

**Players Code of Conduct - Schools**

**As Players** you abide by the following code of conduct and shall:

1. Respect the horses. Horses cannot tell you very easily when they are tired, or something is wrong. Always make sure your horses are cared for to the best of your ability.
2. Respect your teammates. The best players work hard on their own game and learn to cooperate with and encourage other members of their team. A polo player cannot achieve their best, without all those around them achieving their best. Never be threatened by someone else’s ability but use it as an opportunity for self-improvement. Help others with encouragement.
3. Respect all match officials - Accept the umpire’s decision and never argue with him/her or other officials. The best players are always self-disciplined, always keeping control of themselves.
4. Respect the opposition, their efforts and applaud them afterwards both warmly and genuinely.
5. Respect all SUPA officials and volunteers.

The good player’s code:

(a) Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by the horses involved in the sport. As well as coaches, grooms, parents, match officials and administrators in providing the opportunity to play the game and enjoy the polo environment.

(b) Understand the values of loyalty and commitment to horses, adults, and teammates.

(c) Recognise that every player has a right to expect their involvement in polo to be safe and free from all types of abuse.

(d) Understand that if an individual or group of players feel they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, then they should tell an adult either at the Club or School or outside of the game.

(e) Play because they want to do so, not to please coaches or parents.

(f) Remember that skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important parts of the game.

(h) Work equally hard for themselves and their team - both will then benefit.

(i) Recognise good play by all players on their team and by their opponents.

(j) Be a good sportsman or sportswoman - win with dignity, lose with grace.

(k) Play to the Hurlingham Polo Association Laws of the Game and accept, without question, all umpires’ decisions even if they appear to make a mistake.

(l) Control their emotions. Verbal or physical abuse of teammates, animals, grooms, opponents, coaches, match officials or spectators is not acceptable.

(m) Treat all players, as they would like to be treated themselves. Do not interfere with, bully or take advantage of any player.