



UNIVERSITIES

Player Ability and Division Rules

Section	Division	Description/Rules of Entry	No of Players in Team		Handicap (Grass)	Combined	Return to middle (after a goal)	How long can I play in this Section
			Arena	Grass				
Beginner	The beginner section is for players who have just started playing polo in this current academic year. It is split according to whether players have got any previous riding experience or not. Please note that if a player has ever played polo, polocrosse* or mounted games in any shape or form prior to this academic year, they are not eligible to play in the Beginner Section and must move straight to Novice. You can only play in a Beginner section for one academic year before you must move up to Novice or Median.							
	Beginner 1	These divisions are for players who have just started playing polo in this current academic year but may have participated in another equestrian discipline (not including polo, polocrosse, or mounted games).	3	3	No Handicap allowed	No	Yes	For 1 academic year (September to September) in your first year of starting polo
	Beginner 2							
	Beginner 3	These divisions are only open to players who have not ridden a horse before this academic year and have not participated in any other equestrian disciplines before. This allows players to be safe as they are learning to ride whilst also learning to play polo.						
	Beginner 4							



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Median	You may only play in Median for your second year of polo for one academic year then you must then move up to Novice. If you played Beginner 1 or 2 the previous year cannot play in Median and you must move to Novice. Please note that if a player has ever played polo, polocrosse* or mounted games in any shape or form prior to this academic year, they are not eligible to play in the Median Section and must move straight to Novice.							
	Median 1	This division is only open to players in their second academic year of polo who competed in Beginner 3 or 4 the previous year, and whose coaches do not feel are ready to move up to Novice yet.	3	3	No Handicap allowed	No	Yes	For 1 academic year (September to September). Can only be your second year of polo regardless of any breaks between.
	Median 2	This division is only for beginner players in their second academic year of polo who have not competed before, therefore are not eligible to play in the beginner section and whose coaches do not feel are ready to move up to Novice yet.						

*Players who play or have played polocrosse will play off the handicap given and assessed by their approved HPA coach/instructor using the HPA approved scale of: A = 1/2, B = 0/1, C= -1, D= -2

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Novice	SUPA actively encourage upward mobility through the divisions, therefore Novice teams that have won their division at either National Championships should move up to the next division e.g. Novice 3 to Novice 2, or Novice 1 to Intermediate 2 at the next tournament. A player is only eligible to be entered into one division higher or lower than their ability, e.g. Novice 1 or Novice 3 if the player is Novice 2 ability. Any players playing across a wider span of divisions will be challenged, e.g. Playing in Novice 1 and Novice 4. Any infringements of these rules may result in SUPA moving teams into different divisions.							
	Novice 1	This section is for any player with a maximum of a -2 handicap or deemed suitable by their approved coach/instructor.	3	4	Max -2	No	No	For 3 academic years maximum, (regardless of which Novice division/s you have played in)
	Novice 2							
	Novice 3	This section is for players who have gained experience through playing in Median and Beginner and are now confident enough for Novice. You can play in these divisions if you are a beginner with strong riding experience from another equestrian discipline and your approved coach/instructor verifies that you would be better suited playing at this level.		3	No Handicap allowed		Yes	
	Novice 4							

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Intermediate	Intermediate 1	Previously called Upper Intermediate, this section is for teams comprising of any player up to and including a 0 handicap. This section allows combined teams to enter due to fewer numbers of players at the higher ability levels from the same university.	3	4	Max 0	Yes	No	No limit
	Intermediate 2	Previously called Lower Intermediate, this division is for teams comprising of any player up to and including a -1 handicap.	3	4	Max -1	No		
Open		This section is for teams comprising of any player with a minimum handicap of -1 and maximum handicap of 1 goal. You must have a HPA handicap to compete in the Open. The Open section allows for combined teams to enter due to fewer numbers of players at the higher ability levels from the same university	3	4	Min -1 Max 1	Yes	No	No limit

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Combined	The combined section is for teams made up of players from different universities, providing the opportunity for players without a polo club at their University or no other players at their level to compete. The combined divisions mirror their equivalent section in rules/player ability levels. If you are an individual player or have a space in your team, please get in touch with the Section Manager before you enter. All players in a combined team must provide the name of their teammates and team name in the box provided when entering.								
	Lower Intermediate Combined	Equivalent to Intermediate 2, this division is for teams comprising any player up to and including a -1 handicap.	3	4	-1	Yes	No	No limit	
	Upper Novice Combined	Equivalent to Novice 1/2, this division is for teams comprising players with a maximum of -2 handicap.			-2			For 3 academic years maximum, regardless of which Novice division/s you have played in.	
	Lower Novice Combined	Equivalent to Novice 3/4, this division is for teams comprising players with no handicap.		3	No Handicap allowed		Yes	For 1 academic year (September to September) Can only be your 2nd year of polo regardless of any breaks between.	
	Median Combined	Equivalent to Median, please read the guidance for Median which applies to Combined 3.		3				Yes	For 1 academic year (September to September). Can only be your 1st year of polo.
	Beginner Combined	Equivalent to Beginner, please read the guidance for Beginner which applies to Combined 4. Please build teams with a mixture of player abilities.							

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SAPA	This section is only for players who have graduated from their respective universities or school but want to continue to compete, current students cannot play in SAPA. When entering SAPA teams are made up with all players submitting individual entries and providing their team name and name of teammates in the box provided. Please contact the SAPA Section Manager if you are looking for teammates, before entering.							
	SAPA 1	Equivalent to Open/Inter 1, this division is for teams with players of 0 handicaps and above, please read the Open/Inter 1 guidance which also applies to SAPA 1.	3	4	Min -1 Max 1	Yes	No	No limit
	SAPA 2	Equivalent to Intermediate 2, this division is for teams comprising of any player up to and including a -1 handicap, please read the guidance for Intermediate 2 which also applies to SAPA 2.			Max -1			
	SAPA 3	Equivalent to Novice, this division is for teams comprising of any player up to and including a -2 handicap, please read the guidance for Novice which also applies to SAPA 3.			Max -2			For 3 years maximum, (regardless of which Novice division/s you have played in)
	SAPA 4	Equivalent to Median, please read the guidance for Median which also applies to SAPA 4.			No handicap allowed		Yes For 1 year (September to August) Can only be your 2nd year of polo regardless of any breaks between	

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