

## Player Eligibility 2018

### 1. Visas.

Please note that the term “OSP” is not used anymore and has been replaced with “Non EEA Player”. A Non EEA Player (referred to by the Home Office as a “Migrant”) is a player who has entered the UK on a Tier 5 Visa (Temporary Worker – Creative or Sporting) and as such must be 4 goals or above and is restricted to playing in 15 goal or above, or a Standard Visitor Visa (this has replaced the Sports Visitor Visa). Please see <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa> for guidance if entering on a Standard Visitor Visa.

The Kolpak Ruling allows citizens of certain countries the same right to freedom of work and movement as EU citizens as long as they have held a valid work permit in the UK for 4 years. Please see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolpak\\_ruling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolpak_ruling) for more guidance. These individuals will therefore not be classed as Non EEA Players.

We are awaiting confirmation from the Home Office for the criteria for 2018 following our briefing to them in Sheffield on 16 October but the conditions for 12 goal and below are on the basis that there will be no change to the criteria imposed for 2017.

### 2. Changes for 2018.

- a. The Home Grown Player Rule, which applied to 18 goal and below in 2017, has been removed for 2018.
- b. CV forms will be required for all new or returning players who have missed a UK season or more as before regardless of nationality but, with the introduction of 22 goal handicaps, players below 6 goals who were not a member of one of the big clubs in 2017 (Cowdray, Guards, RCBPC, Cirencester & Beaufort) can now apply for a 22 goal handicap for 2018 (see below). Such players will continue to be bracketed until their handicap has been confirmed but can play at all levels. In 2017 only patrons could play in the 22 goal with a handicap in brackets.

### 3. Obtaining a 22 Goal Handicap.

A player may already have been awarded a 22 goal handicap at the end of the 2017 season. Please go to the HPA website <http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk/fixtures/tournament-conditions-2018/> to view the list. If the player is not on the list and is less than 6 goals then an application form for a 22 goal handicap will have to be completed and this can be found on the same link above. A 22 goal handicap will be awarded if the player has fulfilled one of the following:

- a. They were a member of one of the big clubs in 2017;
- b. They played in at least two 8 goal VL or above tournaments in 2017. The Handicap Committee must be satisfied that the player played competitively on ponies of a suitable standard for the level played and success in the tournament will be a key factor.
- c. They played in high goal tournaments overseas prior to the English season and subject to the relevant association endorsing the information provided. For Argentina and the USA this will be 20 goals or above but may be reduced for countries where that level is not played.

### 4. Non EEA Players Under 18 on 31 September 2018 or in the UK on Full Time Education.

U18's who intend to enter the UK as a dependent of a player here legitimately or as an individual on a Standard Visitor Visa <http://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/if-youre-under-18> cannot be paid to play in the UK. Please note that if intending to enter as an individual on a Standard Visitor Visa they may be denied entry if deemed to be a Professional Sportsperson by the Border Agency. Please see Paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction>

Subject to the minimum handicap and abiding by the conditions of their visa:

- a. Any such Non EEA Under 18 player may play in any level if they are 4 goals or above but will be counted as a Non EEA player in the Tournament Conditions; any such player if they are 4 goals or above who wishes to play 22 goal will need to be listed with a 22 goal handicap as per “Item 3. Obtaining a 22 Goal Handicap”.
- b. Any such Non EEA Under 18 player who is less than 4 goals may play the 15 goal and below only and is not eligible to play in the 18 goal and above. They will not count as a non EEA player.



## Tournament Conditions 2018

### 22 Goal – 6 Chukkas.

- All players must hold an HPA 22 goal handicap of 0 goals or above;
- Teams are allowed a maximum of two Non EEA players and each must be 4 goals or above;

### 18 Goal – 5 Chukkas.

- All players must hold an HPA handicap of 0 goals or above;
- Teams are allowed a maximum of two Non EEA players who must be 4 goals or above;

### 15 Goal – 5 Chukkas.

- All players must hold an HPA handicap of 0 goals or above;
- Teams are allowed a maximum of one Non EEA player who must be 4 goals or above;

### 12 Goal – 4 Chukkas.

- All players must hold an HPA handicap of -1 goal or above and no two players may exceed 12 goals;

### 10 Goal – 4 Chukkas.

- All players must hold an HPA handicap of -1 goal or above and no two players may exceed 10 goals;

### 8 Goal - 4 Chukkas.

- All players must hold an HPA handicap of -1 goal or above and no two players may exceed 8 goals;

### 6 Goal – 4 Chukkas.

- All players must hold a minimum HPA handicap of -1 goals and not more than 5 goals, and no two players may exceed 7 goals.

### 4 Goal – 4 Chukkas.

- All players must hold a minimum HPA handicap of -2 goals and not more than 4 goals, and no two players may exceed 5 goals.

### 2 Goal – 4 Chukkas.

- All players must hold a minimum HPA handicap of -2 goals and not more than 3 goals, and no two players may exceed 4 goals.

### 0 Goal – 4 Chukkas.

- All players must hold a minimum HPA handicap of -2 goals and not more than 3 goals, and no two players may exceed 3 goals.

These conditions will apply for all Victor Ludorum tournaments and should apply for all tournaments. However, should a club choose to allow the upper limits for a single player or the best two players as set out above to be exceeded for a club tournament of 12 goal and below:

- The other teams must be notified before the draw and be allowed to withdraw should they wish to do so.
- The team exceeding them shall give the opposing team the number of goals by which they have exceeded the limit in addition to any handicap difference.

[https://hpa polo.sharepoint.com/handicapctte/2018/Tournament Conditions 2018.docx](https://hpa polo.sharepoint.com/handicapctte/2018/Tournament%20Conditions%202018.docx)

THE HURLINGHAM POLO ASSOCIATION

Manor Farm, Little Coxwell, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7LW, United Kingdom

Telephone: +44(0)1367 242 828 Facsimile: +44(0)1367 242 829 Email: [enquiries@hpa-polo.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hpa-polo.co.uk) Website: [hpa-polo.co.uk](http://hpa-polo.co.uk)

Company registration number: 5049372, registered office as above