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# BRANDYWINE POLO CLUB

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Player & Student

Handbook

**2026**



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## Brandywine Polo's 75th Anniversary Year

Welcome to Brandywine Polo. Can you believe it...our 75th season. James (Jimmy) McHugh really started something which George (Frolic) Weymouth continued when he became president at 18 years of age. Richie Jones, Freddie Fortugno, Scott Brown, Jimmy Kravitz and now yours truly. We, all of us love polo, the game, the ponies, and the players. It's a commitment to fun and friendship.

Would one be here without our spectators? No that could never happen. So, keep coming. And we have a lot to offer in 2026.

I'm pleased to share that our outstanding team remains in place. **Manager Martin Eddy** continues to draw on his extensive network to bring top-level players to Brandywine. **Ata Alonso** returns to lead a growing Polo School, helping players refine their skills on his exceptional string of horses. **Brian Harrop** will once again be preparing our fields to ensure optimal playing conditions. And **Elizabeth "Izzy" Hedley** continues to expand Brandywine Polo "Outside the Boards," focusing on revenue-generating initiatives and long-term sustainability, including our Friday Charity Night series. And one more person will join the team this season, **Juan Goti**, who will help with club operations.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the **United States Polo Association (USPA)** for their continued support through grants, programming, and professional umpire services. Their commitment to growing the sport—both nationally and globally—benefits clubs like ours in meaningful ways.

We take great pride in watching our players, teams, ponies, and club community thrive. At Brandywine, polo remains both a spirited competition and a social tradition. Expect speed, sharp turns, quick stops, and the unmistakable thunder of hooves – led by the true stars of the game, our remarkable polo ponies.

I encourage you to invite your friends, bring your family, and enjoy the season with us from **Opening Day, May 24 through September 27, 2026.**

All my best,

*Dixon Stroud*

W. B. Dixon Stroud, Jr.  
Club President Since 1989

# Mission Statement

Brandywine Polo Club's 75 years of continued success lies in the people it attracts. Each summer season a community of family, friends, business partners and athletes join forces to keep the magic of the Brandywine Polo Club alive.

Our mission is to foster a fun, safe, competitive environment in which experienced polo players are challenged; new players are encouraged; spectators are welcome; and business partners can prosper through sponsorship. As a polo club, we take our investment in the extended community of polo seriously. We value our role as a host club, providing a quality facility for the polo participant as well as equine partner. Our focus is to create a genuine atmosphere of hospitality designed to cultivate the sport of polo, honor the club's valuable lineage and promote its authenticity for generations to come.

## Administration

**President** – W.B. Dixon Stroud, Jr.

**Board of Directors** – Michael Bucklin, Lisa Scott, Dixon Stroud

**Advisory Committee** – Katie Mitcham, Crosby Wood, Lydia Williamson

**Disciplinary/Safety** - Dixon Stroud, Michael Bucklin, Martin Ravina, Martin Eddy

**Facility Committee** – Dixon Stroud, Michael Bucklin, Elizabeth Hedley

**Handicap Committee** – Dixon Stroud, Martin Eddy, Martin Ravina

**Equine Welfare Committee** –Martin Eddy, Kathy Fowser, Lydia Williamson

**Club Professional / Manager** – Martin Eddy, martineddy@brandywinepolo.com

**Polo School Director** – Ata Alonso, poloschool@brandywinepolo.com

**Sponsorship & Club Coordinator** – Elizabeth Hedley, elizabeth@brandywinepolo.com

**Bookkeeper** – Carol Kepics, accounting@brandywinepolo.com

**Official Veterinarian** – Dr. Celia Goodall, Goodall Equine LLC, 610.869.4000

# The Club

Club Address: Brandywine Polo Club, 232 Polo Road, Toughkenamon, PA 19374  
Mailing Address: Brandywine Polo Club, 105 East Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348  
Club Emails: info@brandywinepolo.com, poloschool@brandywinepolo.com  
BOD@brandywinepolo.com (to be used for suggestions, issues, or complaints).

## General Information

Please read and familiarize yourself with all of BPC's rules and regulations. BPC reserves the right to make final decisions on all matters addressed in this 2026 BPC Player & Student Handbook. Playing privileges may be suspended and membership revoked at BPC's discretion. No refunds nor prorated refunds will be allowed. Dates subject to change.

**Polo Season** – BPC's summer polo season is a four-month season from June – September. The club will be open as of May 8, 2026, for move-in boarding, legging up and arena play as scheduled by polo manager.

**Payment** – BPC requires all dues, stabling fees, tournament fees and membership fees to be paid in full prior to arriving on property and or play. Methods of payment: Check, CC (add 4%) or Venmo.

**Horse Vaccines** – All horses at BPC, whether stabled or visiting, must have proof of vaccinations and a negative Coggins test prior to unloading, stabling and or playing. The American Association of Equine Practitioners suggests core vaccines of Eastern/Western Equine Encephalomyelitis, Rabies, Tetanus and West Nile Virus. Vaccination of Equine Influenza is also highly recommended. Furthermore, BPC Official Vet / Dr. Celia Goodall suggests the following: Flu/Rhino within 6 months, Rabies within 1 yr and Coggins within 1 yr.

**Membership** – Several polo member categories are available on the member application, including polo by the chukker at \$60 per chukker. All polo member applications must be approved by the BPC Board of Directors (BOD) and all membership dues paid prior to play.

**Pro Suspension** – In the event that a professional player, employed by a playing member, is suspended from play, BPC disavows any responsibility for any cost, direct or otherwise, incurred by the player or the member sponsor.

**Committees** – Committees are available to assist the Polo Manager in the handling of situations that arise throughout the polo season. The rulings of the Polo Manager are final on all matters and will be supported by the appropriate BPC Committee.

**Hired Pros** – Hired professionals can only claim (2) sponsors to coach/stick & ball with and the like, per season. Any exception to this rule must be submitted in writing to BPC BOD for approval upon the start of each season at BOD@brandywinepolo.com.

**Policy & Procedure** – Let it be known Brandywine Polo remains an equal opportunity employer and does not tolerate or condone any level of discrimination or sexual harassment under any circumstances. As a player at Brandywine Polo if you witness any of the above, we ask that you report it immediately to the polo manager or a BPC BOD member.

**Liability** – All members agree to assume full responsibility for whomever they bring onto club grounds as a guest or as a paid or volunteer employee. This includes all accidents, unacceptable conduct, destruction of property, theft or any other situation the BOD deems inappropriate.

**Communication** – Communication to members about schedule updates, field assignments, etc. will be through GROUP ME texting. In addition, there will be a scheduled club member meeting Spring and Fall to discuss the state of the club, capital improvements, long term vision, tournaments, schedule, etc.

## Polo School & Lessons

The Polo School at BPC is a separate entity being managed by Ata Alonso. No other entities may teach lessons on club property unless authorized by BPC and Ata Alonso. Exceptions will be made for hired professionals instructing their patron with approval from BPC's BOD. Any requests for an exception must be submitted in writing, with specific details to BPC BOD prior to arrival, play or polo season at BOD@brandywinepolo.com

## Access

BPC requires access to all tack rooms in case of emergency. Please provide the office with either an access key or lock combination.

## BPC Rules

The BPC is a private club run for the members under the rules and guidelines of the USPA. Any violation of BPC's rules and regulations or failure to comply with the decisions of the Polo Manager or the Disciplinary Committee may result in a warning, a fine, a suspension, expulsion, or any combination thereof. The type of action taken for a violation of the general rules and regulations violation are at the sole discretion of the Polo Manager and the Disciplinary Committee.

# Players

All players at the BPC must be current members of the USPA with a recommended club affiliation of Brandywine Polo and rated with a handicap 15 days prior to any league or tournament play. It is the responsibility of team captains or patrons to ensure all team players are currently registered with the USPA.

All players and officials for all league and tournament games must wear white britches or white jeans, appropriate polo boots and appropriate helmet when mounted.

All riders must wear an appropriate helmet, with a chin strap, as well as face guard or protective eyewear while mounted. As of May 1, 2023, all helmets must be USPA National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) approved per the USPA.

The aggregate handicap of a team must fall within the limits specified for a tournament, league or competitive polo exhibition match. A team whose handicap is higher or lower than the specified limits shall not be permitted to participate unless the Polo Manager agrees and assigns the appropriate goal advantage/disadvantage.

Playing members under 18 – All minors on club property must be accompanied by their parent(s) or guardian. If a guardian is assigned for a minor on property, a written statement of guardianship must be presented to BPC prior to having a minor dropped off at BPC. Club management will not assume responsibility for minors at the club and provision for oversight of minors must be determined at the beginning of each season.

# Player Conduct

The Disciplinary Committee will enforce the rules of sportsmanship and conduct on the playing field. Captains are only permitted to communicate with the Umpires during a match.

The Captain is the representative of the team and it is through the Captain that the Umpire communicates with the members of a team. The Captain's right does not include a right to debate or question a judgment call of the officials;

The Captain may point out what he/she believes to be a procedural error; or request definition of a call or decision if the Umpire failed to announce the call properly but may not become argumentative or prolong the discussion. The

termination of any discussion is the sole determination of the Umpire.  
Prolongation of any discussion may result in a penalty.

Any arguing, profanity, disrespectful conduct, rough or dangerous plays, refusing to play, or any other lack of sportsmanship will not be tolerated either on or off the field. VIOLATORS WILL BE PENALIZED, and membership rights may be rescinded for any player in violation of this provision.

**Unsportsmanlike conduct includes words and/or actions directed at any polo official, player, spectator, or other person on BPC grounds that are physically or verbally threatening, assaultive or abusive, demeaning, obscene, profane, belligerent, dangerous or that violate standards of fair play or common decency generally accepted in the polo community.**

## Umpires

Umpiring this 2026 year will be a combination of an USPA umpire hired for the season and an in-house BPC Umpire for league matches, coaching chukker matches, exhibition matches, and Starlight Polo arena matches, as well as tournament matches either on grass or in Polo Stadium Arena. Umpires may also include a combination of club USPA Umpires.

Umpire horses are to be provided by participating teams or can be leased from Ata Alonso. Umpires may excuse any horse found to be injured, lame, out of control and or dangerous.

It is the Umpires responsibility to report any unsportsmanlike conduct to the Polo Manager as soon as possible.

Umpires have the exclusive authority over the entire match and are charged with responsibility to execute their duties.

Umpires must be present 15 minutes prior to match time and are responsible for having suitable mounts.

The referee or "third man" should not talk with others while the match is in progress and should be fully attentive to the match.

The final decision of canceling a match in progress, due to weather, shall be determined by the match and/or tournament officials. Team Captains may be consulted, but the final decision will be made by the match and/or tournament officials.

# Boarding

Anyone who chooses to board their horse(s) at the club must first become a member of the club by filling out the member application and returning with payment to polo manager. Stabling / paddock fees remain the same for all boarders. Your horse care options are self-care, hire a groom or use the boarding program offered by the polo school. If you hire a groom, you must show proof of workman's comp or health insurance and sign a waiver verifying you take full responsibility for said groom. The groom is only allowed to exercise your horse on the exercise tracks and play practices and non-tournament matches in your absence with approval from polo manager. Full Playing Member status allows boarders full access to the facility under the guidelines of the application, arena members receive access to arena only and coaching league during specified coaching chukker days/times only, NOT full use of arena or grass fields at any time.

# League & Tournament Play (updated March 19, 2026)

USPA Rules and Regulations will govern all tournaments and leagues, unless otherwise noted. All players are responsible for reading and understating all USPA and BPC rules.

In USPA Tournaments, a player with a "B" handicap may not play above the 8-goal level. The handicap of a player may not exceed 3/4 of the upper handicap limit of the event. Rule 19, will apply to all 8 goal tournaments at BPC.

The draw procedure and playing format will be decided by the Polo Manager and not by the team Captains. Entry form must be completed, and fees submitted (in full) to the Polo Manager prior to the draw. A team that withdraws from an event after the draw shall forfeit the match and be subject to additional fines and/or suspension from the next event.

Leagues and tournaments must be completed by the scheduled dates, weather permitting.

Teams must play all their league and tournament games regardless of their win/loss record to avoid undue influence over the rankings of remaining teams in the same tournament. Any team that withdraws without the approval of the Polo Manager will be subject to a review with regards to participating in future events.

# Substitutions

Any time a substitution is to occur, the Polo Manager must be notified in advance and the person substituting must be a current USPA member and sign a BPC release.

Should a full playing member be unable to play a tournament match or practice, he or she may substitute a qualified USPA player from outside the BPC roster to take his or her place. Guest charges must be paid for the substitute player by the BPC member player.

# Practice

All players must sign a 2026 Brandywine Polo release of liability prior to riding or playing.

All player memberships dues must be paid in full prior to riding or playing. No exceptions.

Subject to availability of players, weather and with respect to polo school's schedule, practice games will be held Tuesdays in the arena, Wednesdays on Walker Field, and Thursday evenings in the arena. Additional practices may be scheduled by the Polo Manager as needed.

Chukker sign-up: To schedule practice matches, players must sign up with the Polo Manager, BY 3:30PM THE DAY BEFORE (24 Hour Notice).

Players are allowed to wear jeans for practices. Please bring your own red, white, and blue practice jersey/shirt to the field.

Players must be on time to all practices.

If any player is to be substituted, the Polo Manager must be notified. Players/grooms will be responsible for the removal of all tail tape. Horse trailers must not be cleaned out at practice fields or tournament games.

# Stick and Ball

Full members may stick and ball on Walker Field when field conditions are acceptable and with the approval of the Polo Manager and in the arena during times specified by the Polo Manager.

## Facility Use

The grounds, club barns, turnout paddocks, fields and practice areas are reserved exclusively for member use only with the following exceptions:

- **Grooms do not assume any benefits of membership.** All grooms must be a member of the USPA and sign a 2026 liability release form.
- **All non-members who want to try a horse for purchase must check in at the polo office prior to riding.** A liability release must be signed; they must be a member of the USPA and pay the \$60.00 per chukker rate for each chukker played and they must wear an appropriate helmet when mounted.
- **Polo by the Chukker \$60ea**

Under special circumstances, Brandywine Polo Club may invite visiting teams or players to participate in leagues or tournaments without the membership rules applying. Visiting teams will be subject to the team daily rate when applicable. **Members must notify the Polo Office in advance of any non-member using the facilities and should understand that this is a privilege that can be revoked if abused.**

## Trash

Please pick up bottles, cans, tail tape, and trash in your trailer area after each game or practice and instruct your grooms to assist in keeping these areas clean. Thank you.

## Trailers

Do not clean out your trailer field-side during practices, leagues, or tournaments. Dispose of your tail tape properly and do not leave on the ground.

## Dogs

All dogs must be on a leash during all games, practice games, or if ANYONE is riding a horse at any point on club grounds. Please pick up after your dog.

## Membership and Insurance

- Brandywine Polo Club is a private club, which reserves the right to accept or refuse members at the discretion of the Membership Committee.
- The playing membership season is May 24 – September 27, 2026
- An application for membership must be filled in and submitted to the Club. All applications will be addressed within two weeks of receipt.
- **All players must sign a release waiver prior to playing and do so for each year.**

**This waiver will also be required of grooms, guests and family who ride within the Club grounds.**

- **All players must be current members of the USPA.**
- Members should carry medical insurance for themselves, their groom, and sponsored players.

## Visiting Players

Visiting players are polo players who arrive at Brandywine for short period of time for purposes of training with the polo school, a tournament, or similar situations. They are more than welcome to board their horses at the club. Stabling rates are \$15 per day per horse and include a dry stall and paddock assigned by polo manager or \$10 per day for turn out only, contingent on availability. All horses need proof of Coggins. All liability waivers must be signed prior to riding on Brandywine's properties or fields associated with Brandywine Polo.

## Barn Rules

- **NO SMOKING** allowed in barn or hay sheds.
- Throw all trash in proper containers.
- Barn and paddock areas should be kept clean.
- Each horse must have a stall. One cannot have more horses on the club property than the number of stalls for which they have paid. For example: if you bring 8 horses to the club you must have paid for, been approved for and assigned 8 stalls plus appropriate paddocks.
- Use assigned paddocks only with approval of Polo Manager. Management will mow and or weed whack paddocks, including fence line. For rope/electric paddocks this is especially important since any weeds/grass touching any part of the rope will ground the wire resulting in de-electrify fence.
- Paddock users are responsible for maintaining a full grass cover. This prevents erosion.
- Additionally, manure should be removed from the paddocks on a regular basis (daily) and placed on the closest manure pile. This will assure that our club looks great and shows that we know how to properly provide turnout for our horses.
- Hay and grain should be stored in feed rooms or designated areas.
- Water hoses must be rolled when not in use.
- Notify the Polo Office of problems or repairs as soon as possible.
- Please turn off any lights when not in use.
- Dump manure in designated areas only. Please do not throw wire, bottles, cans, or trash in with manure.
- Park all trailers and other vehicles in designated areas. Do not block road.
- Check with the Polo Manager before adding any construction materials to stalls, tack- rooms, paddocks, or sheds.

- Under no circumstances is living in the barn, tack room, RV or car permitted on Brandywine Polo properties or properties leased by Brandywine Polo.

## Riding Areas

Horses may be exercised in specified areas only. The following rules apply:

- Riders must always wear helmets when riding.
- Stay within Polo Club premises.
- Ride on the side of roads or on the paths; do not cut across the polo fields.
- **Maximum of five horses to a set. Tying horses together in sets is not permitted.**
- Members shall take every precaution to ensure the safety of people and horses.
- The Polo Manager has full authority to prohibit anyone from riding on the premises if the person does not possess adequate riding skills.
- **There will be no exercising, schooling, or general riding on or around polo fields.**
- No stick and balling on edges of fields during or after practice.
- No schooling or exercising in the arena without speaking with Polo Manager first.
- **The Member's Only stick and ball area (Walker Field) will be closed on Mondays.**
- **Any non-member found stick and balling on member fields will be charged a fine payable immediately.**
- All vehicles need to be extra cautious of horse crossings; horses have right of way.
- Do not block any roads. Park only in designated areas. Please drive slowly.

# Goods & Services

## **Motel & Housing**

Kennett Square Apartments	484.462.1830
Fairfield Inn & Suites, Kennett Sq	610.444.8995
Hilton Garden Inn, Kennett Sq	610.444.9100
The Book House, Kennett Sq	610.257.7008
The Inn at Mendenhall, Chadds Ford	610.388.2100

## **Feed Stores**

Stoltzfus Feed & Supply	717.442.8280
Embreeville Mill	610.486.6369

## **Shavings**

New This Year - 50lb Pine Shavings Bags For Sale at BPC, Contact Juan Goti	484.707.9079
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## **Hay**

Meadow Springs Farm, Hicks Brothers IV (Billy Hicks)	610.721.3308
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## **Tack & Equipment**

Tato's	561.790.6868
Texas Polo	713.521.9020
Polo Gear	561.795.1719
Tackeria	561.793.2012
Dover Saddlery	302.234.8047
Aubone Mallets	603.536.7971

## **Farrier**

John Wilkoski	561.578.1213
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## **Veterinarians**

BPC Official Vet / Dr. Celia Goodall	610.869.4000
New Bolton Center Field Service	610.444.5800
Dr. Katherine Stewart	302.354.2827