

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY POLO CLUB**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2020-21**  
(last updated 28-Apr-21)

**Please note that CUPC is operating, and it is mandatory for all members to conduct themselves, in compliance with UK government, University and HPA guidance regarding coronavirus.**

**How do I join/renew membership?**

Please follow the instructions on the 'Membership' page.

**Do you need to be able to ride to join?**

No. We offer lessons for people of all levels, from those who have never ridden before to experienced polo players.

**Is there a weight limit for lessons?**

Yes, 15 stone.

**What lesson level should I book?**

Absolute beginner: no riding experience or polo experience.

Beginner: some riding experience but no/little polo experience.

Novice: 1+ year of polo experience.

Intermediate: 2+ years of polo experience.

This is an indicative guide only, and people may progress faster or slower than that indicated based on how regularly they play and natural capabilities. It remains at the CUPC Coach's and Polo Manager's discretion to move people up/down lesson levels. Please only book the lesson level that you have been cleared to play at by the Coach and/or Polo Manager; CUPC reserves the right to cancel any bookings made at an unapproved lesson level. Any questions about lesson levels should be directed to the Coach and/or Polo Manager.

**How much do lessons cost?**

Lesson costs vary depending on the club you play at and your level of play, typically ranging from £40 to £65 for student lessons. CUPC currently offers lessons at £40 (inclusive of coach, pony and grooms, and facility) for the 2020-21 year. CUPC pricing is subject to annual revision.

**Why are polo lessons so expensive?**

Polo lessons are expensive because there are a number of costs that are involved, including pony hire, grooms, coaching and facilities. Playing polo as a student, including through CUPC or privately, is considerably less expensive than if you are playing as a non-student.

**Where are CUPC lessons and fixtures held?**

CUPC holds its lessons and home matches at Cambridge Polo Club (Haggis Farm, Barton Road, CB23 7AT) a professionally run polo club located close to Cambridge centre. CUPC plays in non-home matches and tournaments at other professionally run polo clubs around the UK and abroad.

**How do I get to my lesson?**

Members make their own way to lessons. Cambridge Polo Club is a 10-15 minute cycle, or 5-10 minute drive, from the centre of Cambridge. Members should arrive 15 minutes before the start time of their lessons to ensure adequate time to get ready.

### **What equipment is required to attend my first lesson?**

CUPC provides members with ponies, tack and a limited range of polo mallets. It is each individual member's responsibility to provide a suitable riding helmet (that must be BS kitemarked and certified to the PAS standard of the most recent HPA Helmet Regulations, e.g. <https://hpa-polo.co.uk/download/2020-Helmet-Rules-for-HPA-website-v13.pdf>, and in good condition; any other helmets will not be accepted), riding boots and clothing, as per the Terms & Conditions. You must provide CUPC with a photograph of your helmet's kitemark/certification, which must be approved by the Polo Manager before you can book into any CUPC activities. If you are not safely attired upon attendance at a lesson, you will not be allowed to ride and will still be charged for your lesson.

### **What other equipment do I need for polo?**

Kneepads are required to play in matches and are recommended for lessons (particularly at Novice/Inter lessons). CUPC has a limited range of polo mallets for members to use in lessons and matches, though most of our committed members purchase their own mallets. CUPC provides playing shirts for matches, though most of our members prefer to buy their own playing shirt from our stash range. Face protection, either polo-specific safety glasses or face shields fitted to helmets, are also recommended (particularly for grass season); there are various pros/cons and safety trade-offs to consider with these options.

### **Where can I purchase polo equipment?**

CUPC offers stash and some playing equipment on our Members Only Store. High quality fashionwear and technical equipment can be purchased from our sponsor, La Martina, at a 20% discount with a Member only discount code: <https://www.lamartina.com/lm/gb/en>. Our members often buy their polo equipment from RJ Polo (<https://www.rjpolo.com>) and Polo Splice (<https://polosplice.co.uk>). Second hand equipment can also be purchased on facebook groups, like chukkout polo, or ebay; however, we do not recommend purchasing second hand helmets since they may have been damaged by their previous owners and will not provide effective protection.

### **I have booked for the wrong lesson/can't attend the lesson?**

Please email [membership@cupoloclub.com](mailto:membership@cupoloclub.com). This must be done at least 24 hours before the lesson otherwise no refunds will be issued, or changes made.

### **How are teams selected?**

Please refer to our Selection Policy document, at the bottom of the Membership page.

### **I am keen to help out with CUPC, how do I get involved?**

We are always keen for people to help, please get in touch through: [membership@cupoloclub.com](mailto:membership@cupoloclub.com).