



Midland Polo

(Since 1910)

2024



This booklet provides a general overview of important information for Midland Polo members and visiting players. Facility rules, dues/fees, contact lists, along with other general information are included in this booklet.

Midland Polo

Physical Address:
1800 Mockingbird Lane
Midland, Texas 79705

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 81113
Midland, Texas 79708

www.midlandpolo.net

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General Information

The Purpose of Midland Polo (“MP”) is:

LEARN – RIDE – PLAY

MP is an active community for polo players, trainers, junior players and families. The members of the MP want to cultivate future sustainable polo players and polo ponies to continue the legacy of the sport of polo. MP strives to provide a quality polo environment with quality fields, polo practices, stick and ball facilities, umpire clinics, and skill clinics to suit our member’s needs. Our practice season is virtually year-round with tournaments during the spring and fall.

MP has an active governing structure that includes member committees that assist the Manager. These member committees, together with the MP Executive Committee, have final ruling on all matters.

MP has facilities available for the members including stables, 3 polo fields, hitting cage, exercise track and a first-class arena. Some or all of these may not be available at all times.

MP has established a set of rules and a code of conduct (enclosed in this manual), which members and guest players are expected to know and follow.

In order to protect paying members, MP requires dues and fees be paid before participation in any MP events or seasonal participation. Member dues are used to operate the grounds, maintain the fields, and improve the facility.

“How do I become a Polo Player”?

Our most frequently asked question is “How do I become a polo player?” To help aspiring polo players receive a general introduction to the sport, MP has a polo school, whose mission is to create sustainable and committed members for the MP.

Key Contacts

• President	jennihord@hedlocinv.com	Jenni Hord	979-885-8236
• Manager	violetaescapite@gmail.com	Violeta Escapite	915-539-2053
• Facilities & Grounds	danhord@hedlocinv.com	Dan Hord	979-885-8118
• Finance	lisatindol2@hotmail.com	Lisa Tindol	432-556-7880
• Vet	tinvet12@gmail.com	Rogan Tindol	432-686-8540
• Interscholastic	ashley-owen@hotmail.com	Ashley Owen	713-859-7497
• Marketing	meghanberry@gmail.com	Meghan Berry	860-966-4787
• Membership/Social	jennihord@hedlocinv.com	Jenni Hord	979-885-8236
• Polo School	admin@midlandpolo.net	Violeta Escapite	915-539-2053
• Tournaments	admin@midlandpolo.net	Violeta Escapite	915-539-2053

Dues and Fees Schedule

Seasonal Dues and Fees

Tall City Membership (4-8 goal)

\$10,000 per Season

- Includes all tournament fees for the season
- Use of MP facilities and exercise track during calendar year
- Eligible to participate in the advanced 6-chucker Tall City Polo League
- Can substitute a qualified playing groom to fill your spot in a tournament; substitute player must be approved by the Manager at least one week prior to the tournament start
- Can participate in all practice chukkers
- Option to play in other leagues during the tournament season
- Covers cost of one to three pros, depending on season format, to participate in Tall City
- Pro should be handicap of 2 goals or above
- Pro below 2 goal requires an additional fee of \$2,500 per season
- All Tall City members and pros must have their USPA membership up to date before the start of each season

Pro-Am Membership (0-4 goal)

\$7,000 per Season

- Includes all tournament fees for the season
- Use of MP facilities and exercise track during tournament season
- This is a slower 4-chucker league
- During the tournament season, Pro-Am members will be responsible for bringing in and pairing with their own pro
- Can substitute a qualified playing groom to fill your spot in a tournament; substitute player must be approved by the Manager at least one week prior to the tournament start
- Can participate in all practice chukkers
- Pro below 2 goal requires an additional fee of \$2,500 per season
- All Pro-Am members and pros must have their USPA membership up to date before the start of each season

Wildcatters Membership

\$3,750 per Season

- Use of MP facilities and exercise track during tournament season
- Not Included: \$500 per season Tournament Fee (two per season)
- This is a coaching league that requires one Professional Polo Player per team of three members, who will be provided by MP; membership cost excludes the cost of one shared Professional Polo Player (2 goals or higher) per team. Each member is responsible for a \$1,400 per season Pro Fee
- Pros are not allowed to score goals, and may only hit the ball twice consecutively
- This is a coaching league and may be played on a shortened grass field
- Participation in 4-chucker Wildcatter-designated practices and tournaments on Saturdays and Sundays
- All Wildcatter members and pros must have their USPA membership up to date before the start of each season

Youth Membership**20% discount on league price per Season**

- Use of facilities and exercise track during tournament season
- Eligible to participate in tournament season and all practice chukkers; league participation will depend on player handicap
- Members must be under the age of 18
- Youth members must have their USPA membership up to date before the start of each season

Playing Groom Membership**\$2,500 per Season**

- Use of facilities and exercise track during tournament season
- Eligible to participate in all practice chukkers
- Tournament league participation will depend on player handicap and league pairing needs
- Sponsor or employer of the groom is responsible for paying their dues
- Playing grooms must have their USPA membership up to date before the start of each season

Arena Membership**\$1,000 per Season**

- Use of exercise track and arena during tournament season
- Eligible to participate in Arena League
- Arena members **must** stay off fields, including the stick and ball field, unless a separate Stick and Ball membership is paid
- Arena members must have their USPA membership up to date before the start of each season
- **Families**- every additional child (under 18) pays \$500

Equestrian Membership**\$600 per Season**

- Use of exercise track
- Social Membership

Stick & Ball Membership**\$500/month**

- Use of stick and ball field during tournament season

Social Membership (Annual)**\$400 per family / \$300 per individual**

- Receive emails regarding all MP events and invitation to member-only events (BBQs, etc.)

Polo School Fees

- Individual / group lesson with polo school horse..... \$120 / \$100
- Adult Polo School Program (6 weeks during season) \$1,200
 - Once per week
 - Horse included
- Kids Polo School Program (6 weeks during season) \$750
 - Once per week
 - Horse included
- Kids individual lesson with polo school horse \$100

Visitor Fees

Tall City League

- Weekend Player Fee (incl. MP membership and tournament fee for one practice and two games)\$1,000/pair
- Single Day Fee\$400/pair

ProAm League

- Weekend Player Fee (incl. MP membership and tournament fee for one practice and two games)\$800/pair

Wildcatters League

- Non-Tournament Weekend Player Fee (incl. MP membership, pro fee, practices on Saturday & Sunday)\$675/player
- Tournament Weekend Player Fee (incl. MP membership, pro fee, practice on Saturday & game on Sunday)\$900/player

Stick & Ball

- Daily Rate\$50/player

Stabling Fees

Daily Rate (Stalls) \$10/stall

Weekly Rates (Stalls)

- Large Stalls (23 count)..... \$60/week/stall
- Stalls with Runs (27 count) \$60/week/stall
- Regular Stalls (45 count) \$50/week/stall

Annual Rates (Stalls)

- Large Stalls (23 count).....\$1,200/year/stall
- Stalls with Runs (27 count)\$1,200/year/stall
- Regular Stalls (45 count)\$600/year/stall

Annual Rates (Barns)

- Tumbleweed Barn (7 Large Stalls) \$6,000
- School Barn (7 Stalls with Runs and 8 Regular Stalls) \$9,000
- Short Work Barn (8 Stalls with Runs and 8 Regular Stalls) \$9,000
- Haboob Barn (8 Stalls with Runs and 8 Regular Stalls) \$9,000
- Long Barn (4 Stalls with Runs and 21 Regular Stalls) \$12,000
- Pumpjack Barn (16 Large Stalls)..... \$18,000

MP Rules

MP is a private organization operated under the rules and guidance of the United States Polo Association (USPA).

Any violation of the rules and regulations or failure to comply with the decisions of the Executive Committee and Manager may result in a warning, suspension, expulsion or any combination thereof. The type of action taken for a general rules and regulation violation is left to the sole discretion of the Executive Committee and/or Manager.

MP rules are enforced following this basic procedure: 1) Member to Member – holding each other accountable for the code of conduct provided in this booklet and elsewhere, 2) Committee leaders will enforce rules for their area of responsibility if a member does not listen to the other member, and 3) Executive Committee if a member is ignoring the committee leader.

All members are responsible for the employees they hire. Members will be held responsible for their employees if rules are broken. If an employee is seen breaking a rule, an email will be sent to the member with the specific rule broken. Please be responsible for the people you hire.

Barn

- Throw all trash in proper containers. (tail tape!)
- Barn areas should be kept clean.
- Turn off any lights when not in use.
- **Manure may only be dumped in designated dumping areas by MP staff or those stabling in MP-owned barns or stalls. Please push manure up as you dump, and do not throw wire, strings, bottles, cans or trash in with manure. For MP members who do not rent MP-owned facilities, but who would like to use the MP dumping area, there is a monthly charge of [\$100.00] due to MP for this amenity.**

Field

- No short working on the fields, including stick and ball field (riding singles is allowed, just be respectful)
- No vehicles are allowed on the playing fields or driving between the fields (only staff are allowed on fields)
- UTVs, unless working on the fields and/or MP equipment are to stay off the playing fields.
- Field closures as posted in emails due to weather or conflicts are to be strictly followed.
- Horse trailers for active players must be parked in the designated trailer parking area and not on the fields or grass surrounding the playing fields. Only members and out-of-town paying guests are allowed to have trailers in trailer parking.
- Speed limit on the roads is 10 mph and must be adhered to for the safety of the members, horses and family members.
- Helmets and appropriate eyewear or face mask must be worn by all players participating in seasonal tournaments, practices, lessons, or any other mounted activity. Effective March 1, 2021, all players in any USPA Event or MP Event are required to wear a helmet that passes the NOCSAE ND050 Standard Performance Specification.
- Helmets and appropriate eyewear must be worn by all umpires.

Players

- For insurance purposes, all players must be current members of the USPA and provide appropriate waivers annually.
- MP dues/fees must be current before participating in MP events and any use of MP facilities.
- Only members and pros are allowed on the playing fields.
- The umpires and Tournament Committee shall enforce the rules of sportsmanship and appropriate player conduct on the playing fields.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the playing fields will not be tolerated. Playing rights may be rescinded for any player in violation of this provision.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct includes but is not limited to conduct, physical or verbal, directed to any official, player, spectator or other person or mount on the MP grounds that is threatening, assaulting, abusive, demeaning, obscene, profane, belligerent, or dangerous.
- In the event that a professional player who is sponsored or employed by an MP member is suspended from play, MP specifically disavows any responsibility cost incurred.

Umpires

- It is the responsibility of sitting pros to be the second umpire in Tall City games.
- It is the player's responsibility to check emails to see if they are scheduled to umpire a match.
- The umpire should not talk with others while the game is in progress.
- Umpires may send off any horse found to be lame, out of control, and/or dangerous.
- Umpires have the exclusive authority over the entire game.
- It is the umpire's responsibility to report any unsportsmanlike conduct and the circumstances surrounding it to the Manager as soon as possible.
- Umpires must be present 10 minutes prior to the game time and must return umpire equipment directly to Manager
- The final decision of canceling a game in progress, due to weather, shall be determined by the umpires and/or tournament officials.

Dogs

- Dogs can be a major problem on the MP grounds; dogs can inadvertently cause danger to the members or their horses.
- All dogs MUST be supervised. Any unsupervised dog must be on a leash. One written warning will be sent out from the Manager. The second offense will result in a \$100 fine.
- Dogs may never play with polo balls.

League and Tournament Play

- The opening and closing dates of the polo season are subject to weather and field conditions and may be altered at the sole discretion of the Manager.
- USPA Rules and Regulations will govern all tournaments, unless otherwise noted. All players are responsible for reading all USPA and MP rules. The tournament committee has the authority to revise and make rule decisions.
- MP reserves the right to allow outside teams to enter tournaments.

- Tournament fees are due prior to the tournament beginning.

Practice

- Practice participants must be MP members or must pay out-of-town practice fees.
- The Manager schedules practice matches weekly for member participation throughout the term of the polo season.
- Members are responsible for signing up for chukkers by texting the Manager by 5 PM the day before.
- Members are responsible for checking emails for their team color and game time. ***If you need to cancel and practice is already scheduled you must find a replacement and alert the manager. The manager is not responsible for replacing a player in a scheduled practice or tournament.***
- ALL players MUST sign a release prior to participating in any MP events, games or use of the facilities. Any player who is not a paying member must first register with the Manager and sign a release prior to playing or trying polo ponies for sale by a member.
- Practice times, umpire assignments, and game flaggers will be emailed to member list. Members are responsible for checking their email.

Membership and Insurance

- For insurance purposes, ALL players must be current members of MP and USPA.
- For insurance purposes, ALL players must sign a release waiver prior to playing, participating in any event or using MP facilities. This waiver will also be required of grooms, guests, family, and all people who ride on the grounds.
- Members are responsible for and should carry medical insurance for themselves, their grooms and sponsored players.

Green Horse Polo Code of Conduct

Green horse polo is different than a regular practice chukker or game. The purpose of Green Horse Polo is to introduce polo ponies to the sport and provide a safe environment for training. The following is a guideline for playing Green Horse Polo in Midland. Please respect green horses and their rider's needs when you sign up to play a green horse chukker or game.

- Allow a player's horse to gain confidence.
- No bumping.
- No hooking a player.
- No full swings unless you are in front of the pack by at least 3 horse lengths.
- Do not hit another horse with the ball or mallet.
- No holding the ball unnecessarily.
- No hard running.
- Please use judgment when backing the ball, do not back the ball into a pack.
- No blatant fouls or line crosses at severe angles. Note: Sometimes it is all a player can do to get the horse moving in the general direction of the ball...if you take that potential play away from him it can ruin the confidence of the green horse.
- Put your competitive nature aside and play for the horse, both yours and others'. Green Horse Polo can be a great time to help each other out and build camaraderie.

Supplemental Information

MP is very proud of all the committee leaders who volunteer their time and energy to create a quality polo environment. They welcome your questions or concerns. Also please contact any leader if you are interested in serving on a committee.

Manager

Violeta Escapite
(915) 539-2053
admin@midlandpolo.net

Bookkeeper

Lisa Tindol
(432) 556-7880
Lisatindol2@hotmail.com

USPA Delegate

Dan Hord
(979) 885-8118
danhord@hedlocinc.com

USPA Southwestern Circuit Governor

Paul Jornayvaz
(713) 650-0173
paulj@dahughes.net