

4-H POLOCROSSE PROJECT SKILL ASSESSMENT

LEVEL 1 (Polocrosse Canada D Division - Rating 0)

EXPECTED SKILLS

Riders who have never played Polocrosse before will be rated as beginner; or starter Polocrosse grade. Players are only permitted to partake in walk/trot play under supervised or coached conditions. The goal here is to ensure they are safe to enter a game and to teach them and their horse how to play safely. Once they are deemed safe for regular tournament play, their rating should be upgraded to C level.

Horsemanship:

- The horse is safe for them to ride and both horse and rider are safe for others on the field to be around.
- Have the ability to play safely and in control at a trot.
- Has control of horse on field, can stop, turn & line-up, and work in a group of other horses safely.
- Can walk, trot & canter comfortably out of a game.
- Can manoeuvre safely around obstacles on the field. (other players, referees and spectators)

Knowledge of International Rules:

- Learning all the rules to do with playing safely & correctly
 - line of the ball
 - ride over the back of another horse
 - Positioning to giving wood
 - pushing another horse
 - line up and turn out safely
 - 30 yard line and side lines
 - the various levels of penalties, take instructions from the ref
 - the 10 yard penalty procedures
 - the importance of looking before changing speed or direction

Strategy

- Learning how to line up properly
- Learning how to turns out of the line up safely
- Learning how to deliver the ball to the area
- Learning how to execute all the levels of penalties awarded

Racquet Skills:

- Knows the centre line rule
- Can throw and catch the ball on the ground, learning on the horse.

- Learning to do a nearside pickup
- Learning to do a 10 yard throw
- Learning to bounce the ball & retrieve it
- Play comfortably in a walk/trot
- Learning to position their horse to give wood

Overall:

- Busy chasing the ball, little team play, little strategy
- Basic knowledge of how to play the game, no consistency
- Some understands the skill required to improve

LEVEL 2 (Polocrosse Canada C Division – Rating 1-3)

Players are starting to realize the importance of the horse, and the skills required to get to the ball right now. Players are beginning to manoeuvre their horse and utilize their ball skills to control the play. Team-mates are beginning to be incorporated into the play.

EXPECTED SKILLS (all the Level 1 skills plus below)

Horsemanship:

- Have good ability to control and safely ride their own horse at a trot/canter in a game.
- Can walk trot, canter and gallop comfortably out of a game.
- Horse neck reins, backs freely and stops.
- Can trot on the correct diagonal and can select the correct lead departure.
- Can ride off another player safely
- Can position their horse properly to give wood

Knowledge of International Rules:

- Plays with fewer rule infractions & is starting to modify play to avoid calls.
- Has a good grasp of all the rules & how to apply them to play safely & correctly.
 - line of the ball
 - ride over the back of another horse
 - giving wood safely
 - pushing properly
 - line ups
 - 30 yard line and side lines
 - 10 yard penalty procedures
 - Penalties & can take instructions from the ref
 - Looks before changing speed or direction

Strategy

- Knows their responsibilities in the line up
- Know a few moves to avoid losing the ball
- Can properly deliver the ball to the #1 in the area
- Can put pressure on the ball carrier
- Learning to position & control their horse in all areas of play field

Racquet Skills:

- Can throw and catch the ball at playing speed on horse
- Learning to do an offside pickups, can execute a onside pickup at playing speed
- Knows how to properly execute a 10 yard throw at playing speed
- Knows how to properly execute a bounce & retrieve the ball at playing speed
- Knows how to properly position their horse to give wood
- Can throw a simple goal accurately

Overall:

- Recognize the importance of main safety rules especially the line of the ball, crossing, running over the back of another horse and is avoiding them in play.
- Starting to utilize team mate in overcoming problems on the field
- Performs ball skills at a moderate level of consistency
- Moves and makes decisions at moderate speeds
- Learning to handle the ball under pressure
- Utilizing some strategic skills to overcome the competition

Level 2 players: will have a better than basic knowledge of the game, and are paying particular attention to rules regarding safety. They should that have the desire to play in faster paced game will be considered for playing up a division for subbing and in jackpots at a higher level.

LEVEL 3 (Polocrosse Canada B Division – Rating 4-6)

Players realize the importance of playing as a team. Players are able to play at speed but lack consistency in their ball & horse skills. Players are utilizing strategies to improve their game results.

EXPECTED SKILLS (all Level 1 and 2 skills plus below)

Horsemanship:

- Have the ability to fit a horse properly for this calibre of play

- Have the ability to play safely and in control at a gallop and are working at getting the most out of their horse
- The horse neck reins, backs freely and stops efficiently
- The rider can select the correct lead departure; the horse picks up the indicated lead and performs flying lead changes
- Can jump out of the line and is competitive in winning the ball
- Is able to manoeuvre their horse to avoid pressure and knows how to ride off another player safely, meeting at the shoulder, never pushing from the hip or running in front of a moving horse
- Can trot on the correct diagonal and can select the correct lead departure.
- Demonstrates the ability to score goals from all areas and utilizes a variety of manoeuvres to achieve this
- Knowledge of International Rules
- High level of knowledge and understanding of the rules, their penalties and how to apply them
- Starting to umpire level 1 & 2 games
- Plays with few rule infractions & modifies play to avoid calls by the umpire in charge
- Knows and practises safe playing manoeuvres on the field

Strategy

- Utilizes advanced strategies in the line-up
- Utilizes a variety of manoeuvres to avoid losing the ball
- Can consistently deliver the ball to the #1 in the area
- Utilizes 2 players to pressure the ball carrier
- Is starting to anticipate play, and move to good field position
- Can position and control their horse in all areas of the field
- Uses more than one manoeuvre to score goals

Racquet Skills:

- Can properly execute a 10 yard throw at playing speed
- Can accurately throw and catch the ball at playing speed
- Consistently picks up both on and off side balls at playing speed
- Consistently bounces and retrieves the ball at playing speed
- Can properly and safely position their horse to give wood (to dislodge the ball from the opposing player's racquet)
- Can throw a goal accurately from all parts of the area

Overall:

- Knows the importance of the main safety rules: the line of the ball and not crossing dangerously and is avoiding them in play
- Utilizes team mates and strategies on the field
- Is aggressive in winning the ball
- Is reading the game, anticipating play and is in the proper position on field
- Has strong ball skills and consistently executes plays

- Plays competitively in a higher paced game.
- Moves and makes decisions at game speed
- Handles the ball under pressure
- Anticipates play
- Is able to adapt play to the competition

LEVEL 4 (Polocrosse Canada A Division – Rating 7-10)

Players are utilizing ball and horse skills intuitively and consistently. They are concentrating their attention on identifying the competition's weaknesses and utilizing advanced strategies to win games.

EXPECTED SKILLS (all Level 1, 2 and 3 skills plus below)

Horsemanship:

- Have the ability to fit a horse properly for this calibre of play
- Ability to ride most horses and to get the most out of their horse without causing injury to other players or horses
- Is using many different manoeuvres on field
- Handles the pressures of the game and competition

Knowledge of International Rules:

- High level of knowledge and understanding of the rules, their penalties and how to apply them.
- Umpiring level 3 games
- Plays with few rule infractions and modifies play to avoid calls by the umpire in charge
- Knows and practises safe playing manoeuvres on the field

Strategy

- Players ride and handle the ball both skillfully and consistently allowing them to concentrate on the competition and strategies of the game
- Can play all positions consistently
- Utilizes advanced strategies and horse saving play to defeat the competition

Racquet Skills:

- Consistently executes ball skills at a high level

Overall:

- Quick to line up, take penalties and follow the umpire's directions.

- Ability to read a game, gauge the strengths and weaknesses of both teams and capitalise on these
- Sportsman-like, yet strongly competitive in play
- Must be willing to act as ambassador for Polocrosse in Canada if invited to play internationally.
- Strong in all positions.
- Outstanding and innovative play in a match with their peers.
- Has exceptional ball skills and game strategy.
- Has excellent understanding of the game.
- Versatile and flexible play under pressure.