

American Polocrosse Association - Umpire Program

Introduction

The sporting world as a whole relies heavily on umpires/referees to oversee things and see that games proceed within the context of the rules while maintaining a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. Polocrosse is unique in that our sport depends and looks to fellow players to volunteer part of their time spent at tournaments as umpires. The APA understands the value and importance of umpire education and development and recognizes that umpiring is an area with room for improvement. Good umpiring and officiating facilitates the game and ensures that the outcome is a direct result of the skills of horses and riders; whereas, poor umpiring and officiating leads to discreditable calls which detract from the contest and decreases enjoyment for all involved.

Objective

The American Polocrosse Association (APA) Umpire Program is designed to encourage umpire involvement and engagement while overseeing umpiring activity in our sport. The objective of the program is to educate and develop umpires in order to achieve a uniform standard of umpiring throughout the country, which in turn will promote safer, fairer, and improved polocrosse. The program is led by the APA chief umpire and the 3 APA zone umpires.

The APA Umpire Program is responsible for the following:

1. Ensuring that standards of play/rules are maintained.
2. Editing standards of play/rules as needed so as to stay current with changes in the game.
3. Oversee the development and administration of an umpire development program so as to increase the number/pool of certified umpires.
4. Promote and maintain a safe and enjoyable playing environment.

Umpire Program

The following items are required to participate in the program.

Associate Umpire (general interest in umpiring):

1. Inform the APA chief umpire of your desire to become an associate umpire (Rahul Desai - rpdesai09@gmail.com).
2. Be a current APA member in good standing.
3. Have played polocrosse for a minimum of 3 months, have a good understanding of the standards of play/rules, and be approved by the club coach or club leader.

4. If inexperienced in umpiring, be willing to participate in “umpire shadowing”.
 - a. At any tournament, register with the tournament umpire to be a “shadow umpire”.
 - b. Shadow umpires will tag along (mounted) with a more experienced umpire (of their choice) for any game and learn the ropes.
 - c. There is no limit on the amount of times one can be a “shadow umpire”.

Level 1 Certification (ability to umpire through C division effectively):

1. Complete a basic written test with a minimum passing score of 80%.
2. Have umpired a minimum of 3 tournament games with at least 1 of those having been observed by a zone umpire.
3. Be approved by the umpire panel.

Level 2 Certification (ability to umpire through B division effectively):

1. Meet all Level 1 requirements.
2. Be approved by the umpire panel.

Level 3 Certification (ability to umpire through A division effectively):

1. Meet all Level 1 - 2 requirements.
2. Be approved by the umpire panel.

Level 4 Certification (ability to serve as a tournament umpire):

1. Meet all Level 1 - 3 requirements.
2. Be approved by the umpire panel.

Level 5 Certification (ability to serve as an international level umpire):

1. Meet all Level 1 - 4 requirements.
2. Be approved by the umpire panel.

**** All Umpires (and players) are strongly encouraged to complete a free course on concussions and brain injuries using the website below and maintain “continuing education” by re-taking the course every two years.

- a. <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>
- b. Submit your certificate of completion to the APA administrator to the board (KarrieAnn Gaskin - admin@americanpolocrosse.org)