



### **'A' GRADE POLOCROSSE PLAYED IN SINGLE SEX SECTIONS ('MIXED')**

The UKPA proposes to play 'mixed' teams (men against men in one section and ladies against ladies in the other) in the 'A' grade at Nationals and is looking to see how the system can be run most effectively within the UKPA clubs as well and what support the clubs will need and what can be done to make it successful.

Our sport in the UK is the only full contact sport where men and women play on the field at the same time, and we believe this is not helping the growth and development of players and the sport itself. No other significant nation plays as we do.

There have been concerns raised that by playing women against men at this level it deters some women from playing due to the nature of the "men's" game. It would also allow the ladies to play more commonly in all positions as often the No1 position is taken up by men.

It may also allow the men to play at their full capacity without fear of endangering the safety of any ladies playing against them. No slight on the abilities of the lady players is intended, it's just a matter of playing style.

**The objective is for Men to play Men and Women to play Women.**

How can we achieve this?

To play A grade, the team usually has total grade points of 65+, we could break the points values down for each section by making the women's points equal 30 and men 33 [this is a guide]. This totals 63 as the minimum grade total for each team; we believe this will help develop the grade by allowing both sexes to play all positions.

When the system was first brought into Western Australia, to help get it started, a woman could play in the men's sections and if required an under 16 boy could be in the women's section [for the first year or so]. We could consider this if we need to if it was considered applicable.

The objective can be met in 2013 if the Nationals are agreed to be played this way and the clubs agree to play their A grade to this format.

We strongly recommend this for 2013 and then perhaps B grade later. The start of the 2013 season might be a bit unsettled but we hope the players and the clubs will quickly form their teams, where necessary.

We understand that any change will require adjustments, but hopefully, once players, coaches and clubs start to see how this helps the game the whole sport will be rejuvenated. The main stumbling block is likely to be if clubs have insufficient players to make up the necessary sections.

Please discuss this with your members and come with an open mind to the council meeting.