

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
I/I TC Review Sub-Committee
Wednesday, July 7, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

Members:

Dr. Bruce Wells, Co-Chairman
Kimberly M. Syme, I/I Program Director
Cindy Halle
Lou Lopez
Peter Rizzo

Russell A. Sheldon, Co-Chairman
Megan Judge
Danny Scheraga
Tom Wisehart

Guests:

Duncan Huyler
Amy Wisehart

I. Call to Order

Russ Sheldon, Co-Chair, presided over the meeting. He began at 12:09 with a welcome to members and guests.

II. Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2010

Danny Scheraga made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Seconded by Lou Lopez. All in favor.

III. Old Business

A. Item 1 - Update by Student Eligibility Sub-committee

Tom Wisehart gave update on the sub-committee's work. He stated that there is a need for a definition of "online courses". He stated that the group is split on an age restriction change, as is the feedback he has received from other coaches. Tom also noted that coaches are responding more to requests for input and he has received good feedback on various topics. Russ noted that the sub-committee doesn't need to make the decision on age. It can be left to the TC Review Committee to vote on. Russ thanked the Eligibility Sub-committee for the good work and effort they have put in.

B. Item 2 – Penalty 7

Discussion on Penalty 7 continued. In the event a player comes out of a game due to an injury as a result of the other team fouling, should the team that was fouled have the option to play with their alternate, or request that the HTC remove one of the players from the fouling team (as stated in I/I TCs), and continue to play two on two. Cindy Halle does not feel that the team disadvantaged by the foul and resulting injury be forced to play their alternate, who may be a much weaker player. Russ Sheldon noted that there are no handicaps in I/I polo, so determining which player comes out on the opposing team is difficult. It was clarified that the HTC present would be who determines the player closest in ability to the injured player. Russ Sheldon cautions that this may encourage "head hunting" or faking of injuries. Lou Lopez feels that the point of having an alternate, is to have someone who can play in the event there is an injury on the team and that alternate should be able to play or don't have them. Kim reiterated that is only in the event of a Penalty 7, when a player is hurt and cannot play as a result of a foul. Megan Judge stated that perhaps it should be made clear to teams that there may be situations -where you do not list your alternate on the score sheet – that there may be some games that you do not feel your alternate is capable to play at that particular level.

MOTION: Peter Rizzo moved to draft the language that allows the team fouled the option of playing alternate or to continue play two on two (as written in the arena rules, Penalty 7 a and b). Second by Cindy Halle. Danny Scheraga would like to add whether the team decides before or after the HTC chooses the player with the closest ability of the injured player. Russ stated that this can be tied in to the drafted language. Kim will work on the draft and forward to committee for review.

Vote: Danny – yes. Peter –yes. Russ- no. Megan- abstain. Tom -yes. Lou - abstain. Bruce- yes. Cindy - yes.
Motion carries.

C. Item 3 – Spare horse procedure

The proposed language change in the spare horse procedure was presented. Danny Scheraga suggested removing the word “required” from item 6 on the split string format sheet. Horse owners can strongly recommend not lining a horse up in a particular position and the tournament manager can reiterate that as a safety concern. Kim noted that she, Cindy and Amy were charged with clarifying the spare horse procedure, not changing it. She does recommend having two spares if available to replace the removed horse so that the string remains as balanced as possible. Danny Scheraga agrees with this and suggests adding another line on the split string sheet that makes it very clear as to which horses goes in to each position and that this is clearly stated prior to the start of the game.

MOTION: Russ Sheldon moved to adopt the proposed language with the additional edits mentioned above. Seconded by Danny.

Vote: Danny - yes. Peter - yes. Russ - abstain. Megan - yes. Tom- yes. Lou - yes. Cindy - yes. Bruce – yes.
Amended language adopted.

IV. New Business

A. Discuss item 11 - BPP procedure.

There was discussion as to whether consolation chukkers should count towards BPP and BPS scores. Cindy Hale suggests including language that states horse scores from the consolation games be counted. Tom Wisheart noted that the scoring of consolation chukkers may be skewed differently from the rest of the tournament. Lou Lopez agrees.

MOTION: Danny moved to count BPP scores of consolation chukkers. Seconded by Bruce.

Vote: Danny - yes. Peter - yes. Russ - yes. Megan - no. Tom – no. Lou - no. Bruce - yes. Cindy - yes.
Motion carries.

B. Discuss item 12 – Fines and Penalties

Need to refer to current TCs and examine whether language needs to be created that penalizes horse providers for not keeping horses in tournament as scheduled.

C. Discuss item 13 – Require umpires to wear helmets

Discussion as to whether umpires of I/I Tournaments should be required to wear helmets just as the players are required to. The definition of a helmet needs to be clarified. Cindy Hale noted that umpires set an example for the I/I students. Lou agrees. Russ suggests drafting a TC that requires helmets to be worn by all I/I Tournament umpires to be approved by this committee.

V. Announcements – next scheduled teleconference - July 23rd, 12 Noon ET

VI. Adjournment - Cindy made a motion to adjourn at 1:40 PM ET. Seconded by Danny. All in favor.