CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY POLO CLUB

SELECTION POLICY

2026-27

1. Selection Process Integrity

CUPC selection processes will be conducted in accordance with this policy, with the objective of fairly and equitably selecting the most competitive for any given match or tournament.

Any deviation from this policy shall be communicated to members, in advance of the relevant selection process, by the Executive Committee. Members should raise any concerns about the selection process with the Captain (captain@cupoloclub.com) or President (President@cupoloclub.com) in the first instance. Members wishing to formally appeal a selection decision should follow the complaints process outlined in the Constitution.

Should there be identified any potential conflicts of interest that may affect a team selection process, steps will be taken to ensure that the process is fair, and no player is disadvantaged. Any member aware of a conflict of interest, involving themselves or other members, must disclose this at the earliest opportunity to the President in the first instance. This information will be treated confidentially. Failure to disclose any potential conflicts of interest may result in that individual being removed from the selection process.

Only teams formed under this selection policy have the approval to compete as representatives of CUPC, unless separate permission is granted by the Executive Committee. Further information regarding official and non-official CUPC fixtures and expectations of members when representing CUPC may be found in the Constitution and Code of Conduct.

The Selection Committee referred to in this document will be comprised of the CUPC Coach(es) and Captain. It is at the Selection Committee's discretion to invite a third-party assessor to assist with team selections.

2. Membership Onboarding & Lesson Level Selection Process

All members of University of Cambridge, regardless of polo experience, are welcome to join CUPC. The process for becoming a member is described on our website: www.cupoloclub.com.

When members join CUPC, they will be allocated to a lesson level based on the information they provide regarding their riding and polo experience in the membership sign-up form. Following attendance at their first lesson, the Coach(es) may adjust the lesson level of a new member based on actual ability observed.

Throughout the year lesson level allocations will be continuously revised by the Coach(es) based on ongoing (i.e. in lessons and matches throughout the year) evaluation of playing performance against the criteria in Section 6.

The Coach(es) will communicate any change in lesson level for members to the Captain, who will communicate the change to members via email.

3. General Team Selection Process (exc. The Varsity Match)

All non-Varsity (including Winter Varsity, SUPA tournaments, Atlantic Cup and friendly matches) team selections will be made according to the following process:

- An expression of interest form will be circulated to members, to be completed and returned to the Executive Committee no later than date specified in the form;

- Final team selections will be made by mutual agreement of the Selection Committee based on ongoing (i.e. in lessons and matches throughout the year) evaluation of playing performance against the criteria in Section 6.
- The Captain will notify members of the outcome of the selection process, and the organisational requirements and minimum training commitment for the team via email.

Following selections, the following applies:

- Should a selected member of the team become incapacitated then they shall be replaced by another eligible member at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- Should a selected member of the team demonstrate a lack of commitment to training then they may be replaced by an eligible member at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- In exceptional circumstances, a member not originally selected for the team be identified as performing substantially better than a selected member of the team then the team composition may be revised accordingly at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- The Captain will notify members of any subsequent changes to the selected team via email.

4. Varsity Match Team Selection Process

All official Varsity Match (i.e. the summer season Varsity Match, including Varsity A and other teams) selections will be made and training expectations will be set according to the following process:

- An expression of interest form will be circulated to members, to be completed and returned to the Executive Committee no later than the last day of full Lent term;
- Eligible members will be invited to Varsity trial chukkas/matches to be held no later than the first week of full Easter term;
- Final team selections will be made by mutual agreement of the Selection Committee based on evaluation of playing performance against the criteria in Section 6, accounting for performance both ongoing (i.e. in lessons and matches throughout) and in the specific Varsity trial chukkas/matches;
- The Captain will notify members of the outcome of the selection process, and the organisational requirements and minimum training commitment for the team via email.

Following selections, the following applies:

- Should a selected member of the team become incapacitated then they shall be replaced by another eligible member at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- Should a selected member of the team demonstrate a lack of commitment to training then they may be replaced by an eligible member at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- In exceptional circumstances, a member not originally selected for the team be identified as performing substantially better than a selected member of the team then the team composition may be revised accordingly at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- The Captain will notify members of any subsequent changes to the selected team via email.

5. Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria apply for members to be eligible for team selections:

- Current member of CUPC;
- Submitted expression of interest form;
- Approved as “safe to play” at the applicable level by Selection Committee;
- Satisfies all requirements of the match/tournament organisers. While the Executive Committee will typically communicate the requirements of external match/tournaments to members, it remains the responsibility of individual members to be aware of these requirements and complete any personal actions necessary. For some grass matches, this may include successful completion of the HPA rules test;
- No outstanding debts to CUPC;
- Availability to attend team training and the relevant match/tournament.

Additional eligibility criteria may apply for members to be considered for the Varsity Match (Section 4.) selection, as specified by University of Cambridge Sport: https://www.sport.cam.ac.uk/student-sport/blues-committees

6. Performance Criteria

The following guiding criteria will be used by the Selection Committee to evaluate the performance of members:

- HPA handicap
- Riding skills
- Hitting skills
- Knowledge of rules and tactics
- Contribution to team dynamics

7. Blues Nomination Process

All nominations of members for Blues will be made by the Captain according to the following process:

- The Selection Committee shall identify a shortlist of qualifying members;
- The shortlist shall be circulated to members, who may object and/or propose additional nominations at an AGM/EGM to be held no later than the last day of full Easter term;
- The Captain shall proceed to make the appropriate applications to the Blues Committees.

Further information on the Blues, as specified by University of Cambridge Sport, may be found here: https://www.sport.cam.ac.uk/student-sport/blues-committees