



Guidelines for Socially Distanced Polo

No More Throw-Ins

HPA has started playing polo in the UK with no throw-ins. Malaysia will do the same. The HPA new rules:

- Coin toss before the game begins. Winner of the toss chooses to hit or to receive.
- Match, and every chukka, starts with a Penalty 5(b) at the centre of the field.
- Every chukka starts with a 5(b) no matter where play stopped in the previous chukka.
- Teams change ends only after each chukka is over.
- If a goal is scored, the team that was scored against hits in from their own 60-yard line, still going in the same direction. The ball may be placed anywhere along the line that the hitting team chooses.
- If a penalty is sanctioned after the first bell, the penalty will still be taken in that chukker and play will continue till the second bell,
- Teams alternate taking the 5(b)'s at the start of each chukka. i.e. if Team A starts chukka 1, Team B will start chukka 2, and so on.
- No contact between players when the ball is out of play.

No Riding-Off

As no contact is allowed, no riding-off is allowed. It is possible to play polo without riding-off. By instituting a 3-hit rule that is similar to the walk and dribble rule, we can get players to release the ball.

3-Hit Rule

Once a player has possession of the ball, a player is allowed a maximum of 3 hits which shall be a combination of taps and full swings. After three hits, the player has to give up possession. If the player should take another hit, it would constitute a foul, and a penalty is awarded to the opposing team.

Contactless Polo

Players may not make any contact while the ball is out of play. If the 3-Hit Rule is applied, there is no need for contact to force a player to release the ball. Players can concentrate on where they think the next play is. It will be a good exercise in anticipation, and in making intelligent runs into space to receive the ball.

Hooking is Allowed

Hooking is still allowed. All the rules pertaining to hooking remain in force.

These guidelines are suggested to clubs that wish to play polo, and are in force until further notice.

Thank you.

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