

Polocrosse Association of NSW (PANSW)

Policy & Guidelines for Conducting Zone and Club Championships

1. Purpose

This policy and guidelines document sets out the requirements and expectations for the conduct of the PANSW Zone Championships and Club Championships. It ensures consistency, fairness, safety, and quality across both events while supporting hosts to deliver a successful and prestigious competition.

2. Scope

- Applies to all PANSW-sanctioned Zone and Club Championships.
 - Binding on host clubs, Zones, and PANSW-appointed committees/officers.
 - Covers event operations, infrastructure, conduct of games, participant eligibility, awards, and compliance requirements.
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3. Policy Principles

1. **Collaboration** – Hosts and PANSW must maintain open communication and operate as partners.
 2. **Fair Play** – Draws, umpiring, and competition structures must ensure equal opportunity for all teams.
 3. **Safety First** – Horse, player, and spectator welfare is paramount.
 4. **Transparency** – Draws, results, and decision-making processes must be open and visible.
 5. **Quality** – Events should reflect the prestige of PANSW's flagship competitions.
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4. Responsibilities

PANSW Board

- Seek EOI, appoint host clubs and oversee compliance with this policy.
- Appoint the Chair and members of the State Draw Committee.
- Approve combined team arrangements when required.
- Book the first aid provider in accordance with the PANSW Paramedic Policy.

Host Clubs

- Represent PANSW and maintain open communication with the State Office.
- Provide infrastructure, logistics, and services necessary for the safe conduct of the event.
- Comply with all requirements in these guidelines, including reporting and documentation.

State Draw Committee

- Complete and manage the draw for both championships.
- Ensure fairness of competition and smooth running of the carnival.
- Liaise with clubs/zones to resolve nomination or grading issues.

Field Manager

- Oversee the operation and safety of all fields.
- Liaise with the State Horse Welfare Officer.

5. Operational Guidelines

5.1 Draw

- Managed by the State Draw Committee.
- Approach determined by nominations (knockout with finals preferred, round robin permitted).
- Draw and team lists to be distributed electronically by the Thursday prior.
- Results must be displayed prominently and updated in real time.
- All round robin matches must be completed (extra time if required).

5.2 Fields & Facilities

- Appoint a Fields Manager (contactable by mobile throughout the event).
- Fields identified by colours (not numbers).
- Field requirements include:
 - Clearly marked lines (no hydrated lime).
 - Scoring sheets, clocks, bells, balls, spare goalposts, jackets, and whistles (per PAA Rule Book).
- Dust suppression to cover all fields and roads.

5.3 Conduct of Games

- Match officials as per PAA Rule Book.
- Scoring panel: one representative (16+) per team; absence forfeits right to contest results.
- Approved PAA score sheets must be used.

5.4 Game Commentary

- Announcers must remain neutral, avoid inappropriate language, announce scores, and not criticise players or officials.
- Scoreboard recommended on the main field.

5.5 First Aid & Safety

- Paramedics must be provided in accordance with PANSW Paramedic Policy.
- Direct cost invoiced by the first aid service provider will be passed on to host club for payment. These events will not be billed as per the PANSW Paramedic Policy.
- Hosts responsible for crowd/player/official safety and managing unacceptable off field behaviour.

5.6 Horse Welfare

- Minimum one vet on call at all times (with maps and contacts).
- Contingency plan, privacy screens, and float for injured horses.
- Adequate water points for washing and watering.

5.7 Biosecurity

- Two PPE kits available.
- Isolation area identified.

5.8 Social Functions & Liquor

- Evening functions encouraged but must:
 - Be safe, family-friendly, and reasonably priced.
 - Cease trade at midnight.
- Sale of liquor must comply with legislation and cease at midnight.

5.9 Presentations & Prizes

- Judges with appropriate polocrosse experience (not current umpires of that game).
- Positional and overall player awards required (Best Men, Women, Junior, Sub-Junior).
- Trophies must reflect prestige, sponsor expectations, and costs incurred by players.

- Perpetual trophies (State held) must be prepared and cleaned.
- Sponsors should present prizes and be included in ceremonies/photographs.
- Players must attend presentations in uniform.

5.10 Invitations & Information Packs

Must include:

- Player/admission fees.
- Maps showing grounds, camping, stabling, fields, and amenities.

5.11 Supporting Infrastructure

- Adequate toilets, showers, canteen facilities.
- Sufficient fields and camping/stabling areas.

6. Eligibility & Participation

Mutual Members

- Maximum 2 per team.
- Must have played at least 2 NSW carnivals with their NSW club that season.

Interstate Teams

- May attend but may be restricted if nominations exceed host capacity.

Combined Teams

- Permitted at Board discretion.
- Placement determined by State Draw Committee for fairness.

Zone Championships – Combined Teams

- Small zones may combine players (via pool nominations).
- Aim is sport development (e.g. Sub Juniors, Masters), not just competition strength.

Club Championships – Combined Teams

- Pool players may be placed into combined teams by Draw Committee.
- Priority is fair, balanced competitions.

7. Quality Control

- PANSW Board reviews all hosting EOIs and venues.
- Hosts must demonstrate milestone completion.
- Two weeks prior, hosts must confirm all arrangements with PANSW.

8. Club Championship Points System

- **Participation** – 2 pts per player.
- **Winners** – 12 pts per winning team.
- **Runners Up** – 9 pts per runners up team.

If teams are mixed across clubs, points allocated per player (e.g. 2 pts per player for winners; 1.5 pts per player for runners up).