cup® presented by [Sponsor]”), for any USPA National Event.

(c) “USPA Rules” means the rules that govern the conduct of all USPA members and events as set forth in the USPA Rulebook in force at the relevant time (as each may be amended from time to time), including without limitation the USPA Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, the USPA-approved International Rules, Policies and Tournament Conditions governing all USPA members, teams/sponsors, and the conduct of the Tournaments.

### **Title Sponsorships**

The Association reserves the right to sell the Title Sponsorship of any USPA National Event (as defined in the USPA Rules). With the prior written approval of the USPA, a Host Club may be permitted to sell the Title Sponsorship for a USPA National Event; provided, however, that any Title Sponsorship sold by a Host Club shall be subject to the prior written approval of the USPA, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Host Clubs may not alter the name of any Association event without prior written approval of the Association.

Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing by the Host Club and the Association:

1. when a Host Club sells a Title Sponsorship for an amount equal to or exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), the Host Club shall pay to the USPA an amount equal to Twenty Percent (20%) of the total Title Sponsorship revenue received by the Host Club, net of any commissions;
2. when the Association sells a Title Sponsorship for an amount equal to or exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), the Association shall pay to the Host Club an amount equal to Twenty Percent (20%) of the total Title Sponsorship revenue received by the Association, net of any commissions; and
3. when either a Host Club or the Association sells a Title Sponsorship for an amount that is less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), the selling party shall be entitled to retain all such Title Sponsorship revenue.

Sponsorship shall not include or constitute an endorsement of the Title Sponsor or the Title Sponsor’s products or services. In order to maximize the value of all Title Sponsorships and of the other types of marketing rights sold in connection with USPA National Events, Host Clubs are encouraged to work in advance with the Association on an overall strategy

to sequence the sales process, target certain sponsorship categories, and to de-conflict media rights and other rights that may be sold in connection with the event. As a condition of awarding an event to a Host Club, the Association may require that certain sponsorship categories be reserved to the Association's Title Sponsorship sales efforts, or place certain other marketing parameters around the Association's or the Host Club's sale of Title Sponsorships, all in an effort to maximize the value of such Title Sponsorships, avoid category conflicts, and avoid duplication of efforts.

### **Use of the USPA Trademarks**

Usage of the USPA logo and other marks of the Association is governed by the USPA Logo Usage Policy. For the avoidance of doubt, the logo and other marks of the Association are property of the Association and may not be sold or disseminated, whether or not for profit, to any individual, organization, or other enterprise or party without prior, express and written authorization of the Association.

Any capitalized terms used in this Policy and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Constitution or the By-laws of the USPA.



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## Censure Policy

### Censure definition:

A **censure** (pron.: /'senʃər/) is an expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism. Among the forms that it can take are a stern rebuke by a governing body.

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A censure is an alternative to more serious measures against misconduct or dereliction of duty.

The motion to censure is an exception to the general rule that “a motion must not use language that reflects on a member’s conduct or character, or is discourteous, unnecessarily harsh, or not allowed in debate.”<sup>[8]</sup> Demeter’s Manual notes, “It is a reprimand, aimed at reformation of the person and prevention of further offending acts.”

### Censure Procedure

The BASDC by its mission description is to provide a conduit from its committee to the Executive Committee and through the Executive committee to the Board of Governors regarding Board conduct.

Board conduct while involved in USPA business falls under those guidelines.

The BASDC will review any conduct complaint against a board member brought to it by any USPA member, or through its own committee for relevance.

Should the BASDC Committee deem a censure necessary, the follow steps are considered appropriate:

#### Step 1 - Notification.

Should the committee, by majority vote, decide that such conduct is contrary to the character of the board, it will write a letter of warning to the Board member so named. That warning letter will then be sent to Executive committee for their vote of majority approval. Should the majority vote affirmative for sending the letter and that decision is not challenged by at least 6 Board members, it will be officially sent to the governor/officer in question with a copy going to the full board of governors. A letter will be required from the member acknowledging receipt of the warning and expressing regret for their action(s).

#### Step 2 - Censure.

If the conduct as specified in the notification letter as approved by Executive Committee and by definition, majority of the Board, continues, a letter of official censure shall be sent to the board member/officer placing them on notice that any additional violation(s) will not be tolerated and would result in a revocation of membership. This letter will be a permanent record.

**Step 3. Revocation of membership**

As a 501C6 organization, the USPA is not required to accept nor to continue any member's membership. At their discretion, the Association may refund or fail to accept any membership money thus denying or terminating a member's rights and obligation.

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An individual may reapply for membership after a two year period and that request will be voted upon by the Executive Committee or the Board of Governor's if they are in session.

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## United States Polo Association Club Information Update Policy

### Section 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Club Information Update Policy (this “**Policy**”) of the United States Polo Association (the “**Association**”) is to establish duties of the Member Club Delegates, Circuit Governors, Club and Membership Administration Committee, and the staff of the Association, with respect to updating information for Association Member Clubs.

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### Section 2. Basic Information Updates

For all basic information such as club location, contact information, facility information, officers (other than Club Delegate), instructors, etc., the Club Delegate shall update through the USPA Website or by an email to USPA staff.

### Section 3. Club Delegate Change

To make a change of the official Club Delegate listed on file, a Club Delegate Change Form must be completed and submitted to the USPA. This form will be verified by USPA staff to ensure that the form has been signed by the following (a) Incoming Club Delegate, (b) an Additional Club Representative (President, Owner, Chairman, Manager or other), and if possible (c) Current Club Delegate. If the form has been properly submitted, USPA staff will receive approval by the Executive Director of Services and the Club and Membership Administration Committee. The change will then be put into place and the Member Club and applicable Circuit Governor will be notified of the change.

If the change of Club Delegate is requested after June 1 but before the Annual Meeting, the Club Delegate may not participate in any official USPA business, such as voting in elections or voting on Constitutional changes.

### Section 3. Club Name Change

To change the name on file for a USPA Member Club, an Official Change of Club Name Request Form must be submitted to the USPA. This form will be verified by USPA staff to ensure that the form has been signed by the following two individuals (a) Current Club Delegate and (b) an Additional Club Representative (President, Owner, Chairman, Manager or other). USPA staff will verify that the new name of the Member Club does not conflict with any other Member Clubs registered with the Association. If the form has been properly submitted, USPA staff will receive approval by the Club and Membership Administration Committee. The change will then be put into place and the Member Club and applicable Circuit Governor will be notified of the change.

**Section 4. Club Circuit Change**

Should a USPA Club wish to move to a different circuit, they must submit a Club Circuit Change Form to the USPA. This form will be presented to the current circuit governor and new circuit governor for approval. Once approved by the two circuit governors, the form will be submitted to the Club and Membership Administration Committee for referral to the USPA Board of Governors for its review. If approved by the Board of Governors, the USPA Circuit Map shall be updated accordingly and the Member Club and applicable Circuit Governor will be notified of the change.

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**CODE OF CONDUCT  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**

*Adopted by the Board of Governors on September 22, 2018*

The United States Polo Association (the “USPA”) strives to maintain the highest standard of conduct in all of its operations and, accordingly, has established the following code of conduct (this “Code of Conduct”) for all of the Member Clubs and Individual Members:

- (1) Always respect the game and all USPA Rules.
- (2) Always respect your teammates, opponents, officials, and fellow Members.
- (3) Always demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- (4) Always consider the welfare of the horses.
- (5) Always respect the Member Clubs and the Member Club facilities.
- (6) Always compete without the use of drugs or alcohol.
- (7) Always compete to win.
- (8) Always demonstrate respect and good citizenship toward other Association Members in all Association-related communications, including, but not limited to, discourse at Association meetings.
- (9) Always adhere to and comport yourself in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, Constitution, Rules, terms and conditions of the Membership Application, Code of Conduct, and other policies of the Association, all as in effect from time to time.
- (10) Always act in a manner that is in the best interests of the Association and the sport of polo. An Individual Member shall be deemed to have not acted in the best interests of the Association and the sport of polo where such Individual Member:
  - A. Acts, or incites any other Member to act, in a manner contrary to the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, Constitution, Rules, terms and conditions of the Membership Application, or this Code of Conduct;
  - B. Acts, or incites any other Member to act, in a manner deemed to be improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interests of the sport or the Association;

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C. Acts, or incites any other Member to act, in a manner deemed by the USPA to be abusive or neglectful of a horse or other animal;

D. Publishes, or incites any other Member to publish, in social media or elsewhere, statements, comments, or remarks considered to be offensive or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the Association, an Individual Member, a Member Club, or an official of the sport; or

E. Discloses, or incites any other Member to disclose, confidential internal Association business or information to a third party not otherwise privy to such business or information.

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### **Compliance with this Code of Conduct**

As a condition of continued membership, Members have a duty to behave appropriately and to be mindful that their public behavior reflects on the Association and the sport of polo. This Code of Conduct shall apply to each of the Member Clubs and the Individual Members at all times, both on and off the playing field. Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action pursuant to the By-laws and the policies adopted by the Board of Governors, each as in effect from time to time.

### **Definitions**

Any capitalized terms used in this Code of Conduct and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Constitution or the By-laws of the USPA.

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## USPA COMMITTEE INFORMATION

All current Charters, Policies, Mission Statements, and Membership Listings for both USPA Committees and Polo Development Committees can be found at: <https://www.uspolo.org/association/divisions>

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## CONCUSSION GUIDELINES

**AAN HEAD INJURY SUMMARY**

The following guidelines were adopted from the American Neurology Academy (AAN) by the USPA Safety Committee and outlines recommended return to polo guidelines following a head injury.

| Concussion   | Incident # | AAN Guidelines (adopted)   |
|--|------------|--|
| <b>GRADE I</b><br>No loss of consciousness<br>No Amnesia<br>"Bell Rung"<br>Confusion | Initial    | 20 minutes s/s free at rest/exertion   |
|  | Second     | 1 week symptom free @ rest/exertion  |
|  | Third      | Terminate Season<br>Return allowed in 3 months if cleared by MD  |
| <b>GRADE II</b><br>No loss of consciousness<br>Confusion with amnesia                | Initial    | 1 week symptom free @ rest/exertion<br>Must be cleared by qualified Medical Personnel  |
|  | Second     | 2 weeks symptom free @ rest and exertion<br>Must be cleared by qualified Medical Personnel<br>Scanning if indicated (residual s/s)<br>Terminate Season                                   |
|  | Third      | Complete Neurological work up  |
| <b>GRADE III</b><br>Loss of consciousness  | Initial    | Brief LOC: 1 week symptom free at rest and exertion<br>Prolonged LOC: 2 weeks following resolution of signs/symptoms at rest and exertion.<br>Clearance by medically qualified personnel |
|  | Second     | 1 month free of sign/symptoms at rest and exertion.<br>Neurological consult and clearance required   |
|  | Third      | Terminate season.<br>Consider retirement from sport.   |

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**UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION, INC. CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/BOARD PER  
EC MEETING, JULY 20, 2015

**Article I - Purpose**

1. The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure is to protect the United States Polo Association, Inc. (USPA) and its interests when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interests of any Officer, Employee, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Committee Member, or Volunteer of the USPA, or any of its subsidiaries that might result in a possible excess benefit transaction based on the person's financial interest. It is the intent of this Conflict of Interest Policy to prohibit any of the foregoing from using their position or authority to achieve any personal material gain or economic advantage that would result in an excess benefit.
  
2. This Conflict of Interest Policy is intended to supplement, but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to I.R.S. Code 501(c)(6) organizations.

**Article II – Definitions**

1. USPA. The United States Polo Association, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries, whether wholly or partially owned, including but not limited to entities such as corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and foundations. However, the USPA also recognizes the need to provide some flexibility in the scope of its authority particularly with respect to USPA Properties, Inc., a for-profit corporation wholly owned by the USPA, as it has its own Conflict of Interest Policy and enforcement process.
  
2. Interested Person. An Interested Person is any USPA officer, employee, governor, lieutenant governor, committee member or chair, and volunteers of the USPA.
  
3. Conflict of Interest. A Conflict of Interest (COI) may be (a) a situation occurring when an individual or organization is involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly corrupt the motivation of an Interested Person, or (b) circumstances that create a risk that the judgment or actions regarding an Interested Person's primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest. The presence of a COI is independent of the occurrence or appearance of impropriety. Thus, a COI can be discovered and voluntarily defused by being made fully transparent to the Audit Committee or the Board of Governors before any corruption occurs.
  
4. Financial Interest. A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:

- a) An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the USPA has a transaction or an arrangement; or
- b) A compensation arrangement with the USPA, or with any entity or individual with which the USPA has a transaction or an arrangement; or
- c) A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with any entity or individual with which the USPA is negotiating a transaction or an arrangement as otherwise noted herein. A Financial Interest is not necessarily a COI. Further, an Interested Person who has a Financial Interest may have a COI only if the USPA Board of Governors, after its own investigation, or upon the Audit Committee's recommendation to the Board of Governors, decides that a COI exists, based on the policy set forth herein.

5. Excess Benefit. Excess Benefit is any compensation, consideration or benefit accruing to an Interested Person greater than would have been received in a transparent arm's length transaction that is not minor or de minimus given the facts and circumstances surrounding such transaction.

6. Compensation. Compensation shall include direct or indirect remuneration or consideration as well as gifts, grants or favors that are not insubstantial or de minimus, generally considered to be amounts less than \$5,000 but not exclusively, depending on the facts, the type and number of transactions and the circumstances involved. Note however, that a contribution to the USPA by an Interested Person or member of the USPA will not by itself create a COI but rather additional factors such as the amount and purpose of the contribution should be taken into account in determining a donor's independent status or arm's length position.

7. Review Group. For purposes of this COI Policy the Review Group shall consist of the USPA's Chief Financial Officer, the USPA Audit Committee and the USPA Board of Governors. However, the Board of Governors may delegate its authority to one or more committees including but not limited to the Executive Committee for the purpose of investigating and resolving COI issues and the Audit Committee would then also report to such designated committee, with the Review Group expanded accordingly.

### Article III – Procedures

#### A) Duty to Disclose.

1. In connection with any actual or possible COI, an Interested Person must disclose the existence of the Financial Interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts first to the CFO in the Disclosure Statement and if necessary, then to the Audit Committee and if necessary, then to the Board of Governors, with copies of any findings or recommended action provided to the USPA's Chairman, CEO and CFO.

2. In the event that an Interested Person observes or genuinely believes based on facts, that they are about to witness behavior that has or will constitute a COI by another Interested Person, such facts or behavior must be disclosed first to the Audit Committee and when appropriate, to the Board of Governors.

B) Determining Whether a COI Exists. After disclosure to the Audit Committee (with a copy to the CFO) of the Financial Interest in question and all material facts, and after a discussion or interview with the Interested Person(s), the Audit Committee shall promptly meet to review what has been presented to them and make a preliminary determination of whether in their judgement a COI exists or is eminent. The findings and any recommendation by the Audit Committee shall be immediately delivered to the Board of Governors with a copy to the USPA Chairman, CEO and CFO. The Board of Governors shall then take up the matter either at a regular monthly meeting, a special meeting or the semi-annual meeting at which time the Board of Governors will review the findings and any recommendations from the Audit Committee, discuss the matter, and if necessary ask for a more thorough statement from an Interested Person or more evidence of the alleged COI, and determine by majority vote whether a COI exists or is about to occur and immediately advise the Interested Person(s) of its decision. A sitting Governor with a Financial Interest or the subject of an alleged COI shall not be eligible to vote. The Board of Governors may also decline to take any action whereupon the findings and any recommendation of the Audit Committee will stand and will be addressed by the USPA Chairman, the CEO or their designees.

C) Additional Procedures for Addressing a COI

1. The Board of Governors and/or the Audit Committee may, if necessary, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement that gave rise to such COI issue.

2. After reviewing the appearance of an impropriety or actual COI presented to it, the Board of Governors may determine whether the USPA can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a COI.

3. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a COI, the Board of Governors shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested Governors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the USP's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination the Board of Governors by majority vote shall make its decision as to whether it shall enter into the transaction or arrangement. Any sitting Governor with a Financial Interest in the specific COI shall recuse themselves from voting.

D) Violations of the Conflict of Interest Policy.



1. If the Board of Governors, after review and discussion of the Audit Committee's report or a report from the CFO, has reasonable cause to believe an Interested Person has failed to timely disclose an actual or possible COI, it shall inform the Interested Person of the basis for such belief and offer the Interested Person an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
2. If, after hearing the Interested Person's response and after making further investigation as may be warranted by the circumstances, the Board of Governors thereafter determines the Interested Person has failed to timely disclose an actual or possible COI, as provided for herein, the Board of Governors, after motion and majority vote may take appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action.

#### **Article IV – Record of Proceedings**

1. At any time that a COI is addressed by the Audit Committee, by the Board of Governors or by any officers or employees or any committee asked or created to address a COI issue, minutes of such proceedings shall be kept. Such minutes shall include but not be limited to a general description of the alleged COI, the time and place of such proceeding, who was present, who spoke and an outline of what was said, a list or description of any documentary or physical evidence and the result of any vote, any recommendations including alternatives to the proposed transaction giving rise to the COI, and any corrective or disciplinary action.
2. The Chief Financial Officer of the USPA shall maintain files and a written log of any disclosed, reported and discovered COI and the Record of Proceedings including how the COI was resolved.

#### **Article V – Annual Disclosure Statement**

1. Each Interested Person shall sign annually a Disclosure Statement, copy of which is attached hereto, to be kept by the CFO, which affirms that such person:
  - a) Has received a copy of this COI Policy and Procedure.
  - b) Has read and understands the COI Policy and Procedure.
  - c) Has agreed to comply with the COI Policy and Procedure.
  - d) Understands the USPA is a 501(c)(6) tax exempt organization and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.
2. If at any time during the year the information in the annual statement changes materially, the Interested Person shall disclose such changes to the CFO and revise their annual Disclosure Statement.
3. The CFO, in conjunction with the Audit Committee and the Board of Governors shall regularly monitor and seek compliance with this COI Policy and Procedure by reviewing annual Disclosure Statements and taking such actions as are necessary for effective COI oversight. The CEO and the CFO shall develop guidelines on how the

COI Disclosure Statement shall be signed, collected and maintained, and report such guidelines and any changes to the Board of Governors.

4. The failure of an Interested Person to complete, sign and deliver their Disclosure Statement shall result in the CFO reporting such failure to the Interested Person, and failing receipt of a Disclosure Statement 10 days thereafter, provide a notice of such failure to the Board of Governors, the CEO and Chairman.

#### **Article VI – Periodic Reviews**

1. In addition to the monitoring set forth in Article V (3) herein, and to ensure the USPA operates in a manner consistent with its 501(c)(6) purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax exempt status, periodic reviews may also be conducted by the Finance Committee regarding:

a) Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information (if reasonably available), and the results of arm's length bargaining;

b) Whether the USPA's arrangements with other individuals or organizations conform to the USPA's written policies, are properly documented, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further the USPA's purposes and do not result in an inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

#### **Article VII – Use of Outside Experts**

When conducting the annual or periodic reviews as provided for herein, the USPA may, but need not use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the USPA of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

#### **Article VIII – Amendments**

This Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure may be amended from time to time by a majority vote of the Board of Governors.

#### **Article IX – Effective Date**

This Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure shall become effective on July 20, 2015, the date it was approved by vote of the majority of the Board of Governors.

(NOTE: This Conflict of Interest Policy became effective August 3, 2015. The Executive Committee approved the policy at their regular monthly meeting held July 20, 2015. In accordance with Resolution 4.1, the meeting's minutes and attachments were published to the Board. As there were no Board objections for consideration within one week after the delivery on July 27, 2015, this policy became effective on August 3, 2015.)

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**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES POLICY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**

*Adopted by the Board of Governors on October 19, 2019*

**INTRODUCTION**

This Disciplinary Procedures Policy (this “Policy”) sets forth the rules and procedures of the United States Polo Association (the “Association”) relative to its authority to impose disciplinary measures against its Members for misconduct as set forth herein. The procedures in this Policy are intended to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances, including, to the extent set forth herein, the right to fair notice and a hearing prior to termination of membership.

This Policy contains four (4) sets of procedures, each of which relates to a different type of Member conduct. These procedures are:

- I. Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures,
- II. Membership-Related Conduct Violation Procedures,
- III. Sport Protest Procedures, and
- IV. Equine Drugs and Medications Rules Violation Procedures.

**AMENDMENTS**

This Policy may be amended only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Governors of the Association.

**PART I:**  
**SPORT-RELATED CONDUCT VIOLATION PROCEDURES**

**Introduction**

These Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures are intended to provide a disciplinary procedures process through which the Association may regulate Member conduct relative to the sport of polo or at any Event, whether on or off the field.

**A. Conduct Violations.**

Any Member Club or Individual Member will be deemed to have committed a “Conduct Violation” for a violation of the Association’s Code of Conduct (whether on or off the polo field), Rules (as defined in the By-laws), Constitution, By-laws, Board-approved policies, directives or Terms and Conditions of Membership, or for a failure to obey a penalty imposed under the Rules or these Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures, to the extent such violation or failure relates to the Member Club’s or Individual Member’s conduct relative to the sport of polo, including, but not limited to, player or umpire conduct or any equine welfare issues.

**B. Complaints and Charges.**

1. **Conduct Violation Complaints.** A complaint of a Conduct Violation (each, a “Conduct Violation Complaint” may be made by any Registered Player Member, Affiliate Player Member, Officer, Governor, employee of the Association, or Official (*i.e.*, umpire, referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper, goal judge, or Host Tournament Committee member) of the event who is a witness to an alleged Conduct Violation or by the Chairman or Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

a. **Complaint Requirements.** All Conduct Violation Complaints shall be: (i) in writing describing the alleged Conduct Violation in reasonable detail, including, if applicable, the manner in which it was witnessed; (ii) signed by the complaining party; and (iii) delivered within seventy-two (72) hours of the alleged Conduct Violation to either the Chairman or Chief Executive Officer of the Association. Notwithstanding (iii) immediately above, Conduct Violation Complaints filed by the Chairman of the Association shall be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and Conduct Violation Complaints filed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall be delivered to the Chairman of the Association, each within thirty (30) days of the alleged Conduct Violation. The Association will not prosecute alleged Conduct Violations in the absence of a Conduct Violation Complaint that complies in all material respects with the provisions set forth in these Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures.

b. **Notice of Complaints.** Copies of all Conduct Violation Complaints will be delivered to the person against whom the Conduct Violation Complaint has

been filed within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt by the Association. Copies of all Conduct Violation Complaints made to the Association will be forwarded to any host tournament committee and/or Member Club involved in any such Conduct Violation Complaint within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt by the Association.

c. Recordkeeping and Inspection. The Association will keep a record of all Conduct Violation Complaints. The Association will make available for inspection by Registered Player Members the final decision of the Association regarding any Conduct Violation Complaint for which a decision is issued, including the nature of the violation and any penalty imposed.

d. Multiple Complaints. In the event that more than one Conduct Violation Complaint is filed, based on a single alleged Conduct Violation, or based on multiple alleged Conduct Violations occurring within a twenty-four (24) hour period, such Conduct Violation Complaints shall be considered collectively by the Executive Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for purposes of determining whether to assess any fine under Section G.1.d. below, the Executive Committee may consider each Conduct Violation separately.

2. Election Not to Issue Charges. If the Association elects not to issue charges based upon a Conduct Violation Complaint, the complaining party will be notified of such election within seventy-two (72) hours following the decision not to issue charges. The Association must decide whether to issue charges within fifteen (15) calendar days following receipt of a Conduct Violation Complaint.

3. Member Club Determinations. The imposition of penalties against any Individual Member by a Member Club will not automatically result in charges being brought or penalties being imposed against the Individual Member by the Association. Rather, the Executive Committee shall be responsible for determining whether to issue charges based on any Conduct Violation Complaint brought in connection with the activity for which the Member Club imposed penalties and, if so, whether to assess any penalties against the Individual Member in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.

### C. Notice.

1. Entitlement to Notice and a Hearing. Any person against whom a charge is issued is entitled to a hearing of the alleged Conduct Violation and to notice of the same. If a charged party fails to appear at a properly noticed and scheduled hearing, the hearing will be held in absentia.

2. Notice of an Expedited Hearing. The Association may hold an expedited hearing within seven (7) calendar days of issuance of the charge, provided that the charged party is given written notice at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled

expedited hearing. The notice of hearing must: (a) contain a brief statement of the facts constituting the alleged Conduct Violation; (b) identify the specific provision of the Association Code of Conduct, Rules, Constitution, By-laws, Board-approved policies, directives or Terms and Conditions of Membership allegedly violated; (c) specify the time and place at which the hearing is to be held; and (d) include a list identifying: (i) the evidence to be introduced at the hearing, (ii) the names of the witnesses, and (iii) the substance of their testimony. This notice-of-hearing requirement may be waived in writing by the charged party.

3. Notice in the Absence of an Expedited Hearing. In the absence of an expedited hearing, written notice to the charged party must be given within seven (7) calendar days from the date that the decision is made by the Association to issue charges. Such notice of hearing must: (a) contain a brief statement of the facts constituting the alleged Conduct Violation; (b) identify the specific provision of the Association Code of Conduct, Rules, Constitution, By-laws, Board-approved policies, directives or Terms and Conditions of Membership allegedly violated; (c) specify the time and place at which the hearing is to be held or state that the hearing date will be determined at a later time as soon as reasonably practicable; and (d) include a list identifying: (i) the evidence to be introduced at the hearing, (ii) the names of the witnesses, and (iii) the substance of their testimony.

4. Optional Response by the Charged Party. Prior to any scheduled hearing, the charged party may submit to the Executive Committee or Hearing Officer(s), if any, a written response to the charges and may include written and signed statements of others having knowledge of the facts. Alternatively, a charged party may agree to the disposition of the charges without the necessity of a hearing.

#### **D. Temporary Suspensions.**

The Executive Committee may temporarily suspend any charged party from participating in any manner in the affairs and events of the Association so long as an expedited hearing is noticed and held within seven (7) calendar days of the time such suspension becomes effective. In a case where the charged party has been temporarily suspended prior to a hearing, a decision on the charge shall be made by the committee within twenty four (24) hours of the conclusion of the expedited hearing.

#### **E. Hearings of Charges.**

1. Proceedings in English. All disciplinary proceedings, including, but not limited to, hearings of charges of alleged Conduct Violations, will be conducted in the English language and in the presence of the charged party, unless the charged party fails to appear, in which case the proceedings may be held in absentia. The failure to understand the charges or any proceedings in English shall not provide the basis for an appeal by any charged party. Interpreters, if required by the charged party, are the responsibility of the charged party.

2. Role of Executive Committee and Hearing Officers. Except as set forth in E.7. below, hearings shall be heard by the Executive Committee of the Association or by one or more individuals appointed by the Executive Committee (such individuals to be members of the Executive Committee, Governors, staff members of the Association, legal counsel for the Association, or such other agents of the Association deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee) (each, a “Hearing Officer” and collectively, the “Hearing Officers”). If one or more Hearing Officer(s) is appointed by the Executive Committee, such Hearing Officer(s) may, to the extent directed by the Executive Committee, collect all testimony proffered, report all findings of facts to the Executive Committee, and make a non-binding penalty recommendation to the Executive Committee.

3. Presentation of Evidence. A charged party may attend his or her hearing, with or without counsel, or may send a representative, and may defend against the charges by calling and cross examining witnesses, submitting signed statements, or presenting other evidence.

4. Burden of Proof. The Executive Committee shall have the burden of proving any charge. The burden of proof shall not be that as required in a court of law. The burden of proof necessary to sustain a charge against a charged party shall be met if the Executive Committee reasonably believes, after hearing the evidence presented, that a Conduct Violation has occurred.

5. Authority to Impose Penalties. The Executive Committee shall have the power and authority to impose any of the penalties described in these Sport-Related Conduct Violation Procedures; provided, however, that any proposal to expel, remove, or terminate a Member from the Association shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Governors. A non-binding penalty recommendation of the Hearing Officer(s), if any, may be accepted, modified, or rejected by the Executive Committee.

6. Final Orders. A final order setting forth the determination and the findings of facts on which it is based, as well as the penalty, if any, to be imposed on the charged party, will be entered by the Association within fifteen (15) calendar days following the conclusion of the hearing.

7. Executive Committee Conflict of Interest. If, at any time, there are not at least five (5) Executive Committee members available to rule on a Conduct Violation Complaint, at least three (3) of whom it is determined do not have a conflict of interest with respect to the alleged Conduct Violation, then the Board of Governors will appoint one or more of its members who are determined not to have a conflict of interest with respect to the alleged Conduct Violation to join the Executive Committee members who are available and do not have a conflict so that there are



at least three (3) Governors available to rule on the Conduct Violation Complaint that do not have a conflict of interest with respect to the alleged Conduct Violation. For the avoidance of doubt, any available Executive Committee members who it is determined do have a conflict of interest with respect to the alleged Conduct Violation shall abstain from participating.

**F. Continuances.**

1. Continuance Applications. All applications for continuance of any hearing shall (a) be made in writing to the Executive Committee at least five (5) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing and (b) state the reasons the continuance is sought. Applications for a continuance of an expedited hearing made by a charged party will not be accepted.

2. Approval or Denial of Continuance Applications. The Executive Committee may, in its sole and reasonable discretion, approve or deny an application for a continuance; provided, however, that no continuances of expedited hearings will be granted to any charged party.

3. Continuance Fees. An application for a first continuance of a hearing must be accompanied by a non-refundable continuance fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) payable to the Association. Any second or subsequent application for continuance must be accompanied by a non-refundable continuance fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) payable to the Association. In deciding whether to approve or deny an application for continuance, the Executive Committee also may consider whether the party requesting the continuance has agreed in writing to pay some or all of the expenses of the Association, Member Club, and/or witnesses that would result from approving the continuance.

**G. Penalties.**

1. Penalty Examples. If found guilty of any charge properly brought before the Executive Committee, the charged party will be subject to such penalty as the Executive Committee may determine, including, but not limited to:

a. Censure. A letter of censure may be listed in the Association's record of penalties. If found guilty of a subsequent Conduct Violation, the censured party may be subject to a more severe penalty than for a previous offense.

b. Suspension. Suspension for any period from participating in any Association events and activities.

c. Expulsion/Removal/Termination. Expulsion/removal/termination from the Association as a Member. Any proposed expulsion/removal/termination from membership shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

d. Fines. Fines may be assessed, provided that such fines shall not exceed the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for each Conduct Violation.

e. Probation. The Executive Committee may determine probationary conditions for a charged party found guilty of a charge. A violation of a probation condition may be treated as a Conduct Violation.

f. Costs. Actual reasonable costs and out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Association, a Member Club, and/or witnesses may be assessed in addition to any penalty.

2. Effective Date of Penalty. The effective date of any suspension or probation, and the deadline for the payment of any fine or costs, will be set by the Executive Committee or the Board of Governors, as applicable.

3. Failure to Pay. Failure to pay any fine and/or costs within 30 days of notice of the deadline of the same will result in automatic suspension from the date the fine and/or costs became payable until the fine and/or costs are paid. Fines and/or costs are considered paid when receipt is acknowledged by the payee designated by the Association. Failure to timely pay any fine and/or costs shall be treated as a Conduct Violation.

#### **H. Appeal of Decisions**

1. Notice of Appeal. A decision by the Association will be final unless a party to the proceeding files with the Association a written notice of appeal of the decision (a “Notice of Appeal”) together with the requisite appeal fee within fourteen (14) calendar days of the issuance of a final order.

a. Appeal Fee. Any Notice of Appeal by a charged party must be accompanied by an appeal fee in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) payable to the Association.

b. Forfeiture of Appeal Fee. In the event that a charged party does not complete the appeals process, the appeal fee will be forfeited.

c. Application or Return of Appeal Fee. Within thirty (30) calendar days following the conclusion of the appeal hearing, the appeal fee will be returned to the charged party unless the charged party is indebted to the Association for any fees, costs, or fines, in which event the amount of such items shall be deducted from the appeal fee prior to any refund.

2. Role of Board of Governors and Appeal Hearing Officers. On receipt of a Notice of Appeal, the Board of Governors either will conduct an appeal hearing or will

appoint one or more individuals (such individuals to be members of the Board of Governors, staff members of the Association, legal counsel for the Association, or such other agents of the Association deemed appropriate by the Board of Governors) (each an “Appeal Hearing Officer” and collectively, the “Appeal Hearing Officers”) to conduct an appeal hearing. At the appeal hearing, all testimony previously given will be considered, as will all other evidence presented at the initial hearing. If one or more Appeal Hearing Officer(s) is appointed by the Board of Governors, such Appeal Hearing Officer(s) shall report its findings to the Board of Governors and may make a non-binding recommendation to the Board of Governors regarding whether to reduce, sustain, or increase any penalties initially imposed by the Executive Committee.

3. Appeal Hearing. In the event that the charged party timely files a Notice of Appeal, the Association will give the appellant at least ten (10) calendar days’ written notice of the date, time, and place of the appeal hearing. Unless the Board of Governors decides otherwise for good cause, the appeal hearing shall be held in the State and County of the alleged Conduct Violation. Likewise, unless the Board of Governors decides otherwise for good cause, the appeal hearing shall be held within forty (40) calendar days following the Association’s receipt of a properly filed Notice of Appeal. Upon request of the charged party, the Board of Governors will permit the charged party to be heard in person and/or represented by an attorney. The parties may file written memoranda with the Board of Governors objecting to or in support of the initial disciplinary action relating to a Conduct Violation, and the findings upon which it was based, in whole or in part.

4. Final Orders on Appeal. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after completing the appeal hearing, the Board of Governors will issue a final order setting forth its findings, its decision, and its reasons therefor. The Board of Governors may reduce, sustain, or increase any penalties initially imposed by the Executive Committee.

5. Stay of Penalty upon Appeal. If a penalty of any kind is appealed, the charged party may request, in writing, that such penalty be stayed until such time as the appeal has been heard by the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors will timely grant or deny the charged party’s request for a stay as it deems appropriate. To the extent that a stay of the penalty is granted, and the charged party fails to prevail on the appeal, any time periods relating to the penalty shall be extended by a number of days equal to the stay.

## **I. Publication and Enforcement of Association Decisions.**

1. Notice of Decisions. Notice of final determinations of the Executive Committee, or the Board of Governors, as the case may be, including the nature of the violation, the decision of the Executive Committee or Board of Governors, and any penalty imposed, shall be published to the Member Clubs of the Association and shall be

provided to the Hurlingham Polo Association, the Association of Argentine Polo, and the Federation of International Polo.

2. Enforcement of Association Decisions by Member Clubs. On receipt of notice by Active Member Clubs or Affiliate Member Clubs from the Association that a disciplinary penalty has been imposed on an Individual Member by the Association for a Conduct Violation, the notice will be honored and enforced by Member Clubs receiving such notice.

## **PART II: MEMBERSHIP-RELATED CONDUCT VIOLATION PROCEDURES**

### **Introduction**

These Membership-Related Conduct Violation Procedures are intended to provide a disciplinary procedures process through which the Association may regulate Member conduct relative to an individual's conduct as a Member of the Association, regardless of whether such conduct is directly related to the sport of polo.

#### **A. Generally.**

At any time when cause has been established, the Board of Governors may:

- 1) expel/remove/terminate a Member from the Association,
- 2) convert an Individual Member to Player-Only Member status, or
- 3) deny the membership application of any current or former Member.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to expelling/removing/terminating a Member from the Association, the Board of Governors shall provide the Member with a minimum of seven (7) calendar days' written notice, during which time the Member may submit a written statement concerning the allegations under consideration by the Board or request an appearance before the Board, which request shall be granted by the Board within a reasonable time period thereafter. At any time where a Registered Player Member's membership status has been converted to Player-Only Member status, such Player-Only Member shall be given the opportunity to apply for reinstatement as a Registered Player Member at the end of the fiscal year in which his or her status was converted to Player-Only Member status.

#### **B. Cause.**

"Cause" shall be considered established at any time where:

1. a Member acts in a manner that is deemed, in the sole discretion of the Board of Governors, to violate or be inconsistent with the provisions or spirit of the Association's Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, Constitution, Code of Conduct, Terms and Conditions of Membership, or any policies adopted by the Board, not

including any Conduct Violation described in the Sport Related Conduct Violation Procedures; or

2. a Member's conduct is disruptive to the purposes, activities, or operations of the Association, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Governors; and, as a result, the Board of Governors determines it to be in the Association's best interests to expel/remove/terminate the Member from the Association or to deny the membership application of any current or former Member.

For the avoidance of doubt, the conviction of a crime by any Individual Member, or determination that such Individual Member was found liable in a civil court proceeding involving claims of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of a horse or other animal shall constitute "cause".

### **C. Temporary Suspensions.**

If the Board determines it to be in the best interests of the Association, the Board of Governors may temporarily suspend any Member from participating in any manner in the affairs and events of the Association, provided that the Member is given an opportunity to respond and a determination by the Board of Governors regarding the imposition of a penalty is made within seven (7) calendar days of the time such temporary suspension becomes effective.

## **PART III: SPORT PROTEST PROCEDURES**

### **Introduction**

These Sport Protest Procedures are intended to provide a process by which disagreements with the non-discretionary decisions of a Tournament Committee or Officials of a USPA Event (as defined in the Tournament Conditions) may be protested.

### **A. Protests.**

Any disagreement with the non-discretionary decisions of the Tournament Committee and/or Officials conducting a USPA Event may be protested, provided that notice of the disagreement is delivered verbally to any of the following within eight (8) hours after the disagreement arises: a member of the Tournament Committee, a Circuit Governor, the Chief Executive Officer, or the Chairman of the Association.

### **B. Filing of Protests.**

1. A protest may be filed by (a) any aggrieved Individual Member who is also a participant in the Event, (b) an Official of the Event, or (c) an Officer or Governor of the Association.
2. All protests must be: (a) filed in writing, (b) received within twenty-four (24) hours of the Event in which the disagreement arose, (c) signed by the protesting

party, (d) addressed to the Association, and (e) delivered to the Chairman or Chief Executive Officer.

**C. Protest Investigations and Rulings.**

The Chief Executive Officer, or his or her designee, shall make an investigation of the protest and shall report findings to the Executive Committee. A ruling on the protest shall be issued by the Executive Committee within forty-eight (48) hours after receipt of such findings from the Chief Executive Officer; provided, however, that any proposal to expel/remove/terminate a Member from the Association shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Governors. The protesting party will be notified of the decision in writing within twenty-four (24) hours of the issuance of the Executive Committee's ruling.

**PART IV:**

**EQUINE DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS RULES VIOLATION PROCEDURES**

**Introduction**

These Equine Drugs and Medications Rules Procedures are intended to provide a disciplinary procedures process for violations of the Equine Drugs and Medications Rules.

**A. Application and Incorporation.**

These Equine Drug and Medications Rules Violation Procedures shall apply to all charges and proceedings arising out of alleged violations of the Equine Drugs and Medications Rules of the Association. The Equine Drugs and Medication Rules of the Association are incorporated herein by reference.

**B. Equine Drugs and Medications Rules Violation.**

Any Responsible Party(ies) (as defined in Rule 6.2 of the Association's Equine Drugs and Medications Rules) found, after hearing and appeal, if any appeal, to have violated the Equine Drugs and Medications Rules of the Association, or having failed to obey a penalty imposed hereunder, shall be deemed to have committed an Equine Drugs and Medications Rule Violation (each, an "EDM Violation").

**C. Initiation of Charges, Record.**

1. Initiation of Charges. Initiation of a charge by complaint under this Rule for an alleged violation of the Equine Drugs and Medications Rules (an "EDM Violation Complaint" or "EDM Charge") shall be made by the Chairman of the Association or his designee; provided, however that:

- a. If the EDM Violation Complaint is based upon equine blood sampling, that both of two samples taken from a horse which forms the basis for the alleged

EDM Violation have tested positive for drugs or medications in violation of the Association's Equine Drugs and Medications Rules; and

b. All EDM Violation Complaints shall be: (i) in writing, describing in reasonable detail the alleged EDM Violation; (ii) received by the Responsible Party(ies) within seventy-two (72) hours of the receipt of the Association of either (a) an EDM Violation Complaint (if the allegations are not based upon testing); or (b) the results of the sample test from the USPA designated laboratory which are the basis for the EDM Violation Complaint; and (iii) signed by the Association.

2. Record. The Association will keep a record of all EDM Violation Complaints available for inspection by Registered Players.

**D. Notice.**

1. Notice of Hearing Required. Any Responsible Party(ies) against whom an EDM Violation Complaint is issued is entitled to notice of a hearing of the alleged EDM Violation. Notwithstanding the above, should a Responsible Party fail to appear at a duly noticed hearing, the hearing shall be held in absentia. A corporate identity which is a Responsible Party charged hereunder must send an authorized representative to such hearing. The Association may hold an expedited hearing within seven (7) calendar days of issuance of the charge, provided that the Responsible Party(ies) is(are) given written notice at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled expedited hearing.

The Notice of Hearing shall:

- (a) contain a brief statement of the facts constituting the alleged EDM Violation;
- (b) identify the specific Association Equine Drugs and Medications Rule(s) allegedly violated;
- (c) specify the time and place at which the hearing is to be held; and
- (d) include a list identifying: (i) the evidence to be introduced at the hearing; (ii) the names of the witnesses; (iii) the substance of their testimony; and
- (e) provide a copy of any testing report(s) from the laboratory that is(are) are to be introduced as evidence at the hearing.

This Notice of Hearing requirement may be waived in writing by the Responsible Party(ies). For purposes of this paragraph, written notice shall be deemed to have been properly given to a Responsible Party(ies) by the Association if the notice is sent via hand-delivery, facsimile, express mail, email or certified mail to the address of the Responsible Party(ies) listed in the Association's records. If sent by email, service is complete upon receipt by the Association of an acknowledgment by the Responsible Party(ies) of receipt of the Notice of Violation.

2. Notice to Responsible Party. In the absence of an expedited hearing, written notice to the Responsible Party(ies) must be given within seven (7) calendar days from the date that the decision is made to issue charges by the Association. Such notice shall:

- (a) contain a brief statement of the facts constituting the alleged EDM Violation;
- (b) identify the specific Association Equine Drugs and Medications Rule(s) allegedly violated;
- (c) specify the time and place at which the hearing is to be held; and
- (d) include a list identifying: (i) the evidence to be introduced at the hearing; (ii) the names of the witnesses; (iii) the substance of their testimony; and
- (e) provide a copy of any testing report(s) from the laboratory that is (are) to be introduced as evidence at the hearing. For purposes of this paragraph, written notice shall be deemed to have been properly given to a Responsible Party(ies) by the Association if the notice is sent via hand-delivery, facsimile, express mail, email or certified mail to the address of the Responsible Party(ies) listed in the Association's records. If sent by email, service is complete upon receipt by the Association of an acknowledgment by the Responsible Party(ies) of receipt of the Notice of Violation.

3. Responsible Party Evidence and Information. At least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled hearing, the Responsible Party(ies):

- a. may submit to the EDM Hearing Committee a written response to the charges, and include written and signed statements of others having knowledge of the facts at issue; and
- b. may submit the name, resume and written report of any veterinary doctor, scientist or other trained expert the Responsible Party(ies) plan to call as a witness before the EDM Hearing Committee; or
- c. may agree to a disposition of the charges without the necessity of a hearing.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, failure of a Responsible Party(ies) to submit the evidence and other information within the time period set forth above may result in the exclusion of such evidence at the scheduled hearing.

E. Hearing of Charges.

1. All proceedings will be conducted in the English language and in the presence of the Responsible Parties(ies), unless the Responsible Party(ies) fails to appear, in which case the proceedings may be held in absentia. Hearings shall be heard by an EDM Hearing Committee as constituted hereunder, which shall conduct the proceedings.



2. The EDM Hearing Committee shall determine and approve a Final Order setting forth the findings of facts and conclusions on which it is based, as well as the Penalty, if any, to be imposed on the Responsible Party(ies), will be entered by the EDM Hearing Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days following the conclusion of the hearing. Upon the conclusion of such hearing and the entry of a Final Order, copies of all findings, conclusions, recommendations and Final Orders will be delivered to the Association. The Association shall thereafter promptly provide the Responsible Party(ies) with a copy of all findings, conclusions, recommendations and Final Orders.

3. At any hearing conducted pursuant to this section, the Responsible Party(ies), or counsel designated by same, will have an opportunity to present evidence, defend against the charges and cross examine witnesses.

**F. EDM Hearing Committees.**

The Board of Governors has authorized the creation of one or more committees to hold hearings on charges of any alleged Violation of the Equine Drugs and Medication Rules and make determinations on behalf of the Association on such matters (each, an “EDM Hearing Committee”). All EDM Hearing Committees considering alleged EDM Violations shall at all times consist of at least three (3) individuals, a majority of whom must also be Governors, at least one of whom shall be an equine veterinarian licensed in the United States, and all of whom serve at the pleasure of the Board of Governors.

**G. Evidence; burden and standard of proof required.**

1. Presentation of Evidence. The Responsible Party(ies) may attend the hearing on the alleged EDM Violation at their option, with or without counsel, or may send a representative and may call witnesses and submit signed statements or other evidence provided that such information is timely delivered to the Association before the scheduled hearing. Interpreters, if required by the Responsible Party(ies), are the responsibility of the Responsible Party(ies) and not the Association. The failure to understand the charges or any proceedings in English shall not provide the basis for an appeal.

2. Burden of Proof. The Association has the burden of proving the EDM Violation. The burden of proof shall not be that as required in a court of law. The standard of proof required for a finding of an EDM Violation shall be “substantial evidence,” which means affirmative evidence of such a clear and definite nature as to reasonably establish a fact.

**H. Continuances.**

1. Applications for Continuance. Applications for continuance of any hearing must be made to the EDM Hearing Committee in writing, shall be subject to the

requirements set forth in this paragraph below, and shall state the reasons why such a continuance is sought.

- a. In all cases set for hearing on written notice to the Responsible Party(ies) exceeding ten (10) calendar days, the application for continuance must be received by the EDM Hearing Committee at the address designated in the Notice of Hearing at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing date.
- b. An application for continuance received less than seven (7) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing date, but prior to the hearing, will not be granted unless a written arrangement is made to the satisfaction of the EDM Hearing Committee for the payment of all expenses incurred by the EDM Hearing Committee, the Association and witnesses resulting from the granting of any such application for continuance.
- c. No continuances of expedited hearings will be granted to the Responsible Party(ies).

2. Continuance Fees. Except as otherwise provided with respect to expedited hearings, a continuance will be granted to any party to the proceeding only for good cause shown. An application for a first continuance of a hearing must be in writing and accompanied by a non-refundable continuance fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) made payable to the Association. Any second or subsequent application for continuance will only be considered if submitted in writing together with a continuance fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), payable to the Association.

### **I. Temporary Suspension.**

If applicable, upon receipt by the Association of the testing report confirming the presence of prohibited drugs and/or medications in a sample taken from the horse of a Responsible Party(ies), the Chairman of the Association or Executive Director may, prior to a hearing, temporarily suspend any Responsible Party(ies) from participating in any manner in the affairs and events of any Association Member Club or the Association so long as an expedited hearing is noticed and held within seven (7) calendar days of the time such suspension is effective. In a case where the Responsible Party(ies) has(have) been temporarily suspended prior to a hearing, a decision on the charge shall be made by the EDM Hearing Committee within twenty four (24) hours of the conclusion of the expedited hearing.

### **J. Appeal of Decisions.**

1. Notice of Appeal. A decision by the EDM Hearing Committee will be final unless a party to the proceeding files a written Notice of Appeal together with the

requisite Appeal Fee with the Association within fourteen (14) calendar days of the issuance of the Final Order.

- a. Any Notice of Appeal filed by a Responsible Party(ies) must be accompanied by an Appeal Fee in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) payable to the Association.
- b. In the event that (a) Responsible Party(ies) do (does) not complete the appeal process, the Appeal Fee will be forfeited.
- c. Within thirty (30) calendar days following the conclusion of the Appeal Hearing, the Appeal Fee will be returned to the Responsible Party(ies) unless the Responsible Party(ies) is indebted to the Association for any fees, costs or fines, in which event the amount of such items shall be deducted from the Appeal Fee prior to any refund.

2. Appeal Committee, Further Appeal.

a. On receipt of a timely Notice of Appeal from any party, the Association will designate an Appeal Committee which will have the authority, in their discretion, to either schedule and conduct a hearing or require the Responsible Party(ies) to submit its arguments in writing for consideration.

b. The Appeal Committee shall consist of the following:

1. A equine veterinarian licensed in the United States who did not sit on the Hearing Committee for the matter subject to appeal; and
2. The Chairman or his designee, provided that such individual did not sit on the initial Hearing Committee for the alleged EDM Violations subject to appeal.
3. Additionally, a majority of the members of the Appeal Committee shall be members of the Board of Governors, and all members of the Appeal Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Governors.

c. At the hearing, should one be scheduled and conducted before the Appeal Committee, all testimony and other evidence previously presented to the EDM Hearing Committee shall be considered. The Appeal Committee may reduce, sustain, or increase any penalties initially imposed; provided, however, that any proposal to remove a Member from the Association shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

d. On receipt of a written, timely Notice of Appeal from an Association Appeal Committee decision, the Appeal will be decided by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors.

3. Appeals by a Responsible Party. In the event that the Responsible Party(ies) timely appeals a decision recommended by the EDM Hearing Committee, the Appeal Committee designated by the Association shall give the appellant at least ten (10) calendar days' written notice of the date, time and place of the appeal hearing, should one be scheduled. Unless the Appeal Committee decides otherwise for good cause, the appeal hearing shall be held in the State and County of the alleged EDM Violation. Likewise, unless the Appeal Committee decides otherwise for good cause, the hearing shall be held within forty (40) calendar days following the receipt by the Association of a properly filed appeal. If requested by the Responsible Party(ies), the Appeal Committee will permit the Responsible Party(ies) to be heard in person and/or as represented by an attorney. The parties may file written memoranda with the Appeal Committee objecting to or in support of the initial EDM Hearing Committee findings and accompanying disciplinary action.

4. Appeal Committee Report. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after completing the Appeal Hearing, the Appeal Committee will issue a report setting forth its findings, its decision and its reasons therefore, and will transmit the same to the Responsible Party(ies) and to the Association.

5. Executive Committee Authority on Appeal. If the Association timely receives a written Notice of Appeal from the Responsible Party(ies) of the decision of the Appeal Committee, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors shall constitute the final body of appeal for all decisions and shall have the authority to review the entire transcript of any hearings and any and all evidence submitted to the EDM Hearing Committee and the Appeal Committee in connection with the alleged EDM Violation. The Executive Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify or reverse the decision appealed. Such an appeal must be filed with the Office of the Association within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Appeal Committee decision.

## **K. Penalties.**

1. Penalties. If found guilty of any EDM Violation properly brought before a Hearing Committee, the Responsible Party(ies) will be subject to such penalties as the EDM Hearing Committee, the Appeal Committee, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Governors, as applicable, determine, including, but not limited to:

a. For a first violation:

1. Letter of censure to be listed in the Association's record of penalties and published by the Association;

2. Fine of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) in addition to all fees and costs incurred by the Association and its witnesses;

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3. Probation for 6 (six) months.
- b. For a second violation:
    1. Letter of censure to be listed in the Association's record of penalties and published by the Association;
    2. Fine of \$5,000 (five thousand dollars) in addition to all fees and costs incurred by the Association and its witnesses;
    3. Suspension for any period from participating in any Association or Member Club events and activities and an additional period of Probation; and
  - c. For a third violation:
    1. Letter of censure to be listed in the Association's record of penalties and published by the Association;
    2. Fine of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) in addition to all fees and costs incurred by the Association and its witnesses;
    3. Forfeiture of all of those games won and Association tournament won (if any) by the team for which horse that tested positive played in that Association tournament;
    4. Expulsion from Association membership. Whether such expulsion shall be temporary or permanent shall be at the discretion of the Board of Governors.
  - d. For all violations:
    1. Disqualification. The EDM Hearing Committee may also impose the sanction of retroactive disqualification from any Association game or tournament.
    2. Publication. Any findings, conclusions, rulings, recommendations and/or penalties of a Hearing Officer, the EDM Hearing Committee, Board of Governors, or Chairman of the Association under this By-law may be published to the Member Clubs of the Association, any foreign associations and the news media.
2. Multiple Allegations. When more than one allegation of an EDM Violation against any Responsible Party(ies) arises out of testing of samples from one date in one location, the EDM Hearing Committee shall determine, in its sole discretion, whether those allegations constitute one or multiple EDM Violations for purposes of assessing the Penalties hereunder.

3. Probation Condition Violations. A violation of a Probation condition may be treated as an EDM Violation.

4. Publication. Any findings, conclusions, rulings, recommendations and/or penalties of an EDM Hearing Committee, Appeal Committee, Board of Governors, or Chairman of the Association, may be published to the Member Clubs of the Association, any foreign associations and to the news media.

5. Costs. Actual reasonable costs and out of pocket expenses incurred by the EDM Hearing Committee, Appeal Committee, Association and/or witnesses may be assessed in addition to any penalty. Failure to timely pay for costs shall be treated as an EDM Violation.

**L. Publication and Enforcement of Association Decisions by Member Clubs.**

The issuance on the Association's website of a final decision by the Association as to any EDM Violation and any attendant penalties imposed therefore shall, once all rights of appeal have either been exhausted or lapsed, be binding on all Member Clubs.

**M. Stay of Penalty Upon Appeal.**

If a penalty of any kind is appealed, the Responsible Party(ies) may request, in writing, that any penalty imposed be stayed until such time as the Appeal has been heard by the proper Committee or Board. The Committee hearing the appeal will timely grant or deny the Responsible Party's(ies') request for a stay as it deems appropriate. To the extent that a stay of the penalty is granted by the Committee hearing the appeal, and the Responsible Party(ies) fails to prevail on the appeal, the time periods relating to the penalty shall be extended by a number of days equal to the stay.

**N. Effective Date of Penalty.**

1. The effective date of any suspension, probation or expulsion, and the deadline for the payment of any fine, will be set by the EDM Hearing Committee.
2. Failure to timely pay a fine and/or costs which have been properly levied will constitute automatic suspension of the Responsible Party(ies) subject to the fine and/or order of costs from the date the fine and/or costs were payable until the fine and/or costs are paid. A fine and/or costs are considered paid when actually receipt by the Association in cleared funds.

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## Equal Opportunity and Commitment to Diversity/Inclusion Policy

### **Equal Opportunity:**

The United States Polo Association provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, disability, gender identity, results of genetic testing, service in the military, or other protected characteristics or behaviors. Equal employment opportunity applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, compensation, and training.

The USPA expressly *prohibits* any form of unlawful employee harassment or discrimination based on any of the characteristics mentioned above or for any reason. This prohibition also applies to how USPA employees treat its volunteers. Improper interference with the ability of other employees or volunteers to perform their expected duties is not tolerated.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Reasonable Accommodation:**

To ensure equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the USPA strives to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for the known disability of an otherwise qualified individual, unless undue hardship on the operation of the business would result. Employees who may require a reasonable accommodation should contact Human Resources.

### **Commitment to Diversity/Inclusion:**

The United States Polo Association is committed to creating and maintaining a workplace in which all employees and volunteers have an opportunity to participate and contribute to the success of the business and are valued for their skills, experience, and unique perspectives. This commitment to diversity involves inclusion, such that USPA leaders should focus on matters beyond wages and benefits, such as including employees and volunteers, where appropriate, in a wide range of meetings and activities.

### **Harassment and Complaint:**

Unlawful harassment, sexual or otherwise, is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), as amended, as well as many state and local laws. Harassment based on a characteristic protected by law, such as race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, age, disability, veteran status, or other characteristic protected by state or federal law, is prohibited. It is the USPA's policy to provide a work environment free of sexual and other harassment. To that end, harassment of the USPA's employees by management, supervisors, coworkers, nonemployees, or members of the USPA, including members of the USPA Board of Governors and its Officers, is absolutely prohibited. Further, any retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual or other harassment or retaliation against



individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a harassment complaint is similarly unlawful and will not be tolerated. The USPA will strive to take all steps necessary to prevent and eliminate unlawful harassment.

Definition of Unlawful Harassment: “Unlawful harassment” is conduct that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; has the purpose or effect of substantially and unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance; or otherwise adversely affects an individual’s employment opportunities because of the individual’s membership in a protected class. Unlawful harassment includes, but is not limited to, epithets; slurs; jokes; pranks; innuendo; comments; written or graphic material; stereotyping; or other threatening, hostile, or intimidating acts based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, disability, veteran status, or other characteristic protected by state, federal or local law. The USPA prohibits all negative conduct and treatment based on such characteristics.

Reporting Discrimination or Harassment: Any employee who believes he or she has been subject to or witnessed illegal discrimination, including sexual or other forms of unlawful harassment while at the USPA, is requested and encouraged to make a complaint by immediately reporting the incident to the CEO, Human Resources, or Board Chair. All employee, or members of the public, reports of discrimination or harassment will be investigated promptly and thoroughly. Confidentiality will be protected to the extent reasonably possible. An accurate record of objectionable behavior or misconduct will be needed to resolve a complaint of harassment and/or discrimination.

Definition of Sexual Harassment: “Sexual harassment” is generally defined under both state and federal law as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where:

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of any individual’s employment or as a basis for employment decisions; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

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Other sexually oriented conduct, whether intended or not, that is unwelcome and has the effect of creating a work environment that is hostile, offensive, intimidating, or humiliating to workers may also constitute sexual harassment. While it is not possible to list all those additional circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment, the following are some examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment depending on the totality of

the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct and its pervasiveness:

- *Unwanted sexual advances, whether they involve physical touching or not;*
- *Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip regarding one's sex life, comments about an individual's body, comments about an individual's sexual activity, deficiencies, or prowess;*
- *Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons;*
- *Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing up against the body, sexual gestures, or suggestive or insulting comments;*
- *Inquiries into one's sexual experiences; and*
- *Discussion of one's sexual activities.*

The USPA prohibits all of the above-listed activities, even if they do not rise to the level of illegal harassment. All employees should take special note that, as stated above, retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment and retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of sexual harassment complaint is unlawful and will not be tolerated at the USPA.

No reprisal, retaliation, or other adverse action will be taken against an employee for making a complaint or report of discrimination or harassment or for assisting in the investigation of any such complaint or report. Any suspected retaliation or intimidation should be reported immediately to Human Resources, to the CEO, or to the Board Chair.

All complaints will be investigated promptly and, to the extent possible, with regard for confidentiality. Notwithstanding the statements of anti-retaliation in this policy, standard rules of conduct will apply with respect to honesty and misrepresentations. If an investigation reveals an inaccurate, dishonest statement made in bad faith, whether related to a complaint, report, or participation in an investigation, appropriate corrective action, including discipline, up to and including immediate termination, will occur. If the investigation confirms conduct contrary to any portion of this policy has occurred, the USPA will take immediate, appropriate, corrective action, including discipline, up to and including immediate termination.

There will be no retaliation against anyone for reporting an honest concern in good faith or for assisting in the investigation of a complaint of discrimination or harassment at the USPA.



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## USPA Governance Communication Policy

### Purpose:

The USPA is committed to effective communication with its Stakeholders (defined as: Member Clubs and Registered Players, volunteer members of its Board of Governors, Committee members, wholly owned subsidiaries, professional staff) and with the wider community. This Communication Policy contains the USPA's approach and commitment to communication. The Policy is designed to ensure that the USPA provides timely and accurate information and adopts ways and means for disseminating information that are fair, timely, cost efficient and guided by corporate best practices. As there is a need to respect the time and services of the Stakeholders, all parties are asked to interact and communicate in a professional and courteous manner, as outlined below.

### Governance

In summary, the United States Polo Association (USPA or Association) is governed as follows:

- The volunteer Board of Governors (BOG) governs the USPA in accordance with its Constitution, By-Laws and Policies.
- The USPA Chairman, with consent of the BOG, selects the volunteer Executive Committee (EC) of the USPA and the EC members include the USPA Officers and other members of the BOG as defined by the USPA Constitution.
- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association reports to the Chairman of the Association.
- Committees, as approved by the BOG, have oversight over policies, procedures, services and programs as specified in the respective Committee Mission Statements.
- Each Committee has a Chairman, approved by the BOG and the Committee Chairman selects Committee members. Each Committee may include a number of subcommittees and one or more Staff members assigned to it.
- The Staff of the Association reports primarily to the CEO and also to their Committee Chair, as outlined in the BOG approved Organizational Chart
- Committee Chairs report to the BOG through the Chairman of the USPA and communicate with the general membership and Club Delegates using the administrative email notification process via the staff person assigned to the Committee.
- The USPA wholly owns numerous subsidiaries (INC and LLCs) that have BOG approved Boards of Directors. These Boards are responsible for the oversight of these subsidiaries as outlined in their specific Operating Agreements.
- Uses of USPA email addresses by USPA Stakeholders, as approved by the BOG,

(for example: [Jane.Doe@uspolo.org](mailto:Jane.Doe@uspolo.org)) are restricted to USPA business only.

- USPA Stakeholders are advised to refer and adhere to BOG approved USPA Policies published by the USPA concerning authorized use of Member demographic information and of USPA logos. Be advised that no individual or Club Member may use Members' demographic or contact information for commercial purposes, for mass mail, texting or emailing for USPA campaigning electioneering or any mass mail, texting or emailing for commercial or non commercial purpose.

The Committees and Staff of the Association together constitute the operations of the Association under the authority and oversight of the BOG. The BOG therefore has a duty to ask questions of the Committees and Staff and the Committees and Staff have an obligation to respond openly and honestly. The BOG is entitled to information that is generally available to business owners.

**In an effort to ensure effective and transparent communication, the following communication process is established:**

**Committee and Operational LLC Communication Process:**

Each Board Member that has a question or concern for a Committee or an Operational LLC shall follow the following process prior to engaging the full BOG in any written or electronic communication.

- 1) Board Member shall bring the question or comment to the Committee/LLC Chair. The Committee/LLC Chair shall respond within 5 days with a status update as to the question or comment, with a "cc" to Committee/LLC Staff.
- 2) In the event the Board Member does not receive a response or is not satisfied with the response from the Committee/LLC Chair, the Board Member may then contact the USPA Chairman with a "cc" to the USPA CEO and Committee/LLC Chair. If the USPA Chairman or CEO has not responded within 5 days or his/her response is not satisfactory, then the Board Member may request that the USPA Secretary place the question or comment on the agenda of the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting/teleconference.
- 3) In the event the Board Member continues to feel that their item has not been addressed, then the Board Member may submit their request in writing with reference to their attempts of contacting the Committee Chair/LLC and the USPA Chairman and ask to have their item included on the agenda for the next BOG meeting or a Special Meeting of the Board. This request should be directed to the USPA Secretary.
- 4) The Resolution of the Board will be the final option and decision for the Board Member.

**Staff Communication Process:**

Each Board Member that has a question for a Staff Member shall follow the following process prior to engaging the full Board in any written or electronic communication.

- 1) A Board Member may call or write any USPA Staff Member and ask a question about an area that is within that Staff Member's area of responsibility. However, a Board Member is not authorized to task the Staff Member. Only the CEO with primary management responsibility of the staff and / or the Committee Chairman may task USPA Staff.
- 2) In the event that USPA Staff does not respond to the Board Member within 5 days, the Board Member should call or write the relevant Committee Chairman or the CEO to address the question.
- 3) In the event the Committee Chairman or CEO is non-responsive, the Committee Communication Process above is followed.

**USPA Global Licensing (GL), Inc. Communication Process:**

The Board of Governors has ultimate control of all of their wholly owned LLCs, however the Board of USPA GL, Inc. has requested that sensitive items not be released outside of the USPA GL, Inc. Board. However, if the Majority of the USPA BOG agrees that an item is of importance, then the USPA Executive Committee will request the information from the USPA GL, Inc. Board.

- 1) A USPA Board Member with a question or comment about USPA GL, Inc. shall direct that question or comment through the USPA Chairman or USPA CEO. At the discretion of the USPA Chairman or USPA CEO, the question or comment shall be directed to the USPA GL, Inc. Chairman or CEO. The USPA GL, Inc. Chairman or CEO will respond to the USPA Chairman within 5 days with a status update as to the questions or comment. The response will be forwarded to the USPA Board Member.
- 2) In the event the USPA Board Member is not satisfied with the response, or the USPA Chairman or CEO does not forward the request to USPA GL, Inc., they may ask the USPA Executive Committee to make an additional request. If a majority of the USPA Executive Committee agrees, the information will be released to the USPA Board Member.
- 3) If the USPA Executive Committee denies the request, the USPA Board Member may request that the issue be tabled and heard at the following BOG meeting. If an issue is time-sensitive, the Chairman shall call a Special Meeting of the BOG to resolve the objection when directed by a majority of the BOG.

**Confidential and Proprietary Information:**

Information that the USPA considers **Confidential Information** and information that the Company owns, develops, pays to have developed or to which it has an exclusive right (**Proprietary Information**) must be treated by the USPA and all Stakeholders as follows:

1. (a) The USPA and its Stakeholders must ensure that they do not disclose any Confidential Information or Proprietary Information to any third party or other employee who does not have a valid business reason for receiving that information;
2. (b) If Confidential Information or Proprietary Information is required to be provided to third parties or other employees for valid business purposes, the USPA and its employees must: (i) take adequate precautions to ensure that information is only used for those purposes for which it is provided and is not misused or disseminated to the Company's detriment; Such precautions include obtaining a confidentiality agreement or other undertaking. Advice about these measures can be obtained from the USPA CEO; and, (ii) ensure that the information is returned or destroyed when the purpose is complete.

## United States Polo Association Handicap Policy

### Section 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Handicap Policy (this “**Policy**”) of the United States Polo Association (the “**Association**”) is to establish duties of the Association’s Board of Governors, the Outdoor Handicap Committee of the Association (the “**Outdoor Handicap Committee**”), the Arena Handicap Committee of the Association (the “**Arena Handicap Committee**”), the Women’s Handicap Committee of the Association (the “**Women’s Handicap Committee**”), and collectively with the Outdoor Handicap Committee and Arena Handicap Committee, (the “**Association Handicap Committees**”), the Association’s officers, the Association’s club delegates, and the staff of the Association, with respect to establishing and issuing handicaps to Association members.

This Policy, and those individuals tasked with carrying out and enforcing this Policy, shall be governed by the principles of honesty, integrity, transparency, and respect.

All meetings of any Association Handicap Committee shall be conducted in accordance with the Association’s Conflict of Interest Policy. Any conflict of interest within any Association Handicap Committee that cannot be resolved in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Conflict of Interest Policy shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Association for resolution. Confidential minutes of meetings of all Association Handicap Committees shall be maintained by the Association. All members of each Association Handicap Committee acknowledge and agree, by serving on such Committee, that they and the Committee shall hold the votes of such Committee members in strict confidence, except as otherwise required by the Board of Governors or to comply with applicable law.

### Section 2. Definitions

In addition to the terms defined elsewhere in this Policy, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them below for purposes of this Policy:

- The terms “**Event**”, “**Club Event**”, and “**USPA Event**” have the meaning ascribed to them below in the USPA Tournament Conditions:
  - “**Event**” is a USPA Event, Club Event, or USPA-Supported Activity, each as defined below.
  - “**Club Event**” is any club-level game, league, or tournament that is not a USPA National, Circuit, or Sanctioned Event. A Club Event is different from a USPA-Supported Activity (e.g., a clinic, meeting, or forum conducted at or by a member club with USPA support), and does not include practices, practice games, clinics, drills, lessons, meetings, or similar activities conducted at or by a member club, whether with or without USPA support.
  - “**USPA Event**” is any USPA National, Circuit, or Sanctioned Tournament or League, including, but not limited to, any I/I or NYTS Event.



- **“USPA-Supported Activity”** is an activity such as a clinic, meeting, or forum conducted at or by a member club with USPA support.
- **“Player Member”** means a registered Player Member, Affiliate Player Member, Lifetime Member, or Player-Only Member who is registered with the Association.
- A Player Member is considered **“Absent”** if that Player Member has not been Personally Observed in an Event within the United States during the prior calendar year.
- **“Outdoor High Level Polo”** means any USPA Event involving outdoor polo with an upper handicap limit above 15 goals.
- A Player Member has been **“Personally Observed”** if he or she has been watched (either in person or on video) while playing by either a member of the relevant Association Handicap Committee and/or the Club Delegate for the club where the Event occurred, if applicable.
- **“Polo Season”** shall mean either January 1 through April 30 of a given year (the **“Winter/Spring Polo Season”**), or May 1 through December 31 of a given year (the **“Summer/Fall Polo Season”**), as applicable.
- An **“Emergency Handicap”** is a handicap given as a result of a determination by the applicable Association Handicap Committee Chair or by the Chairman of the Association either (i) that a Player Member who does not have a current handicap requires the process be expedited to participate in an Event or (ii) that a Player Member’s current handicap is incorrect and must, in the interest of the sport, be changed immediately.

### Section 3. Handicaps Generally

A. Each Player Member who is in good standing with the Association shall be issued an Outdoor Handicap and/or an Arena Handicap by the Association, as applicable.

Additionally, each female Player Member shall also be issued a Women’s Outdoor Handicap and/or Women’s Arena Handicap by the Association, as applicable.

B. In order to maintain a handicap issued by the Association a Player Member must pay his or her annual dues to the Association, be Personally Observed within each calendar year, and otherwise remain in good standing with the Association.

C. A Player Member who has (i) failed to maintain good standing with the Association, including by not paying his or her annual dues within the calendar year, (ii) not been Personally Observed, or (iii) been Absent, shall, upon returning to good standing with the Association or returning from having been Absent, receive (a) the highest international handicap issued to that Player Member, or (b), if he or she does not have a foreign handicap, the last Handicap he or she had been issued by the Association while in good standing or before being Absent, with a “T” designation. Notwithstanding the

foregoing, if such Player Member has played in a foreign qualifying tournament (as set forth in Section 12 of this Policy) within the past twelve months then, **unless another handicap is called for pursuant to Section 11 of this policy**, the Association shall issue the same Handicap to him or her as his or her highest international handicap, without a “T” designation.

D. Unless otherwise determined in accordance with this Policy, any Handicap issued by the Association shall remain in effect from one Polo Season to the next and from year to year, provided that the Player Member remains in good standing with the Association in each year.

E. Subject to the emergency rules addressed elsewhere in this Policy, Handicaps are reviewed twice per year and may be changed, if appropriate, up to two times per year, to coincide with each Polo Season. In practice, any change made to a Handicap pursuant to a spring review of such Handicap shall be effective the following Winter/Spring Polo Season after such determination, and any changes made to a Handicap pursuant to a fall review of such Handicap shall be effective the following Summer/Fall Polo Season after such determination.

F. If at any time a new Handicap is issued to a Player Member with an effective date of a Polo Season occurring in the following year, and such Player Member remains in good standing with the Association in the following year, such Player Member’s new Handicap will take effect as planned unless and until further changes to such Player Member’s Handicap are made pursuant to this Policy.

G. Emergency Handicaps may be assigned by the applicable Association Handicap Committee Chair or by the Chairman of the Association; provided, however, that no Emergency Handicap requested by a Player Member who does not have a current handicap will be issued within twenty-four (24) hours of any Event in which such requesting Player Member desires to play.

H. Any individual who has not been issued a Handicap shall not be eligible to play in any USPA Event or any Club Event.

#### **Section 4. Assigning of Handicaps**

- A. In general, a Player Member may receive a Handicap in one of the following ways:
- (1) a Player Member who has never been assigned a handicap through the Association or any foreign association may receive a Handicap as the result of the written recommendation of a Club Delegate who has Personally Observed him or her; or
  - (2) a Player Member who has never been assigned a Handicap from the Association but does have a foreign handicap issued from a foreign association shall be assigned

his or her highest foreign handicap with a “T” appended unless he or she has played in one of the qualifying tournaments listed in Section 12 of this Policy; or

(3) A Player Member who has not been Personally Observed and does not have a handicap from a foreign association will be issued the designation of “NR” by the Association.

B. A Club Delegate recommendation shall be sent by the USPA Handicap Staff to the applicable Circuit Handicap Committee Chair.

(1) If the recommendation is for -1, -0.5 or 0, the Circuit Handicap Chair shall make the final determination of such Player Member’s Handicap. If approved, the change will be effective immediately and entered into the USPA Database, provided that the Circuit Handicap Chair shall have the discretion to direct that the change will become effective at a later date.

(2) If the handicap recommendation is for a new handicap of 0.5 or higher, the applicable Circuit Handicap Committee Chair shall receive a notice from the USPA Handicap Staff with the handicap recommendation and any foreign handicap history on that Player Member. If approved, the handicap recommendation will be forwarded to the applicable Handicap Committee Chair for final approval and entered into the USPA Database immediately.

C. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, a Player Member with **an Outdoor Handicap** of -1 can be raised to -0.5 **at any time; a Player Member with an Arena Handicap of -1 can be raised to 0 at any time; or a female Player Member with a Women’s Outdoor or Women’s Arena Handicap of 0 can be raised to 1** at any time. In order for such a Handicap to be raised, a Club Delegate or Handicap Committee member must make a recommendation to the USPA Handicap Staff in writing.

(1) This recommendation shall be forwarded to the appropriate Circuit Handicap Committee Chair. If approved, the change will be effective immediately and entered into the USPA Database, provided that the Circuit Handicap Chair shall have the discretion to direct that the change will become effective at a later date.

(2) If a Club Delegate recommends an immediate change to a Player Member’s Handicap of -1 and the Delegate is not the Player Member’s Home Club Delegate, the Player Member’s Home Club Delegate will also be asked to provide a recommendation for the Player Member’s Handicap and if necessary additional Circuit Handicap Chairs will review and approve the recommendation.

D. A “T” may be appended to the Handicap of any individual for any one of four reasons:

- (1) the player sustained an injury;
- (2) the player has a foreign handicap and has not yet been Personally Observed;
- (3) the player has been Absent from polo in the United States for one or more years; or
- (4) the player has not been Personally Observed.

A “T” Handicap can be removed, and a permanent handicap awarded at any time that the player has been Personally Observed. A player can move from one “T” handicap to another “T” handicap but must receive a permanent handicap without a “T” as soon as they have been Personally Observed.

E. If a female player intends to participate in a USPA Women’s Tournament and does not have a Women’s Handicap, she will need a recommendation for an Outdoor or Arena Handicap in order for the Women’s Handicap Translation Scale (see Section 8.B of this Policy) to be applied.

**F. If a female player’s Outdoor Handicap is raised from -1 to -0.5 and her Women’s Outdoor Handicap is 0, her Women’s Outdoor Handicap will automatically be raised to 1. If a female player’s Outdoor or Arena Handicap is raised from -1 or -0.5 to 0 and her Women’s Outdoor or Women’s Arena Handicap is 0, her applicable Women’s Handicap will automatically be raised to 1T and then reviewed once she has been Personally Observed in an applicable a Women’s Event.**

## Section 5. Handicap Review

A. At any time, a Handicap Committee Member or Host Tournament Committee may request the review of a Player Member’s Handicap if he or she believes that Handicap was incorrectly changed or has created unfair playing conditions. This request must be made to the USPA Handicap Staff in writing.

**B. If the Association becomes aware of any Player Member who has a current foreign handicap that is 2 or more goals higher or lower than his or her Association Handicap, the applicable Handicap Committee Chair shall promptly initiate a review of that Player Member’s Association Handicap which could result in an immediate handicap adjustment when concluded.**

C. The USPA Handicap Staff shall provide the applicable Handicap Committee Chair with any handicap history on any Player Member who is subject to review under the above provisions.

D. If necessary, the applicable Handicap Committee Chair will send a notice to the applicable Handicap Committee members asking for their official vote on the Handicap. Handicap Committee members should only vote on the Player Member’s Handicap in question if they have Personally Observed that Player Member. A minimum of two (2) Handicap Committee members must vote in order for a change to take place immediately.

E. Once a decision has been made, the effective date of change will be established,

and the new handicap will be entered in the USPA Database.

F. All Handicap recommendations, votes, and decisions must be made in writing.

## **Section 6. Outdoor Handicaps**

A. Outdoor handicaps issued by the Association to a Player Member (each, an “Outdoor Handicap”) shall be on a scale of -1 through and including 10, including -0.5, 0.5, and 1.5.

B. If a Player Member discloses to the Association that he or she intends to play outdoor High Level Polo, then his or her Outdoor Handicap shall be reviewed, confirmed, and/or modified in accordance with the Association’s High Level Player Disclosure Policy (Section 11 of this Policy).

### **Section 6.1. Outdoor Handicap Committees**

A. The Outdoor Handicap Committee is responsible for determining the Handicaps of Player Members who play outdoor polo, as well as setting standards and benchmarks and advising on amendments to this Policy with respect to outdoor polo.

B. The Outdoor Handicap Committee is comprised of (i) a Chair, recommended by the Chairman of the Association and approved annually by the Board of Governors (the “**Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair**”), (ii) a Circuit Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair (as defined below) from each Circuit, and (iii) eight (8) “at-large” members, four (4) of whom shall be selected by the Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair, and four (4) of whom shall be recommended by the High Goal Committee and approved by the Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair.

C. The Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair shall oversee all activities of the Outdoor Handicap Committee. He or she shall provide final approval on all Outdoor Handicap changes. The Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair shall only vote in Outdoor Handicap Committee meetings in the event of a tie and only after a revote has taken place.

D. Each Circuit Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair shall oversee all Handicaps for Player Members who participate in Outdoor Polo within his or her circuit. The Circuit Outdoor Handicap Chair shall be an individual recommended by the Circuit Governor of each Circuit and approved by the Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair. Each Circuit Outdoor Handicap Chair shall have a Committee that consists of (i) the Circuit Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair, and (ii) at least three (3) other members to be appointed by the Circuit Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair. The term of each Circuit Outdoor Handicap Committee member will be one year. Members may be reappointed to a Circuit Outdoor Handicap Committee for an indefinite number of terms. Circuit Outdoor Handicap Chairs shall only vote on the Handicaps of Player Members who are registered within their circuit or those who have participated in competitive Outdoor Polo within their Circuit. No individual may simultaneously

serve as a Circuit Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair and as a Circuit Governor.

E. The “at-large” members of the Outdoor Handicap Committee shall only vote on Handicaps of Player Members who they have Personally Observed and who (i) participate in two (2) or more circuits during the calendar year, (ii) participate in High Level Polo, or (iii) have disclosed their intent to play in High Level Polo.

## **Section 6.2. Outdoor Handicap Meetings**

The Outdoor Handicap Committee shall meet twice per year: (a) at the April Handicap Meeting (which will take place no later than April 30 of the calendar year) to review the Handicaps of Player Members who participated in the Winter/ Spring Polo Season, and (b) at the Annual Handicap Meeting (which will take place no later than September 30 of the calendar year) to review the Handicaps of Player Members who participated in the Summer/Fall Polo Season. The Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair shall also have the discretion to call additional special meetings when necessary (for example, to discuss and vote on undisclosed players who play in High Level Polo or to discuss players that disclose their intent to play High Level Polo outside of the 90-day deadline, but after one of the two regularly scheduled meetings). If any such special meeting is called, the Outdoor Handicap Committee Chair shall have the discretion to depart as necessary from the Handicap Committee Meeting Processes described in Section 9 below, provided that he or she does so in a manner that is consistent with Section 1 above and in the best interests of the sport.

## **Section 7. Arena Handicaps**

A. Arena handicaps issued by the Association to a Player Member (each, an “Arena Handicap”) shall be on a scale of -1 through and including 10.

B. If a Player Member has an assigned Outdoor Handicap and has not been Personally Observed in Arena Polo, an Arena Handicap shall be assigned as such Player Member’s current Outdoor Handicap with a “T” until he or she is Personally Observed, at which time a new Handicap will be assigned pursuant to this Policy.

## **Section 7.1. Arena Handicap Committees**

A. The Arena Handicap Committee is responsible for determining the Handicaps of Player Members who play arena polo, as well as setting standards and benchmarks and advising on amendments to this Policy with respect to arena polo.

B. The Arena Handicap Committee is comprised of (i) a Chair, recommended by the Chairman of the Association and approved annually by the Board of Governors (the “**Arena Handicap Committee Chair**”), (ii) the Circuit Arena Handicap Committee Chair from each Circuit, and (iii) **six (6)** “at-large” members, all of whom are selected by the Arena Handicap Committee Chair. **Two (2) of the “at-large” members shall be representatives from Intercollegiate/Interscholastic polo.**

C. The Arena Handicap Committee Chair shall oversee all activities of the Arena Handicap Committee. He/she shall provide final approval on all Arena Handicap changes. The Arena Handicap Committee Chair shall only vote in Arena Handicap Meetings in the case of a tie or after a revote has taken place.

D. The Circuit Arena Handicap Committee Chair shall oversee all Handicaps for Player Members who participate in Arena Polo within their circuit. The Circuit Arena Handicap Chair shall be an individual recommended by the Circuit Governor of each Circuit and approved by the Arena Handicap Committee Chair. Each Circuit Arena Handicap Chair shall have a Committee that consists of (i) the Circuit Arena Handicap Committee Chair, and (ii) at least three (3) other members to be appointed by the Circuit Arena Handicap Committee Chair. The term of each Circuit Arena Handicap Committee member will be one year. Members may be reappointed to a Circuit Arena Handicap Committee for an indefinite number of terms. Circuit Arena Handicap Chairs shall only vote on Handicaps of Player Members who are registered within their circuit or those who have participated in competitive Arena Polo within the Circuit. No individual may simultaneously serve as a Circuit Arena Handicap Committee Chair and as a Circuit Governor.

E. The “at-large” members of the Arena Handicap Committee shall be allowed to vote on the Handicap of any Player Members who they have Personally Observed. Four (4) of these members shall be designated to vote on Player Members rated 4 goals and higher.

### **Section 7.2. Arena Handicap Meetings**

The Arena Handicap Committee shall meet once per year to review Player Members who participated in Arena Polo at any point during the year. The Annual Handicap Meeting shall take place no later than November 15 of the calendar year, and any changes approved at such Annual Handicap Meeting shall become effective as of January 1 of the following year. The Arena Handicap Committee Chair shall also have the discretion to call additional special meetings when necessary. If any such special meeting is called, the Arena Handicap Committee Chair shall have the discretion to depart as necessary from the Handicap Committee Meeting Processes described in Section 9 below, provided that he or she does so in a manner that is consistent with Section 1 above and in the best interests of the sport.

### **Section 8. Women’s Handicaps**

A. Women’s Outdoor and Arena handicaps issued by the Association to a female Player Member (each, a “**Women’s Outdoor Handicap**” or “**Women’s Arena Handicap**,” as applicable) shall be on a scale of 0 through and including 10.

B. The first Women’s Outdoor or Women’s Arena Handicap assigned to a female Player Member shall be based on her current Outdoor or Arena Handicap using the Women’s Handicap Translation Scale (below).

**Women’s Handicap Translation Scale**

|          |         |                  |
|----------|---------|------------------|
| -1 = 0   | 1 = 4   | 4 = 9            |
| -0.5 = 1 | 1.5 = 5 | 5 and above = 10 |
| 0 = 2    | 2 = 6   |                  |
| 0.5 = 3  | 3 = 8   |                  |

C. If a female Player Member has a women’s outdoor or women’s arena handicap issued by a foreign association, she will be issued the same Women’s Outdoor or Women’s Arena Handicap with a “T” applied until she is Personally Observed in a Women’s Event.

**D. If a female Player Member has an assigned Women’s Outdoor Handicap and has not been Personally Observed in Arena Polo, that same handicap with a “T” shall be assigned as her Women’s Arena Handicap until she is Personally Observed, at which time a new Women’s Arena Handicap will be assigned pursuant to this Policy.**

E. Once a female Player Member has been Personally Observed in a Women’s Event, any Club Delegate who has Personally Observed such Player Member in a Women’s Event may make a recommendation of such Player Member’s Women’s Outdoor or Women’s Arena Handicap for consideration at the next Women’s Handicap Committee Meeting.

**Section 8.1. Women’s Handicap Committee**

A. The Women’s Handicap Committee is responsible for determining the Women’s Outdoor and Women’s Arena Handicaps of female Player Members who play women-only polo, as well as setting standards and benchmarks and advising on amendments to this Policy with respect to women’s polo.

B. The Women’s Handicap Committee is comprised of (i) a Chair, recommended by the Chairman of the Association and approved annually by the Board of Governors (the “Women’s Handicap Committee Chair”), (ii) a Circuit Women’s Handicap Committee Chair from each Circuit, and (iii) eight (8) “at-large” members selected by the Women’s Handicap Committee Chair.



C. Each Circuit Women’s Handicap Committee Chair shall oversee all handicaps for players who participate in Women’s polo within her circuit. The Circuit Women’s Handicap Chair shall be an individual recommended by the Circuit Governor of each Circuit and approved by the Women’s Handicap Committee Chair. Each Circuit Women’s Handicap Chair shall have a Committee that consists of (i) the Circuit Women’s Handicap Committee Chair, and (ii) at least three (3) other members to be appointed by the Circuit Women’s Handicap Committee Chair. The term of each Circuit Women’s Handicap Committee member will be one year. Members may be reappointed to a Circuit Women’s Handicap Committee for an indefinite number of terms. Circuit Women’s Handicap Chairs shall only vote on Women’s Outdoor and Women’s Arena Handicaps of female Player Members who are registered within their circuit or who have participated in competitive Women’s Polo within the Circuit.

D. The “at-large” members of the Women’s Handicap Committee shall be allowed to vote on the Women’s Outdoor or Women’s Arena Handicap of any female Player Member whom they have Personally Observed.

### **Section 8.2. Women’s Handicap Meetings**

The Women’s Handicap Committee shall meet twice per year: at the April Handicap Meeting (which will take place no later than April 30 of the calendar year) to review the Women’s Outdoor and Women’s Arena Handicaps of female Player Members who participated in women’s polo in the Winter/Spring Polo Season, and at the Annual Handicap Meeting (which will take place no later than November 15 of the calendar year) to review the Women’s Outdoor and Women’s Arena Handicaps of female Player Members who participated in women’s polo in the Summer/Fall Polo Season. The Women’s Handicap Committee Chair shall also have the discretion to call additional special meetings when necessary. If any such special meeting is called, the Women’s Handicap Committee Chair shall have the discretion to depart as necessary from the Handicap Committee Meeting Processes described in Section 9 below, provided that he or she does so in a manner that is consistent with Section 1 above and in the best interests of the sport.

### **Section 9. Handicap Committee Meeting Processes**

A. At least four (4) weeks prior to any Handicap Committee Meeting (each, a “Meeting”), USPA Handicap Staff will send a notice to Club Delegates asking them to submit their recommendations. Club Delegates should only submit recommendations on Player Members they have Personally Observed at their club during the current Polo Season. Club Delegates should either make a recommendation for any new Handicap or select “No Change” for all Player Members affiliated with their club. Club Delegates may also make recommendations any Player Members who played at their club but are affiliated with different clubs. All recommendations will be due two

weeks prior to the Meeting.

B. At least two (2) weeks prior to a Meeting, the USPA Handicap Staff will send an email to each Handicap Committee member with instructions for voting and a link to their confidential and unique ballot through an electronic voting portal.

i. Circuit Handicap Chairs should review recommendations for all Player Members registered within their circuit or who actively played in their circuit. Once recommendations have been reviewed, Circuit Handicap Chairs shall discuss with their Circuit Handicap Committee Members, (a) approve and vote for club recommended changes for Player Members in their circuit, (b) deny club recommended changes by selecting “No Change” for Player Members in their circuit, (c) select a new Handicap for Player Members that they (or someone in their Circuit) have Personally Observed, and/or (d) select “No Change” on Player Members that they (or someone in their Circuit) have Personally Observed. If a Circuit Handicap Chair votes differently than the recommendation from the Club Delegate, the Club Delegate will be notified and may request further review of the Handicap for accuracy.

ii. “At-large” Handicap Committee members should vote only on the Handicaps of Player Members who they have Personally Observed by selecting a Handicap change or selecting “No Change” for all such Player Members who they have Personally Observed.

a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, with respect to Outdoor Handicap Meetings, “at-large” members of the Outdoor Handicap Committee shall only vote on the Outdoor Handicaps of Player Members who have (a) participated in two or more circuits during the calendar year, (b) participated in High Level Polo, or (c) disclosed that they plan to participate in High Level Polo.

C. In accordance with the Association’s Conflict of Interest Policy, Handicap Committee members shall not vote on the Handicap of any Player Member with whom they may have a conflict of interest (e.g., family, employee, employer, or known future employee/employer).

D. On the day of a Meeting, the USPA Handicap Staff will provide the Handicap Committee with a list of Player Members who (i) are rated from 10 to 3 goals, (ii) have been flagged by a Handicap Committee member, (iii) have played in High Level Polo, (iv) have disclosed their intent to play High Level Polo, or (v) have competed in any tournament that the applicable Handicap Committee Chair has deemed influential. This list shall include any club recommendations that were submitted. Handicap Committee members will discuss the Handicaps of the Player Members on the list and then vote on their Handicaps within the allotted voting period.

E. Voting shall close **forty-eight** hours after the Meeting is adjourned. At that time, the USPA Handicap Staff will tabulate the voting results and send them to the Handicap

Committee Chair for review. All ties and votes approved within a one vote margin will be reviewed by the Handicap Chair and, if necessary, a re-vote of eligible Handicap Committee members may be conducted. **In the case that there is a USPA Event within thirty days of voting being closed, players who participate in the Event may have their handicaps reevaluated upon completion of the Event.**

F. Within two (2) weeks of the adjournment of a Meeting, the approved changes from the Meeting and their effective dates will be posted to the USPA Website and emailed to all Player Members. Player Members who are on the change list will receive a specific email letting them know that their Handicap will be changing.

G. All Outdoor and Women's Handicaps shall follow a change lag, where Handicaps voted on during the April Handicap Meeting will take effect January 1 of the following year and Handicaps voted on during the Annual Handicap Meeting will take effect June 1 of the following year. Handicaps will be expedited for earlier change if (i) a supermajority vote of the Handicap Committee members who voted for a raise also vote to expedite the change, (ii) the Player Member's Handicap is being lowered, (iii) the Player Member has a current handicap of -1 or NR, or (iv) the Player Member has a "T" Handicap.

H. Player Members will be given two (2) weeks from the date approved changes are posted to the USPA Website to question any handicap change (the "Member Review Period"). If a change is questioned within that timeframe, the relevant Handicap Committee Chair will conduct a review and may, in his or her sole discretion, request a re-vote by eligible Handicap Committee Members. Any decisions to modify a posted Handicap change will be communicated to the affected Player Member and updated on the list of Handicap changes posted on the USPA website.

I. After the Member Review Period, all Handicap changes will be entered into the USPA Database and displayed as a future Handicap on the Member Search section of the USPA Website.

### **Section 10. July NR and T Handicap Review**

During the month of July, USPA Handicap Staff shall send all clubs a list of their Player Members with NR or T Handicaps to review. As set forth above, Club Delegates shall make recommendations only for Handicaps for any Player Member whom they have Personally Observed at their club. Recommendations shall be sent to the applicable Circuit Handicap Chair for his or her approval, and then be sent to the Handicap Committee Chair for final approval.

**Section 11. Outdoor High Level Player Disclosure Policy**

A. The purpose of the Outdoor High Level Player Disclosure Policy is to ensure that all Player Members playing in Outdoor High Level Polo have been Personally Observed, discussed, and evaluated by the “at large” members of the Outdoor Handicap Committee.

B. At least 90 days prior to the tournament draw, a Player Member who intends to play as a team member or a substitute in any Outdoor High Level Polo Event must disclose his or her intent to play to the USPA Handicap Staff in writing, identifying the team on which he or she intends to play as a team member or a substitute. His or her team representative may also make the disclosure on such Player Member’s behalf. Following receipt of such disclosure, the “at large” members of the Outdoor Handicap Committee shall (i) review, discuss, and evaluate the Player Member to determine if his or her Handicap is correct before the Player Member competes in any Outdoor High Level Polo Event, and (ii) if a modification to that Player Member’s Handicap is required, determine and make such modification (notwithstanding anything else to the contrary in this Policy). In the event that a change to a Player Member’s Handicap is made pursuant to this Section 11.B, the new Handicap shall be effective for all of such Player Member’s play and not just for Outdoor High Level Polo, until determined otherwise.

C. Exempt from disclosure are Player Members who (i) played in a High Level Polo event in the current or previous year prior to the applicable Spring/Fall National Handicap Committee meeting, or (ii) have competed in one of the listed foreign qualifying tournaments **without it resulting in a handicap change** (see Section 12 of this Policy below), have paid their Association dues, and intend to play on the same handicap used in the foreign qualifying tournament.

D. Player Members who have been Absent from USPA Outdoor High Level Polo or who have never competed in the United States but have played in one of the listed foreign qualifying tournaments must adopt the highest handicap from the country in which they played a qualifying tournament regardless of whether the handicap is higher or lower than their current USPA Handicap. Player Members who have played in qualifying tournaments in two foreign countries and have a different handicap issued by each foreign association must adopt the higher of the two foreign associations’ handicaps.

E. An Absent Player Member whose handicap issued by a foreign association has been changed after he or she has played in one of the listed qualifying tournaments must use that new foreign handicap in any Event unless, prior to the foreign association’s handicap announcement, he or she has (i) paid his or her USPA dues, and (ii) disclosed his or her intent to participate in Outdoor High Level Polo, as well as the team on which he or she intends to play.

F. “At-large” members of the Outdoor Handicap Committee may use any available material to determine the Handicap of a Player Member who has disclosed his or her intent to play High Level Polo, including observation in a foreign event either in person, by video, or via livestream.

G. A Player Member who plays in an Outdoor High Level Polo Event but who did not disclose his or her intent to play in Outdoor High Level Polo at least ninety (90) days prior to playing will face immediate review after he or she has played his or her first game in that Event, and may have his or her Handicap adjusted during the current season if his or her current Handicap does not reflect his or her skill level compared to Player Members playing in the Event with the same Handicap.

H. A Player Member who has disclosed his or her intent to play in Outdoor High Level Polo and has been approved to play in Outdoor High Level Polo by the “at large” members of the Outdoor Handicap Committee will have an asterisk (\*) behind his or her name on the USPA Website.

## **Section 12. Foreign Qualifying Tournaments**

- A. Qualifying tournaments from the Hurlingham Polo Association
  - a. Gold Cup
  - b. Queens Cup
  - c. British Ladies Championship
- B. Qualifying tournaments from the Argentine Polo Association
  - a. Camara\*
  - b. Tortugas Open\*
  - c. Hurlingham Open\*
  - d. Palermo Open\*
  - e. Abierto Femenino

\* Stated Roster for Qualifying Teams of the AAP Open Tournaments



# USPA Body Condition Score Chart

| Score   | Neck                | Shoulder        | Withers         | Ribs                     | Loin                 | Tail-head       |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <br><b>Poor</b>   | extremely thin      | very prominent  | extremely thin  | very prominent           | very prominent       | very prominent  |
| <p><b>Description:</b> This horse is emaciated. The spinous processes (backbone, ribs, tail-head, and hooks and pins) all project prominently. The bone structures of the withers, shoulders, and neck are noticeable and no fat can be felt anywhere.</p>  |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Very Thin</b>  | very thin           | very thin       | very thin       | prominent                | prominent            | very thin       |
| <p><b>Description:</b> The spinous processes are prominent. The ribs, tail-head, and pelvic bones stand out and bone structures of the withers, neck, and shoulders are faintly discernible.</p>  |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Thin</b>   | thin                | thin            | thin            | see easily               | fat cover 1/2 way up | prominent       |
| <p><b>Description:</b> The spinous processes stand out, but fat covers them to the midpoint. Very slight fat cover can be felt over the ribs, but individual vertebrae cannot be seen. Hook bones are visible but appear rounded. Pin bones cannot be seen. The withers, shoulders, and neck are accentuated.</p>   |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Moderately Thin</b>  | moderately thin     | moderately thin | moderately thin | outline of ribs          | negative crease      | some fat        |
| <p><b>Description:</b> This horse has a negative crease along its back and the outline of the ribs can just be seen. Fat can be felt around the tail-head. The hook bones cannot be seen and the wither, neck, and shoulders do not look obviously thin.</p>  |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Ideal</b>  | blend into shoulder | blend smoothly  | rounded         | cannot see, easily feel  | level                | ideal fat cover |
| <p><b>Description:</b> The back is level. Ribs cannot be seen, but easily felt. Fat around the tail-head feels slightly spongy. The withers look rounded and the shoulder and neck blend smoothly into the body.</p>  |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Moderately Fleshy</b>  | little fat          | little fat      | little fat      | cannot see, can feel     | slight crease        | fat             |
| <p><b>Description:</b> There may be a slight crease down the back. Fat around the tail-head feels soft and fat over the ribs feel spongy. There are small deposits along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders and along the sides of the neck.</p>  |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Fleshy</b>   | average fat         | average fat     | average fat     | barely feel              | crease               | fleshy fat      |
| <p><b>Description:</b> There may be a crease down the back. Individual ribs can be felt, but there is noticeable fat between the ribs. Fat around the tail-head is soft. Fat is noticeable in the withers, the neck, and behind the shoulders.</p>  |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Fat</b>  | fat                 | flush behind    | fat filled      | difficult to feel        | obvious crease       | very soft fat   |
| <p><b>Description:</b> The horse has a crease down the back. Spaces between the ribs are so filled with the fat that the ribs are difficult to feel. The area along the withers is filled with fat, and the fat around the tail-head feels very soft. The space behind the shoulders is filled in flush and some fat is deposited along the inner buttocks.</p> |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |
| <br><b>Extremely Fat</b>  | bulging fat         | bulging fat     | bulging fat     | cannot feel (patchy fat) | very obvious crease  | bulging fat     |
| <p><b>Description:</b> The crease down the back is very obvious. Fat appears in patches over the ribs and there is bulging fat around the tail-head, withers, shoulders, and neck. Fat along the inner buttocks may cause the buttocks to rub together, and the flank is filled in flush.</p>   |                     |                 |                 |                          |                      |                 |

ADOPTED FROM THE HENNEKE BODY CONDITION SCORING SYSTEM

United States Polo Association - 1-800-232-USPA

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**LARGE EXPENDITURES POLICY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**

**Section 1. INTRODUCTION**

This Large Expenditures Policy of the United States Polo Association (this “**Policy**”) sets forth the required procedures that must be followed and the approval that must be obtained prior to making large expenditures of the assets of the United States Polo Association (the “**Association**”), as described more fully below. The Board of Governors of the Association (the “**Board**”) recognizes the importance of both preserving and expending the Association’s assets for the benefit of the Association and its members and in furtherance of its tax-exempt purposes, and this Policy is intended to ensure that appropriate care, consideration, and diligence is undertaken by and on behalf of the Board prior to entering into a Large Expenditure Transaction (as defined below).

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N**Section 2. LARGE EXPENDITURE TRANSACTIONS**

(a) For purposes of this Policy, a “**Large Expenditure Transaction**” is any contract, agreement, current or future commitment, obligation, or other transaction that binds, commits, or obligates the Association to spend, commit, dedicate, pledge, use, mortgage, hypothecate, or provide or acquire credit of any amount that equals or exceeds the sum of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

(b) For purposes of this Policy, a “**Proposed Transaction**” is a Large Expenditure Transaction that is under, or is proposed to be under, consideration by the Board but has not yet been approved.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything to the contrary herein, any transaction that is subject to the Association’s Investment Policy shall not be considered a Large Expenditure Transaction for purposes of this Policy.

**Section 3. APPROVAL PROCEDURES**

Prior to entering into any Large Expenditure Transaction, the following must occur:

(a) **Written Proposal.** A written proposal outlining the key terms of a Proposed Transaction (the “**Initial Proposal**”) shall be delivered on the same date (the “**Initial Proposal Delivery Date**”) to each of the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Chair of the Audit Committee, the Chair of the Board, and the Chief Executive Officer.

(b) **Finance Committee Review.** The Finance Committee shall have up to fourteen (14) days from the Initial Proposal Delivery Date to review, consider, and analyze the Proposed Transaction and deliver to each of the Board, the Audit Committee, and the Chief Executive Officer on the same date (the “**Finance Recommendation Date**”) a



written report of the Finance Committee’s position regarding: (i) whether the Proposed Transaction is a financially sound transaction, (ii) the short- and long-term impact of the Proposed Transaction on the Association’s finances, assets, savings, and annual budgets, and (iii) any hidden, long-term, or otherwise previously unidentified financial commitments beyond those identified in the Initial Proposal (collectively, the “**Finance Committee Recommendation**”).

(c) **Audit Committee Review.**

(i) The Audit Committee shall commence initial due diligence on the merits of the Proposed Transaction as soon as reasonably practicable on or after the Initial Proposal Delivery Date. The Audit Committee shall have fourteen (14) days from the Finance Recommendation Date to continue its review of the Initial Proposal. No later than twenty-eight (28) days after the Initial Proposal Delivery Date, the Audit Committee shall deliver its report (the “**Audit Committee Report**”) to the Board, the Finance Committee, and the Chief Executive Officer regarding the Proposed Transaction, which report may also include a recommendation from the Audit Committee as to whether the Association should proceed with the Proposed Transaction or some variation thereof.

(ii) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Audit Committee is unable to complete its Audit Committee Report within the twenty-eight (28) days following the Initial Proposal Delivery Date, then Audit Committee must, no later than twenty-eight (28) days following the Initial Proposal Delivery Date (a) provide a preliminary report to the Board (the “**Audit Committee Preliminary Report**”), as well as information as to why the Audit Committee Report is unable to be completed, and (b) request approval from the Board for additional time to prepare the Audit Committee Report, which may be granted or withheld in the reasonable discretion of the Board.

(iii) In its preparation of the Audit Committee Report or the Audit Committee Preliminary Report, the Audit Committee may engage outside professionals to inform its review and analysis, including, but not limited to, the Association’s financial portfolio managers, the Association’s auditors, attorneys familiar with similar transactions and the impact (if any) on the Association’s status as a tax-exempt organization described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Code or as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, appraisal or title companies, and other persons or entities that the Audit Committee reasonably deems useful in its analysis.

(iv) In preparing the Audit Committee Report or the Audit Committee Preliminary Report, the Audit Committee may consider, among other things, as appropriate: (a) a financial analysis of any business or asset to be purchased or obtained as collateral, including profits, losses, time, and ongoing expenses, and maintenance

costs, (b) a legal review, including with respect to the impact on the Association's tax-exempt status and compliance with applicable laws, title of assets, conflicts of interest, and environmental issues, and (c) input from Association staff regarding matters such as staffing a new venture or acquisition, impact on the Association's current budget, location issues, impact on current programs, and assimilation issues.

**(d) Board Vote.**

(i) After receiving (A) the Finance Committee Recommendation and (B) the Audit Committee Report or Audit Committee Preliminary Report (as the case may be), the Board shall consider and vote whether to (1) approve and direct the Association to take certain, specified action with respect to the Proposed Transaction (e.g., negotiating and entering into an agreement with respect to the Proposed Transaction that may include a refundable or non-refundable deposit, escrow amount, or other fee associated therewith), provided that such action is approved by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of Governors then in office, or (2) delay a vote to take action with respect to the Proposed Transaction for an additional thirty (30) days, during which time the Board may engage additional outside professionals to review and analyze the Proposed Transaction and receive additional comments regarding the Proposed Transaction.

(ii) For the avoidance of doubt, any Proposed Transaction or action by the Association to be taken in connection therewith must be approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the total number of Governors then in office.

(iii) Any approval by the Board pursuant to this Section 3(d) of this Policy must state the action or actions with respect to the Proposed Transaction that are authorized and approved, as well as the individual or individuals who are authorized and directed to take such action or actions on behalf of the Association.

**(e) Non-Binding Actions Regarding Proposed Transactions.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, without following the approval procedures set forth in this Policy, the Board may, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of Governors then in office authorize one or more individuals to execute a non-binding letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, or other agreement relating to a Proposed Transaction that would not bind, commit, or obligate the Association to the Proposed Transaction or to any financial obligation (including, but not limited to, a deposit or down payment that is less than the overall amount of the Proposed Transaction), provided that any such letter, memorandum, or agreement first is reviewed in consultation with legal counsel for the Association.

**Section 4. AGREEMENT LANGUAGE**

Any binding or non-binding contract, agreement, current or future commitment, obligation, letter of intent, or other expression of interest authorized by the Association pursuant to this Policy shall expressly disclose in writing “*any commitment of the Association is conditioned on satisfaction of the requirements set forth in the Large Expenditures Policy of the Association.*”

**Section 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE POLICY.**

This Policy may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Governors then in office.

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## Logo Usage Policy

Approved By the Board and Staff Development Committee  
October 24, 2014

The USPA and its members recognize that the USPA logo has a certain meaning to members and the public and must not be used for unapproved purposes.

Therefore it is resolved that:

The official USPA logo usage is granted to the following USPA entities for USPA official use only:

- Currently elected and seated USPA Board of Governors and Officers,
- Currently elected and seated LLC Boards and their LLCs.
- Current USPA Clubs with written permission of the USPA by the USPA CEO.

Any other one time use by individuals and clubs may be granted after written requests are received and approved by the USPA CEO.

Unauthorized use may be prosecuted under trademark provisions of the US Code.

If the violation occurs by a member it may be considered a violation of the USPA By Laws and their membership denied.

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**Member Demographic Policy**

Approved by the Board and Staff Development Committee  
 October 22, 2014  
 as Revised Sept 2, 2014

WHEREAS, The United States Polo Association (USPA) is a non shareholder corporation with both clubs and individual persons as its members, and in its mission to serve its members, the USPA requires that members disclose contact and demographic information.

WHEREAS, The USPA publishes both in its annual blue book and on its website contact information for its members and the USPA desires to protect its members from unsolicited commercialization of their contact information, and to regulate the use of private contact information for USPA electioneering

WHEREAS, The USPA, through its Board of Governors, establishes the following policy for use and misuse of member contact and demographic information:

RESOLVED,

No individual or club member may use or cause to be used, any other individual or club member’s demographic or contact information in either hard copy or electronic format, from any USPA source including the blue book or the website for any of the following reasons:

- 1) Any commercial purpose
- 2) Any mass mail, texting or emailing for USPA campaign electioneering
- 3) Any mass mail, texting or emailing for commercial or non commercial purpose

Permitted uses of the individual or club members demographic or contact information include the following

- 1) An individual member or club member may use USPA provided contact information to contact any club or a single individual member or group of individual members regarding participating in a polo or polo related event, including organizing a polo match
- 2) A USPA Circuit Governor may contact any club or individual member in their circuit at any time for USPA official circuit business. To facilitate this, they may request from the USPA a current list of contact information for the appropriate clubs and individual members that have specifically signed up for this type of email. They may not use the names of individuals that have asked

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not to receive any USPA email.

- 3) A candidate for USPA office, including candidates for Governor at Large and Circuit Governor may request from the USPA a current list of contact information for the appropriate clubs and individual members that have specifically signed up for this type of email for one time usage for election purposes.
- 4) An individual member or a club may request from the USPA a current list of contact information for the appropriate clubs and individual members for a one time basis for those members that have specifically signed up for this type of email. Copy must be approved by the Executive committee, or their delegate, before the list will be sent.
- 5) A non member may be granted, by contract, a one time use of the list for those members that have signed up for that type of email by the Executive Committee on an individual basis. Copy must be preapproved and a contract stipulating these conditions signed prior to usage.
- 6) The USPA may give specific written permission for lists of individual or club members demographic or contact information to be used or sold for any purpose that it sees fit according to its own policies and procedures

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Further, any misuse of USPA club or individual member contact information as provided in any printed or electronic format shall constitute a violation of USPA Bylaw 4(a) with the appropriate adjudication set forth in Bylaw 11, or through forfeiture of membership by vote of the Board of Governors.

**NOAA's National Weather Service**

**Heat Index**

**Temperature (°F)**

|     | 80 | 82 | 84  | 86  | 88  | 90  | 92  | 94  | 96  | 98  | 100 | 102 | 104 | 106 | 108 | 110 |
|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 40  | 80 | 81 | 83  | 85  | 88  | 91  | 94  | 97  | 101 | 105 | 109 | 114 | 119 | 124 | 130 | 136 |
| 45  | 80 | 82 | 84  | 87  | 89  | 93  | 96  | 100 | 104 | 109 | 114 | 119 | 124 | 130 | 137 |     |
| 50  | 81 | 83 | 85  | 88  | 91  | 95  | 99  | 103 | 108 | 113 | 118 | 124 | 131 | 137 |     |     |
| 55  | 81 | 84 | 86  | 89  | 93  | 97  | 101 | 106 | 112 | 117 | 124 | 130 | 137 |     |     |     |
| 60  | 82 | 84 | 88  | 91  | 95  | 100 | 105 | 110 | 116 | 123 | 129 | 137 |     |     |     |     |
| 65  | 82 | 85 | 89  | 93  | 98  | 103 | 108 | 114 | 121 | 128 | 136 |     |     |     |     |     |
| 70  | 83 | 86 | 90  | 95  | 100 | 105 | 112 | 119 | 126 | 134 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 75  | 84 | 88 | 92  | 97  | 103 | 109 | 116 | 124 | 132 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 80  | 84 | 89 | 94  | 100 | 106 | 113 | 121 | 129 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 85  | 85 | 90 | 96  | 102 | 110 | 117 | 126 | 135 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 90  | 86 | 91 | 98  | 105 | 113 | 122 | 131 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 95  | 86 | 93 | 100 | 108 | 117 | 127 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 100 | 87 | 95 | 103 | 112 | 121 | 132 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

**Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity**

Caution     
  Extreme Caution     
  Danger     
  Extreme Danger

- *Caution- 80-90*
- *Extreme Caution- 91-103*
- *Danger- 103-124*
- *Extreme Danger- 126+*

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## PROCUREMENT POLICY

### I. OVERVIEW

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that goods and services procured on behalf of the United States Polo Association, Inc. (USPA) and its related entities, Umpires LLC, Marketing LLC, and Polo Development LLC are obtained in a cost-effective manner and in compliance with the USPA's guidelines. This overview addresses both (A.) the selection of vendors for procurements and (B.) the approval of purchases which may or may not have been previously approved during the formal budgeting process.

A. Vendor selection - For vendor selection, all vendor bids and quotations must be evaluated on the basis of product quality, compliance with specifications, total cost, and the vendor's acceptance of the USPA's terms and conditions. For larger acquisitions, whether funded at one time or over several periods, procurements must be considered in total, not split into multiple smaller purchases in order to avoid the approval/documentation process. Vendor approval is based on Level 1 Procurements ( $\leq$  \$50,000) and Level 2 Procurements ( $>$ \$50,000), as outlined in Section III, "Vendor Selection".

B. Purchase approval - For purchase approval, the dollar amount for the procurement may have already been approved during the formal budgeting process. If not, then the respective LLC/Services entity has three choices: (1.) budget for and incur the purchase in a succeeding year; (2.) reallocate a portion of the current year's approved budget from one line item to another, i.e. Budget Reallocation; or (3.) request additional funding from the USPA's CEO by submitting a Budget Revision request. The approval process for funding purchases is considered part of the budgeting process and is separate from the vendor selection/procurement process outlined in this document.

### II. PROCURER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

All individuals, including but not limited to Employees, Officers, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, and Vendors, acting as representatives of the USPA for procuring goods and/or services and/or administering and supervising contracts are expected to conduct themselves professionally and ethically by maintaining high standards of integrity, using good judgment, and acting in good faith with individuals both inside and outside the USPA community.

Conflicts of interest may arise during the procurement process when individuals representing the USPA have a financial, family or other beneficial interest in the vendor firm selected or considered for selection. No such individual shall do business with, award contracts to, or show favoritism toward a member of his/her immediate family, spouse's family or to any company, vendor or concern who either employs or has any relationship to a family member without prior authorization from the USPA. Any individuals involved in the procurement of goods and services on behalf of the USPA,

Inc. shall be required to review and sign the USPA's Conflict of Interest Policy. The intent of this requirement is to make transparent any real or perceived conflicts, not to prevent the procurement of the appropriate vendor for the goods/services required.

Individuals representing the USPA for procurements shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, gifts, consulting fees, trips, favors or anything having a monetary value in excess of \$75.00 (75 dollars) from a vendor, prospective vendor, or the family or employees of a vendor, prospective vendor or bidder or from any party to a sub-agreement or ancillary contract.

### III. VENDOR SELECTION

A. Procurements  $\leq$  \$50,000 (Level 1) :

Vendor selections for procurements  $\leq$  \$50,000 are approved by the appropriate LLC/Services Exec. Director in conjunction with the respective LLC/Services Board procurement approval process. No formal documentation supporting the vendor selection is required to be attached to the invoice/payment request. Support of vendor/price selection is kept in a vendor file at the LLC/Services entity level. Purchasers are expected to conduct an informal cost/price analysis and select the vendor offering the best mix of quality, service and price for the specified need. Reasonable efforts should be made to ensure fair and competitive pricing. For purchases in which only a single vendor meets the requirements, see Section IV, "Exceptions".

B. Procurements  $>$  \$50,000 (Level 2) :

Vendor selections for procurements  $>$  \$50,000 are approved by both the appropriate LLC/Services Exec. Director, in conjunction with the respective LLC/Services Board procurement approval process, and also by the CEO. The approval for the vendor selected, including supporting documentation, is attached to the vendor's initial invoice/contract payment submission request.)

- 1) The purchaser must provide each prospective vendor with the same description of specifications for the item or service being requested.
- 2) A minimum of three (3) bids is required. For purchases in which only a single vendor meets the requirements, see Section IV, "Exceptions".
- 3) Bids received must be kept on file at the appropriate LLC/Services level for at least 5 years from the vendor's approval date.
- 4) A proposal analysis comparing the bids must be completed and included as part of the vendor file package.
- 5) Supporting documentation for the vendor selected must be completed by the appropriate LLC/Services procurer and included as part of the vendor file package, with a copy attached to the selected vendor's initial invoice / payment submission.
- 6) The vendor must provide evidence of adequate workers compensation and general liability insurance. If unavailable, then a waiver must be signed by the CEO.
- 7) If permitting is required, the vendor shall be responsible for coordinating and

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obtaining permits, unless specifically addressed otherwise. Permits shall be listed as part of the contract.

#### **IV. EXCEPTIONS**

A. Exceptions - The CEO must approve, in writing, any exceptions to this Procurement Policy.

B. Single Source Vendor:

Occasionally, the Buyer on behalf of the USPA is unable to or chooses to not competitively bid the goods/services request. This occurs when there is only one vendor capable of fully meeting the bid requirements; or when alternative vendors do exist, but the Procurer chooses to solicit a bid only from a particular vendor due to specific technical requirements (precision, reliability) or unsatisfactory past performance history (poor service, availability of parts) by other vendors. When this occurs, the Buyer must include in the Vendor Selection analysis a justification for the non-competitive procurement.

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## USPA Ethics and Compliance Reporting Policy

The United States Polo Association (USPA) requires governors, directors, officers, employees and volunteers to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As representatives of the USPA and/or engaging in activities on behalf of the USPA, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and in complying with all applicable laws and regulations.

**Reporting Responsibility** – All governors, directors, officers, employees and volunteers have the duty to promptly report concerns about actual or suspected violations of the USPA’s code of conduct, suspected illegal acts, or ethical violations relating to the USPA’s operations. Reports should be made timely. For equal employment opportunity, harassment, and related retaliation concerns, USPA employees should utilize the reporting procedures set forth in the applicable personnel policies in the USPA Employee Handbook.

**Reporting Mechanism** - All reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible and will be promptly reviewed. Reports can be made by hotline, telephone, written form, website, email, or in person. Reports can be made to the HR Department, the CEO, the USPA Chairman of the Board of Governors, or the USPA’s compliance officer. (Please see below for contact information.)

**Handling of Reported Violations** – Upon receipt of the reporting, the USPA representative will forward the information to the USPA’s compliance officer. Information provided regarding allegations will be reviewed and analyzed to determine if there is sufficient validation for moving forward. Additional information may be requested during this process. If warranted, the primary investigation of the allegations will begin. After the investigation is finalized, appropriate action will be taken. The USPA’s compliance designee will advise the Board Chairman and Board of Governors of any issues reported deemed sufficient for investigating and their final resolution. Some of these alleged violation reports may be related to accounting or alleged financial improprieties. If so, the USPA compliance designee will work with the USPA Audit Committee in those areas, and if deemed significant, may transfer responsibility to the Audit Committee. The results of any financially-related items handled through the Ethics and Compliance Policy deemed immaterial for Audit Committee action will be reported at least annually to the Audit Committee.

**Non-Retaliation** – The USPA will not tolerate retaliation against a person who reports a suspected violation. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, harassment, blacklisting, demotion, termination, and cessation of services.

**Contact Information for Reporting Suspected Violations**

USPA Representatives:

- Immediate Supervisor
- Human Resources – Bev Basist, email: [bbasist@uspolo.org](mailto:bbasist@uspolo.org), phone: 561-339-3973, address: 12012 South Shore Blvd, # 102, Wellington, FL 33414
- CEO – Robert Puetz, email: [Bob@uspolo.org](mailto:Bob@uspolo.org), phone: 760-861-0477, address: 9011 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth, FL 33467
- USPA Chairman of the Board – Stewart Armstrong, email: [stewartarm@gmail.com](mailto:stewartarm@gmail.com)

**Compliance Officer:** \* {Note: The Compliance Officer may be a board member, the Executive Director, or a third party designated by the organization to receive, investigate and respond to complaints.}

{Susan Present

{USPA CFO

{email: [spresent@uspolo.org](mailto:spresent@uspolo.org), phone: 561-815-3207

Policy approved by the Board of Directors on {December 17, 2018}.

CONSTITUTION

BY-LAWS

OUTDOOR RULES

ARENA RULES

TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

N.Y.T.S. TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

ALTERNATIVE FORMAT POLO RULES

INTERCOLLEGIATE/INTERSCHOLASTIC  
TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

EQUINE DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

UMPIRE GUIDE

USPA POLICIES



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Lake Worth, Florida 33467  
(800) 232-USPA · [uspolo.org](http://uspolo.org)