

**SPA  
SWISS POLO  
ARBITRATION REGULATIONS  
PENALTY LIST**

**2010 edition**

## 1. OFFENCES

Any infringement of the statutes, rules and regulations and/or instructions of the SPA, which comes to the attention of the tournament management on the occasion of an event, shall be punished by the tournament management. Any offence which the tournament management does not possess the knowledge or skills to deal with must be reported in writing by means of a substantiated notification to the Disciplinary Commission.

An offence shall be deemed to have been committed by:

- a) Anybody who harms the reputation of the SPA;
- b) Anybody who commits or attempts to commit fraud, or instigates or assists an act of fraud in connection with a tournament entry, in particular with regard to a handicap submission, or during participation in or execution of a polo tournament;
- c) Anybody who, in the capacity of “responsible person” or otherwise, administers, attempts to administer, instigates the administration of or assists the administration of a substance banned under point 8 of Annex B of the Regulations of the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) (Regulations on the Welfare of Ponies and the Misuse of Drugs) or under new regulations of the HPA which supplement or replace the aforementioned regulations, to a horse participating in a tournament of any kind;
- d) Anybody who knowingly enters a horse for an event, which could infect other horses with a contagious disease;
- e) Anybody who deliberately and repeatedly breaches the rules during a match, leading to punishment by the referee by means of a red card and/or a send-off;
- f) Anybody who verbally or physically attacks the referee(s);
- g) Anybody who verbally or physically attacks other players on the polo grounds or premises before or after a match;
- h) Anybody who deliberately causes damage to property on the polo grounds or premises;
- i) Anybody who fails to obey a regulation issued under the responsibility of the SPA, the Organising Committee or the tournament management;
- j) Anybody who disrupts or hinders the normal progression of a tournament or behaves improperly before, during or after a tournament, or breaches the rules of decency;
- k) Anybody who conducts a tournament in a manner which is contrary to regulations or who participates in such conduct;
- l) Anybody who, in the capacity of organiser or member of the Organising Committee or the tournament management, fails to fulfil the obligations incumbent upon them in accordance with the provisions of the SPA;

- m) Anybody who fails, without justification, to answer a summons to appear as a witness or official expert before the tournament management, the management board of the SPA, the Disciplinary Commission or the association court;
- n) Anybody who obstructs or delays an investigation in connection with a breach of the regulations and/or instructions;
- o) Anybody who fails to observe a final judgement issued by the Disciplinary Commission or the association court;
- p) Anybody who, in the capacity of player and responsible person, participates in a tournament with a horse which is under the influence of a banned substance in accordance with point 1.c) above;
- q) Anybody who, in the capacity of responsible person but not necessarily player, allows a horse which is under the influence of a banned substance in accordance with point 1.c) above to participate in a tournament;
- r) Anybody who, in the capacity of player, participates in a tournament under the influence of a banned substance and/or doping method referred to in Annex A of the Regulations of the HPA (Regulations on Human Doping) or in new regulations of the HPA which supplement or replace the aforementioned regulations;
- s) Anybody who, as player or responsible person, refuses or obstructs a doping control test outside the competition environment, or who deliberately or through negligence uses banned substances in the capacity of player;
- t) Anybody who despite notification of the entry fee fails to pay by the deadline stated by the organiser.

A “responsible person” shall be deemed to be any person who, in the capacity of player, trainer, team manager or owner of the horse concerned, bears the actual responsibility for the horse participating in matches and for its welfare. As a general rule, this responsibility shall rest with the player, unless the latter can prove that the responsibility for the horse the player is participating with rests with another person and that the player themselves had no knowledge of the administration of banned substances. A player who is themselves owner of the horse concerned must also prove that they took all reasonable precautions to prevent the administration of banned substances.

With regard to the definition of “banned substances” under point 8 of Annex B of the Regulations of the HPA, the SPA hereby draws attention to the fact that the Swiss Animal Protection Regulations (*Schweizer Tierschutz Verordnung*) may contain more extensive or differing criteria, in particular with respect to the doses stated in paragraph a. of the aforementioned point 8.1 of Annex B. The responsibility for complying with any further restrictive provisions of the Swiss Animal Protection Regulations shall rest with the individual player or the responsible person.

## **2. POWERS OF THE TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT**

The tournament management may:

- a) Issue warnings; the Disciplinary Commission is notified in the event of a second warning within one calendar year;
- b) Suspend from their post any person under the tournament management's authority, after prior notification of the organiser;
- c) Disqualify players, responsible persons and horses from further participation in a tournament;
- d) Exclude players and horses from further participation in matches in the tournament;
- e) In serious cases, send off players.

Imposed penalties must be reported to the SPA office in writing by the tournament management within three days; in serious cases, substantiated applications may be submitted to the Disciplinary Commission for the imposition of penalties or bans against horses and/or players and/or responsible persons.

The tournament management must exclude the following from an event:

- a) Players and responsible persons (the persons themselves and all their horses), who engage in any kind of fraudulent activity;
- b) Players and responsible persons (the persons themselves and all their horses), who have committed any serious breach of the regulations, instructions or invitations;
- c) Players and responsible persons (the persons themselves and all their horses), who have failed to submit immediately to a measure imposed by the tournament management;
- d) Horses which, following veterinary medical examination, do not appear to be fit to compete in the match concerned;
- e) Horses whose behaviour on the playing field constitutes a visible danger to the other players, the referees or third parties;
- f) Players who are not qualified for the tournament or match concerned;
- g) Teams which do not meet the stated requirements.

The tournament management may exclude the following from an event:

- a) Players and responsible persons who fail to follow the directions of the tournament management or the referees;
- b) All players, responsible persons and horses who fail to abide by the provisions of the regulations and/or instructions and the directions of the tournament management.

### 3. POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION JURISDICTION BODIES

The association jurisdiction bodies may implement the following measures with or without publication in the SPA gazette:

- a) Warnings;
- b) Fines up to CHF 10,000 against organisers, associations, players and responsible persons;
- c) Temporary or permanent bans against associations, and disqualification and/or bans against players, responsible persons or horses;
- d) Temporary or definitive withdrawal of licences;
- e) Disqualification;
- f) Automatic disqualification of a horse which has been entered for an event under the influence of a substance banned under point 8 of Annex B of the Regulations of the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) (Regulations on the Welfare of Ponies and the Misuse of Drugs) or under new regulations of the HPA which supplement or replace the aforementioned regulations, in all tests for the event in question;
- g) Ban of a horse which has been entered for an event under the influence of a substance banned under point 8 of Annex B of the Regulations of the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) (Regulations on the Welfare of Ponies and the Misuse of Drugs) or under new regulations of the HPA which supplement or replace the aforementioned regulations, for all events in Switzerland and abroad.

Penalties may be imposed against infringing individuals and/or responsible persons, horses used and SPA-affiliated clubs. Players who in accordance with point 1. above are not deemed to be responsible persons with regard to the administration of banned substances must be excluded from penalties unless it can be proved that they played a part in the offence committed.

The chairman of the Disciplinary Commission may order an immediate temporary match ban against players, responsible persons or horses on the basis of a substantiated, written application from tournament organisers or members of the management board. The duration of this temporary order shall be limited to four weeks.

The procedure and the appeal process are set out in the arbitration regulations.

Revised version passed in the general meeting of 28 October 2010