

Australian Polo Council - Summary of Policies

Introduction:

The Australian Sports Commission is the governing body for sport in Australia. The Australian Polo Council is Recognized by the Australian Sports Commission as the peak body for polo in Australia. As part of this Recognition process the APC has to demonstrate that it meets best practice standards in its policies, procedures & governance. The following APC policies are available on the website at www.australianpolo.com.au

1) APC Discipline Policy

The Policy covers the reporting of misconduct – anyone who witnessed an incident is able to report misconduct. Disciplinary enquiries may be held by the Club or State Association and there is limited appeal to the APC. Suggested penalties for Acts of Misconduct and listed at Schedule 1 and the final page is an Incident Report form. For example: Did you know abuse of another player, verbally or by any gesture carries a maximum penalty of 1 month suspension and \$1000 fine.

Last amended June 2011 v2.0.

2) APC Polo Rules Book

The Australian Polo Council has updated the field Rules of Polo to be consistent with Hurlingham Polo Association 2011 field rules. These rules are updated each year (usually in April) in line with HPA rules. The aim of the rules is to ensure that all participants of polo have maximum enjoyment, and an opportunity to play in a well umpired, fair and true match.

Last amended April 2011 v7.0.

The Horse welfare policies can be found in the rules of polo article 4, and in the risk management policy articles 2.1 & 2.2 (including a heat policy),

3) APC Handicap Policy

The Policy is intended to ensure all polo players playing in Australia carry a handicap which is a fair assessment, that they are assessed against criteria, that handicaps are current at all times and the procedures for determining handicaps are fair and transparent.

It covers the role of the Clubs, State Handicap Committees, the Benchmark Committee, the timing of Reviews. It covers the 'T' temporary rating for overseas players, those coming back into the game, new players, Appeals, Foreign players in Australia and Offences.

Last amended [Oct 2011 v1.1](#).

4) APC Anti Doping policy

This policy is compliant with the World anti doping code, which is aimed at setting fair play through the control of use of performance enhancing substances in athletes. Although this policy applies to all members, testing is usually only conducted on national and international representative players. FIP conduct testing under the WADA code at their world championship events.

5) APC Member Protection policy

Purpose of policy: Sporting organisations have legal and moral obligations to provide safe environments. Our Member Protection Policy assists us to adequately meet these obligations and to maintain responsible behaviour and ethical and informed decision-making within our sport. Our policy outlines our commitment to a person's right to be treated with respect and dignity, and to be safe and protected from abuse. It informs everyone of his or her legal and ethical rights and responsibilities and the standards of behaviour that are required. It also covers the care and protection of children participating in our sport's activities. The code of conduct for all involved (players, umpires, coaches spectators) is included in this policy.

The **Code of Conduct** for all involved and the **Horse Welfare Policy** including Heat Policy are included at the back. – these policies were included in the hard copy 2010 rules booklet which was sent to all members but do not form part of the rules of polo

6) Risk Management Policy – event & activity guidelines.

This policy provides risk management guidelines, for associations and clubs running tournaments and events, in areas such as tournament management, OHS, property, legal responsibilities, club financial management and also includes policies on horse welfare, heat, dogs on ground, first aid, and volunteer screening + more.

Last amended June 2011 [v2.2](#)

Relevance of APC Policies to NSW Polo Association

NSWPA is a member of the APC. Polo clubs and players are legally bound to comply with APC rules and policies when they accept the terms and conditions of membership on clubs online as part of the annual membership renewal process.

NSWPA also has a responsibility to ensure that these policies are implemented and complied with in NSW. Policies may need adapting at club level to ensure relevance. Feedback on the policies and suggestions for improvement are also welcome. In order to facilitate this NSWPA will be seeking nominations from all NSW clubs for a representative to join a Policy Implementation Committee.

Nominations should be forwarded to the secretary by the end of November 2011.

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