

Rule Changes 2026

**PONY
CLUB**



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Pony Club Polocrosse Rule Changes 2026

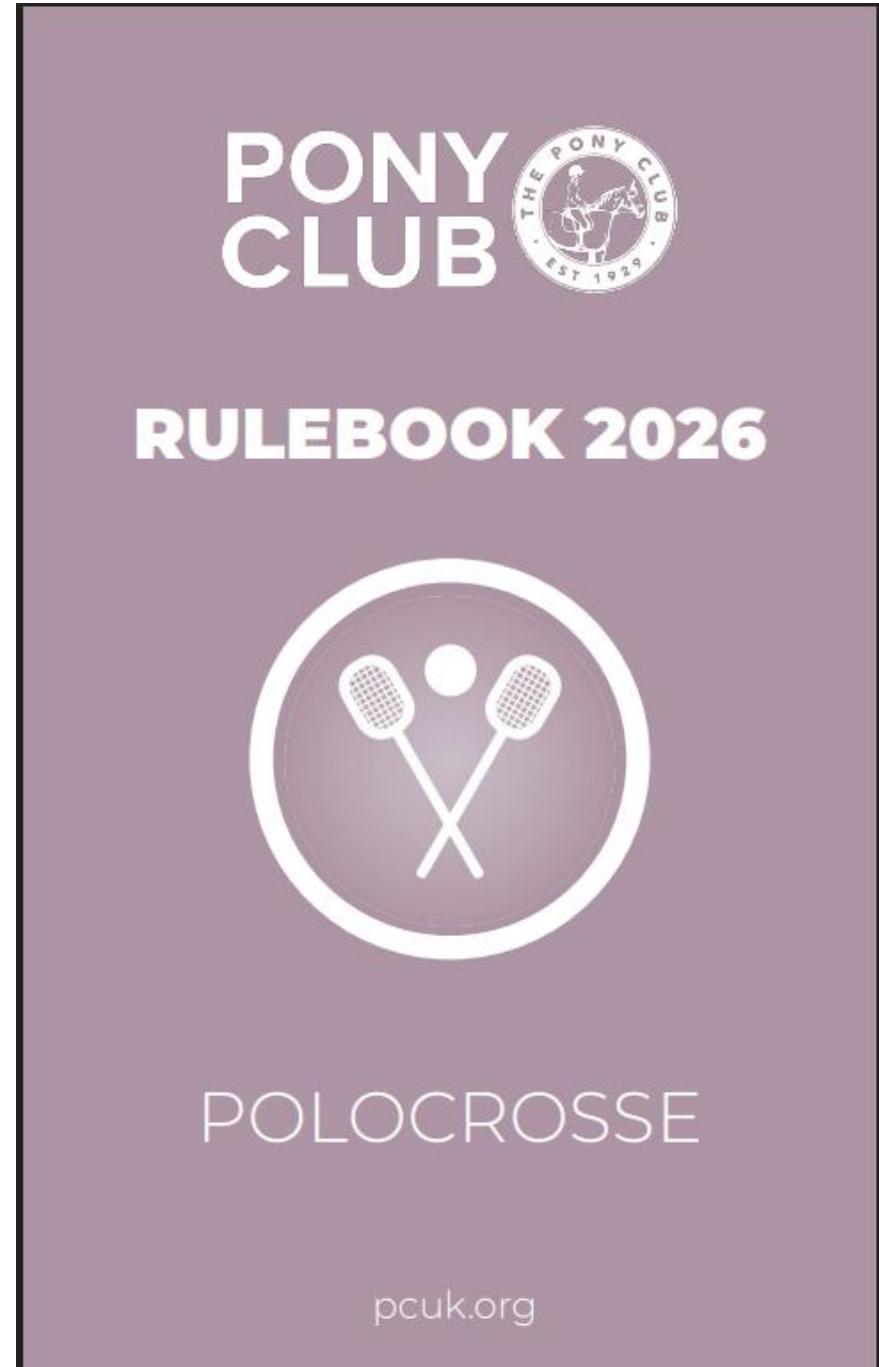
For 2026 we have made a number of rule changes which we believe should help develop the sport while continuing to ensure that our members and horses are kept safe while playing.

The changes are:

- Introduction of a Dangerous Vice Procedure
- Clarifying the position with outside assistance at line outs
- Reducing the level of contact in Novice grades
- Relaxing the rule regarding hind overreach boots for Minis

For the full rulebook go to:

<https://resources.pcuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/RULEBOOK-Polocrosse-2026-Web.pdf>



Dangerous Vice Reporting Procedure

We have introduced a Dangerous Vice Reporting (DVR) Procedure for Pony Club Polocrosse tournaments that broadly mirrors the procedure already used in the UK Polocrosse Association.

In the event of a pony being sent off for a Dangerous Vice then there is now a formal process to follow and the pony will need to attend training sessions and be signed off by a UKPA or Pony Club coach before it can play another tournament.

For full details of the rule, what constitutes a Dangerous Vice (including guidance on the nuances of these vices) and the full DVR process please see Rule 16(c) (page 19) and Appendix C (Page 37) in the 2026 Rulebook

No outside assistance in line outs.

To ensure safety and fairness we have added a paragraph to section (h) of the playing rules (Page 27 of the 2026 rulebook) to make it clear that players cannot have physical outside assistance to line up.

Umpires may offer advice and verbal encouragement when players are struggling to line up but should not physically intervene. Likewise, spectators should not attempt to physically intervene in any way.

If a player cannot get their pony into position the umpire should still use their discretion as to whether they simply throw in the ball or ask the player to stand by the side line while they throw in. If the player is out of position and not gaining / likely to gain any advantage by being out of position then the umpire can simply throw in the ball. If the player does actually gain advantage the umpire can always stop play and award a free throw to the other team to compensate. This discretion already covered in part (h) of the playing rules

Reduce contact in Novice Grades

To help novice players and ponies get used to the game and ensure that player and pony welfare is not compromised while they do so, we have decided to introduce a rule for reduced contact in all Novice grades in two situations:

- 1) No player without the ball can be marked up by two opposition players. Please note that all players do not have to be in contact with each other to be judged to be “marking up”. The umpire will have discretion to decide whether two players are marking an opponent.
- 2) When the ball is in a goal scoring area there will be no marking up in midfield. This includes 30 yard clearing throws until the moment the ball leaves the area.

For the full rule and the penalties to be awarded in the event on a foul please see Rule (m) in the playing rules section of the 2026 Rule book (Page 29)

Hind over reach boots not compulsory in Minis

We have changed the tack rule 3 (m) (Page 12 of the 2026 Rulebook) to state that hind overreach boots are no longer compulsory in the Minis grades, though they can be worn if players wish to wear them.

This is because we have had feedback that people feel that smaller ponies sometimes end up reacting more to wearing hind overreach boots and end up kicking, bucking or stomping, resulting in them potentially being sent off and creating a risk to other ponies.

As Minis grades do not normally have such a high level of contact as older grades, we feel making this change is not creating undue risks to pony welfare in other ways. However, we will monitor the situation closely and see if any further changes are needed.