



ARMY POLO ASSOCIATION

CHARTER

BACKGROUND

1. The Army Polo Association (APOLOA) was founded in 1998 to coordinate and encourage polo in the Army, both at home and abroad. The home of APOLOA is Tidworth where the Army Polo Grounds are based. In the UK, servicemen are integrated as members, within different polo clubs. The Association seeks to widen access, support and improve polo at all levels from novice, developing and senior and form teams up to +8. Regiments and Corps form their own groups such as the RA, RE, Infantry, RLC, AGC and Staff College Shrivenham. RMAS is a stand-alone club but operates under the auspices of the Association. The Reserves are fully integrated. The HAC and the OTCs have their own tournaments. The Association is registered with the Army Sport Control Board as a 'Recognised' Sport and is classed as an 'Excepted Charity'.

AFFILIATION

2. The APOLOA is subordinate to the Armed Forces Polo Association (AFPA) who have a Steward serving on The Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) National Council. The HPA is the National Governing Body (NGB) and governs all rules of polo and registers handicaps that permit players to take part in tournaments. The Chairman of APOLOA is a member of the General Committee by his appointment and attends meetings twice a year.

3. All army players must register with the HPA via their home club.

4. A registered player is able to get insurance advice and cover via the HPA approved insurance company.

MISSION

To encourage, support and organise polo throughout the Army at all levels, widen its membership and increase the opportunities to play the game in order to build and develop teamwork and leadership.

GOVERNANCE

5. Aims and Objectives.

6. An annual Management Plan is issued in February (post the AGM) each year to deliver the mission through polo development and competitions.

7. Management Structure:

- President – Non-executive
- Chairman – Executive
- Deputy Chairmen (two) – Advisory
- Director of Polo/Treasurer – COO
- Secretary – As directed



8. Roles and Responsibilities:

- **President.** To guide the Association's officers and to sanction the Charter. Normally senior retired officer.
- **Chairman.** Leads the Association. Chairs the AGM and end of season review. Sanctions and guides the Director of Polo on all internal and external polo activities and other connected matters. The Chairman is to be a serving officer.
- **Deputy Chairman/Chairmen.** Advisers to the Chairman. The Deputy Chairman/Chairmen are to be serving officers.
- **Director of Polo/Treasurer.** Actions, as directed by the Chairman, all aspects of the day-to-day running and organisation of APOLOA in conjunction with the Secretary. This includes the account and also its submission for audit and the presentation of the 1514 at the AGM. This post need not be filled by a serving officer.
- **Secretary.** Works with and to the Director of Polo with specific responsibility regarding membership, preparation of fixture lists, team administration and AGM arrangements. The Secretary is to be a serving officer.

9. An AGM is held in the second or third month of the year. Votes and decisions are recorded.

10. All APOLOA members are to pay a fee as agreed at the AGM in order to be eligible for coaching courses, scholarships, pony grants, selection for Army Teams, selection for tours abroad and to take advantage of preferable club rates at TPC and elsewhere.

11. All APOLOA members must obey the HPA rules for polo as laid down in the annual HPA Blue Book.

TEAMS, COACHING, TOURNAMENTS & TOURS

12. There are 3 levels of Army Teams: Novice, Developing and Senior. Selection is based on merit and availability. The Chairman is responsible for selection, which he may delegate as appropriate.

13. Coaching is organised centrally by the Director of Polo and programmed at the beginning of the season.

14. The main fixtures/tournaments are agreed with the AFPA and are as follows:

- **The Inter-Regimental.** A handicapped competition, all services are eligible to enter. This is organised by APOLOA on behalf of the AFPA.
- **The Captains' & Subalterns' Trophy.** A handicapped competition, all services are eligible to enter. This is organised by APOLOA and consists of 4 divisions.
- **Other Competitions.** These are the RA, AGC, HAC and OTC tournaments.
- **Tours.** Tours will be discussed and sanctioned by the Chairman on receipt of an invitation. The Director of Polo is responsible for ASCB and diplomatic sanction clearance requirements as laid down in DINs.



COACHES, OFFICIALS & DISCIPLINE

15. The coach is appointed by the Chairman in consultation with his Deputies and the Director of Polo who is responsible for oversight in terms of payment and coordination of dates.

16. Discipline is as per the HPA rules and the Director is responsible for submitting a report to the Chairman regarding any offences. The Chairman will decide on any further action against a member once written evidence has been submitted and inform the CoC as appropriate.

17. All APOLOA members are to qualify as umpires as per their handicap level in line with HPA rules. The Secretary is responsible for monitoring members' attendance at rules clinics.

FUNDING & ACCOUNTS

18. As an Excepted Charity APOLOA must abide by the rules as laid down by the Charity Commissioners.

19. As a Recognised Army Sport the APOLOA does not qualify for any public funding for infrastructure.

20. APOLOA is entirely self-funded as follows:

- **Investments.** As directed by the Chairman and only to be with recognised Army Charity fund Managers – Blackrock PLC.
- **Sponsorship.** As directed by the Chairman the Director is to manage and have oversight of any sponsorship arrangement, monitor the contracts and continuously seek to extend the sponsorship base.
- **ASCB non-public fund grant.** This is to be bid for annually. The Director of Polo is responsible for its submission.
- **Subscriptions.** An amount is to be proposed and voted on at the AGM to set the Annual Subscription to join APOLOA.

21. Accounts

- The accounting period is 1 Nov -31 Oct.
- An AFN 1514 is produced for the AGM.

22. The Account is to be audited annually by an Army Pay Office (A GAO by arrangement), an AFN 1514 produced and distributed to the ASCB and AFPA. A copy is provided for AGM sanction and comments recorded.

23. The account is to be insured for misappropriation of funds.

24. **Trophies.** The Inter-Regimental and Captains' & Subalterns' Trophies are retained by the AFPA for insurance purposes as these are open to all services.



COMMUNICATIONS

25. **Publications.** The Director of Polo is to submit articles for inclusion in the annual AFPA magazine.

26. APOLOA has its own page as part of the AFPA Website. The APOLOA has its own Website (www.britisharmypolo.org) and associated media outlets. The Director of Polo and the Secretary are responsible for updating the Association's web presence.

27. Close liaison is to be maintained with ASCB for advice, sanction and grants. It is APOLOA policy that all players and officials are strongly encouraged to be members of the ASL.

28. APOLOA is a member of the Army Equitation Association and the Director of Polo is the APOLOA representative who attends meetings on behalf of the Chairman.