



Patrons

His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retr)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Mr. Max Walters, A.M., M.B.E

Dear Polocrosse Members

I am writing to let you know that on the weekend of 14th and 15th of June the State and Territory Chief Umpires and the National Chief Umpire held their biyearly meeting in Canberra.

During what was a very long but productive weekend the decision to formulate a National Umpire Committee was implemented. The purpose of this Committee is to support the National Chief Umpire in administering and coordinating all umpiring activities, highlighting the profile of Umpiring in Australia and ultimately create a succession plan.

The committee comprises:

- Mr David Sillis – National Chief Umpire
- Mr Phil Day – Deputy National Chief Umpire
- Mr Richard Murrell – Tasmanian Chief Umpire
- Mr Kent Wells – Queensland Director of Umpiring

Listed below are areas of concern, that the meeting agreed, require addressing nationally. Your assistance in resolving these issues, as soon as possible, would be appreciated.

1. Wild Swinging - Far too many people are wild swinging or swinging from too far back. (Rule 46)
2. Dangerous Riding - Players are riding into horses at dangerous angles. (Rule 40)
3. Retaliation - We have a zero tolerance to any player taking matters into their own hands.
4. Doubling Up is Not allowed . A player may only double up when all spare players are used and the only alternative for a team to participate is a player to double up. This must happen in the lowest team and is preferred if someone doubles up from within that team. (Rule 14)
(This excludes Nationals and State Championships).
5. Players must let the Umpires do their job and not place undue pressure on them by bad behaviour.
6. Players should treat Umpires how we like to be treated when we are umpiring.
7. Players can apologise to fellow players and Umpires (a little bit of humble pie goes a long way).

8. Dogs are banned from Polocrosse. Dogs refers to domestic and wild dogs big and small. Except registered Guide and Companion Dogs.

If members, this includes playing and non-playing members, disregard this directive then they will be suspended from attending or participating at the next Tournament.

9. Umpire Dress and Duties: correct dress must be adhered to at all times. If Umpires fail to adhere to the correct dress or fail to arrive for Umpiring duties, or arrive late, then they may be charged under the Set Penalties – Act of Misconduct.

The National Umpire Committee and your Chief Umpire wish to draw attention to the attached Set Penalties Sheet which has been included in the 2008 revised edition of the Rule Book.

You are being encouraged to familiarise yourself with these penalties and take whatever steps necessary for you to comply with them.

Please understand that the meeting unanimously agreed to focus on *getting back to the Rule Book*, i.e. acquaint yourself with the Rules, if the Rule Book says it can't be done, then it **Can't Be Done!** If members choose to ignore the Rules then we will be forced to Cite them under the PAA Set Penalties.

Knowing the Rules...Abiding by the Rules...makes for an enjoyable and safe environment for everyone!

Yours Sincerely

David Sillis
Australian Chief Umpire

3 July 2008





Set Penalties

1. Umpires or Clubs may report an incident to be investigated by State or National Umpiring Committees in writing for consideration of a set penalty.
2. The Umpire, the charged Player or any other person or club involved in the incident have the right to request that the report be referred to the tribunal.
3. Should a report be received without this sheet attached it will be assumed that one of the parties involved requires that the charge proceed.
4. The parties involved in the incident have, until 5.00pm on the following working day of notification the opportunity to change their decision and request that the matter be referred to the Tribunal. (Via the State Association)
5. If a player does not accept the set penalty and wishes to have it heard by the Tribunal and the Tribunal finds the player guilty, the Tribunal will be free to apply any sentence it sees fit under the circumstances.
6. State Umpiring Committee has seven working days from the end of the tournament to cite a player with a set penalty. The player will be notified via their Club President. The player then has 24 hours to request a tribunal hearing over the set penalty, if the player loses the additional penalty will apply.
7. 1 week constitutes a week in which your club participates in a tournament.

NOTE: Any "Tribunal Hearings" will be conducted by telephone-conference (minimum cost \$120) at the expense of the person calling for the "Tribunal Hearing" (and only AFTER receipt of the minimum \$120 fee payable to the Association, to conduct the hearing).
The 'set penalties' will be administered for the following offences and in the following manner.

Explanation	Penalty	Additional
		Penalty
using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an Umpire or Official – grade 1 - grade 2	2 week 4 weeks	Plus 2 week Plus 4weeks
using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to another player – grade 1 - grade 2	1 week 2 weeks	Plus 1 week Plus 2 weeks
disputing a decision of an umpire	1 week	Plus 1 week
striking another person – grade 1 (SINGLE STRIKE IN ANY FORM)	2 weeks	Plus 2 week
striking another person – grade 2 (MULTIPLE STRIKES IN ANY FORM)	4 weeks	Plus 4 weeks
horse abuse – grade 1 - grade 2	1 week 2 weeks	Plus 1 week Plus 2 weeks
Substitution of horse or player without the correct authorization	1 week	Plus 1 week
failing to leave the playing field when directed to do so by the umpire	2 weeks	Plus 1 week
any act of misconduct – grade 1 - grade 2 - grade 3	1 week 2 weeks	Plus 1 week Plus 2 weeks
Physical abuse of any Official (minimum 2 years) – TO BE HEARD BY THE PAA.	Tribunal Hearing	Tribunal Hearing

Reported Players Name _____ Club _____

I hereby agree to accept the set penalty as indicated above YES / NO Signature _____

Witness Players Name _____ Club _____

I hereby agree with the set penalty as indicated above Signature _____

Reporting Umpire _____ Signature _____