

TAMU Polo Club

New Member Overview 2022-2023

Meet your officer team:

President- Madelyn Newland	madelynnewland@tamu.edu
Vice President- Zak Coleman	zakdcoleman@gmail.com
Treasurer- Kate Humlicek	katehumlicek@tamu.edu
Secretary- Yada van Noort	yadavannoort@tamu.edu
Special Events- Faith Rosas	faithrosastam@tamu.edu
Horse Care- Katherine Gellhausen	katherinegellhausen@tamu.edu
Horse Care- Elise Gellhausen	elisegellhausen@tamu.edu
Horse Care Advisor- Alexandria Rivera	airivera@cvm.tamu.edu

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday- Horse's Day Off	
Monday- Tack Cleaning/Team Practice	7pm
Tuesday- Club Riding	6-8pm
Wednesday- Club Chukkers (Polo)	6:30-9:30pm
Thursday- Club Riding	6-8pm
Friday- Team Practice	6-8pm
Saturday- Open Day- Extra skills practice, game day, etc.	Announced weekly

For the most part, this will be the week to week schedule for club activities. However, this is **subject to change** based off of other events that may be happening each week.

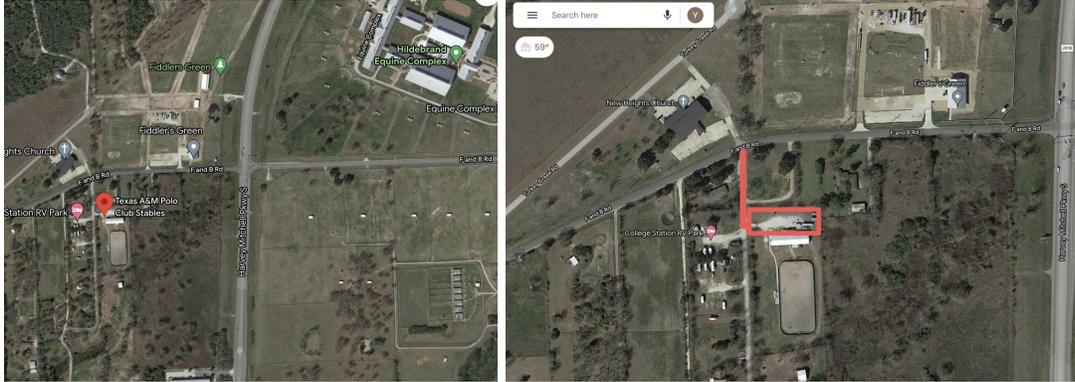
Assumption of Risk Form (AOR): *IMPORTANT*

This is our liability waiver which **must** be signed and approved by rec sports in order for us to be allowed to put you on a horse. The website is painfully slow so don't be alarmed if it takes a few minutes to load. Choose 'join a sport club' and make sure to **choose POLO** from the drop down menu and fill out the rest of the form. If you accidentally fill out an AOR for a different club, we will not be able to put you on a horse. Here is the link:

<https://sportclubs.tamu.edu>

Barn Location: 3869 F and B Rd, College Station, TX 77845

Our barn is located just down the road from the Hildebrand Equine Complex. However, the turn off of F&B Road can be easy to miss, especially in the dark. Our parking lot is boxed in red below. Look for a small sign labeled "College Station RV Park" and turn in there. Our parking lot will be located to your left.



A few common terms and definitions:

- **Tack:** General term referring to the bridle, saddle, girth, and other horse equipment
- **Chukker:** each of a number of periods (typically four) into which play in a game of polo is divided. A chukker lasts 7 1/2 minutes.

Monday Night Tack Cleaning: Mondays are used as a kind of reset for each week. Members come out to the barn to help muck stalls, put away saddle pads, roll polo wraps and do whatever else to get the barn ready for the next week. Tack cleaning lasts one hour from 7-8pm and is **mandatory** for members to come to Wednesday chukkers. Tack cleaning is not mandatory for members who only wish to come to riding nights.

Tuesday and Thursday riding nights: Twice a week we hold two one-hour riding groups from 6-7pm and 7-8pm. Once you sign up via email you will be assigned a horse to ride. Riding nights focus on improving members' riding ability and can also include fun things like playing games on horseback and getting to better know each of the TAMU Polo Club's horses. We may also hold additional riding times typically on Saturdays or sometimes Sundays. These are announced at the beginning of each week.

Riding Cancellations: If you end up not being able to come to a time slot you signed up for, please send an email to yadavannoort@tamu.edu to let me know in advance so I can give your spot to someone else. This is *especially important* if there is a waitlist for that night. Failure to notify me will mean that you will have to complete a barn chore (muck a few stalls, roll some wraps, clean the water trough, etc.) before you are allowed to sign up again. No shows are highly frowned upon as you are taking away riding time from someone else.

Wednesday Chukkers: Each Wednesday, we reserve a few hours to play polo. Members are asked to stay the whole time if they can to help tack all of the horses, cheer on other members, and help put everything away at the end of the night. If you have a class that runs late or know that you will not be able to stay the whole time, please let us know upon sign up.

Major Events:

- Our Competitive Team will occasionally have home games against other colleges. Club members are encouraged to come out to support our team and cheer them on. It can also be a good learning experience to watch some faster paced polo!

- Parent's Day: This event is typically held near the mid/end of the semester. Club members can sign up to participate in a game of polo where family and friends are invited to come and see all of the skills you have learned.
- Club Tournament: Held at the end of the semester (sometime before finals week). This is a 3 day event where members can sign up to be put on a team and play until one team has been crowned the winner. Family and friends are also invited to come and watch!

How to sign up for riding and chukkers: At the beginning of each week, a riding sign up email is sent out to our members. Simply respond to the email to sign up for whichever riding days you are available to attend. An example is shown below:

Schedule of the Week

Monday

- Tack cleaning @ 7 pm

Tuesday

- Club Riding @ 6/7 pm with Tisha, Alex and Madelyn - arrive at 5:30/6:45

Wednesday

- Club Chukkers @ 6:30 pm - arrive 5:45

Thursday

- Club Riding @ 6/7 pm with Tisha, Annie and Yada - arrive at 5:30/6:45

Friday

- Team Practice @ 6 pm

Saturday

- Club Riding @ 11 am with Yada - arrive 10:30

Sunday

- Ponies Day OFF

→ We will be following Covid-19 protocols per

<https://covid.tamu.edu>

Arrive at 5:30 PM for Group 1, 6:45 PM for Group 2.

*If you know you need help tacking or need additional time, officers will be there by 5:15.

Please email me(Yada) or send me a message in GroupMe if you need to cancel as soon as possible so I can give your spot to someone else.

Please copy and paste the list and reply to this email with answers to sign up for riding.

Name:

Horses I have ridden and liked:

Horses I have ridden and disliked:

Horses I have not ridden but would like to try:

Which day(s)? Time restrictions? (We will have riding at 6 and 7 PM on Tuesday/Thursday and 11am on Saturday)

General Rules

-You must have an approved AOR to be at the barn. <https://sportclubs.tamu.edu/> (be sure to select Polo)

-Closed toed shoes and long pants are required.

-An officer must be present to enter the barn

-Officers reserve the right to modify horse assignments as they see fit.

Hit reply (**not** reply all) to the email with your list of responses to sign up

Dues: Dues are \$500 per semester for Club Members and \$700 per semester for Competitive Team Members.

FAQs:

Why can't we play polo more than one night per week? As with jumping, barrel racing, and other high intensity sports, we can not ask our horses to play polo everyday. Therefore, we designate Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to allow the ponies to be played (Mondays and Fridays for team practice). Also, we are required by Rec Sports to have a medic present when we are playing. These medics are used by all of the sports clubs at A&M and due to the sheer number of clubs we have, these medics are short staffed and we can not ask them to come out any more than they already do. As a polo club we would have you playing everyday if it were feasible and we appreciate your understanding.

What if all of the riding slots fill up? Riding slots are given away on a first come, first serve basis. Whoever responds to the signup email fastest gets the slot. **However**, if you do end up getting waitlisted on a riding night, you will be given priority for the next night you sign up regardless of who sent an email before you. This semester (Spring 2022) we have not had to waitlist anyone at all! Typically, attendance is very high the first 2-3 weeks and then dies down a bit anyway.

What if I absolutely can not make Monday night tack cleaning, but still want to participate in chukkers? If there is absolutely no way you can make it Monday night, your options are to sign up for a weekly feeding shift which will cover your chore or you must contact our Vice President directly and ask how else you can make up a barn chore. We do prefer it if everyone just comes on Monday to collectively help out. We will not keep you for more than an hour if you are on time.

Why do you call them polo ponies if they are horses? Honestly just because it sounds better and that is how they have been commonly referred to. In the past, when the sport was emerging, shorter horses were preferred for the game, but current day riders are now using taller mounts. We do not actually have any ponies at all. They are all full sized horses. I would compare this to people referring to their dogs as puppies even though they are already fully grown.

What is the difference between club and team? Our organization has members classified under club members and team members. Anyone who wants to join can join as a club member. You don't have to know how to play or ride. You don't even have to have seen a horse in real life before. We will teach you everything from the ground up. We have ponies ranging all skill levels that give us the ability to do this. Team members are those who play on our competitive team representing us to other universities. Most of the time, these people are those who come to A&M to play polo and must try out to be accepted.

Where does our money go? For those of you who are curious, the online portion of your dues goes into an account managed by our sports club advisor, Keith Joseph. This account is used to pay for the horse's vet and feed bills. The in-person portion is brought to the Treasurer and is

used to pay for hay and farrier bills as well as other miscellaneous items such as new hoof picks, hoses, sweat scrapers, polo balls, etc.

What is the barn dress code? Closed toed shoes are a must for everyone who enters the barn. Some kind of boot or shoe with a heel is preferred for riding. Long pants are also required for riding.