

**COVID-19 SAFETY POLICY – STICK & BALL AND TRAINING SESSIONS****Overall Safety Policy****Objective:**

To implement a successful strategy, in conjunction with Public Health England and the Hurlingham Polo Association, to guarantee a safe, yet effective environment for Club patrons and playing members and their associated staff during stick & ball sessions at *Vaux Park Polo Club* during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Actions:****1. Players/Grooms/Coaches/Managers**

- a. All individuals who continue to be advised by Public Health England to remain in lockdown at home are not permitted at the Club at this time regardless of their Membership status. This includes all individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 as well as those who live in a household with someone who has symptoms.
- b. No Player or any person working for them (vets, grooms, horsebox drivers) will be allowed entry to *Vaux Park Polo Club* (referred henceforward as *VPPC*) unless they have been symptom-free for the last 14 days, nor been in contact with anyone who has those symptoms (except in a professional capacity as a doctor, nurse or allied health professional).
- c. All personnel coming to *VPPC* must complete and sign a one-off HPA waiver and lodge it with the *Covid Marshall Station* immediately upon arrival at *VPPC*. The player is responsible for their team personnel (e.g. groom, driver) completing this documentation. Failure to provide this information in advance will result in the player's stick and ball slot being cancelled and both ponies and groom denied entry to the Club.
- d. The player, who is responsible for all accompanying staff, must lodge health declarations for both themselves and their support team at the *Covid Marshall Station* immediately upon arrival at *VPPC*. Failure to provide this information within the designated time frame will result in the player's stick and ball slot being cancelled and both ponies and groom denied entry to the Club.
- e. All players, support staff, match officials and *VPPC* staff must have their temperature checked on arrival at the stick & ball ground. This will be carried out by *VPPC's Covid Marshall*. This is compulsory and failure to comply will result in you being refused permission to the stick & ball field. The *Covid Marshall's decision* is final and anyone with a raised temperature will be asked to leave the Club immediately. This process will be carried out every time you visit *VPPC*. It is also the responsibility of the player to ensure that their support team travelling for them on these stick & ball days – and going forward on match days - is healthy and not showing signs of a temperature.
- f. A player's support team must not consist of more than two additional people – 1 driver and 1 groom. *The Covid Marshall Station* advises that the player and the groom both travel independently of the horsebox unless the groom is driving the horsebox.
- g. Entry to *VPPC* is via the Main Entrance nearest the Manor only – *TA13 5LP*. *Players must report to the Covid Marshall Station at the entrance to the grounds before proceeding.*
- h. Players, grooms and drivers must provide their own gloves, masks and hand sanitizer. *The control at VPPC* may ask to see proof of this PPE.
- i. Grounds will be pre-determined and times strictly adhered to in order to maintain social distancing regulations. Players and their support teams must only go to the allocated ground and its associated parking area. *Vaux Park Polo Club* is following a strict hygiene protocol.
- j. If you are unable to keep to your booked time or are running late for your stick & ball session you must contact *the Covid Marshall Station* immediately to discuss your options.
- k. Horseboxes must not arrive at *VPPC* any earlier than 30 minutes prior to the booked stick & ball session.
- l. Each player is only allowed 6 horses at any stick & ball session and each stick & ball session lasts 1 hour. A maximum of 5 players will be allowed on the polo field at any one time and social distancing measures must be adhered to at all times.
- m. There is no food or drink available at *VPPC* at this time and so all personnel must bring their own individual refreshments.

**2. Match Officials /Vets**

- a. All individuals who continue to be advised by Public Health England to remain in lockdown at home are not permitted at the Club at this time. This includes all individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 as well as those who live in a household with someone who has symptoms.
- b. No match official or vet will be allowed entry to *VPPC* (unless they have been symptom-free for the last 14 days, and not been in contact with anyone who has those symptoms (except in a professional capacity as a doctor, nurse or allied health professional).
- c. All personnel coming to *VPPC* must complete and sign a one-off HPA waiver and lodge it with the *Covid Marshall Station* immediately upon arrival at *VPPC*. Failure to provide this information in advance will result in the match official/ vet being denied entrance to *VPPC*.
- d. All personnel must send a health declaration and lodge it with *the Covid Marshall Station* immediately upon arrival at *VPPC*. Failure to provide this information in advance will result in the match official/vet being denied entrance to *VPPC*.
- e. *Vaux Park Polo Club* will provide sanitised safety equipment for all match officials. All personnel should bring their own hand sanitizer and gloves.

- f. There is no food or drink available at the Club at this time and so everyone must provide their own refreshments.
- g. All match officials must follow the location advice as provided by *the Covid Marshall Station*. Match officials must arrive 1 hour before each agreed stick & ball sessions.
- h. Match Official roles and responsibilities:
  - i. To ensure hygiene protocols and social distancing regulations are observed,
  - ii. Deliver a smooth transition between stick & ball sessions and ensure each session runs to time,
  - iii. Liaise with Polo Manager/Ground Staff and players where necessary.

### **Social Distancing Policy**

#### **Objective:**

To reduce footfall in high risk areas – such as pony lines and lorry parks – and maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible, including while arriving at and departing from the Club, while at the Club, when playing and when travelling between sites. All personnel involved in stick & balling at VPPC will be given advance notice of the relevant ground and must only visit that ground and relevant parking areas and pony lines. Copies of our social distancing and hygiene protocols will be available at all times at VPPC. It will also be published on *the Vaux Park Polo Club website*– [www.vauxparkpoloclub.co.uk](http://www.vauxparkpoloclub.co.uk)

#### **Actions:**

- a. Polo personnel must only use designated parking areas and pony lines as agreed when booking the stick & ball session. No access will be allowed to other grounds.
- b. Grooms must observe social distancing rules at all times, especially when watching the polo or caring for the ponies in the pony lines.
- c. Players must avoid contact, including handshakes, with all other personnel while at VPPC.
- e. All pony changes must be managed with social distancing in place.
- f. All polo personnel should follow match officials' advice at all times as protocols may change due to congestion/incident.
- g. *A qualified First Aider will be on site for all stick & balling and all polo personnel will take their lead from them in respect of social distancing in the case of an accident.*
- h. The VPPC staff has its own social distancing policy and hygiene protocols in respect of an injured or deceased horse.

### **Hygiene Protocol**

#### **Objective:**

To keep playing areas clean and prevent COVID-19 transmission by contact or touching contaminated surfaces.

#### **Actions:**

- a. VPPC will disinfect every pony line and surrounding areas after each stick & ball day has concluded.
- b. VPPC has created hand sanitiser stations at *several points at the Lorry Park, yard and near to the Clubhouse*. All personnel should use a hand sanitizer on arrival and several times during each visit to VPPC.
- c. Grooms should disinfect reins and saddles immediately after use.
- d. Grooms must provide water for horses to drink and for hosing them down as none is available at VPPC.
- e. There is no access to *the Vaux Park Polo Clubhouse, toilets or changing rooms*. If you wish to speak to a member of the *Polo Office* please contact them via phone.
- f. All polo personnel should take any rubbish generated back with them to dispose of at home.
- g. It is the responsibility of every person involved in polo at VPPC to take responsibility for their own hygiene protocol.

### **Social Media**

Please respect the image of xxx when posting on social media and ensure that your post could not be interpreted in a way that could damage the reputation of the club & the sport

No images are to be posted that could be deemed that people are breaking social distancing guidelines – even family members.  
No images are to be posted that mislead the public, i.e. posting old photographs from past events unless stating thus, or photos from other locations then tagged as xxx.