



Westchester Polo Club
2024 Handbook

Westchester Polo Club

Since 1876

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To All Prospective Members;

The purpose of this handbook is to explain the practices of the Westchester Polo Club (WPC) and clarify specific issues concerning our organization for all Members. As our polo club continues to add new Members, I believe it is important to provide this information to all participants.

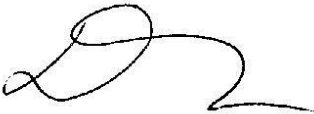
It is mandatory that all members read this Handbook and understand our practices, procedures and policies, and with your signature acknowledge your acceptance of the guidelines and any rules which have needed to be put into effect for the benefit of all members.

Membership in the WPC requires the following 3 things by April 1st, 2024:

1. Current individual playing membership in the United States Polo Association (USPA) is compulsory for all members of any USPA member polo club.
2. Signature of Acceptance of WPC Handbook & Waiver of Liability
3. 2024 Greens Fees: payment of the annual greens fees for Membership

As a book of rules can tend to be heavy handed, I would like to present these rules with the goal being the mutual enjoyment of polo by all our members, and I hope all of you view this booklet in that light.

I look forward to seeing you on the field this season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Keating', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Keating

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Introduction

Welcome to the Westchester Polo Club (WPC), America's first polo club.

Formed in 1876 by founding members who hailed mostly from Westchester County, NY, the Westchester Polo Club established its summer headquarters in Newport, RI where its members spent their summer holidays. The original club remained active until 1929.

In its modern-day auspices, managed by Newport Polo Inc., the club remains registered with the United States Polo Association (USPA) under the historic Westchester name. Westchester Polo Club is the official name and club affiliation that you should use as your home club on all USPA and tournament registrations.

The WPC is wholly owned and operated by Newport Polo Inc. of 2503 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI, 02871. Its officers are Daniel Keating, Founder & President and USPA club delegate; and Agnes Keating, General Manager. David Markell is Polo Manager.

Newport Polo Inc. reserves the right to the exclusive use of its properties, including real estate and intellectual property including and not limited to publications, marketing collateral, website and logos, trademarks and entity name(s). Unauthorized use or duplication of any of its properties may cause damage, devaluation or liability, and therefore requires the expressed written consent by Newport Polo Inc., and any infringement thereof will incur legal action.

Each year the grass polo season begins as early in the summer and ends as late in the fall as is possible in our climate and grass-growing season, (May-September) leaving time to dry, roll, seed & fertilize in spring, and fertilize and repair before the dormancy of grass sets in with the diminishing daylight in autumn. Any use of WPC fields after the final Saturday polo match in September until the following season begins is prohibited, as all fields are closed during the off-season, except for the Upper Practice field at Glen Farm. Please refer to Use of Facilities section for details.

Dates of Polo

FIXTURES

WPC Annual Winter Meeting	February
Annual Greens Fees Due	April 1 (March 1 for Installments)
Member Photo & Bio Due	April 1 with Greens Fees
First club practice of the season	First Sunday in May
Rotary Benefit Match	Last Saturday in May, 5PM
Grass fields close	Last Saturday in September
Players Dinner Awards Banquet	October 12, 2024

NEWPORT INTERNATIONAL POLO SERIES

Opening Match of Polo Series	First Saturday in June, 5PM
Saturday Match time change	First Saturday in Sept., 4PM
Movie Night on the Polo Field	TBD @sunset by NewportFILM

SEASONAL ADDENDUM

Spring Arena Season Opens	APR 1
Club Spring Arena Tournament	APR 24-28
Club Friendship Tournaments	Thursdays, MAY 30 - SEP 12
USPA Outdoor Tourneys:	JUN 16-30, JUL 7-28; AUG 25-SEP 8
Rotary Charity Match	Saturday, MAY 25
All Charity Match	Sunday, JUL 14
International Polo Charity Ball	Friday, AUG 2
USPA Arena Tourneys:	OCT 12-13; NOV 7-10 (W's)
Club Autumn Players Tournament	OCT 26-27
Club Thanksgiving Tournament	NOV 23-24

WPC Guidelines

2024 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Due by April 1, 2024

- USPA Membership must be in current standing by April 1, 2024. Greens fees will not be accepted until USPA membership is established
 - WPC Handbook [signature of acceptance](#) will be required with payment of greens fees.
 - Greens Fees
 - Season Member: **\$3,900**
 - Coaching League Member: **\$700/month**; sessions in July, Aug
 - Visiting Membership: \$800/week or \$300/day
- Due by April 1 in Full or March 1 for Installment Plan
Payable by check/cash to: Newport Polo, 2503 East Main Rd,
Portsmouth RI 02871
OR online at www.nptpolo.com (3rd party credit card transaction fees are added to online payment.)
- \$350 Late Fee for Membership renewal received after April 1st

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

SEASON MEMBERSHIP:

- May – Sept: Play in club tournaments & practice chukkers on Tues/Thurs/Suns
- Polo Clinics
- Name & Picture in Newport International Polo Series season program & web site (Void after April 15th)
- Season Passes & Guest Tickets to Saturday matches (and Priority Access if paid by 8am Feb 28)
- 20% Discount in Pro Shop; must present Season Pass

Coaching League Membership

- July and/or August: Play in coaching chukkers: Tuesdays and Sundays
- Polo Clinics

Visiting Membership

- May – Sept: Play in club tournaments & practice chukkers on Tues/Thurs/Suns
- Polo Clinics
- Participants require consultation w/club management

These are the 3 options available for membership. The WPC does not create custom membership packages. Greens fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

OUTDOOR POLO

SEASON MEMBER PROGRAM DETAILS

May:

- First practice **May 5th**, 2024
- Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays:
 - Practice Chukkers ~ 5pm sharp
 - Field TBA, per ground conditions
 - Red and Navy polos required

June-September:

- Tuesdays: Practice Chukkers
 - 5pm sharp (4pm start may be avail as season progresses)
 - Red and navy polos required
- Thursdays: Club & International Friendship Tournaments
 - 5pm sharp
 - Club Tournament dates: **June 6, 20; July 11; Aug 8, 22; Sept 19, 26;** (subject to change)
 - Friendship Tournament dates: **May 30, 13; July 4, 18; Aug. 1, 15, 29; Sept. 12;**
 - Whites required
- Sundays: Practice Chukkers
 - 5pm sharp (4pm start may be avail as season progresses)
 - Red and navy polos required
 - No Club polo on **Sun, July 14**

COACHING LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP:

- Coaching chukkers beginning **Sun, July 7, 2024**
- Tue's at 5:00 pm (coaching chukkers)
- Sun's at 5:00 pm (no Club polo on **Sun, July 14**)
- Prospect Field, Maple Meadow Farm and Glen Farm practice fields
- Red and Navy polos required
- 2 - chukkers during each practice; participants are divided into teams; each team will have a coach giving instruction during play
- Limit of 6 positions available, by membership registration
- Session: (July **and/or** August)
- Participants will need to arrange their own horses; Contact Dan@nptpolo.com for a list of horse leasing contacts.

The Coaching League is intended as a bridge from the lesson program to membership. Since the number of positions is limited, the Coaching League is not meant for *long term* or for current or former Season members.

VISITING MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES:

- May – Sept: Play in club tournaments & practice chukkers on Tues/Thurs/Suns
- Red and Navy polos required
- Monthly, Weekly or Daily Greens Fees required
- Participants require consultation, will need to arrange horses; Contact dan@nptpolo.com for a list of horse leasing referrals.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Thursday Club tournaments and International Friendship tournaments will be run according to the format & club handicapping system. WPC resources, including fields, will not be available to accommodate tournaments other than those organized by Newport Polo. The primary purpose of tournaments is to engage the membership in competitive polo. Members that commit to playing will be divided into teams by the club manager; details will be disseminated via email. All the 2024 tournaments are in some way beneficial to the membership, i.e. providing challenge, increased opportunity for competitive play, and inclusivity of all or a majority of WPC Members.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICE CHUKKERS, GAMES & TOURNAMENTS:

- Red and/or Navy polos for all players in practices; team polos for games & tournaments
- Whites required for all tournaments & matches
- Protective head gear compliant with [USPA-specified helmet](#) to be worn by all players at all times while mounted on a horse, when involved in all actual polo games.
- Reservations required before each practice for the number of chukkers desired by members only at www.nptpolo.com/chukkers by 7PM the day before chukkers.
- Arrival time punctuality; cancellations/changes to be made directly to Polo Manager by calling 401-743-4454.
- All Members are required service of umpiring duties when called upon by Polo Manager. Less experienced umpires will be paired with more experienced umpires.
- Membership is required for participation in WPC practices; membership is nontransferable to staff, family or any other party in the absence of member
- Supervision of grooms and hires, and their adherence to WPC guidelines, is the responsibility of the member.

GROOMS:

- Dress code at WPC practices and matches: shirts with sleeves.

- Members are responsible for the supervision and conduct of hires, especially minors after hours.
- Members are responsible for insurance coverage of grooms and all other hires of member, in accordance with Rhode Island general law.
- Member must convey all rules and use of WPC facilities, including parking policies, clean-up at wash rack, and removal of all litter including tape, manure, cigarette butts, beverage containers, etc.

RULES:

USPA Rules & Regulations

Applicable for all matches, tournaments, chukkers, governance of club, and disciplinary action

Laws of the State of RI and Ordinances of the Town of Portsmouth will be upheld at all times on WPC properties, including but not limited to:

- Leash Law
- Noise Ordinance
- Use of Alcohol

DISCIPLINE

WPC reserves the right to suspend any member for a period of time, which can include the balance of the season or longer, without recourse or refund, for unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct endangering other players, grooms, spectators and animals. All members are also subject to USPA disciplinary action.

CONDUCT

Polo is organized and played at the WPC for the pleasure and recreation of all players and spectators. Polo is a gentleman's game and sportsmanlike conduct is expected at all times, on and off the field, at all WPC sponsored events. Regardless of personal feelings, members should respect the rights of all other members and spectators while on WPC premises and at Newport Polo hosted events. Members who exhibit unsportsmanlike, **criminal or abusive** conduct will be subject to Club Disciplinary review and USPA Disciplinary review which could result in suspension without recourse or refund.

EQUINE WELFARE

WPC has an Equine Welfare Committee, in line with USPA guidelines. The purpose of this committee is not to be punitive but rather to ensure that horses are treated and handled in the most humane way possible, and that their conditioning is appropriate for their intended use. The individuals on the committee can provide expert advice in these areas to the members of the club and greater equine community associated

with polo. Typical concerns of the committee are: overall general health and conditioning; intensity/frequency of use; injuries including past and current injuries and the care of same. Committee members can be contacted directly. Alternatively, an anonymous tip line & voice mailbox extension is set up to receive comments from anyone wishing to voice a concern about a horse participating in our club activities. (401) 846–0200 x1. Each concern will be investigated by the committee, on its merit. In the event that additional consultation is required to evaluate a horse' eligibility for polo, a licensed veterinarian will be consulted for evaluation. Equine Welfare Committee

Contact Info:

Dave Markell	davidmarkell@gmail.com	(401) 743-4454
John Wigdahl	jtwigdahl@aol.com	(561) 846-9474
Rory Torrey	rorytorrey@yahoo.com	(561) 722-5953
Minnie Keating	minnie@nptpolo.com	(401) 426-1871

In the unfortunate event of a horse becoming immobilized on the field during a tournament or practice at one of the WCP fields, it will be the horse owner's responsibility to remove the horse from the field, or WPC will contact a service provider at the owner's expense. WPC has one equine ambulance at its exhibition field at Glen Farm, prepared to assist immobilized horses from that field but not for transport from Glen Farm premises.

AWARDS

Club Awards: Sportsmanship; Most Improved Player, Rookie of the Year
USPA Awards: Circuit Sportsmanship; Equine Welfare; Most Improved Player, Groom Award, Pony of the Year

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to polo play, Newport Polo recognizes the importance of social activities to include all members and their families. Our summer schedule will include BBQs, cocktail parties, special dinners such as the annual Lobsterfest, catered field-side dinners with the teams after Saturday matches, off-premise team dinners & associated events with international teams; the annual International Charity Ball and Players Dinner Awards Banquet. The cost to participate is not structured to be a profit center for Newport Polo, but is offered at base cost, as a service to our members, to enhance the entertainment value of club membership for you and encourage maximum participation. Participation is by RSVP and/or payment; cancellation protocol applies, as announced. Members are welcome to host an event for the enjoyment of the membership or visiting teams at any time of year.

USE OF FACILITIES

All fields are subject to weather conditions: no riding is permitted that results in marks or hoof prints on the grass polo fields. WPC will make known the official status of seasonal opening and closing for all fields and facilities. These assets are held collectively to benefit all members. They are fragile resources which cannot easily be repaired or replaced. Players who recklessly or selfishly use these resources for their own personal use, without conforming to the uses described herein or when fields are wet or closed, are subject to suspension and damages.

The Saturday Exhibition Field is off limits to equine activity at all times, unless specifically invited by Newport Polo.

Any use of Prospect Field, Maple Meadow Farm, GF West or GF Lower practice field that is not part of an official WPC activity requires the expressed consent of Newport Polo management.

LESSONS

WPC Members may elect to receive polo instruction on the GF West Practice Field or Upper Practice Field at their own risk, when the fields are open for the season and not wet, with prior consent by Polo Manager as to which field is available. All instructors must provide proof of insurance coverage not limited to liability coverage, including Newport Polo Inc as an additionally insured. Lessons to nonmembers are not permitted without express consent from Newport Polo management and require Certificate of Insurance. Commercial use of Newport Polo & WPC resources by any person or entity other than Newport Polo is strictly prohibited.

GF Exhibition Field Parking Plan

EXHIBITION FIELD: Located at Glen Farm, 250 Linden Lane, Portsmouth RI

Use: Newport International Polo Series matches and WPC Tournament matches only, subject to weather conditions. Running water and wash racks avail.

Restrictions: All litter must be removed at the end of use on that day. No stick & balling, lessons or any other activity permitted.

Parking: as per diagram for duration of matches only. Please use lower gate only and roadway along paddocks to access parking.



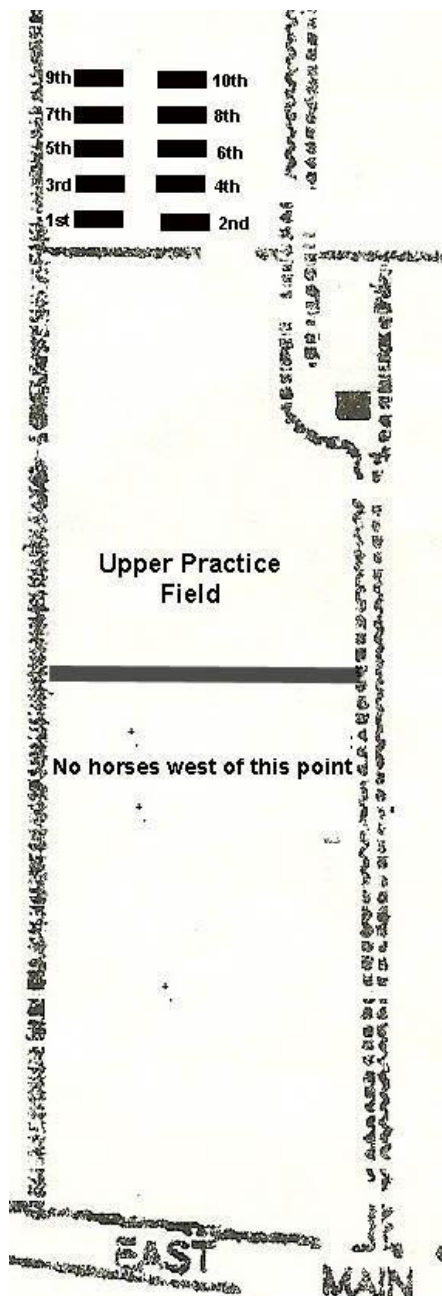
GF Upper Practice Fields

UPPER PRACTICE FIELD: Located at Glen Farm, 715 East Main Road, Portsmouth RI

Use: WPC practice chukkers, when other fields are too wet; stick & balling (private practice) or private lessons when not in use by WPC, subject to weather conditions.

Restrictions: All manure and litter must be removed at the end of use on that day. Divots must be replaced by all participants immediately after use. Safe distances must be maintained from other groups using this field to reduce any risk of accident. All caution must be exercised with respect to other users, particularly children. WPC does not have exclusive use of this field and must share it with other users. Your cooperation with other users will go a long way to ensure the future availability of this field for the WPC.

Parking: as per diagram for duration of practice only.



GF South & West Practice Field Parking Plans

GF SOUTH (Lower)
PRACTICE FIELD: Located at Glen Farm, 250 Linden Lane Portsmouth RI

Use: Use of this field in 2024 will be as a backup field for practices, as needed. Running water and wash racks avail.

Restrictions: All manure and trash must be removed at the end of use on that day. Divots must be replaced by all participants immediately after use.

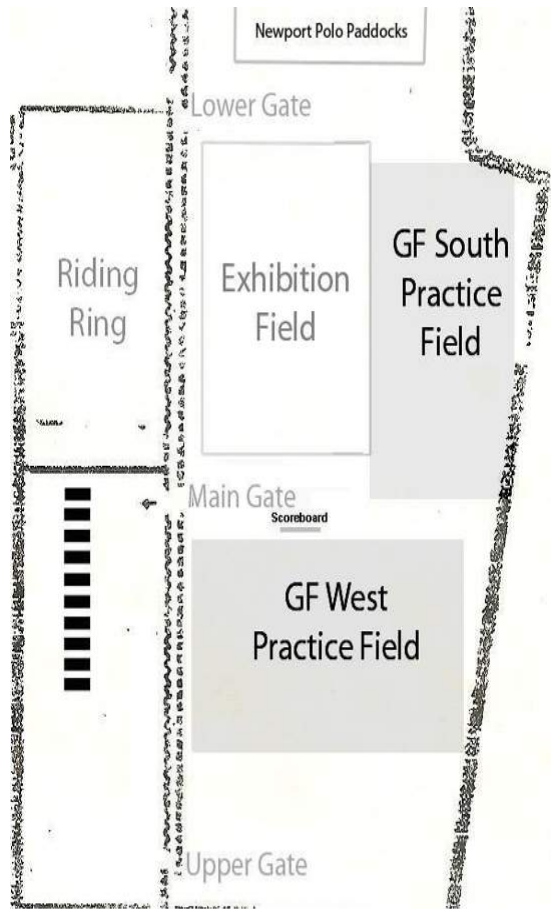
Parking: as per diagram for duration of practices and matches only. No overnight trailering on Lot 3, except boarders of Lot 3 in designated area only.

GF WEST PRACTICE FIELD: Located west of exhibition field, Glen Farm

Use: WPC practice and stick 'n ball, private lessons, subject to weather/field conditions.

Restrictions: All manure & trash must be removed at the end of use on that day. Divots must be replaced by all participants immediately after use. Stick & balling acceptable, once field is announced open for season by Polo Manager.

Parking: as per diagram for duration of session only.



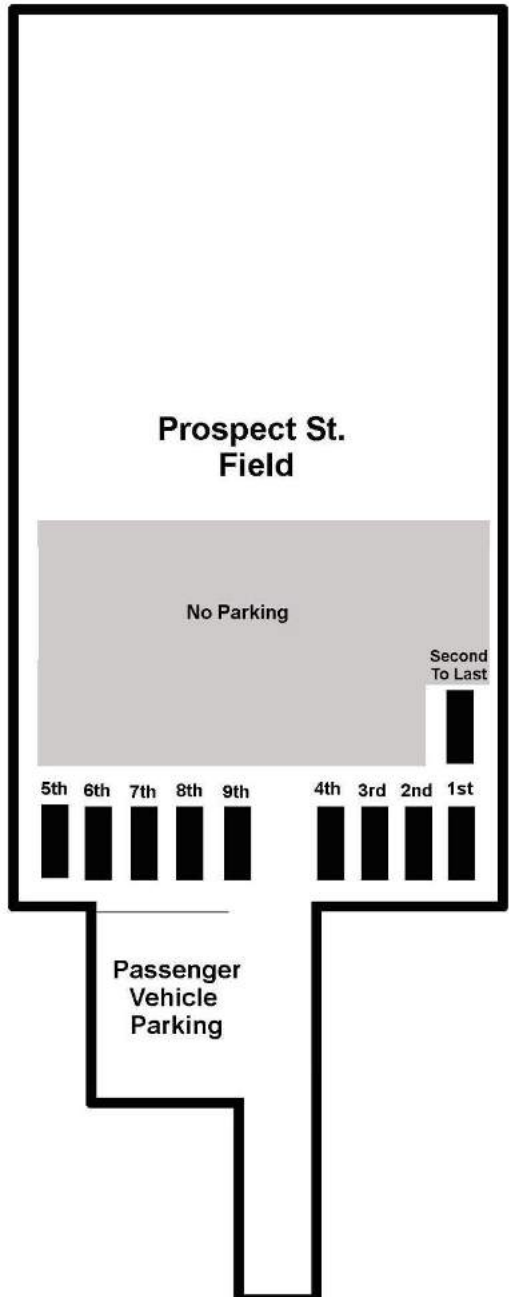
Prospect Field

PROSPECT FIELD: Located at 158 Prospect Ave, Middletown RI

Use: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays for club chukkers or tournament matches organized by WPC, subject to weather/field conditions. No running water on site.

Restrictions: All manure & trash must be removed at the end of use on that day. Divots must be replaced by all participants immediately after use. No stick & balling, lessons, riding or playing of any kind, other than official WPC activity.

Parking: as per diagram for duration of practices and matches only.



Maple Meadow Farm

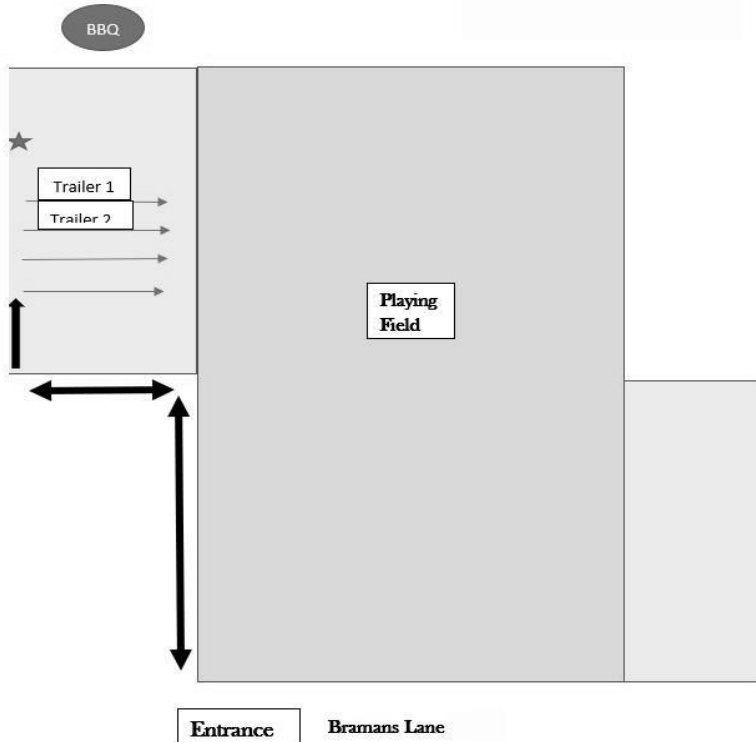
MAPLE MEADOW FARM: Located at 379 Bramans Lane, Portsmouth RI

Use: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays for club chukkers or tournament matches organized by WPC, subject to weather/field conditions. No running water on site, currently, but may change this year.

Restrictions: All manure & trash must be removed at the end of use on that day. Divots must be replaced by all participants immediately after use. No stick & balling, lessons, riding or playing of any kind, other than official WPC activity.

Leash Law in effect: All dogs must be leashed.

Parking: All parking, of cars and rigs to remain in Southeast corner of property, as per diagram, for duration of practices and matches only.



Newport Polo Outdoor Arena & Polo School

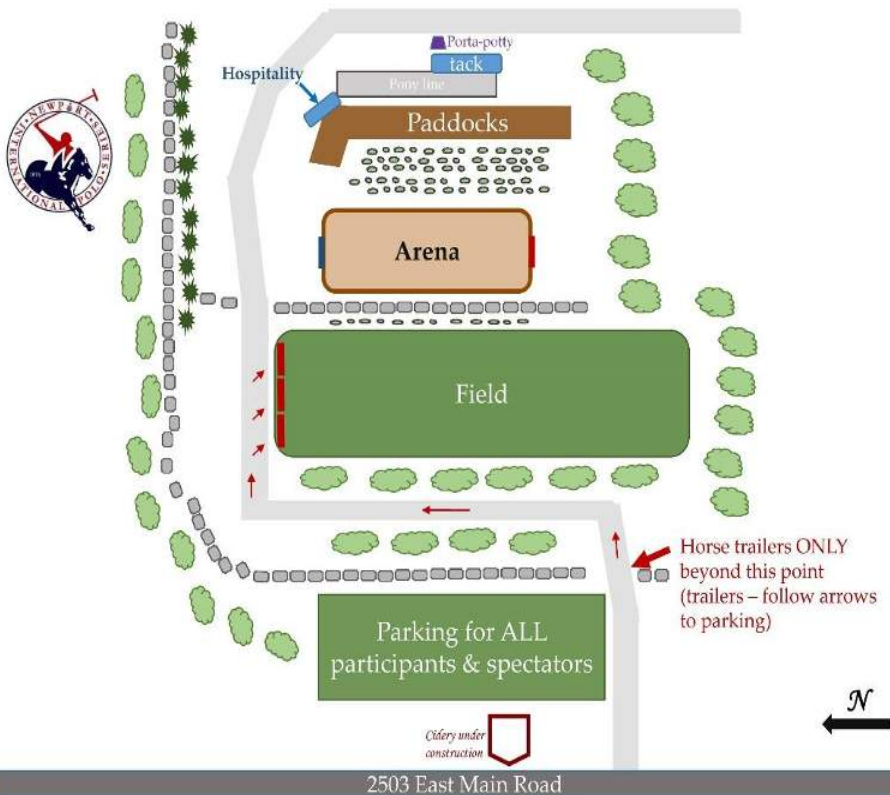
ANTHONY FARM: Located at 2503 East Main Road, Portsmouth


Arena & Practice Field Use: Used for Club Arena Tournaments, Polo School clinics & lessons, Chukkers, I/I games & team practices, organized by Newport Polo, subject to weather/field conditions. Running water at upper yard hydrant.

Restrictions: All manure & trash must be removed at the end of use on that day. Divots on grass field must be replaced by all participants immediately after use. No stick & balling, lessons, riding or playing of any kind, other than official WPC activity.

Leash Law in effect: All dogs must be well socialized and nonaggressive.

Parking: All parking of rigs to be on grass, parallel to driveway on North side of field, as per diagram, for duration of practices and matches only; All drop off of passengers or parking of passenger cars is to be outside of main gate.





Signature of Acceptance & Release of Liability

Print & mail Greens Fees, or submit [signature of acceptance](#) online.

I, (print) _____ have read, understand and agree to conform to and abide by all the terms described within the WPC 2024 Handbook, and further agree to assume all risk and danger incidental to the game of polo, or preparation therefore, and agree to hold harmless the USPA, property owners, participating polo club(s), their agents and players from any liability for injuries resulting from such causes, and I will exercise all manner of caution and safety as is described in the USPA rules of polo.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Annual membership fees can be paid [online](#) or by check mailed to:

Newport Polo, 2503 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871.

Membership is not complete without this completed document on file.

Due by April 1, 2024. Greens fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

My signature above confirms my knowledge of, and acknowledges the risks involved in participating in polo playing and in polo practicing; I understand that serious injury, and even death, is possible in such participation and I choose to accept any and all responsibility for my safety and welfare while participating in these aforementioned activities. With full understanding of the risks involved, I release and hold harmless Newport Polo Inc. and Pierce Anthony Farm LLC and their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, umpires, referees and Daniel P. Keating, the United States Polo Association, its subsidiary & affiliated companies, directors, governors, officers, trustees, agents, and employees from any and all responsibility and liability for any injury, claim or death resulting from my participation in any polo activities and agree to take no legal action against the aforementioned parties because of any accident, mishap, injury or death involving my participation.

I further hereby authorize the use or disclosure of my individual health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary. I authorize emergency medical treatment for myself, should the need arise for such treatment while I am participating in polo activities. In case of emergency, I understand that every reasonable effort will be made to contact the Emergency Contact person that I shall name herein and provide phone numbers for. In the event that Representatives cannot reach my Emergency Contact, I hereby give my permission to transport or arrange transport of myself to a facility for medical treatment. Further, I give my permission to the health care provider(s) to render medical treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medications for myself.

I further agree to be financially responsible for all charges incurred in connection with any and all medical treatment, as well as any and all polo fees for the services that I voluntarily requested.

I further agree to hereby irrevocably authorize Newport Polo Inc. and their agents to use, print, publish, copy, display, disseminate and/or modify photographs/film of me in, for any kind of promotional material, and acknowledge that I will not receive any monetary compensation for any of the aforementioned.

I HAVE READ THIS CAREFULLY, UNDERSTAND ALL OF ITS TERMS, AND I KNOW IT CONTAINS A WAIVER OF LIABILITY, WHICH I AM WILLINGLY SIGNING.

Contact Information

(for internal use only by WPC):

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Office Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Type: (circle one) Season Coaching League Visiting Member

Emergency Contact: _____

& phone number: _____