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# BRANDYWINE POLO CLUB

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Player & Student

Handbook

2023



2023 Brandywine Polo Player & Student Handbook

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## PROUD USPA MEMBER CLUB SINCE 1951

Welcome to the 72<sup>ND</sup> Season of the Brandywine Polo Club.

Established in 1951 by James McHugh, a former Yale Intercollegiate player, BPC is proud to be the largest polo club in the USPA's Eastern Circuit. Situated on 122 acres in the Brandywine Valley, the Brandywine Polo Club offers fun, safe, and competitive polo for low to medium goal players throughout a 4-month summer polo season. The club offers 0 – 8 goal tournaments, an accredited polo school, coaching chukkers, clinics and practice matches, both in the Malvern Bank Stadium and on one of Brandywine Polo's four full-size grass playing fields.

This handbook has been created to provide players and students with important information about the club rules and guidelines, as well as expected conduct required from all participating members. This handbook also contains pertinent contact information related to the club.

Thank you for being a valued polo playing member of the Brandywine Polo Club. We appreciate your cooperation in abiding by BPC rules and we look forward to a successful polo season on the playing field, at the barns and on the sidelines.

Sincerely,

*W.B. Dixon Stroud, Jr.*

W.B. Dixon Stroud Jr., Brandywine Polo Club President

# Mission Statement

Brandywine Polo Club's 72 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** – Dixon Stroud

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

**Advisory Committee** – Alan Medina, Crosby Wood, Claire Campbell Drake

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

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

**Handicap Committee** – Dixon Stroud, Martin Eddy, Ata Alonso

**Equine Welfare Committee** – Dixon Stroud, Martin Eddy, Dory Graham -Vannais

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

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

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

**Accounting** – Carol Kepics, ckepics@landhope.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 2023 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 12, 2023, 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 3.5%), 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.

**Membership** – Several polo member categories are available on the member application, including polo by the chukker at \$50 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) amateurs 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 & Access

BPC employs personnel to manage the polo school and provide lessons at the Club. No other entities may teach lessons on club property. Exceptions will be made for hired professionals instructing their patron with approval from BPC BOD. Any request for an exception, must be submitted in writing, with detailed specifics, to the BPC BOD prior to arrival, play or season at BOD@brandywinepolo.com.

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 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 their club affiliation listed under the Brandywine Polo and must be 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, 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 2023 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 Malvern Bank Arena. Umpires may also include a combination of club USPA Umpires.

Umpire horses are to be provided by participating teams. 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 not play in your place for practices, matches in your absence. 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 members receive access to the 4x a week coaching chukkers only, NOT full use of arena at any time option.

# League & Tournament Play

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. In any event rated 4 goals or above, there should be no more than one "B" rated player per team, and the handicap of player may not exceed 3/4 of the upper handicap limit of the event.

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 of their league and tournament games regardless of their win/loss record in an effort 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 fines and suspensions from 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 2023 release of liability prior to playing.

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

Subject to availability of players, practice games will be scheduled on 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 to wear "whites" for all practices and bring their own red, white and blue practice jerseys/shirts.

Players must be on time.

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.

## 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 Malvern Bank Stadium 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 2023 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 \$50.00 per chukker rate for each chukker played and they must wear an appropriate helmet when mounted.
- **Polo by the Chukker \$50ea**

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 17 – September 2023
- 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.

## 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.
- The club washer and dryer are for the use of BPC playing members, employees and staff only and are not to be used by other persons.

## 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.

## Polo School

The Brandywine Polo Club employs personnel to run the BPC Polo School and to manage the BPC. No other entities may teach lessons, paid or otherwise on BPC property. An exception would be a pro instructing their employer/patron.

## 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 property.

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### 2023 Brandywine Polo Player & Student Handbook Signature Page

- I have read and understand all the rules and regulations stated in the 2023 Brandywine Polo Club Player & Student Handbook.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Goods & Services

## **Motels & Housing**

Best Western Concordville Hotel	610.358.9400
Cornerstone	610.274.2143
Meadow Spring Farm	610.444.3903
White Wing Farm Bed and Breakfast	610.388.3650

## **Feed Stores**

Stoltzfus Feed & Supply	717.442.8280
Embreeville Mill	610.486.6369
Unionville Feed and Pet	610.347.2377

## **Hay**

Meadow Springs Farm Hicks Brothers IV	610.721.3308
Tom Jenkins	610.268.2379

## **Tack & Equipment**

Tato's	561.790.6868
Texas Polo	800.527.1418
Polo Gear	561.795.1719
Tackeria	561.793.6422
Unionville Saddle Shop	610.347.2320
Dover Saddlery	302.234.8047

## **Farrier**

Julian Pettinato	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. Cindy Buchanan	610.247.5707
Dr. Katherine Stewart	302.354.2827
Delaware Equine Center, Dr. Carolyn Little	610.869.4000
Dr. Barbara Stewart	610.869.3563