

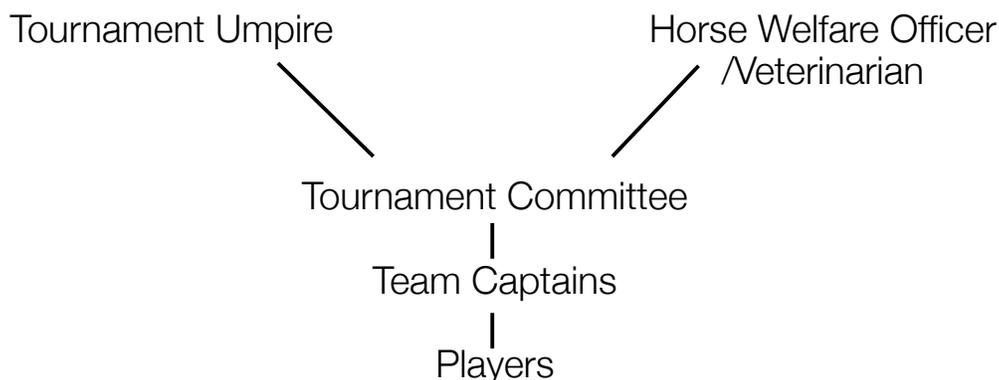
THE HORSE WELFARE POLICY

This policy is effective upon arrival at the tournament venue.

Horse Welfare Officers are selected by the tournament committee to oversee the safety of horses, both playing and umpiring. Horse welfare is everyone's concern. This policy is intended to be educational and is intended to ensure our playing partners are humanely cared for.

Please read the guidelines and bring any breaches of code to the attention of the Horse Welfare Officer.

Schematic of chain authority for the welfare of horses at tournament!



Penalties for Infractions of Horse Welfare

Action 1 – Education: At the first infraction the Horse Welfare Officer speaks to the offending rider/owner and forms a plan of action to correct the problem.

Action 2 – If the plan of action is not being followed:

A) If the rider/owner did not understand the plan of action the Horse Welfare Officer will review it with them.

OR

B) If there has a deliberate failure by the offender to correct the problem the rider/owner will be ejected from tournament play until the corrective plan is in place and working.

Action 3 – Emergency: If a player is about to start a game on a horse that for some reason (colic, heat exhaustion, poor condition, injury, etc.) should not be on the field the Horse Welfare Officer will explain the problem to the rider/owner and pull the horse from play until the problem is resolved.

Action 4 – Repeat infractions: If a player continually breaks the welfare policy (unfit horses; horses left without water; pens insufficient to restrain horses; inhumane treatment of horses on the field; etc.) the APA board will hold a meeting with the offender and after hearing evidence from both sides of the complaint will determine a suitable course of action. The penalty assessed may include fines or ejection from the APA, depending on the severity of the complaint.

Action 5 – At Horse Welfare Officer's Discretion: The Horse Welfare Officer has the right to stop a horse from playing or umpiring when continued use is not in the best interest of the horse (behavioral issues, etc.). Appropriate penalties may be assessed later.

HORSE WELFARE GUIDELINES

Horses must not be **hit with a polocrosse racquet** on any part of the body. This also applies to practice/training sessions.

No **excessive use** of spurs or whip. This also applies to practice/training sessions.

If a rider has caused a **spur related injury** to his or her horse, their spurs must be removed.

No horse may compete or umpire if **lame**.

Horses should have **proper hoof care**.

No horse should be played or umpired on if more than **120 days pregnant**.

No horse may compete if showing signs of **extreme exhaustion**. This may be exhibited by inability to recover to a safe heart and respiration rate, or a loss of coordination and inability to sweat. Any horse excused from play for this condition may not return to play for the duration of the tournament.

Any horse that bleeds from both nostrils (possible **Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage**) must be examined by a qualified veterinarian. If there is not a vet available the horse must be removed from competition. The affected horse may not return to play until the rider/owner is able to provide proof of an examination by a vet stating that the horse is fit to play. If a horse has more than one episode of EIPH it will be banned from playing polocrosse.

Any horse suspected of "**Tying Up**" must be examined by a qualified vet. If a vet is not available the horse must be removed from competition. An affected horse may not return to play for the duration of the tournament unless the owner/rider is able to provide proof of an examination by a vet stating that the horse is fit to play.

No horse showing signs of a **contagious disease** or illness may be played. Any horse showing signs of illness must be isolated from other horses and removed from premises.

Pens or stalls should be large enough (12' X 12' recommended) to allow a horse to lie down and get up safely. The stalls and pens must be secure, and regularly cleaned out.

Horses must have access to **clean water** at all times.

Horses must have adequate **feed** available during each 24 hour day.

All horses should be **fed and exercised** properly for the level of polocrosse they will be playing.

Horses must be **properly cared** for at the end of each game – for example; hosed of or blanketed, etc.

Tails must be unbraided, at least from the dock down, between games, unless the owner is able to provide adequate protection from flies with either fly spray and/or fly sheets.

The tail must be **completely unbraided** at the end of play each day.

All horses must be outfitted with **equipment** as stated in section 8 of the APA Rule Book.

Horses must have **leg wraps** removed between games. (Bandages for injuries are exempt from this rule.)

Bell boots must be removed after the end of play each day.

If weather is cooler than **40 degrees**, clipped horses must be blanketed.

If the **ambient temperature** on the day of competition is greater than 95 degrees, a committee consisting of the Horse Welfare Officer, the Tournament Committee and the Tournament Umpire will determine whether it is safe to continue play.

No horse may play more than a total of **54 minutes** per day.

Rest time between games – Based on level of play, it is strongly recommended in the upper levels that if the game is 4 chukkas of 6 or 8 minutes, a horse should have 2 hours between games. If the game has 6 chukkas of 6 minutes a the horse should have 3 hours between games.

Fields must be safe for competition. If there is any doubt, then a committee comprised of the horse welfare officer, tournament veterinarian (if attending), club and/or team captains, elected umpires (i.e. zone, state) and the host tournament committee will assess the field/s.