

# Aiken Polo Club

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- \* Membership is subject to the approval of the Membership Committee.
- \* All players prior to playing must sign a membership agreement and an indemnification release. The membership agreement and the indemnification agreement must be signed annually.
- \* All polo members of any category are responsible for the conduct of their employees, including, but not limited to, professional polo players, grooms and trainers, while on the Club grounds. For the purpose of these rules, "Club grounds" shall include all of the polo fields utilized by Aiken Polo Club during the polo season.
- \* The Club has established a set of rules and code of ethics which members and players should acquaint themselves with, as set forth in this manual. It is also the responsibility for all members and players to be familiar with and adhere to the rules and regulations of the United States Polo Association.
- \* Any complaints, suggestions, or constructive criticism regarding the operation of the Club shall be submitted in writing to the Polo Manager or the Board of Directors.
- \* No member of the Club staff shall be reprimanded or subjected to verbal abuse by a member or visiting player.
- \* In order to protect paying members, the Club does require that dues and fees be paid before playing.
- \* Aiken Polo Club will have certain committees to assist the polo manager. The Polo Manager has full authority to enforce all rules and regulations applicable hereto.
- \* The polo manager develops a season program of league and tournament games. These schedules will be distributed to all members in a timely fashion.
- \* The Club sets dues for the Polo season. The dues are reviewed and adjusted annually. Proceeds are used to operate the club, maintain the fields and improve the facility.

## **POLO RULES**

**The Aiken Polo Club is a private Club run for the members under the rules and guidelines of the U.S.P.A.**

\* Any violation of the Club rules and regulations or failure to comply with the decisions of the Polo Manager or the Disciplinary Committee may result in a warning, a fine, a suspension, expulsion, or any combination thereof. The type of action taken for a general rules violation is left to the sole discretion of the Polo Manager and the Disciplinary Committee.

\* The Club shall not be responsible for any injury incurred by a member, a member's guest, or member's employee, likewise, the Club shall not be responsible for any injury incurred by a player, player's guest or player's employee while on the Club grounds.

\* The Club shall not be responsible for the loss or damage of any property belonging to a member, a member's guest, or a member's employee. Likewise, the Club shall not be responsible for the loss or damage of any property belonging to a player, a player's guest or a player's employee.

\* In the event that a sponsored professional player employed by a member is suspended from play, the Club specifically disavows any responsibility for any cost, direct or otherwise, incurred by the player or the member sponsoring or employing said player.

## **PLAYERS**

\* All players of the Aiken Polo Club must be members in good standing with the United States Polo Association and must be rated prior to any league or tournament play. It is the responsibility of team captains or patrons to be sure that all team players are currently registered with the U.S.P.A.

\* All players and officials for all league and tournament games must wear white pants and boots.

\* Players shall not play in any event for more than one team.

\* The aggregate handicap of a team must fall within the limits specified for an event. A team whose handicap is higher or lower than the specified limits shall not be permitted to participate.

## **PLAYER CONDUCT**

\*The Disciplinary Committee will enforce the rules of sportsmanship and conduct on the playing field.

\* It is the intention of the Board of Directors that the Disciplinary Committee exercise broad discretion in fashioning appropriate adjudications under the rules of the U.S.P.A. and the Aiken Polo Club. It is recognized that each case brought before the Disciplinary Committee is unique. Aiken Polo Club hereby announces its intentions that the Disciplinary Committee will not be guided by disciplinary precedents that were set from past proceedings.

\*Captains ONLY are permitted to communicate with the umpires during the game.

**\* Any arguing, profanity, disrespectful conduct, rough or dangerous plays, refusing to play, or any other lack of sportsmanship will not be tolerated. VIOLATORS WILL BE SERIOUSLY PENALIZED.**

\* Any fines levied by the Disciplinary Committee must be paid prior to further play by the violator.

**\*Unsportsmanlike conduct and profane language on or off the playing field will not be tolerated. Membership rights may be rescinded immediately for any player in violation of this provision.**

**\* Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, actions or words directed to any official, player, spectator, or other person or mount on Club grounds that is typically or verbally threatening, assaulting, abusive, demeaning, obscene, profane, belligerent, or dangerous, or that violates standards of fair play or common decency generally accepted in the polo community.**

\* The illegal use of drugs or the abuse of alcohol by players or their employees is strictly prohibited.

\* It is strongly recommended that players bring and provide drinking water for their horses at all games and practices.

## **UMPIRES**

\*Umpires shall send off any horse found to be lame, out of control and/or dangerous.

\*It is the umpire's responsibility to report any unsportsmanlike conduct and the circumstances surrounding it to the Polo Manager as soon as possible.

\*Umpires have the exclusive authority over the entire game and are charged with the responsibility of executing their duties.

\*Umpires must be present 15 minutes prior to the game time and are responsible for

having suitable mounts.

\*The final decision of canceling a game in progress, due to weather, shall be determined by the game officials and/or tournament officials. The team captains may be consulted, but the game and tournament officials shall make the official decision.

## **LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY**

\* The opening and closing dates of the polo season are subject to weather and field conditions and may be altered at the sole discretion of management.

\* The Club schedules tournament and practice matches weekly for member participation throughout the course of the polo season.

\* All play during the season is contingent upon weather and field conditions and access to the fields may be restricted at the sole discretion of management.

\* U.S.P.A. Rules and Regulations will govern all tournaments and leagues, unless otherwise noted. All players are responsible for reading and understanding all U.S.P.A. and Club rules. The Tournament Committee has authority to revise and make rule decisions.

\* The draw procedure and playing format will be decided by the Polo Manager and not by the captains of the teams entered. Entry forms must be complete and entry fees paid in full prior to the draw. Entry forms are considered complete only if they are signed by the Captain, and include outdates for consideration. A team that withdraws form an event after the draw shall forfeit all fees and be subject to additional fines and/or suspension from the next event.

\* Leagues and tournaments must be completed by the scheduled dates, weather permitting.

\* Teams must play all of their league and tournament games regardless of their win/loss records so as not to unduly influence the rankings of remaining teams in the same tournament. Any team that withdraws without the approval of the Tournament Committee will be subject to severe fines and suspensions from future events.

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

\* Any time a substitution is to occur, the Polo Manager must be notified in advance and the person substituting must be a current U.S.P.A. member and sign a release.

\*Should a Full Playing Member be unable to play a tournament game or practice, he or she may substitute a qualified U.S.P.A. player from outside the club roster to take his place.

## **PRACTICE**

\* Practice matches are subject to availability of players, and may not be scheduled unless at least three players per side are available to participate.

\*The Polo Manager will use his or her best effort to schedule practice matches in accordance with field and player availability.

\*Each day a game schedule will be recorded on the information line. The tournament committee and Polo Manager will determine the schedule and field allocations, and playing times for all games. To schedule practice games, players must call the Polo Manager with the number of chukkers they desire, by 12:00PM the day before. (803-643-3611)

\* Tournament play takes priority over practice matches if scheduling conflicts arise.

\* Punctuality is essential for all practice and tournament matches. If a player is late, the ball may be thrown in and the game may be started without him or her. Player tardiness at any scheduled event may result in a fine of \$50 for each offense.

**\*All players must sign a release prior to playing.**

\* Members must notify the Polo Manager in advance of any non-member using the facilities and should understand that this is a privilege that can be revoked if abused.

\* Full dues paying members shall have the privilege of inviting guests to play in practice games. Each full dues paying member shall be limited to 3 guest passes per season. Every guest must be a member of the U.S.P.A. and sign a release.

\* Any groom practicing member's horses must be a USPA member and sign a release before practicing.

\*Aiken Polo Club may invite, under special circumstances, visiting teams or players to participate in any practice, league or tournament game.

## **TRASH**

\* Pick up bottles, cans, tail tape and trash in your trailer area after each game and instruct your grooms to assist in keeping these areas clean. Be sure you take your trash with you or put it in trash cans.

## **DOGS**

\*All dogs must be on a leash at all times on Aiken Polo Club property. A \$50.00 fine

will be imposed to the owner for the first offense and will double for each offense thereafter. All fines must be paid before the player's next game or practice.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Aiken Polo Club is a private Polo Club, which reserves the right to accept or refuse members at the discretion of the membership committee.

\* An application for membership must be submitted to the Club. All applications will be addressed within two weeks of receipt.

\* All players must sign a release waiver prior to playing and do so for each year. This waiver will also be required of grooms, guests and family who ride on Club grounds.

\* Members should carry medical insurance for themselves, their grooms and sponsored players.

\*Members and players are to conduct themselves in a manner, which will not interfere with other members' and players' enjoyment of the Club. Boisterous behavior and the use of obnoxious language are specifically prohibited.

\*For the purpose of these rules, the term "Club Grounds" shall include all polo fields utilized by the club.

## **NON-MEMBERS**

Members may invite a guest to stick and ball on a member's horse.

Non-Members must pay \$50.00 a day, \$300.00 a season, or \$500.00 a year for stick and balling privileges.

**A fee of \$10.00 per chukker is charged to all non-members in practice games**

## **WINTHROP FIELD**

\*Only Playing Members of Aiken Polo Club may stick and ball on Winthrop field

\* Members must abide by the rules set forth by the Winthrop Field Trust

## **VEHICLES**

\* No vehicles are permitted to make u-turns on any polo field.

\* **Violators will be fined \$100.00**

\* All tournament entry fees, completed entry form signed by the captain, and outdates for consideration must be submitted ten days prior to the tournament start date. Aiken Polo Club will not accept deposits for tournaments.

\*The Club does not encourage outdates, and is not obligated to accommodate teams; however we will try to assist teams under certain circumstances. The Team Captain (only) is responsible for submitting outdates for his or her team. The club will not consider any requests by individuals other than the team captain. These outdates need to accompany the entry form.