

USPA PROGRAM GUIDE

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1890

USPA MISSION STATEMENT

The United States Polo Association was organized and exists for the purposes of promoting the game of polo, coordinating the activities of its Member Clubs and Registered Players, arranging and supervising polo tournaments, competitions, and games and providing rules, handicaps, and conditions for those tournaments, competitions, and games including the safety and welfare of participants and mounts.

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USPA PROGRAMS

As a USPA Member Club there are many benefits to take advantage of through our programs and with the support of our committees.

Club Awards:

What better way to participate in the national association than through awarding your own members national awards that recognize the best equine welfare, outstanding groom and most improved player? To recognize an individual with one of these prestigious awards, please email a request to uspa@uspolo.org.

Clint Nangle Equine Welfare Award

The club Clint Nangle Equine Welfare Award is provided by the Association to a recipient who has demonstrated excellence in the field of equine welfare.

Owen O'Hanlon Best Groom Award

The Owen O'Hanlon Best Groom Award is provided by the USPA annually to each active USPA club to be given to a recipient based on the following criteria: dedication, ability, knowledge.

Dr. Billy Linfoot Most Improved Player Award

In Dr. Billy Linfoot's own words, "Polo is harmony between two athletes: horse and rider. They must communicate in order to perform. For that reason it is an emotional game. Scoring is not enough. To score you must ride like a master. Keeping a cool head in polo is doubly important because you are thinking for two." This award is a tribute to Dr. Billy Linfoot and is provided by the United States Polo Association once per year to each and every USPA Club. It is to be given to a recipient based on the following virtues:

- **Improved athletic ability**
- **Sportsmanship**
- **Integrity in all aspects of the game, both on and off the field.**

Circuit Awards:

Circuit Sportsmanship Award

Awarded by the Circuit Governor to a player who promotes the honorable traditions of polo by his or her conduct and exemplifies the very best in sportsmanship and fair play.

Circuit Clint Nangle Equine Welfare Award

An official plaque awarded by the Club Delegate to an individual who demonstrates outstanding achievement in the field of equine welfare.

Arena Committee:

The Arena Committee provides benefits to clubs through the USPA Arena Incentive Program, which reimburses for certain expenses, as well as the Arena Challenge Cup Series, where USPA provides trophies and umpires. Program specifics and requirements listed below.

USPA Arena Incentive Program

The USPA Arena Committee, in an effort to increase participation in arena polo, has received Board-approved funds to be used to reimburse certain expenses for USPA member clubs that host the following tournaments:

TOURNAMENT	GOAL LEVEL	AMOUNT REIMBURSED
CIRCUIT ARENA CHALLENGE CUP (8)	*	$300.00
CIRCUIT SHERMAN MEMORIAL (6)	3-6	$500.00
CIRCUIT ARENA DELEGATE'S CUP (2)	6-9	$500.00
CIRCUIT ARENA CHAIRMAN'S CUP (1)	9-12	$500.00
NATIONAL SHERMAN MEMORIAL (1)	3-6	$750.00
NATIONAL ARENA DELEGATE'S CUP (1)	6-9	$750.00
NATIONAL ARENA CHAIRMAN'S CUP (1)	9-12	$750.00

*The Circuit Governer has the ability to set the goal level of this tournament.

Requirements:

All tournaments are subject to approval by your Circuit Governor or the USPA Tournament Committee.

- These funds are in addition to any other available USPA funds (umpiring, marketing, etc.)
- For Circuit events you must have a minimum of three teams competing in the event to be eligible for this reimbursement.
- For National events a minimum of four teams must compete in the event to be eligible for this reimbursement.
- These funds are limited and will be approved on a first come first served basis.

For more information or to apply, contact Lindsey Ebersbach: lebersbach@uspolo.org.

Arena Challenge Cup Series

Goal Level: Set by the host club

Application: Circuit Application

Benefits:

- Trophies provided by USPA are eligible for trophy reimbursement program.
- USPA Free Umpire Available.
- Any player who participates in an arena qualifier is eligible to participate in the Nationals.

Finals: Fall Season, location to be determined.


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U.S. POLO ASSOCIATION



Equine Welfare Committee

Mission Statement: The Equine Welfare Committee recognizes the value of the polo pony to the sport and advises the Association and its Membership on all aspects of the care and well-being of polo ponies. The Committee develops policies and procedures and executes programs to ensure that polo ponies are treated in accordance with humane guidelines and the highest standards of care.

Equine Welfare Guidelines Book

The second edition of the USPA Equine Guidelines Book was published in early 2016. This book is a guide for members on all aspects of horse care, including feeding and first aid. This book will be distributed to all clubs in 2016 with additional copies available for purchase online as well as a downloadable version (link below).

CLICK TO ACCESS: USPA Equine Welfare Guidelines

Body Condition Scoring Poster

Polo Development created a version of the Heineke Body Condition Scoring System. This system is used around the world to determine fat distribution in horses. The committee will be distributing these to clubs in the 2016 Equine Welfare Packet mentioned below.

CLICK TO ACCESS: USPA Body Condition Scoring Poster

2016 Equine Welfare Packets

All Active and Affiliate Member Clubs will be receiving an Equine Welfare Packet in the 2016 year. This packet will include copies of the Equine Welfare Guidelines Book, a Body Condition Scoring poster, a pad of Body Condition Scoring Forms and a pad of Equine Welfare Acknowledgement Forms.

International Committee

“Polo is your passport to the world.” The USPA International Committee was created to help facilitate international polo opportunities. Whether your club is interested in hosting an International Event or you’re wanting to send a team to represent the United States in a tournament played abroad, the USPA International Committee can provide you with guidance.

CLICK TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT:
International Sanctioned Application

CLICK TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES IN A TOURNAMENT:
International Team Sanctioned Application

National Handicap Committee

As a fundamental service to all USPA members, the Handicap Committee selects Outdoor/ Indoor Handicaps for those USPA members who compete in the sport of polo in order to create the fairest possible competitive environment within the structure of the USPA and to make those handicaps publicly available to all members.

Handicap Procedure

Registered Players, Affiliate Players and Student Members are awarded a handicap rating, expressed in goals, which is an indicator of the value of that player to his or her team. Handicap ratings range from C (minus 2-goals), the so-called beginner, to 10-goals, theoretical perfection. Members are evaluated twice a year by local committees and the National Handicap Committee of the USPA using the criteria of general mastery of the fundamentals, horsemanship, sense of strategy and conduct and quality of ponies.

Rules and Rules Interpretation Committee

The USPA Rules and Rules Interpretation Committee is in service to all clubs and members and advises on all aspects of our rules, including the White Book, Outdoor/Arena Rules, Constitution and By-Laws, Tournament Conditions and Equine Drugs and Medications.

CLICK TO ACCESS: 2016 Rulebook

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee provides benefits to clubs and members through polo injury research, injury prevention and testing of protective gear, as well as communication of safety information and safety recommendations to polo players and polo officials. The committee has made available grants for companies that develop approved safety gear.

NOCSAE Helmet Grants

The Safety Committee has two $25,000 grants to award to a company that develops a NOCSAE approved helmet with NOCSAE approved mounted eye protection. The company can apply for the grant once the helmet has been placed on the market.

Baseline Testing

The United States Polo Association Safety Committee proudly offers ImPACT baseline testing to all Youth Members ages 10-26. Youth Members receive $25 off next year's USPA Membership by getting their baseline tested. We hope to offer it to the membership at large in the near future.

USPA Safety Injury Report

If you have suffered a polo-related injury, please complete the USPA Safety Injury Report.





Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee elevates the standards of play, promotes involvement and the overall vitality of the game of polo and stimulates the growth of tournament play at all levels by hosting USPA Sanctioned, Circuit and National tournaments at USPA member clubs. Through the approval of tournament matches and events, the USPA Tournament Committee promotes an emphasis on sportsmanship, fairness and safety while expanding the opportunities for professionals, amateurs, umpires, clubs, sponsors and spectators.

There are three types of USPA Tournaments:

- National Tournaments
- Circuit Tournaments
- Sanctioned Tournaments

For information on different types of tournaments or hosting an event, please see the Tournament Guide.

Trophy Reimbursement Program

The USPA offers a Trophy Reimbursement Program (TRP) for clubs hosting USPA National and Circuit Events. This will allow clubs to purchase their own winners' awards and then be reimbursed for a set amount (shown below).

Clubs will need to follow these simple steps:

1. Submit a Tournament Application:
   Circuit Event
   National Event
2. Designate on the application that the club will be using the TRP.
3. Order trophies. Prize Possessions, www.prizepossessions.com, and Sterling Cut Glass, www.sterlingcutglass.com, offer a discount for USPA tournaments. You may also use a trophy supplier of your choice.
4. Fill out the Reimbursement Form
5. Submit the purchase receipt and Reimbursement Form to Lindsey Ebersbach at lebersbach@uspolo.org or via fax (888) 391-7410.

This program cannot be used for the following tournaments: Circuit Governor's Cup, National Youth Tournament Series, Circuit Hall of Fame Challenge or USPA/PTF Seniors Tournament.

Reimbursement Amounts:

Circuit Outdoor Event: $140
Circuit Arena Event: $120
National Outdoor Event: $600
National Arena Event: $500

POLO DEVELOPMENT LLC

The Polo Development, LLC provides many benefits to clubs through their programs, grants and educational tools.

Player Development

Junior Polo

Programs to provide resources and training to the growing youth sector of players.

National Youth Tournament Series:

A program that provides opportunity for intermediate and advanced youth players to compete against peers.

Unrated National Youth Tournament Series:

A program that introduces tournament polo to youth players at the beginner level.

Team USPA

An advanced training program for 18- to 25-year-old American players, focusing on: mentoring, playing opportunities, clinics and lectures.

Young Player Outreach:

A program to support a larger scope of young players, focused on strong foundations and playing opportunities.

Training Centers:

Centers used for training players, through utilizing mentors and the Team USPA donation horses. Currently located in Wyoming, Florida and South Carolina.

Instructors-Managers Forum

A yearly resource for polo instructors and managers to gather, learn and network.

Free Player Clinics

A program with a multi-focused approach on improving skills, assisting the club in recruiting and developing new students, and providing instructors with the opportunity to team teach with a USPA Clinician.

Pony Club: Provides free polo instruction and awareness to US Pony Club members.

Youth Clinics: Free clinics offered by USPA to kids 10 and older.

Adult Clinics: Free Clinics offered by USPA instructors to adults 18 and older.

Certified Polo Instructor

A program for polo instructors to become certified and endorsed for their teaching abilities through USPA clinics.

Instructor Skilz Clinic

A program offered to instructors to sharpen their skills and build their knowledge prior to attending certification testing.

For more information on Player Development, contact Amanda Snow: asnow@uspolo.org.

Club Development

Polo Development Initiative

A program designed to financially support the sport of polo at the grassroots level through an award application process. The focus of the PDI program is on player/membership development and retention, promotion and outreach, and sustainable club development.

Intern Program

A program designed to foster and develop the next generation of instructors, managers and polo professionals through mentoring and hands-on polo experience.

Polo Skilz

www.poloskilz.com is an online education resource platform developed to raise the standard of instruction and allow new players to the sport of polo to research material they can apply to their individual skill development. Polo Skilz will serve as a resource center for the Certified Polo Instructor Program.

Club Consulting

A program designed to assist clubs in strategic planning, organization and management, market research and long-term goals.

Circuit Strategic Planning:

A continuous process of working with circuit leadership to develop a plan for the growth of the sport at the circuit level. Promoting regional cooperation amongst the clubs.

Outside the Boards:

A program aimed to help clubs develop skills in sponsorships, event planning, marketing and targeting an audience.

For more information on Club Development, contact Justin Powers: jpowers@uspolo.org.


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Intercollegiate/Interscholastic

Interscholastic Tournaments
Tournaments open to players in 7th-12th grade to play competitive polo with their peers using split strings.

Intercollegiate Tournaments
Men's and women's tournaments open to full-time collegiate players to play competitive polo with other colleges using split strings.

I/I Regular Season
IS and IC teams compete in regular season play to vie for the regular season regional championship award.

Middle School League
Designed for players 5th-8th grade to play as individuals or teams in which they supply an appropriate mount.

I/I Start Up & Enhancement
Support to I/I programs in the form of funding for tack and equipment, fundraisers and umpire support.

I/I Magazine
A yearly national USPA publication showcasing the past years' tournament winners, players of the year, articles, stories and photos from the program.

Interscholastic Varsity Letter
An achievement program available for interscholastic polo players when a qualified athlete submits required documentation.

National Alumni Tournament
Tournament available for I/I alum who have actively participated in the I/I program throughout the past year.

Intercollegiate Scholarship Program
A program to help fund Interscholastic players as they continue their polo career in college.

Club Consulting
A program designed to assist clubs in strategic planning, organization and management, market research and long-term goals.

Player/Umpire/Coaches Clinics
The I/I program sponsors player, umpire and coaches clinics throughout the season.

College Polo 101
A yearly resource for collegiate polo players to gather, learn and network.

International/WCT/US Open Team Competition
Promotion of I/I players on a national and international stage, supporting arena polo, international polo and women's polo.

For more information on Intercollegiate/ Interscholastic, contact Amy Fraser: afraser@uspolo.org.

UMPIRES LLC

The Umpires LLC provides many benefits to clubs ranging from the supply of professional umpires to umpire reimbursement.

PUMP/6 and PUMP/8 Programs

Member Clubs hosting a USPA National or Circuit event 8-goals or under are eligible to receive one free umpire.

USPA Umpires, LLC has launched the Professional Umpire Management Program's (PUMP) free umpire initiative. PUMP/6 and PUMP/8 will cover the cost of travel, housing, ground transportation and salary for one umpire for any USPA National or Circuit event. PUMP/6 and PUMP/8 applies to both outdoor and arena events with a minimum of three teams (PUMP/6) and four teams (PUMP/8) participating. The host club must confirm that all tournament participants are current USPA members and agree to follow all USPA tournament conditions.

Umpire availability is based on a first come, first serve basis. All PUMP club requests must be made directly through USPA Umpires, LLC three weeks prior to the event. Clubs that already have a professional umpire contracted through USPA Umpires, LLC will be credited according to the price schedule for the level of the tournament.

To request your free umpire today, please contact Maggie Mitchell by phone 941-928-4600 or by email mmitchell@uspolo.org.

Umpire Management Program "UMP"

Each USPA circuit is allocated "UMP" funds, based on the amount of member clubs, registered players and affiliate members within the circuit. The Umpires LLC, UMP Program is focused on reimbursing a portion of umpire fees, for clubs who hire certified umpires. There is a total amount of $118,000 allocated to the 13 circuits of the USPA. Over 65 USPA member clubs received umpire reimbursements through the UMP Program in 2015.

For further information, please contact Steve Lane, slane@uspolo.org, or 352-454-6611.

Circuit Umpire Reimbursement Program

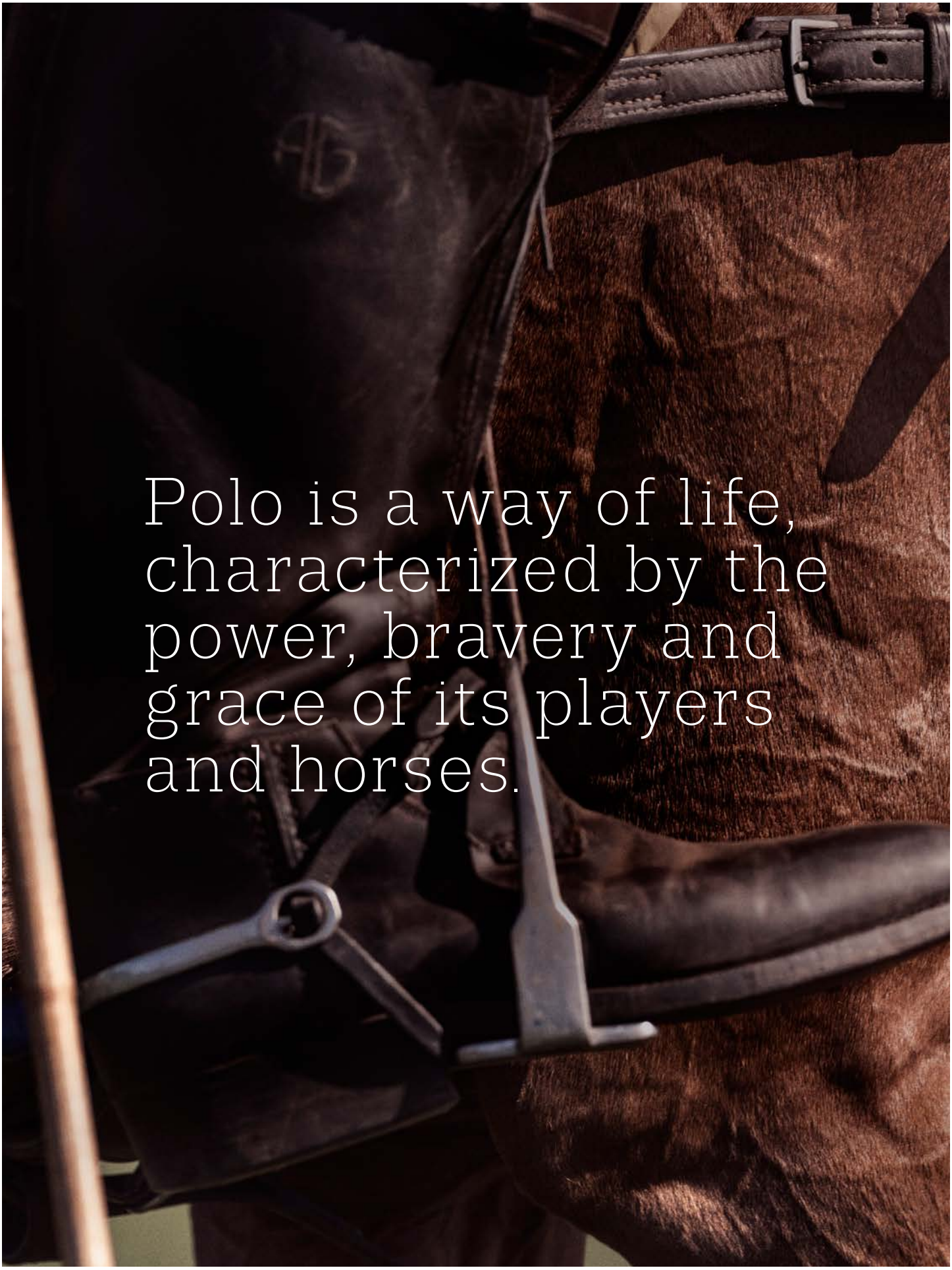
The Circuit Umpire Reimbursement program will provide reimbursement for two B-rated (or higher rated) umpires for two USPA circuit events per circuit selected by USPA Circuit Governors. The reimbursement will include travel, housing and per diem expenses – the club hosting the circuit event selected by the Circuit Governor will provide reimbursement expense requests to the USPA. Management for the proposed program will be the Head Umpire Instructor who will receive the requests from the Circuit Governors, then solicit and select the Certified or Professional Umpires and make the necessary arrangements to provide the umpires for the scheduled event.

The rates paid to the Certified Umpires will be from the listed rates for USPA Professional Umpires, though they need only be USPA Certified and not necessarily Professional Umpires.

The goals of this proposed program are to: 1) provide higher quality, USPA Certified and Professional Umpires to the club and circuit; 2) create a demand by players and clubs for trained USPA Certified and Professional Umpires.


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Polo is a way of life,
characterized by the
power, bravery and
grace of its players
and horses.


UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1890