

Melbourne City Polo Club  
VPA Championships  
28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2020



Welcome to the first of what we hope will be many successful tournaments to be held at Melbourne City Polo this season and into the future.

It's very exciting that the first tournament we are hosting is the VPA Championships. This year to commence the season we have ten teams competing, in 0, 4 and 10 goal tournaments, all on short notice. The VPA Champs has always been hotly contested with teams vying for the prestigious H.F Creswick Trophy for A Grade and the Stradbroke Cup for B Grade.

We are really looking forward to highly competitive games across the weekend.

#### **Melbourne City Polo Committee**

If you have any questions across the course of the weekend, please reach out to our Committee:

Troy McBean  
Luke Smallman  
Craig Taylor  
Luke/ Nicola Oleary  
Sam Gairdner  
Camilla Speirs  
Arthur Yenken  
Heleni Goodman

#### **COVID**

Obviously this year looks a little different with some additional protocols in place to allow us to play polo. As Melbourne City Polo is based at WPNEC, we are subject to their protocols and ours.

COVID Protocols for this tournament:

- QR Sign in as you come through the gate, this is a WPNEC initiative
- All Players and grooms must report to the club house on arrival to sign the COVID waiver and register their attendance.
- Masks must be worn if you enter the club house
- We encourage all players umpiring to bring your own umpiring jersey. If you don't have a jersey, the club will be issuing a High Vis vest to umpire in, it's important that this vest remains in your possession and isn't handed to someone else. If you have your own high vis vest, please bring.
- Hand Sanitiser will be available at the club house
- Social distancing on all occasions min 1.5m

#### **VPA Champs special Tournament Rules**

Please note the committee would like to reinforce the following tournament rules.

- All Pony entries to the fields must be from the K Road corner of Field 2, the middle road access to the field will be blocked off for pony access. This year we have several small children attending and for safety reasons we would like to keep horses well away from the club house where possible.
- Horse Whipping – it is strictly forbidden to remove your hand from the reins to whip a horse, if this occurs during a match, a RED Card will be issued without warning, and 2 minutes' penalty for



the offending player. There will be no warnings on this rule. Whipping with contact on the reins is permitted.

- Horse changes need to occur inside the 60-yard line.
- Lamé horses will not be permitted to take the field.
- Ponies are only permitted to play in the maximum number of chukkers as per the rule book for each grade.
- We are playing to the newly adopted Handicap Rules for team make up, please take note of below. We understand the challenges in the current market of assembling teams and the needs for players to play in multiple grades. Those players that have a higher handicap than the maximum required for a grade, have been approved to play but must provide the goal difference start to the opposing team of the amount their handicap exceeds the maximum handicap for that grade. Please see below for clarification:

The handicap limits on teams and individual players set out below apply for all tournaments. Any variations to these limits need to be approved by the host club's tournament committee. If the handicap of a player or players in a team has been raised during the season then:

1. A team will not be allowed to play over the handicap limit with a player raised mid-season without the permission of the relevant tournament committee.
2. The same rules as the above shall apply as to the handicap limits for individual players.

If a club chooses to allow any upper limit to be exceeded for a club tournament the team exceeding them shall give the opposing team the number of goals by which both the team and any player has exceeded the limit in addition to any handicap difference. If the other teams have not been notified, they shall be allowed to withdraw should they wish to do so.

Goal Level	Min H'cap	Max h'cap	H'cap limit of two Best Players
Sub-zero	-2		
0	-2	3	3
2	-2	4	4
4	-2	6	6
6	-1	6	8
8	-1		9
12	0 *see note below		
Over 12g	0 *see note below		

**12g & Above:** \* The minimum individual handicap is -1. This shall not be counted towards a team's total handicap for entry purposes. eg. In a 12g tournament a -1 player may not play with three other players worth 13 goals. The handicap of a -1 player shall be included in the team's total handicap to decide any handicap start at the beginning of a game.

C1 rules above are effective from 1st October 2020 until then 2019 Rules of Polo C1 & C2 apply



### **Events at WPNEC this weekend:**

This weekend we will be sharing the venue with two other WPNEC events, including a Show Horse Spring Trial and a Cross Country clinic. When you arrive at WPNEC you will be directed to polo parking which is in the normal parking area for polo. The Spring Horse Trial will be situated in the general purpose area, and the Cross Country clinic will be operating from the water jump in the far corner of field 3. We just need to be aware of other events operating.

### **First Aid**

A first aid tent will be stationed in the middle of both fields. The event first aiders are trained paramedics and nurses, they will have treatment beds, spinal board, wheel chair, oxygen, defibrillator and are well positioned to treat anyone.

### **Vet On Call**

This year we have two vets on call.

Ian Church – 0418 345 192 (will be onsite and playing in the tournament)

Nick Robson – 0418 385 223 (weekends there will be a voicemail with a different number to call)

### **Clubhouse & Catering**

The clubhouse will have the following on offer for purchase, the Club now has an eftpos machine for cashless payment.

Hot Pies  
Ham & Cheese toasties  
Packets of Chips  
Beers  
Soft Drinks

### **Melbourne City Polo Club**

We would also like to let everyone know about some of the offerings this year at the club.

- Mid-week chukkers are from 4pm on a Wednesday evening on Chirnside, chukker fees for visiting clubs are \$20 per chukker, nominations and payment through the portal
- Professional Players can attend chukkers on Wednesday evenings at no charge, nomination through the portal
- We are about to embark on a field maintenance program, including dethatching, and sanding the field. Work commences next week, and we hope to gradually improve the fields over the coming years.

### **Riverlands Polo**

Melbourne City has recently partnered with Riverlands Polo Victoria to provide a commercial platform to bring new players and provide professional polo services for existing players at Melbourne City Polo.

Riverlands will be running regular clinics, instructional chukkers, lessons, horse hire and professional playing services.

Please reach out to Nicola or Luke on 0423 052 251

The Riverlands team arrived late last night and look forward to playing in two grades across the weekend. Welcome Team!

Finally, Melbourne City Polo is a club for everyone, the committee has been assembled to manage the fields on the behalf of the VPA and provide a platform for all VPA Members to participate and enjoy the fields at WPNEC.

We look forward to welcoming everyone this weekend and having a great weekend of polo. Thank you to everyone for their nominations, see you on the weekend.



Regards

Melbourne City Polo Club