

Congressional Polo Club

General Information & Rules



- ◆ The Congressional Polo Club is a private club operated for the purpose of conducting polo lessons, tournaments, and leagues and supporting services for its members. It is managed under the rules and guidelines of the United States Polo Association (“USPA”).
- ◆ Individuals wishing to join the Congressional Polo Club (“Club”) must complete a membership application. Applications must be signed annually. Membership is subject to the approval of the Membership Committee.
- ◆ Membership Categories include Full (individual), Family (maximum of 4 family members), Youth, Social, and Professional. See Membership Application for details. All applications will be addressed within two weeks of receipt.
- ◆ Optional “Pay As You Play” opportunities are available for those not ready to commit to Club membership.
- ◆ All dues, fees and fines must be paid in full prior to playing.
- ◆ All persons on the premises (as member, member employee, player, or guest) must sign a “Participant Agreement” (liability waiver) prior to commencement of play.
- ◆ Congressional Polo Club does not carry liability insurance for individuals. Members and non-member players are encouraged to obtain medical insurance coverage for themselves, their grooms, and sponsored players.
- ◆ The Club shall not be held responsible for any injury incurred by a member or player (non-member), a guest of a member or player, or an employee of a member or player.
- ◆ Any accident or incident resulting in an injury or damage must be reported immediately to the Polo Manager. An incident report must be completed as soon as possible following the incident.
- ◆ The Club is not responsible for the loss or damage of any property belonging to a member, non-member player, or guest. This includes all personal property, including horses, tack, equipment, and vehicles. Additionally, the Club is not responsible for injury, illness, or death of any horse owned or leased by a member or player.
- ◆ Polo members, of any category, are responsible for the conduct of their staff, including but not limited to, professional polo players, grooms, and trainers while on Club grounds. Club grounds include all polo fields, parking lots, paddocks, barns and structures utilized by Congressional Polo Club.
- ◆ All polo players must be familiar with and comply with the rules and regulations established by the Club and USPA.
- ◆ Members and guests are asked to conduct themselves cordially and in a sportsmanship manner at all times while on the premises. Boisterous behavior and the use of obnoxious language are specifically prohibited.
- ◆ Any person found reprimanding or verbally abusing another member or visiting player will be required to leave the premises.
- ◆ Members and guests are asked to dispose of trash (bottles, cans, tail tape, papers, other debris) into trash containers or to take it with you when you leave.
- ◆ All pets must be on leash and under the physical control of a person at all times while on the premises. First time violators will be fined \$50.00 and the fine will double for each subsequent violation.
- ◆ No vehicles are permitted to drive or make u-turns on any polo field under any circumstance. Violators will be fined \$100.00.
- ◆ Congressional Polo Club is managed by a Polo Manager, assisted by committees. The Polo Manager has full authority to enforce all rules and regulations of the Club and the U.S. Polo Association.
- ◆ Congressional Polo Club may invite, under special circumstances, visiting teams or players to participate in any practice, league, or tournament game.

- ◆ Any complaints, suggestions, or constructive criticism regarding the operation of the Club shall be submitted in writing and addressed to Management at 14660 Hughes Road, Poolesville, MD 20837. Your name and contact information must be included in the communication.

Polo Rules

- Any violation of the Club rules and regulations, or failure to comply with the decisions of the Polo Manager or the Disciplinary Committee may result in a warning, a fine, a suspension, expulsion, or any combination thereof. The type of action taken for a general rules violation is left to the sole discretion of the Polo Manager and the Disciplinary Committee.
- In the event a sponsored professional player employed by a Member is suspended from play, the Club specifically disavows any responsibility for any cost, direct or otherwise, incurred by the player or the Member sponsoring or employing said player.

Non-Members

- Members may invite a guest to stick and ball on the Member's horse. No guest may participate in stick and balling more than five (5) times a season.
- Non-Members must pay \$50.00 a day or \$500.00 a season for stick and balling privileges.
- A fee of \$100.00 is charged to all Non-Members per Club practice game.

League & Tournament Play

- The Polo Manager develops a season program of league and tournament games. These schedules will be distributed to all members in a timely fashion. The Club sets dues for the each season. Dues are reviewed and adjusted annually at the discretion of management. Proceeds are used to operate the Club, maintain the fields, and improve the facilities.
- The opening and closing dates of the polo season are subject to weather and field conditions. The dates may be altered at the sole discretion of management. All play is contingent upon weather and field conditions.
- The Club schedules tournament and practice matches weekly for member participation throughout the course of the season.
- Leagues and tournaments must be completed by the scheduled dates, weather permitting.
- USPA rules and regulations govern all tournaments and leagues, unless otherwise noted. All players are responsible for reading and understanding all USPA and Club rules. The Tournament Committee has authority to revise and make rule decisions.
- The draw procedure and playing format will be decided by the Polo Manager and not by the captains of the teams entered. Entry forms must be complete and entry fees paid in full prior to the draw. Entry forms are considered complete only if they are signed by the Captain, and include outdates for consideration. A team that withdraws from an event after the draw shall forfeit all fees and may be subject to additional fines and/or suspension from the next event.
- Teams must play all of their league and tournament games regardless of their win/loss records so as not to unduly influence the rankings of the remaining teams in the same tournament. Any team that withdraws without the approval of the Tournament Committee will be subject to severe fines and suspensions from future events.
- Punctuality is essential. Player tardiness may result in a fine of \$50 for each offense, if the game has started without the player.

Practice Matches

- Practice matches are subject to availability of players, and may not be scheduled unless at least three (3) players per

side are available to participate.

- The Polo Manager will use best efforts to schedule practice matches in accordance with field and player availability.
- Each day a game schedule will be recorded on the information line. The Tournament Committee and Polo Manager will determine the schedule and field allocations, and playing times for all games. To schedule practice games, players must call the Polo Manager with the number of chukkers they desire no later than 12:00 noon the day before.
- Tournament play takes priority over practice matches if scheduling conflicts arise.
- Punctuality is essential. Player tardiness may result in a fine of \$50 for each offense, if the game has started without the player.
- Members must notify the Polo Manager in advance of any non-member using the facilities. This privilege may be revoked if abused.
- All full-dues paying members shall have the privilege of inviting guests to play in practice matches. Full-dues paying members are limited to three (3) guest passes per season. Every guest must be a member of the USPA and sign a Participant Agreement before playing.
- Any groom practicing on a Member's horses must be a USPA member. In order to ride All rules and regulations regarding players apply.

Players

- All players must have a signed Participant Agreement on file prior to commencement of play.
- All Club players must be a member in good standing with the Club as well as with USPA. Players must be rated prior to any league or tournament play. It is the responsibility of team captains or patrons to be sure that all team players are currently registered with the USPA.
- All players and officials for all leagues and tournament games must wear white pants and boots.
- The aggregate handicap of a team just fall within the limits specified for an event. A team whose handicap is higher or lower than the specified limits shall not be permitted to participated.

Substitutions

- Any time a substitution is to occur, the Polo Manager must be notified in advance and the person substituting must be a current USPA member and comply with all rules and regulations of the Club and USPA.
- Should a full-dues paying member be unable to play a tournament game or practice, he or she may substitute a qualified USPA player from outside the Club roster to take the player's place.

Player Conduct

- The Disciplinary Committee shall enforce the rules of sportsmanship and conduct on the playing field.
- The Disciplinary Committee has broad discretion in interpreting, adjudicating, and resolving violations under the rules of the USPA and Club. The Club acknowledges that each case brought before the Disciplinary Committee is unique in circumstances and facts. The Club gives full authority to the Disciplinary Committee in conducting its rulings and are not held to past proceedings in determining its disciplinary decisions.
- Players are encouraged to bring and provide drinking water for their horses at all games and practices.
- The illegal use of drugs or the abuse of alcohol by players, their guests, or their employees is strictly prohibited.
- All fines levied by the Disciplinary Committee must be paid prior by the violator prior to further play.
- Captains ONLY are permitted to communicate with the umpires during the game.

- Any arguing, profanity, disrespectful conduct, rough or dangerous plays, refusing to play, or any other lack of sportsmanship conduct or behavior will not be tolerated. **VIOLATORS WILL BE SERIOUSLY PENALIZED!**
- Unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior includes, but is not limited to, actions or words directed to any official, player, spectator, or other person or mount on Club premises that is typically considered or is verbally threatening, assaulting, abusive, demeaning, obscene, profane, belligerent, dangerous, or that violates standards of fair play or common decency generally accepted in the polo community.

Umpires

- Umpires shall send off any horse found to be lame, out of control, and/or dangerous.
- It is the umpire's responsibility to report any unsportsmanlike behavior or conduct and the circumstances surrounding the conduct or behavior to the Polo Manager as soon as possible.
- Umpires have the exclusive authority over the entire game and are charged with the responsibility of executing their duties.
- Umpires must be present fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game time and are responsible for having suitable mounts.
- The final decision of canceling a game in progress due to weather shall be determined by the game officials and/or tournament officials. The team captains may be consulted, but the officials shall make the final decision.

NOTE: Members, guests, players, and employees are hereby notified that additional rules and regulations may be promulgated at the discretion of Club management. It is the responsibility of the Members to stay informed of any changes that may directly or indirectly affect the Member and his or her guests or employees.