

**RISK ASSESSMENT FORM**

Centre: Cambridge Polo Club	Date: 10/12/21	Review Date: 18/07/2026
Risk Assessment: Cambridge University Polo Club (CUPC)		

Description of the activity, equipment or area under assessment Polo lessons, stick and ball sessions, and chukkas played at Cambridge Polo Club for all club members at all ability levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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Significant hazards	What could go wrong	Risk level (High, Med, or Low)	Existing control measures	Further actions
Being around horses, animals are unpredictable.	Tread on, kicked, bitten, crushed, rope burns (from leading). Bruising, bone injuries, internal injuries.	Medium	Correct instruction on how to handle horses. Advised to behave appropriately and with caution around them. Wear appropriate clothing and equipment (helmets/boots). Inexperienced members are not left unsupervised.	
Trip/slip hazards from wet surfaces due to rain/snow and items left out.	Trips and slips. Bruising and bone injuries.	Low	Ensure yard is left clear and regularly swept. Advise caution when surfaces are wet or icy.	Grit for yard
Falls	Bruising, bone injuries, severe injuries	Medium	Protective equipment optional (face guards/goggles), helmets always worn, members' ability to ride checked and given suitable horse for ability. Helmets will be required to be kitemarked and certified to PAS 015	First Aider on site

Contact with mallets and/or balls.	Bruising, bone injuries.	Medium - High	Protective equipment advised, helmets always worn. Helmets will be required to be kitemarked and certified to PAS 015. Safety glasses are advised for grass polo to prevent injuries to eyes.	First Aider on site
Contact with horses and/or other people. (Ride-offs)	Bruising, bone injuries.	High	Protective equipment advised (elbow pads), helmets always worn. Helmets will be required to be kitemarked and certified to PAS 015. Correct instruction and guidance for ride-offs, played against played with similar ability.	First Aider (Coach)
Playing chukkas (high speed, competitive and intense playing.)	Falls/contact. Bruising, bone injuries, internal injuries.	High	Correct equipment and clothing required, similar ability teams, qualified referees and officials on site.	First Aider (Coach)
Use of unknown/young/inexperienced horses.	Falls, kicks, bites. Bruising, bone injuries, internal injuries.	Low	Inexperienced students not permitted to ride inexperienced horses. Suitable horses given according to rider ability. New horses checked, vetted and assessed by those with suitable experience and/or qualifications. Coach to advise on pony/rider suitability if required.	
Waterlogged fields/arenas.	Horses slipping/falling. Riders falling. Bruising and bone injuries.	Low	Inspections of fields and arenas before sessions. Not to be played on when deemed unsafe and/or too waterlogged.	
Equipment failure.	Equipment snapping/breaking leading to horse/rider injury. Bruising and bone injuries.	Low - Medium	Ensure all equipment is properly maintained and is up to quality standards. Broken or faulty equipment is not used and disposed of correctly.	Personal equipment checks Encourage students to check and be aware of own equipment

Allergies and medical problems. (Hay/animals/dust, asthma etc)	Breathing difficulties, asthma attacks, skin reaction and rashes.	Low	Advise precaution around stables and animals, club informed of any medical concerns when member joins and signs waiver forms, members can be stopped from riding by coaches should they believe there is too high risk. Advise to keep away from dusty hay and straw.	
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Socials – risk to self and others	Alcohol poisoning, drink-related injuries, unusual behaviour.	Low	Members informed of expected standard of behaviour and the risks of excessive drinking. Socials unlikely to occur due to COVID-19 government guidelines.	
Heavy machinery on yard.	Crashing, impact injuries.	Low	Members not allowed on heavy machinery. Advised to be aware of tractors etc whilst on yard. Large machines rarely used when members are present.	
COVID- 19 Infection from other yard users/ staff		Medium	The Coach is to ensure social distancing is enforced on the yard, sanitization procedures to be followed by staff and members as advised by the HPA.	Members to bring personal satiation equipment e.g. hand sanitizer. The club may also provide such facilities and necessary disinfecting equipment.

COVID-19 Infection from other CUPC members		High	Members to be made familiar with HPA Covid-19 rule variances and guidelines to reduce transmission during play. Members supply all equipment with the exception of sticks, and CUPC will request that members sanitize these after they train. In addition, members are advised to wear their playing gloves when in contact with the polo mallets. Members displaying COVID-19 symptoms to be asked not to attend training. CUPC will keep good records of members attending CUPC activities in order to 'track and trace' any infection. Cambridge Polo club also operates registration and entry check in line with HPA guidelines. If any member requires other members to wear masks, the coach will ensure that this is done so to maintain the health and safety of all.	Encourage members to minimise contact between hands and face. Continue wearing masks indoor and sanitise their hands after any interaction.
Travel Commute to playing facility (Haggis Farm) Travelling for fixtures: Mainly Schools and Universities Polo Association (SUPA) tournaments and fixtures.	Driven Transport Road traffic accident Distant areas sometimes therefore risk of getting lost Long Vehicle Horse Lorries Antisocial behaviour Vehicle Breakdown Vehicle unsafe to drive	Medium	Most of the fixtures that take place are generally in areas that have good road access that indicate clearly the safety measures to be adopted, and a mechanism for safely monitoring traffic + horse lorries. The club ensures that the equipment is contained in vehicles in a manner that adheres to the highest safety standards.	If members decide to go as groups to fixtures, insurance plus legal documents of the drivers will be thoroughly vetted. Additionally, the club may seek assistance from university coordinated transport when necessary.

	Self-Drive Road traffic accident Getting lost Antisocial behaviour Vehicle breakdown Vehicle unsafe to drive	Medium	Vehicles used for this purpose are thoroughly vetted by the competent committee member. Adequate checks are applied for the vehicle prior to its use (e.g., Brakes, Oil Changes, lights, wheel and tyres). The legal documents of the drivers are thoroughly vetted in addition to their driving history.	Members will be briefed prior to the journey on the club's code of conduct. The club will make sure that insurance is in place which also allows for the use of a back-up driver in case primary driver is unable to
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HEALTH SURVEILLANCE Is Special Monitoring required? (e.g., hearing test, eye test, health surveillance). Initial and continued assessment of riding ability.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Action to be taken in case of reasonably foreseeable emergencies (e.g., overheating, loss of electricity, flooding): Assembly point in car park. Grooms to know to give proper directions and instructions to emergency services.

Any special First Aid Measures required? No.
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ASSESSOR

Name of assessor:	Signature:	Date	Name of Supervisor:	Signature:	Date
Junaid Safdar	Junaid Safdar	10/12/21	N/a	N/a	N/a

REVIEW DATES

Reviewed by (name)	Signature	Date	Indicate changes here
Alva Markelius		18/07/26	No changes made