

# New Zealand Polocrosse Gear Checking Guidelines 2016



As there is no specific requirement for "Gear Checks" to be carried out prior to games, practices or training events it is the responsibility of the rider, or parent / guardian of the rider, to ensure that all playing gear is correct and of a safe, recommended, or approved standard.

Gear inspections can be carried out by Umpires prior to the start of a game, or may also be carried out by other people within the Club or team (eg. Coach / Manager) – these checks in no way reduce the onus on the rider to ensure that they have SAFE gear – these are to check that there is no obvious fault in the gear or equipment being used and that these meet with current regulations - i.e. IPC Playing Rules for gear, NZPX helmet standards etc. Checking that whips have flappers, that there are no sharp or protruding points on buckles, illegal bits, spurs etc.

All players should regularly check the fit of their gear – especially if riding different horses; check for weak or faulty girths or surcingles; and check all stitching on bridles, saddles, girths, stirrups etc.

All helmets should meet the approved standard and be tagged with the current years coloured tag (see NZPX Helmet Standards 2016).

The IPC Rules in relation to "**Correct Dress and Gear**" (Rule 22) states –

- (a) Players must be properly dressed in registered National Association colours, riding boots, approved headgear and white trousers.
- (b) Umpire shall be properly dressed in white trousers, white standards approved helmet, umpire jacket and riding boots.
- (c) No player shall wear spurs with sharp rowels.
- (d) The Umpire shall have the right to determine the safety of all bits. Bits with protruding sidebars shall not be permitted. Bits to have a mouth piece and reins attached.
- (e) All gear must be sound and in good order.
- (f) All saddles shall be equipped with girth, surcingle and breastplate or combination girth, surcingle and with breastplate.
- (g) Roping saddles or saddles equipped with a horn shall not be used.
- (h) The Polocrosse stick may be of any length but the head shall have an internal stringing area no greater than 216 mm in length by 184 mm and shall have no metal reinforcements or any protrusions.
- (i) Players must be correctly numbered with clearly visible numbers not less than 230 mm high on their backs and a second number of no less than 115 mm which shall be clearly visible on either the front or the arm.

"Attack" players shall be numbered 1  
"Centre" players shall be numbered 2  
"Defence" players shall be numbered 3

- (j) Horses will play with protective bandages/boots and coronet boots on all four legs.
- (k) All whips to have a flapper on the end at least 12.5 mm wide and 50 mm long.
- (l) No split or running reins shall be allowed. A running rein is defined as any attachment from hand through bit to saddle, girth, breastplate etc., or anything, which may be construed as a second rein. A professionally manufactured Market Harborough is accepted. The collected reins when placed on wither should not fall below horses elbow.
- (m) A list specifying the use of spurs/whips and any other equipment usually used on the horse whilst playing polocrosse be supplied and the owner to supply the bit with the horse in which it is to be ridden in at all times.

Umpires have the right to remove riders from the field, or to suspend play if need be (in relation to a rule) , to address an obvious “fault” in gear on the horse – this is as much for the safety of the rider, as for the safety of the horse and the other horses and riders on the field.

An Umpire shall stop a game to allow for a player to recover their helmet if it is lost / dislodged during play.

An Umpire shall stop play for broken or loose bandages, or if a saddle cloth is lost or in danger of coming off.

IF a player is sent away before the beginning of a game to address an issue arising from not abiding to the “Correct Dress and Gear” rules, then play may start without that person.

***It is the rider’s responsibility (or the parent or guardian of the rider) to check that they have retightened their girth / surcingle if this has been loosed between chukkas!***

**DISCLAIMER:**

All players, spectators or public that enter polocrosse grounds (or grounds where polocrosse is being played), or take part in the sport of polocrosse, do so at their own risk.

Whilst all care and due diligence will be used to ensure the safety of those participating in the sport of polocrosse, New Zealand Polocrosse Incorporated, its affiliated Clubs or Associations, cannot be held liable for any damage, injury or the like caused to, or suffered by, any persons, animal or property.

Umpires, or others, that carry out gear checks or make recommendations on gear, use of gear, playing or riding recommendations cannot be held liable – it is the responsibility of the rider, or parent / guardian of the rider, to ensure that all playing gear is correct and of a safe, recommended or approved standard.