

# Off The Racquet

The Official  
Publication  
Of the  
American  
Polocrosse  
Association

The American Polocrosse Association; P.O. Box 158; Bonneau, SC 29431

[www.americanpolocrosse.org](http://www.americanpolocrosse.org)

December 2008/January 2009

## **President's Letter.....Nick Cheesman**

APA Membership,

Can any of you imagine reaching a polling station to vote for the President of our nation and only seeing one candidate on the ballot? Would you even vote?

The lack of interest and participation in serving the APA is concerning. Having said that the number of suggestions as to how the APA can serve the members continues to grow. The problem is apparent and now it is up to you as members of our association to stand up and do your part.

My term as President is quickly coming to an end and I am anxious to support Kellee Campbell in the upcoming term. The Association is financially sound, has several programs running well and continues to host and compete in polocrosse matches both in the US and internationally. One of Kellee's interests is to increase the development of our domestic playing base at all levels. Before asking ourselves when the first clinic will take place in our area we should instead start by sending a message to Kellee to see how we can help. I feel that one thing that the Association needs to keep in mind is that our growth takes place at the grassroots level and often that is overlooked and instead our emphasis is on particular tours and/or playing populations.

A special thanks should go to Laura Humphreys and Audrey Schmidt for their hard work and dedication to our Association and the support that they have provided to me throughout my term as President of the APA. Paul and Susan Johnson and their tireless efforts to create interest in the sport of polocrosse is unparalleled.

As an Association we have made great strides but we need to continue with more of the same. I look forward to reviewing the candidates for the Presidential Scholarship and announcing it in early January.

Have a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing everyone on the field!

—Nick

### **Election Results**

#### **Here are your new Board Members:**

Kellee Campbell, President  
Erica Vallee, Treasurer  
Donna Ellis, Board At Large  
John Jameson, Board At Large  
Alli Venne, Central Zone Representative  
Deb Zito, Eastern Zone Representative

We thank the exiting Board Members for their time in helping the APA; and we welcome in the new Board Members for their term years of 2009—2010. Let's all support our new Board in APA work.



#### **The News For You:**

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### **2009 Membership**

There is a membership form in this issue (page 7), and the forms can also be found on the APA website, [www.americanpolocrosse.org](http://www.americanpolocrosse.org). Membership for 2009 will be at the regular price until January 31<sup>st</sup>. After January 31<sup>st</sup>, there is a late fee for those who are renewing, even if they are a day member first. Brand new members pay the regular fee whenever they join. You can also pay your membership online too!

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# UMPIRE NEWS.....Amy Keith

## THE ADVANTAGE OF SAFETY:

Recently I was asked a question by a certified umpire that made me believe that there may be confusion or misunderstanding about the advantage rule. The certified umpire suggested that the advantage rule should be abolished because it allowed dangerous play to continue -- such as crossing or riding over the back of a horse. The answer to this question is not the abolishing of the advantage rule but rather understanding that dangerous play should never be allowed to continue under the advantage rule.

There are two aspects to the concept of the advantage rule. First, the idea is that if a foul is committed against a team in possession of the ball and the foul is not dangerous, the umpire may elect to let the game continue rather than potentially disadvantaging the team in possession by requiring them to take a penalty throw. (See Rule 5.2.2 and the Guideline following on page 20 of the Rulebook). An example of this is when a player down hits or hits from the wrong side of a horse but does not dislodge the ball from the team in possession. In that situation, an umpire may elect not to stop the game but should call out "advantage", let the play continue and then should warn the infracting player as the players approach the line up. An umpire should never allow dangerous play to continue under the idea of allowing advantage -- as the guideline clearly points out.

Another aspect of the concept of advantage is where an umpire places the ball after a penalty. When a team in possession is fouled, whether a dangerous foul or not, and an umpire feels that it would take away the advantage that team had by marking the spot where the foul was committed, the umpire should move the ball down the field in order to reflect the advantage or momentum the team in possession had at the moment they were fouled. (See Note and Guideline under Rule 12, page 56 of the Rulebook).

So where do you mark the spot when you are giving advantage? That is where umpire discretion comes in. As Chief Umpire, I recognize and would advise umpires to mark the spot in one of four points depending on the foul, severity of the foul and whether or not the foul has been repeatedly exhibited. The first spot is the point at which the foul occurred which assumes the umpire does not believe advantage should be given. The second two points would be at the 30 yard line -- and here the umpire might mark it on or

inside the 30 depending on whether the umpire believes that the advantage rule should allow a player to take a shot on goal while executing the penalty throw. A fourth point would be at the top of the 11 yard circle giving advantage to the fouled team by marking the ball only 11 yards from the goal regardless of where the penalty occurred. I do not recognize the middle of the field as being a point to which a ball would or should be marked for the purpose of advantage. This recently came up in an international match where I was serving as the table umpire and over-ruled one umpire when he moved the spot up to midfield rather than to the fouled-team's 30 yard line.

I hope this helps to clarify the way that I see the advantage rule as it should be used in our rules of play. It was not the intention of the advantage rule that dangerous play such as crossing or riding over the back of a horse be allowed to continue under the guise of advantage.

Since I wrote this on All Saints Day, let me take this time to mention folks who have gone before in building these rules, guidelines and interpretations. Our first Chief Umpire of the APA was Derek Miller, an Australian who lived for a time in the Phoenix area. Derek did a tremendous amount of work to get these rules approved and enforced -- as well as a lot of promotion of polocrosse in general. Following Derek as Chief Umpire was Jim Hendricks, Danny Byrd, Jim Hendricks for a second time, Adam Redman, Britt Lovelace, Ryan Murphy and Britt Lovelace again.

In addition to the thankless work of these folks, several people have contributed a great deal to these rules either as umpire panel members or by contribution as individuals and I would like to thank them: Barry Dyer, Mike Underwood, Paul Johnson, John Jameson, Laura Humphreys and David Brooks. I am sure that I have left out a lot of "Saints" who have helped contribute to the rules and interpretation. Please know that such an omission was unintentional.

Last of all, we all umpire, we all have responsibility to keep the game safe and fun. Have respect for your umpires and thank them after they perform the service of umpiring your game.

—Amy Keith  
APA Chief Umpire, 2008

Rulebooks—After our rulebooks were printed, it was noticed that (possibly during some formatting problems with the printers) a rule had been dropped during the printing process. Chief umpire Amy Keith and the Umpire Panel have come up with wording they wanted for that rule. It will be put on a label and inserted into the books before they are sent out. Another road block (there have been a few, and the process long), but all members will get one.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## From the USPC Liaison.....Jessie Reed

USPC Polocrosse Committee's Exciting News!!!! Hey Everyone, just wanted to bring you up to date on Pony Club and new rules and changes in the committee... first of all I would like to let everyone know that the committee has some really great new and also enthusiastic old members and we have been making great progress in the last year with rule changes and the growth of polocrosse in Pony Club....

I have been appointed USPC Polocrosse Chair of the Polocrosse Committee- so if you need anything – please contact Jessie Reed, 267-246-7482, or email me [bucks-polocrosse@yahoo.com](mailto:bucks-polocrosse@yahoo.com)

2010- World Equestrian Games- There will be polocrosse represented in pony club- WE need players in pony club that are interested in doing the demo to come forward- please contact me.

Some USPC polocrosse rule changes- please read the rule book when it will be published and posted online in January 2009....

- For Championships– age and rating's have changed because of the dynamic of competitors that have been playing polocrosse for the past couple of years: This is for USPC Championships only-
- Novice- D3 & 11yrs as of Jan. 1
- Intermediate- C1& age 12
- Advanced- C1 & age 13: There is a new guideline chart of what you should be expected to be able to perform at each level- this will give everyone an idea of what level they should play at as well as give players goals to achieve for the next level. YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY CHECK THAT OUT...Because of this guideline chart- the Australian stock saddle is allowed for Intermediate level and above!!!! The stock saddle must have English leathers and irons and no horn, etc.... This is a big deal rule change. In doing so, we hope that the level of play and quality of movements increase as well as keeping older pony clubbers playing!
- Also– Horse Division and Pony Division has changed in height- a horse is considered 14 hands and bigger, a pony is considered 14.3 and smaller. This will give a little room for those horses that are safe in both divisions. There are horse and pony divisions for intermediate and advanced.- so get your pony teams and your horse teams for 2009!
- The other BIG RULE CHANGE IS: How to qualify for Championships– polocrosse in Pony Club is starting a growth period from dropping off in numbers in the past couple of year. There are regions in Pony Club that are trying to grow but need some help. Rallies are the competitions that Pony Clubbers compete at in order to qualify. In the past several years there have been several rallies canceled because of low numbers and then

that creates doubt for polocrosse to continue in Pony Club.... We are working very hard to grow polocrosse, but we need everyone to get on the same page and push and try again. Please, if your region is interested in having a rally or getting started, please contact me- so we can get clinics and players excited and wanting to go to Champs. So- to hopefully grow polocrosse and get players excited and wanting to go to Champs and able to go to Champs cause they were able to qualify- we have changed the way you can qualify for Champs. **THIS IS ON A 1YEAR TRIAL PERIOD- so use it and qualify and go to champs and represent polocrosse in a national competition!** PLEASE READ THE RULE BOOK- there are new ways to qualify- on a Competition Team or a Stable Management Team- being held in conjunction with an APA tournament- the stable management team will allow if there is one advanced or intermediate player in the region to qualify by going through the stable management part of the rally, but compete with their APA tournament team to fulfill the competition part-There is also a way to qualify by competing at two APA sanctioned tournaments and also going through stable management from a rally- this is by permission only from your RS and should only be requested if your region did not have a rally to go to and the other rallies were too far to travel to..

**SO, EVERYONE TAKE A LOOK AT THE USPC POLOCROSSE RULE BOOK BEFORE STEPPING OUT THIS YEAR TO RALLY. It will be posted on the USPC website- [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org), go to disciplines, click on Polocrosse.**

The USPC Annual Meeting- January 23-27- Ryan Murphy, Rahul Desai, & Jessie Reed will be giving seminars throughout the meeting. We hope that maybe an equipment company might be interested in having a booth??? The meeting is in Greenville, SC- so Carolina's get ready for some polocrosse growth!

The list of the new 2009 Committee members will be posted in January.

Also- there is a yahoo group- polocrossenponyclub – look it up and join.

-Thanks for reading- Jessie

# TOURNAMENT NEWS

## Bay Area 'Civil War' Tournament Results

### A Grade:

1st: Spring Valley: Jeff Thompson, Patrick O'Reilly, Sara Cifelli  
2nd: Bucks County: Jessie Reed, Victoria Prince, John Ryan  
3rd: Carolina: Stuart Koury, Jamie Zito, Sarah Ferebee

### B Grade:

1st: Bay Area: Stef Freundlich, Jess Brown, Julia Hickok  
2nd: Mix Up: Dawn Oberdick, Nick Moebius, Adam Fay

### B Grade Green Horse:

1st: Sugarloaf Mt.: Nick Balogh, Dave Brooks, Shannon Molsky  
2nd: Charlie Horse A: Sarah Ferebee, Jamie Zito, Jim Last

### C Grade:

1st: Rocky Top & CPC: Dallas Phillips, David Thornton, Maura Thornton  
2nd: Bay Area: Michael Strider, Julia Hickok, David Lynn  
3rd: Bucks County: Heidi Stroh, Donna Ellis, Manya Deehr

### D Grade:

1st: Sugarloaf Mt./Bay Area: Peter Balogh, Evan Vallee, Emma Bellet  
2nd: Spring Valley: Lynn Thompson, Bob Glorioso, Judy Glorioso  
3rd: Bucks County: Halee Stroh, Gracie Gill, Kevin McPeek  
4th: Bay Area 3: Audra Campbell, Paige Vallee, Angela Campbell

## YOUR CONTACT INFO

Has your contact information changed? Please let the APA Secretary know by

Emailing the changes to:

lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org  
A member directory is planned to get to press this year and we'd like to get your information correct.

Thanks!

# ADMINISTRATIVE REMINDERS

## Sanctioning Your Tournament:

—A reminder: To sanction your club's tournament with the APA, you must fill out the sanctioning form and send in the deposit 60 days in advance of the tournament date. This allows for time to arrange umpire travel. Once you send in the sanctioning form and money; and it is approved, that is when the tournament becomes sanctioned. Don't make the mistake in thinking it is sanctioned because you have entered it onto the APA website. Postings on the website are mainly for announcement and informational purposes. Sanctioning forms are online under 'Forms'. They will also be sent by email to all clubs from the Secretary in January as a reminder. Sign the 2nd page; keep the 3rd.

—Cap fees and tournament information are due in at the APA office within 2 weeks from the tournament, or your club forfeits the \$100 sanctioning fee. This rule is on all sanctioning forms and in the tournament letter of instruction in the tournament packet.

—The names of members who pay for new or renewing memberships need to be emailed or telephoned in to the APA Secretary within 3 days of your tournament. Sometimes tournaments are on back to back weekends and updates need to be added for the next tournament's packet.

## Day Fees:

--A reminder: The Board voted in 2008 to allow the Day Fee to be used only once per player during the year. After that, joining as a full (new or renewing) member is required at sanctioned tournaments. Tournament Committees will know if a player has paid the day fee at a prior tournament if they see 'Day 09' in the 'Date Paid' column. The database is constantly updated with info given.



# AMERICAN POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION 2009

**Please complete clearly below: (All information will be sent to first name that appears on form)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ APA Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

Player \_\_\_\_\_ Non-player \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Membership:**(list spouse and/or children 17 and under with Birth Date) \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year; renewals are due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. After January 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be a 20% penalty late fee for renewing members. This is to encourage early membership renewal and help the administrative process. New memberships are pro-rated after October 1<sup>st</sup> to \$22.50 for Family; \$15.00 for Senior; \$7.50 for Junior.

<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (late fee after Jan 31 <sup>st</sup> )	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member (no late fee ever)	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you a Pony Club or 4-H Member?
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	(child 18 yrs. not included)... \$90.00	Yearly fees... <u>after January 31<sup>st</sup> renewal is \$108.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	(18 yrs. and older)..... \$60.00	Yearly fees... <u>after January 31<sup>st</sup> renewal is \$72.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior	(17 yrs. and under)..... \$30.00	Yearly fees... <u>after January 31<sup>st</sup> renewal is \$36.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	(newsletter only)..... \$30.00	Yearly charge
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Member	(no full membership benefits) \$20.00	<u>Allowed for one tournament per year</u>

Add'l Contributions to APA approved funds: Name of Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
(General Fund, Player Development Program, Coaching, Umpiring, Nationals)

The American Polocrosse Association offers to its membership, newsletters, rulebooks, coaching and umpire certification programs, eligibility to participate as a player in sanctioned tournaments, eligibility to compete in international competitions, a general liability insurance policy, and a commitment to promote the American Polocrosse Association.

**I, as a member, agree to abide by the By-Laws, the Code of Conduct and all Rules and Regulations of the American Polocrosse Association.**

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

The undersigned states the following: I acknowledge that the game of Polocrosse involves inherent risks of personal injury to me personally, my horse, and damages to equipment and property. Knowing and understanding this, I still desire to participate in and attend APA sanctioned events.

In consideration for my participation in and attendance to these events. I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and assigns, discharge and hold harmless; The American Polocrosse Association, the APA Club, its officers, directors, members and agents, and all other persons or organizations in any way connected with this event including, but not limited to properties, their owners and operators, their officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, heirs, administrators and assigns, from any and all rights, claims or liability for damages from any and all claims of any kind of nature, that might arise out of my participation in any activity in any way connected with this event or taking place upon the grounds.

I further acknowledge that this release will extend to any accidents, damages, or claims arising out of my participation, caused by my own act or the acts of anyone or any animal within my control.

I hereby certify that I am covered by medical, health and accident insurance and/or I am responsible for any costs I may incur for my own medical injuries.

By signing this release and waiver, I am assuming all risks of this activity in which I will be engaged and releasing all of the parties indicated above of any and all liability for their negligence of any description whatsoever. It is my intent to assume all risk and to waive and give up my rights (for myself and my heirs) to sue. And I do so knowingly and voluntarily.

**Parent or Guardian Release and Waiver** (Please list all minor members, in space below, whether player or non-player)

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
a minor, and on the minor's behalf, and on the behalf of all other parents and guardians, I accept the release and waiver of liability above as an inducement for allowing my child to participate in polocrosse games, practices and related activities. I further authorize any emergency medical care which may be necessary.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Send To Our Address:**

APA  
P.O. Box 158  
Bonneau, SC 29431

**Questions? Contact Laura Humphreys, APA Secretary at [lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org](mailto:lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org)**

**2008**

## **Sanctioning a Tournament with the APA**:(from the Agreement to Sanction an Event form)

- 1) To sanction a tournament; clubs must send this form to the APA office with a \$100 sanctioning fee deposit. A tournament is not considered sanctioned until the office receives both. Liability insurance for members and the property owner and a Tournament Umpire are provided by the APA.
- 2) The deadline for sanctioning forms and tournament invitations will be 60 days from the tournament. This is to allow for reasonable time to make umpire travel arrangements.
- 3) ***It is the responsibility of the registered club to collect any new or renewing memberships at the time of registration. If a player's name is not on the official APA membership list or if the date paid is not in the current year, they are not current with membership. The player must pay one of the three types of memberships. Your tournament contact will get an instruction letter with the APA information; please make sure this instruction sheet is given to the person responsible for registration at the tournament.***
- 4) Tournament committees must **email membership information** (names, type and amount paid) to the APA office at [lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org](mailto:lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org) **within 3 days of the event**. This allows us to give correct information to the next tournament.
- 5) **All tournament results, player's names, number of players, the grades in which they played, cap fees and membership dues (with forms) need to be sent to the APA office within 14 days.** *If not, the club forfeits their \$100 sanctioning fee.* The sanctioning fee will be returned if the receipt of cap fees and tournament information is within 14 days of the tournament.
- 6) Current cap fees will remain at \$8 per person if the APA receives the sanctioning form at least 60 days before the tournament. Cap fees will increase to \$13 per person if the APA receives the sanctioning form in less than 60 days. *(If there are any changes to this rule, all clubs will be notified)*
- 7) The APA requires tournaments for the Player Development Program international events to be sanctioned; but the host club may apply for a waiver of cap fees to the International Liaison and then the International Liaison will bring the waiver request to the Board for approval.
- 8) The Chief Umpire requests that clubs have 1 hour Friday night Rules Clinics at sanctioned tournaments. At least one team representative should attend.



**American Polocrosse Association**  
P.O. Box 158  
Bonneau, SC 29431