



## NEW FOREST POLO CLUB RULES

- Designation:** 1. The Club shall be known as the New Forest Polo Club.
- Objectives:** 2. To provide inexpensive polo for all levels of 'low goal' players.
- To provide facilities and opportunities for 'would-be' players on modest incomes to join and progress from beginners to rated players.
- Membership to be open to all of good character, but especially those who live in the New Forest environs.
- Membership:** 3.(a) The Committee shall have the power to elect Members under the following categories:
- (i) Playing member over 25 years of age.
  - (ii) Playing member 18 to 25 years of age.
  - (iii) Playing member under 18 years of age.
  - (iv) Social Member.
  - (v) Life Member.
  - (vi) Honorary Member.
- (b) Player's immediate family will have Social Members' rights, except for voting at General Meetings of the Club Membership. Player's family members may, if they so choose and are eligible, apply for Social Membership in their own right.
- Day Membership and Temporary Membership to be decided upon by any Committee Member available at the date of application.
- Subscriptions:** 4. The rates of subscription to be paid by the various categories of members shall be fixed by the Club Committee prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) preceding the next polo season. The Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) affiliation fee for playing members of categories 3(a)(i) and (ii) shall be notified at the same time.
- Subscription and affiliation fees shall be payable in advance by 1<sup>st</sup> April each year.
- Proposal of New Full Members:** 5. Applicants for Club Membership must be proposed and seconded by members who shall have a personal knowledge of and be responsible for the eligibility of their applicants and for introducing them to the Committee.
- Unknown Applicants:** 6.(a) An applicant unknown in the district wishing to be a playing member, and therefore unable to procure a proposer and seconder may, subject to the approval of the Committee, for the purpose of playing polo, be a Temporary Member for one month, during which Day Member's fees (and such affiliation fees as are required by the HPA) are to be paid. After this period he or she must send to the Hon. Secretary the names of two Full Playing Members prepared to propose and second his or her application.
- (b) In the case of junior playing members, the application must be supported by a non-playing membership application by a parent or guardian.
- (c) Applicants for non-playing membership may apply for such membership through the Hon. Secretary, who will submit the application for consideration by the Committee. In these cases the Chairman or his/her representative may wish to interview the applicant.
- Election of New Members and Subscriptions:** 7.(a) The election of all new members shall be by ballot of the Committee Members. Candidates to be elected by majority vote of the Committee.

- (b) On the election of each new member, the Hon. Secretary shall inform the new members of their election and send them a copy of the rules etc. The Hon Secretary shall then send to the Hon. Treasurer the new member's applications, together with their subscriptions and, where necessary, their HPA affiliation fees. No newly-elected member shall use the Club or participate in any of its advantages or privileges until they have paid their subscriptions and fees (if any).
- (c) All subscriptions and fees etc., shall be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, New Forest Polo Club.

**Use of the Club:**

- 8. No member shall be entitled to use the Club until they have paid their subscriptions and affiliation fees (if any) for the current year.

**Resignation:**

- 9. Any member intending to resign from the club must signify the intention in writing to the Hon. Secretary or Polo Manager on or before 1<sup>st</sup> April in any year, otherwise he or she shall be liable for the subscription for the ensuing year.

**Disciplinary:**

- 10.(a) Disciplinary matters pertaining to the game of polo are dealt with in accordance with the rules laid down by the HPA in their annual 'Blue Book'.
- (b) Social matters will be dealt with by the Committee. Any member whose behaviour is considered to be in bad taste or unbecoming shall be called by the Committee to give an explanation of same. If not satisfied with the explanation, the Committee is empowered to reprimand the Member, or to expel him/her from the Club. In the event of the latter, this will be notified by a notice on the Club House notice board.

**Ex-Member:**

- 11. Any member who shall cease to belong to the Club, either by resignation, expulsion or any cause whatsoever, shall have no claim upon, or be entitled to participate in, any of the effects or property belonging to the club, nor have any part of his/her subscription returned.

**Committee:**

- 12.(a) All concerns of the Club and all arrangements shall be conducted by a Committee which will consist of the following:

Honorary President  
 Chairman  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Six Playing Members  
 Two Social Members

All the above, except the Honorary President, shall be elected annually at The Annual General Meeting (AGM) by the full club membership.

All incumbent Committee Members must indicate to the Secretary their willingness to stand for re-election at least 14 days before the date of the AGM. Other nominations for election to the Committee must be received in writing by the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM and include a proposer and seconder who are playing or social members of the Club.

- (b) The Honorary President will have the same voting rights as other Committee Members. The office of President may remain vacant.
- (c) The members of the Committee shall each exercise one vote except for the Chairman, who shall exercise his casting vote in the event of a tied vote. Five elected Committee members shall form a quorum.
- (d) The Committee shall delegate responsibility for the day to day running

of the Club to those best qualified from amongst its members, or failing which appropriately qualified Playing or Social Members who shall be co-opted onto the Committee but will have no voting rights.

- (e) The Committee shall have responsibility for insuring the Club's assets and its liability to its members and the general public.

**Annual General Meeting:**

- 13.(a) The AGM shall be held as soon as is convenient after the end of the polo season and not later than the following January, at such time and place as may be determined by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving the Committee's Reports and Financial Statements, electing Members to form a Committee and for discussing and voting upon any resolutions that require the decision of a General meeting of the Club Membership.
- (b) Notice of any resolutions proposed and seconded shall be given to the Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

**Extraordinary Meeting:**

- 14.(a) The Committee may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting and shall do so if requested by ten Playing or Social Members of the Club to the Secretary up to six weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting (other than Members of the committee current at the time of the submission of the request). The request shall be accompanied by a resolution or resolutions specifying the matter or matters that the Meeting is being called upon to decide. No matters other than those specified by the notified resolution or resolutions shall be discussed or voted on. The Chair at General Meetings shall be taken by the Chairman of the outgoing Committee, in the case of an Annual General Meeting, and the Chairman of the incumbent committee, in the case of an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (b) All proposals and amendments which may require the decision of any General Meeting shall after discussion be decided by the votes of the majority of the full members present.
- (c) In the event of the Members' votes being equal, the President shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her vote.
- (d) Only full members are entitled to vote, or propose or second a resolution at General Meetings, or to participate in any effects or property belonging to the Club.

**Complaints:**

- 15. The conduct of a servant or contractor to the Club shall in no instance be a matter of personal reprimand by any Member. All complaints made in this connection must be addressed to the Honorary Secretary.

**Members' Accounts:**

- 16. Members are required to pay their bills for every expense incurred in the Club on the day on which the expense is incurred, or by a date notified by the Hon. Treasurer.

**Rules to be Delivered:**

- 17. A copy of these Rules to be sent to each member on election and a copy shall be displayed in the Club House. No Member shall be absolved from their effect on any allegation of not having received them, or of ignorance of their contents.

**Acquiescence in the Rules:**

- 18.(a) As the payment of the subscription will entitle a Member to the benefits of the Club, so it will distinctly imply submission to all restrictions and penalties contained in these Rules and in the Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Committee.
- (b) The Club is an affiliated Club of the Hurlingham Polo Association and operates under the Regulation of that Association. All Players playing on a Club ground play under the Regulations of that Association and in particular under the

disciplinary powers of the HPA Stewards and Committee of this Club therein contained.

**Infraction of Rules:**

19. Any infraction of the Rules or Bye-laws by a Member shall be taken immediate cognisance of by the Committee, who shall at once notify the Member of the infraction and such Member shall be liable to be dealt with by the Committee.

**Ponies:**

20. All ponies must be passed 'fit to play' in accordance with HPA Rules.

**Practice:**

21. Practice on the field on the Club ground at New Park is not allowed.

**Club**

**Colours:**

22. The Club colours shall be forest Green with Hunting Scarlet collar.

**Safety:**

23. The attention of all Members is drawn to HPA Field Rule D3 which is as follows:

- (a) The Safety Zone is an area around the field of play, about 10 metres beyond the boards/sidelines and about 30 metres behind the goal line.
- (b) No person is allowed on the ground during play for any purpose whatsoever except the Players and Umpires. A Player requiring a stick, pony or other assistance from an outside person must ride to the boards/sidelines or back lines to procure it. No person may come on to the ground to assist.
- (c) No person or pony is allowed within the safety zone during play except those playing, Umpires, Referee, Goal Judges, Polo Manager and Stick Holders.
- (d) Any player sent off must return immediately to his/her pony lines; he/she must not remain in the safety zone.

**ANY PERSON INFRINGING THE ABOVE HPA RULES DOES SO ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY.**

**Dogs:**

24. If dogs are brought to the Polo ground they must at all times be kept under PROPER CONTROL and whilst play is actually in progress they MUST be kept either on a lead or shut up in a car. NB – This bye-law will be strictly enforced at all times.

**Amendments to these Rules:**

25. Any proposed amendments to these Rules must be submitted by resolution to the next AGM to be determined by the full Membership in General Meeting.