

Pony Club Polo Information Pack

New to Polo

General Information for Newcomers

Welcome to Pony Club Polo. This leaflet is intended to give you a very brief summary of the way Pony Club Polo is organised.

We hope you all have a wonderful time on your taster day and finish up wanting to do more. If so, please email polo@pcuk.org and Laura will point you in the right direction. Or call Mrs Chris Eaton 07860 395576

What is Polo:

Polo is like hockey on horseback! You have to hit the ball into the goal with your polo stick. Each game is played between two teams with four players on each side (only three per side in Arena polo). There are two main types of competitive polo – the ‘outdoor’, which is played on grass and the ‘arena’, which is played on an all-weather surface with solid walls. The Arena is a great place to learn to play in a safe and secure environment. The game is divided into short seven, six or four and a half minute parts known as chukkas. The more experienced you are, the more chukkas there are in a game.

Jorrocks and Handley Cross sections are played on all round Pony Club ponies that must attend non-polo rallies as well as polo rallies. In all other sections, polo ponies can, and generally are, used.

Unlike many of the sports, if you would like to play but don't have your own polo pony, it is possible to hire one for training, tournaments and the Championships. Many clubs have hire ponies to suit all abilities and details can also be obtained from the [Hurlingham Polo Association \(www.hpa-polo.co.uk\)](http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk)

Branch Manager:

This is a key role, usually a parent or past parent. Talk to your DC, Centre Proprietor, Area Rep or a Committee Member. The main function is to coordinate the players in your Branch or Centre and sometimes neighbouring Branches or Centres, organise training and make entries for tournaments. It is the channel for all communications about the sport. There are also a Pony Club Polo Facebook page and various WhatsApp groups.

Sections:

There are presently ten Sections, but for newcomers, you can play in tournaments with just one pony in the following six Sections. You play three chukkas per day with intervals between the chukkas. See the rules on the

website for the full conditions. The Section Managers' details are in the Committee Section below.

Jorrocks (JOR) This section is for members 6 - under 11 on 1st January in any year. For JOR, ponies must be 13.2hh or under.

Jorrocks on Polo Ponies (JOPPS). This section is for members 6 - under 11 on 1st January in any year. For JOPPS children play on polo ponies.

Handley Cross (HX). This section is for members 9 - under 14 on 1st January. Ponies must be 14.2hh or under.

Surtees (SUR). This section is for members 11 - under 15 on 1st January on polo ponies.

Loriner (LOR). This section is for members 14 - under 21 on 1st January on polo ponies.

Ladies (LAD). This section is for members 14 - under 21 on 1st January on polo ponies

This section is being trialled for 2026. More details to follow

If and when you advance to more than one pony and obtain a handicap, the Langford (2 chukkas Under 21) Hipwood (4 chukkas Under 14), Rocksavage (4 chukkas 13-18) & Gannon (4 chukkas Under 21) Sections are available. These sections are based more on ability rather than age.

The Pool System:

Your Branch/Centre might not have enough players to make a team, especially in the first year. The Section Managers run a pool system which allows you to combine with other Branches or Centres. However, there are prizes for the highest placed complete Branch team, so do encourage as many of your own Branch or Centre as you can. Contact your Section Manager for more details.

Grants:

A generous donation has been made by the Polo Charity towards the cost of training new players and the cost of ongoing training. This grant is available to all members and is automatically deducted from entry fees at entry level before payment.

Another very generous donation has been made by Emma Treves to support the development and growth of youth polo through training and taster days. This grant is for members who intend playing Jorrocks or Handley Cross on their own 'fluffy', under 14.2hh ponies and may be claimed for as many seasons as they play either of these two sections. This grant is claimed in the same manner as the Polo Charity grant.

How to Progress Further:

The main Pony Club Polo season takes place on grass from April to the middle of August ending with The Pony Club Polo Championships, which are held at the prestigious Cowdray Park Polo Club, West Sussex. The Championships are a full fun weekend of polo for all ages and levels!

Any team can attend friendly tournaments to practice (approx. £55 per player), have fun and work towards the Qualifiers (approx. £60 per player) which run just before the Championships (approx. £70 per player per day).

The Arena Season runs from October to March with plenty of training and tournament opportunities and usually ends in the Easter holidays with a Championship at Tedworth Park Polo Club.

A full list of training/tournament dates can be found on <https://pcuk.org/sports/polo> web pages and entry forms for training and tournaments found on the www.Horse-Events website, search 'polo' in Events or Rallies

From 2026 all players must go to ONE friendly tournament and THREE qualifying tournaments to be able to go to the Championships. Players of 0 goals and below need to attend three training events which can be organised by either the Pony Club, the HPA or SUPA.

Other things to note:

- 1.** All ponies must be vaccinated and microchipped and have their passports with them. This will be independently checked and there are no waivers in any circumstances.
- 2.** All players must be members of the Pony Club and have a membership number in order to come to training days or tournaments
- 3.** Substitutes are required quite often, so it is worth letting the Section manager know your availability even if you don't have a team
- 4.** Hats must be tagged and comply with the current Pony Club regulations
- 5.** There are various regulations concerning tack and turnout which you will find in the Rulebook
- 6.** Also in the Rulebook, you will find advice for Parents
- 7.** There is a Pony Club Polo Handbook which each member playing polo is expected to have and which has pages to allow them to record progress in training, badges and tests. It has also been produced to provide members (and parents!) with a basic introduction to Pony Club Polo

Useful Links to Pony Club Polo:

More info and details: <https://pcuk.org/sports/polo> web pages

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

Some rules from Polo's governing body, the [Hurlingham Polo Association](http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk) (www.hpa-polo.co.uk) also apply.

Committee Contact Details:

Chairman: Brigadier Justin Stanhope White jstanhopewhite@aol.com
07939 598653

For 6 - Under 11s 'Fluffy' pony (**Jorrocks**) Mrs Chris Eaton
chris.eaton@live.co.uk 07860 395576

For 6 - Under 11s one polo pony (**JOPPS**) and **Senior Training:** Mrs Georgina Spring
georgina@springoaklands.co.uk 07747 033728

For 9 - Under 14s 'Fluffy' pony (**Handley Cross**) Mrs Chris Eaton
chris.eaton@live.co.uk 07860 395576

For Under 14s two polo ponies + (**Hipwood**) Mrs Caroline Grayson
caroline@purstonmanor.co.uk 07889 141344

For 11 - U15, one polo pony (**Surtees**), Mrs Joanna Whittington
joanna.whittington@gmail.com 07885 368918

For 13-U18 two polo ponies + (**Rocksavage**) Mrs Caroline Grayson
caroline@purstonmanor.co.uk 07889 141344

For 14 - U21, one polo pony (**Rendell, Loriner**) Mrs Philippa Slatter
philippa.slatter@icloud.com 07808 257345

For 14-U21, one polo pony (**Ladies**) Mrs Philippa Slatter
philippa.slatter@icloud.com 07808 257345

For U21, two polo ponies + (**Langford**) and **Tournament/Training Coordination:** Mrs Bethan Hitchman bethanhitchman@aol.com 07774 457750

For U21, three/four polo ponies (**Gannon**) and **Welfare:** Ms Clare Maldonado
cmaldonado@live.co.uk 07831 529680

Grants, Centres & Trophies: Bev Osborne beverlynicholls@outlook.com
07984 165955