

# **AMERICAN POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY**

Revised November 2017

Members of the American Polocrosse Association understand that they represent polocrosse and the APA and agree to adhere to its rules, guidelines, and Code of Conduct at polocrosse events.

## 1. GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Members will:

- Place horses welfare above all other considerations. Animal abuse as identified by a doctor of veterinary medicine will not be tolerated;
  - Respect the local and federal laws at the venue and respect the person and property of others. This includes refraining from threatening, destructive, or abusive behavior;
  - Conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner;
  - Adhere to rules and guidelines of the APA rule book and the rules established by the Event Organizer;
  - Abide by the APA Alcohol Policy.
- Members are expected to conduct themselves at all polocrosse events in a manner which is in keeping with the guidelines and the Code of Conduct of the APA and will not bring discredit upon the APA or the sport of polocrosse.

## 2. ENFORCEMENT:

Event Organizers, acting in good faith, may take such action as is necessary to prevent inappropriate behavior from harming people or animals or disrupting the activity to the detriment of other participants including, but not limited to, suspending the participant from play or participation in event-related activities immediately. It is then the Event Organizer's responsibility to report the incident to the APA Grievance Panel.

Members who are not Event Organizers may also report incidents to the Grievance Panel.

The procedure for further enforcement is as follows:

1. The incident must be submitted to the APA Grievance Panel in writing.
2. Upon receipt and verification by the APA Grievance Panel, the panel may decide no further action is necessary or may issue a suspension of the offending person's membership beginning from the date of the incident to such a time as the panel sees fit, including a lifetime suspension. All decisions made by the panel will be submitted to the involved parties within 30 days of receiving the complaint.
3. Appeal of disciplinary action may be submitted upon receipt of the Panel's written decision. Any appeal must be made in writing to the APA Administrator within 30 days of notification by the grievance panel. The APA Board of Directors must act upon any appeal and notify the member of its action in writing within 30 days after receiving the written appeal. Suspension will remain in effect throughout the appeal process.

Persistent violations of the APA rules, guidelines or Code of Conduct may result in further suspension.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Printed  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_

## **ALCOHOL POLICY**

August 2001

Revised 2004, 2012, 2017

The APA policy is that members abide by local, state, and federal laws regarding alcohol consumption by minors at organized polo events in the United States. Members will abide by U.S. federal laws while representing the APA in foreign countries. The APA has zero tolerance for consumption of alcohol or controlled substances by minors or for adults supplying minors with controlled substances. This policy includes all minors, APA members or spectators. Any adult who is knowingly contributing to the violation of the policy by providing alcohol or controlled substances to minors will be subject to the same disciplinary action set out below:

1. Any infraction of the above policy shall be reported by a credible source to the event's organizer. If the event organizer finds the report reliable, the offending individual(s) will be immediately suspended from play and the incident shall be reported to the APA Grievance Panel in writing.
2. Upon receipt and verification by the APA Grievance Panel, the Panel shall suspend the offending individual's membership until such a time as the Panel sees fit as per the APA Code of Conduct.
3. Appeal may be made upon receipt in writing of suspension of membership. Any appeal must be made in writing to the APA Executive Administrator within 30 days of notification by the Grievance Panel. The APA Board of Directors must act upon any appeal and notify the member of its action in writing within 30 days after receiving the written appeal. Suspension will remain in effect throughout the appeal process.