

# RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Polocrosse Association of South Australia recognizes the importance of risk management and believes it is an essential function of an ongoing commitment to the sport of polocrosse.

*While The Polocrosse Association of South Australia has identified and transferred many of the risks to an insurer each management committee at state, zones and club level have the responsibility to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, umpires, spectators and workers- both voluntary and paid, not only to minimize the risk of injury, but also to meet legal duties of care.*

Our primary objective of risk management is to avoid injury to persons and damage to property.

## RATIONALE

The safety of our members, staff and spectators is the primary concern to the Polocrosse Association of South Australia (PASA).

We are aware there is risk involved with the sport of polocrosse and with this in mind, the PASA realizes the need to educate its members and staff in appropriate behaviour and safety measures to minimize injury.

## AIMS

The policy aims to:

- ◆ Create an awareness of the associated risks involved with polocrosse.
- ◆ Implement safety practices to minimize risks
- ◆ Provide ongoing education and training that promotes personal responsibility for the safety of the game and its environment.
- ◆ Risk management is to be incorporated as part of the Polocrosse Association of South Australia.

## PROCEDURE

Following the initial introduction of this risk management policy, every club and zone will be required to complete the attached survey at the conclusion of the polocrosse season.

The PASA committee of management will review this data and compile a report to be tabled at the Annual General Meeting for discussion and review. The updated policy will then be sent to all members, affiliated clubs and zones prior to the commencement of the following season.

- ◆ Act as a positive role model for other members in all aspects.
- ◆ Actively consider the potential for risk to others by their actions.
- ◆ Provide annual feedback to enhance the risk management policy.

## OUR COMMITMENT

The state will:

- ◆ Ensure they are incorporated.
- ◆ Inform individuals about the PASA Risk Management Policy when they apply for membership.
- ◆ Provide suitable facilities for practices and tournaments for spectators, members, horses and staff.
- ◆ Encourage coaches, umpires, officials and adult members of the association to act as positive role models for younger members in all aspects of behaviour.
- ◆ Regular reinforcement of policy through polocrosse activities and meetings.
- ◆ Review Risk Management Policy annually.

## BENEFITS

- ◆ Fewer injuries.
- ◆ Well-educated members.
- ◆ Responsible and co-coordinated approach toward safety practices.
- ◆ Satisfied members and increased membership.
- ◆ Safety as a positive marketing tool.
- ◆ Reduced insurance premiums.

## OUR EXPECTATIONS

Members will:

- ◆ Be aware of the PASA Risk Management Policy.
- ◆ Comply with the rulebook, policy guidelines and bylaws.
- ◆ Take responsibility for their health and safety.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

- **PLAYERS** should obey the rules, regulations and code of conduct of polocrosse.
- **COACHES** should provide advice on skill development, appropriate safe warm-up and cool-down procedures and encourage fair play and compliance with the rules.
- **UMPIRES** should enforce the rules of the game and check the playing environment for obstacles or damage that may cause injury to players.
- **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES** should maintain accurate and current knowledge of all relevant safety information and administer it effectively to all members
- **CLUB/ZONE OFFICIALS** should implement an ongoing Risk Management Education Programme within their organization.

# SAFETY ISSUES

The Polocrosse Association of South Australia has identified numerous safety issues, some current bylaws of the state (marked with an \*), which are set out to form the basis of our Risk Management Policy.

## PLAYERS

- ◆ Must only wear the Standards Association approved helmet – AS-NZS 3838 and approved face guard.
- ◆ **EVERY PERSON MOUNTED ON A HORSE AT POLOCROSSE IS REQUIRED TO WEAR THE APPROVED AUSTRALIAN STANDARD POLOCROSSE HELMET AT ALL TIMES.**
- ◆ Have sound knowledge of the rulebook in particular to dangerous play, out of control horse, abuse to spectators/umpires and abuse of teammates.
- ◆ Players need to be aware children should not sit on player's horse before, during or after a match unless proper safety measures have been taken into consideration.
- ◆ No alcohol to be taken at practices or tournaments until play has concluded. \*
- ◆ All tails to be plaited before playing - stitched and well secure. \*
- ◆ Blood Rule Policy- Any player who is bleeding must call time off and seek medical attention.
- ◆ **People leading horses in Led Polocrosse Games must also wear a helmet** (as per PAA Risk Management Policy).

## GENERAL

There are a number of further issues that relate to the responsibility of all members of a club, zone or state whether they are players or not.

- ◆ No **dogs** are allowed at S.A, tournaments. Signs need to be erected at each entry point at tournaments. \*
- ◆ All clubs are to have **first aid attendants** or **St Johns** on the grounds at all times and be highly visible. \*
- ◆ An accurate list of all **emergency contact** telephone numbers of players covered under our insurance policy must be available to club/zone/state officials at any event.
- ◆ **Playing fields** are adequately maintained, safe and checked before any training or competition, ensuring free of holes, rocks, glass etc.
- ◆ **Goal posts** must be of flexible material so that they do not break off & pose a risk to horse or player.
- ◆ **Loading ramps** must be properly constructed and clearly marked.
- ◆ All **electrical installations**, temporary or permanent, are to comply with Occupational Health and Safety Standards.
- ◆ **Toilets and shower rooms** should always be kept clean and proper standards of hygiene should be maintained.
- ◆ Adequate **public liability** and **player insurance** is compulsory and proper coverage should be maintained at all times during events, practices or matches.
- ◆ Any **third party amusement**, which is introduced to the event, must provide their own appropriate insurance and the organizing body should site proof of this insurance prior to allowing the third party to operate at their venue.
- ◆ **Children** are to be supervised at all times.
- ◆ All **injuries** should be recorded for future insurance and legal references. A report is required to be sent to the chief umpire.
- ◆ Alcohol on premises requires a **Liquor License**.
- ◆ **Alcohol** should not be served to any persons under eighteen (18) years of age and there be adequate signage stating this fact.
- ◆ All members should be advised that any form of vilification, physical or emotional **abuse** on the grounds of race, gender, age or any other basis will not be tolerated.
- ◆ Tournament organising committees need to ensure **spectators** are aware of safety factors required while spectating – maintain a safe distance from sidelines crowds and vehicles, maintain safe distance from rear of the field and not to place children on horses near a field of play.

## POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICY REVIEW

- ◆ It is important to review its effectiveness to identify the policy's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- ◆ Further develop strategies to overcome identified problem.
- ◆ Understand whether the policy implementation has had a positive impact and achieved its primary objective.
- ◆ Present a safety report at the Annual General Meeting.

## RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

1. Is the PASA. policy clear and easy to understand?	Yes	No
If no, please explain:		
2. Are you satisfied with the information/education supplied by the South Australian Polocrosse Association?	Yes	No
If no, please explain:		
3. Do you feel that this Risk Management Policy is fair to all members?	Yes	No
If no, please explain:		
4. Is the Risk Management Policy being enforced appropriately?	Yes	No
If no, please explain:		
5. Have there been any incidents that need addressing?	Yes	No
If yes, please explain:		
Any other comments:		

Please complete at the end of the season and send to: Polocrosse Association of South Australia, P.O. Box 91, Woodside, S.A. 5244.