



THE INTERNATIONAL POLOCROSSE COUNCIL

**REVISED RULES
FOR HOSTING WORLD CUP EVENTS
and
Playing Rules for
World Cup, Quadrangular, Test Series and 7 or 8
Player Teams**

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All countries should be aware that the presentation of any international event, be it a World Cup or test series, must at all times be organised in a professional manner, bearing in mind that these events are to showcase Polocrosse to the World.

These rules are intended as minimum requirements for hosting an international test series and should in no way inhibit new and innovative ideas that the host nation may wish to include in the event.

Event application

1. Prior to being awarded an International Event, all interested countries must make application for the right to host a World Cup. The interested countries must brief The International Polocrosse council prior to being awarded the event on all matters pertaining to the following issues:
 - a. Proposed venues;
 - b. Location;
 - c. Playing fields. It is recommended there be a minimum of two plus one practice field of the same surface (turf). One field should be capable of being played during wet weather;
 - d. Workforce being employed to host the event;
 - e. Social Program;
 - f. Trophies - they should be of a standard befitting such an event; and
 - g. Accommodation - sufficient to accommodate all participating countries delegations.

Event Management

2. An IPC Events Committee, comprising of the IPC President, the host country President or their nominee, the chief horse co-ordinator and the draw representative and one other appointed person by the IPC. This committee will be formed to oversee the running of the event and shall act as the adjudicator in the event of a dispute but will not get involved with the everyday running of the event.
3. The IPC President, or their nominee, must inspect the venue 12 months prior to the hosting of the event. Should preparations for the event not be up to a suitable standard or other circumstances make the event unsafe, the IPC President, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, has the right to veto the proposed event and award the event to another country capable of hosting it.

Event Protocol

4. All Life Members and Presidents of all voting countries shall be provided with guest passes if they are to visit the event.
5. Invitations to VIP's to be at the discretion of the host nation and the IPC President.
6. Players and officials of the participating countries teams and their spouses, together with sanctioned guests, are to be provided with passes that will give them entry to the event and all sanctioned functions, without charge.

Umpire Committee

7. The IPC Umpire Convenor or their nominee, is to be responsible for the convening of an "Umpires Committee" comprising of :
 - a. the IPC Umpire Convenor or their nominee;
 - b. host nation Chief Umpire or their nominee; and
 - c. a nominee selected by the participating countries.

The Umpires Committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the conducting of the International Polocrosse Rules and umpiring at the event. In the event where a conflict of interest occurs the nominee will be appointed to maintain independence.

Disputes Committee

8. The Disputes committee will comprise:
 - a. IPC member or his/her nominee – nominated by IPC;
 - b. Host Nation President or his/her nominee; and
 - c. IPC Umpire Convener or his/her nominee.
9. Disputes must be lodged to the match referee no later than one hour after the game.
 - a. A team wishing to lodge a complaint must submit the complaint in writing setting out the details. This letter must be signed by the team captain and team manager.
 - b. Should the Disputes Committee be convened, then the complainant team's captain and coach plus any umpires involved, must appear before the disputes committee.
 - c. A team, player or official being cited for misbehaviour on or off the field shall be asked to appear before the Disputes committee to hear and answer the charges being laid against them in accordance with the rules laid down by the IPC.

In the event where a conflict of interest occurs the nominee will be appointed to maintain independence.

Match Committee

10. The Match committee will comprise:
 - a. IPC Umpire Convenor
 - b. Draw Representative
 - c. Host Field Manager
11. The draw shall be conducted and drawn up by the host country but should a country dispute such a draw they can put their case to the IPC Events committee.
12. The IPC secretary shall be the only person authorised to distribute the draw to participating countries.
13. Nominations are required one hour prior to match. At this time:-
 - a. Managers deliver team nominations.
 - b. Choose ride on ends.
 - c. Exchange of team names.
 - d. Match committee to verify nominations.
 - e. Team names available for horse co-ordinators and announcer.
 - f. Official score sheet plus team nominations.
 - g. Team appointed scorers receive copy of score sheet.
 - h. Umpires and Referee names available to teams.
 - i. Field Officials appointed.(20/26)

Playing Fields

14. Each playing field shall have a field manager who shall report to the Umpires Committee.
15. All playing fields to be identified by colour.
16. All playing fields are to be properly marked at all times in accordance with the IPC rules.
17. All playing fields are to have scoreboards, and the host shall ensure that the scores are posted throughout the tournament.
18. The draw must be displayed as closely as possible to the administration centre.
19. Test Competition. Draw and playing fields etc to be clearly documented.

Field Officials

20. Each game shall have one representative from each country participating in a game to oversee the scoring and time keeping of that game. Should a country not have qualified representative when the Umpires Committee can appoint such persons.

21. Scorecards shall have provision for the order in which the players take the field, with the captain similarly identified.
22. Score sheet – Team managers must sign the score sheet after the game in the presence of the referee. If any disputes arise they must be handled by the referee.
23. Teams appointed observer for score table.
24. Goal Umpires shall be dressed in approved uniforms.
25. Each country to supply two goal wavers for their game.
26. Host Nation – Official time keeper and official scorer to be appointed. (preferably the same persons for all the test matches and must be experienced.)

Team protocol

27. All players, coaches and umpires to have name tags which shall be worn at all official functions.
28. All countries shall register their colours to the IPC prior to the event and compete in the colours nominated.
29. Team members managers, coaches, and umpire to be named 12 weeks prior to the tournament date this allows for:
 - eligibility of team members
 - uniforms (blazers, colours)
 - travel vaccinations
 - horse preparation
 - travel arrangements
 - accommodation/billets
 - player and travel officials' information
 - promotions and sponsorship
 - programs
30. The names and details of all players and officials shall be published in the official program.
31. When there is a meeting to brief participating countries, Team Managers, Team Coaches, Team Captains and Horse Co-ordinators shall be invited.
32. All teams competing at the Event shall take part in the grand parade or ain any other promotional activity approved by the IPC.
33. All games shall start at the published time.
34. The selection of awards shall be carried out by persons approved by the IPC.
35. Judges of awards shall not be umpires of games at the tournament.

36. Should a best presented team trophy be provided, the trophy shall be awarded on the basis of the presentation of the relevant teams throughout the tournament, including, but not exclusively, their appearance in the grand parade.

Horse Welfare

37. The host shall provide a nominated suitably qualified veterinarian.
38. All matters regarding horse welfare are to be referred to the approved veterinarian.
39. All horses shall be taken to a central veterinary inspection station. In the event that a horse is incapacitated the veterinary surgeon must be requested to attend. A horse float or suitable transport for sick or injured horse must be available at all times, so that horse can be loaded, supported, moved to the inspection station and attended by the vet.
40. No calls for veterinary surgeons to attend to horses shall be placed over the public address system.

Player Welfare

41. The host shall provide a doctor who shall be approved by the IPC.
42. Ambulance officers and fully equipped Ambulance should be in attendance while all games are being played. Should the Ambulance be required to leave the event all games will cease until an Ambulance is present.

Horse Pool Guidelines

43. Three competent horsemen shall comprise overall horse pool co-ordinators and shall be responsible for selection of horses, horse pool draw and overall horse welfare prior to the draw.
44. Horses will be graded and placed in a pools of even strength.
45. All horses must be clearly numbered with a peroxide brand.
46. For all international polocrosse events there will be two horses per pool per player. It is noted that, smaller countries can apply to the IPC for an exemption to this ruling.
47. The host nation will appoint a Chief Horse Co-ordinator.
48. Team members must present their drawn pool of horses for vetting.

Horse Draw

49. Horse Draw:
 - a. Draw for position in draw.
 - b. Draw for pool horses.

50. Once teams have received their pool of horses, and all horses have been vetted sound, no replacement horse/s will be provided if any horse is vetted out.
51. Once there is a minimum of 5 horses in either the ladies or men's pool, we bring in the match committee to supply an additional horse.
52. Two vets to assess the horses at the vet check. The countries do not have the right to accept a horse, the decision is up to the vets. Should the two vets not agree a third vet will be consulted.
53. No lame or unfit horses as determined by the vets to be accepted by any country, the horses will be removed from the pool for the duration of the tournament.
54. All horses must be made available for a minimum of a full four days before the test match.
55. All participating countries shall be provided with a pool horse co-ordinator to oversee the management of all horses assigned to them by the host nation.
56. All teams shall be allowed one hours and thirty minutes per day to ride all horses in their pool. If a horse is vetted out it must be walked daily or treated as per vet instruction.
57. A full background history including details of any medication being administered to the horse must be made available to the Chief Horse Co-ordinator.
58. The Chief Horse Co-ordinator shall have access to all horses at all times throughout the series.
59. The Horse Co-ordinator Committee shall make the final decision on any matter concerning the horses.
60. The host nation's players are permitted to play on his/her owned horse.
61. No horse shall be ridden without the Pool Horse Co-ordinator present.
62. Horse gear supplied by the owner must be used.
63. Only the players in the team shall ride the horses.
64. No horses from outside the pool shall be ridden by the players or officials.
65. Ladies horse pool is for ladies only.
66. Men's horse pool is for men only.
67. Ladies & mens sections only.
68. Teams will be represented by Manager/Coach rather than by the Manager in any horse management issue.

Playing Rules

69. At international tournaments all chukkas will be 8 x 6 minutes unless otherwise agreed by competing countries.
70. At World Cups and Quadrangular series, the chukkas will be 6 x 6 minutes until the semi finals, from which will be 8 x 6 minutes.
71. Team nomination to state:
 - a. Player, Horse and Position.
 - b. Reserve lady player and horse, reserve male player and horse.
72. Team must ride on as nominated.
73. Eight Players, 4 women and 4 men in a mixed team may be used in any position in mixed sections during the course of the match providing that:-
 - a. The members of the commencing team be clearly indicated with 4th lady and 4th man named, together with the horses name.
 - b. No interchange between men's and ladies chukkas – horse or players.
74. Should a player be injured during the game then this game will be completed with 3 players. The 4th player and 4th horse must be named and ready to take to the field. Should a second injury occur, then a replacement would be permitted as is allowed for in the rules.
75. Once a replacement player is used then he/she can only be replaced/changed by the original player if a doctor's certificate is supplied.

Interchange of Horses

76. Interchange of pool horses may only occur after chukka two and from then on between chukkas. The fourth horse and rider combination must have played a chukka (or part of a chukka) for this horse to be available to the players. i.e. this will allow all pool horses to be used during a game. (seventh player and horse must have played a chukka or part of for their horse to be available to other players)

In case of injury to horse or rider the 7th or 8th Player must take the field at the two minute mark. (Should the player be unable to continue the reserve player must ride on)
77. Abuse and mistreatment of a horse by a player will lead to the removal of the horse from the pool with no replacement forthcoming.

Rules that have been removed for these events

The following rules have been changed or over ruled to allow for these competitions:

Rule 3 (a) (b) remove

One horse per player

- 3 (a) *Only one horse shall be allowed each player in any one tournament, or match, except in the case of accident or injury to a horse, when a substitute is permissible with permission of the Tournament Disputes Committee. Two players may not ride one horse.*

Substitute Horse

- 3 (b) *If a player or horse is injured, a period of up to 10 minutes may be allowed for recovery otherwise a named horse/rider or a substitute horse/rider shall take their place. The Captain of the affected side may immediately re-organise the players of the affected section. The original horse or player may be replayed if considered fit by a vet or a doctor. All reserve horses shall be immediately available but at the umpire's discretion a period of up to 10 minutes may be allowed for a substitute horse to take the field.*

Rule 4 (c) remove

- 4 (c) *In the event of the umpire or a vet declaring a horse unfit to play due to stress and a replacement horse coming in the opposing section has the option of also bringing in a fresh horse. These horses will be played for the remainder of the tournament.*

Rules 5 (b) remove

Substitute Player

- 5 (b) *If a player or horse is injured, a period of up to 10 minutes may be allowed for recovery otherwise a named horse/rider or a substitute horse/rider shall take their place.*

Rule 8 (a) remove

Players

- (a) *A team shall be limited to six a side, consisting of two sections of three players in all matches. These sections shall play alternate Chukkas and the total score of the two sections make up the final score except in the case of Penalty 4.*

Rule 9 (a) & (b) & (d) remove

9. *Nomination of Sections*

- (a) *The team captain shall nominate the team, section order and the position of play to the umpire immediately prior to any match and ride on from opposing ends chosen by the toss of a coin when requested to do so by the umpire.*
- (b) *For international matches or when required, this should be completed two hours before the game starts. The details are to be placed in sealed envelopes and handed to the referee and are not to be opened until both are to hand.*

Mixed Teams Played

- (d) *Once nominated for their first match, the players in a team shall play within that section throughout the remainder of that tournament. This shall not apply to international competition.*

Rule 13 remove

13. *Doubling up of Players*

When only five players are available to play, the team is made up by one player playing two horses, one in each section:-

- (a) *Only at the discretion of the tournament or game organisers is doubling up possible.*
- (b) *The team concerned must accept any available surplus player of a similar grade at a tournament or competition providing that a player is available before the commencement of the tournament or competition.*
- (c) *When doubling up occurs the player that is playing in both sections must play at the No 2 position in one section.*
- (d) *Doubling up can only occur with one player i.e. 5 players in a team are the minimum.*
- (e) *Associations and clubs fielding more than one team at a tournament must where a vacancy exists in their teams, fill their strongest graded team first.*

Rule 14 (c) remove

14. *Referee*

- (c) *The referee shall be appointed by the tournament organising committee or host country.*

Rule 17 (a) remove

17. *Duration of Play*

- (a) *The maximum duration of play shall be eight chukkas of eight minutes each with intervals of two minutes after each period. Each section shall play alternate chukkas. A representative from each Team in consultation with the Tournament Committee to decide one hour prior to the start of the game the length and number of chukkas to be played. Each section of the team shall change over and play in the opposite direction in successive chukkas. If agreement cannot be reached the match referee to make the final decision.*