



## **AUSTRALIAN OPEN POLO CHAMPIONSHIP**

Rules Effective 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

- Revised 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Team handicap limit revised from 12 to 10)

1. All games played over 6 chukkas
2. Host organization to set maximum and minimum handicaps for teams taking into account prevailing circumstances but noting the intention by the Australian Polo Federation that this be a high goal event and team handicaps shall not be less than 10 goals.
3. Host organisation is to decide if the event will be played off handicap or as an open championship.
4. The perpetual trophies for the Tournament are:
  - a) If played as an Open Championship -
    - i. The Australian Open Polo Championship
    - ii. Australian Open Polo Handicap Championship
    - iii. Wallace Horsley Memorial Trophy for Champion pony of the Tournament.
    - iv. The Jim MacGinley Trophy awarded to the best and fairest player of the Championship.
  - b) If played as a Handicap Championship -
    - i. The Australian Open Polo Championship,
    - ii. Australian Open Subsidiary-Final (3<sup>rd</sup> v 4<sup>th</sup>) and,
    - iii. Wallace Horsley Memorial Trophy for Champion pony of the Tournament.
    - iv. The Jim MacGinley Trophy awarded to the best and fairest player of the Championship.

Further pony prizes should not be awarded as they will detract from the perpetual trophy.

5. Teams accepted into the tournament having handicap total below the advertised minimum team handicap are deemed to have that minimum handicap for all relevant match scoring and calculations for ranking.
6. Depending upon number of entries and playing days available the Tournament may be played on knock-out basis, modified league basis with a final (and subsidiary final if played as a handicap championship). A pool system may also be used with one finalist drawn from each pool (and teams placing second in each pool to play for subsidiary-final if played as a handicap championship)

7. Teams should be seeded unless tournament is played as a pure league.
8. If using pool or league system teams will be ranked
  - (a) by points earning 2 for win, 1 for draw and 0 for loss
  - (b) then for highest net goal margin
  - (c) then by highest goals scored
  - (d) then by least goals conceded
  - (e) then if still unable to separate, by toss of coin or penalty shoot-out (tournament committees to decide which).Goals received as handicap start count as goals scored in above calculations.
9. First and second ranked teams in modified league system (or first ranked team from each pool if a pool system is used) play in the Final for the Championship. Semi-finals can be used at discretion of host organization.
10. If played as an open championship scores shall be kept of all matches as if played off the stick and also on handicap basis. If played as a handicap championship matches shall be scored on handicap basis.
11. Teams ranked highest on games scored on handicap basis (not engaged in the Open Final) if a league system, or highest one from each pool if a pool system is employed, shall play the final of the Australian Open Polo Handicap Championship.
12. Polo playing rules as currently adopted by the Australian Polo Federation at the time of the tournament.