

HPA DISCIPLINARY OFFICER'S REPORT 2019

This is a report for the HPA Disciplinary Committee by the HPA Disciplinary Officer for the 2019 season up to 8th September; the third such report by the Disciplinary Officer during his tenure of that appointment. There have been a number of small changes to the disciplinary rules which have, on the whole, worked well.

For the 2019 the umpires have continued to use the system of reporting yellow and red flags which was instigated for the 2018 season, namely the almost instantaneous reporting of incidents through the Pro Umpires What's App system. This has also been adopted by a number of club polo managers who have reported disciplinary incidents in 6- and 4-goal tournaments/matches. What has also worked well has been the system of giving players a formal warning after 3 yellow flags, after consultation with members of the DRP, then, if they incurred a 4th yellow flag, they would start all future VL matches (8-goal and above) for 10 days on a yellow flag. Some players, however, tried to get round this if they incurred a 4th or more yellow flags in 4- or 6-goal matches. I would recommend, therefore, that when flags are incurred in 4- and/or 6-goal tournaments/matches they should incur the same penalties as for higher goal matches/tournaments. In addition, I recommend that players should only be allowed to incur 3 yellow flags before starting any further VL matches for 10 days on a yellow flag.

Overall the level of discipline has deteriorated, including a number of incidents of note. Two disciplinary hearings took place at club (RCBPC) level of which one was referred to the HPA. The HPA held 3 Disciplinary Hearings, two of which involved the same player, the first for misconduct of letting go a seriously injured pony and the second for providing the first hearing with inaccurate and misleading information. In addition, a team patron received a formal letter from the Disciplinary Officer over the withdrawal of her team for a 15-goal tournament after the publication of the tournament schedule and the failure to pay her team's entry fee. She was ordered to pay 75% of the original entry fee.

Although there have been 4 red flags awarded this year (3 in 2018), the number of yellow flags has risen markedly, from 237 in 2018 to 267 in 2019; 72 for dangerous play/riding, 141 for abuse/dissent and 54 for whip offences. The last is a marked increase from 2018 but that was to be expected due to the changes and tightening of the whip rule in 2019. I recommend that there be no change to the whip rule for 2020. The dilemma is over players and the numbers of yellow flags they incur. This season 1 player has incurred 8 yellow flags, 2 players have incurred 6 yellow flags and 5 players have incurred 5 yellow flags. I recommend that any player who incurs 5 yellow flags or more should have a more severe penalty imposed upon them by the DRP; either a fine or a stand down for at least one match. If fined, that should be a fixed amount, irrespective of the level of tournament the player is involved in. If a player then incurs a 6th yellow flag, that player should be stood down for 2 matches and, for every further yellow flag, the number of matches the player is stood down for should increase by one.

I commend the umpires who have carried out their duties very well over the season. They have been strict and fair. The biggest problem some have is identifying the incidents of bad language which appears to be prevalent among a number of players. Some umpires are very strict on that, others not so strict. I recommend that all bad language be dealt with a yellow flag, irrespective of the incident that may incur; bad language brings the game into disrepute.

Appendix 1 - Disciplinary Incidents in 2019

Appendix 2 - List of players with no of flags awarded to each.

Appendix 1

DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS - 2019

Date	Submitted By	Level	Club	Detail on Report	Follow Up/Action
HEARINGS					
07-May-19	Michael Amooore	Chukkas	RCBPC	Olivier Girard - Charged with unsportsmanlike behaviour in that he hit his pony with his polo stick.	Given a strong warning. Case to be kept on file for 2 years
25-May-19	Michael Amooore	Chukkas	RCBPC	Charlie Simpson - Charged with hitting his pony excessively on 3 separate occasions in one chukka.	Fined £500 and banned from carrying a whip for 28 days. Case to be kept on file for 2 years.
26-May-19	Lisa Forster to HPA	Practice (22)	RCBPC	Fred Mannix - Charged with excessive use of the whip in a practice game (unimpaired).	Given a written warning letter by HPA Disc Offr that offence to be taken into account if he accumulates 3 yellow flags. Over-ruled by HPA Disc Steward. HPA Formal Hearing to be held.
06-Jun-19	HPA	Practice (22)	HPA Board	Fred Mannix - Charged with Misconduct in that he used the whip excessively in a practice match at RCBPC on 22nd May 2019	Found guilty. Fined £250 and warned of future conduct.
08-Jul-19	HPA	Match	HPA Board	Santiago de Estrada - Charged with Misconduct in that he dismounted for a pony that he knew to be seriously injured with a broken hind leg and failed to retain hold of that pony thus showing a disregard for uth welfare and for the safety of those around.	Found guilty. Banned for 5 matches (already served during a suspension since 23 Jun 19) and fined £1,500.
02-Aug-19	HPA	Match	HPA Board	Santiago de Estrada - Charged with Misconduct in that, during the Hearing on 8 July, he provided information to the Board that he knew to be inaccurate and misleading: a. That Shoreline did not enter the Coworth 15-goal b. That he missed 2 games in the Eduardo Moore when this was not true	The Board found him not guilty of the first charge, and guilty of the second. The Board awarded him a fine of £2,000 but reduced it to £700 as he had to gain from failing to correct the inaccuracy. He also received a warning that he had a personal responsibility to ensure information provided to the HPA on his behalf was accurate.

Appendix 2

To ANNEX I
COUNCIL AGENDA
26.11.2019

NAME		YELLOW	RED	UNSPORTSMANLIKE / UMPIRE ABUSE	WHIPPING	DANGEROUS PLAY	DANGEROUS STICK	OTHER
Aguerre	L	5		3		2		
Albwardy	R	1				1		
Ali Hyder	H	4		2		2		
Allen	D	2		2				
Alridge	J	1				1		
Amaya	M	3		1		2		
Ambroggio	J	2		1		1		
Andrade	R	1			1			
Araya	S	5		1	2	2		
Ashby	D	3		2	1			
Ayala	M	4		2	1	1		
Aylott	H	1				1		
Badiru	T	1				1		
Baldwin	M	1				1		
Banner-Eve	E	6	1	3	1	2		
Banner-Eve	A	1		1				
Bazzoni	S	1		1				
Bazzoni	A	1			1			
Beck Brown	J	1				1		
Beim	J	3		2		1		
Beim	T	1		1				
Bigatti	A	3				3		
Blake-Thomas	A	2				1	1	
Boudou	F	4		3		1		
Boyd	C	2		1	1			
Boyd	N	1			1			
Britos	J	2		1		1		
Brokensha	S	2		1		1		
C Araya	J	1			1			
Campbell	M	1		1				
Carmignac	H	1				1		
Castagnola	C	1			1			
Charlton	M	6			3	3		
Chaves	C	5		2	1	2		
Clague	N	1			1			
Clover	J	1				1		
Coddington	J	2				2		
Collett	G	2		1	1			
Cork	M	1		1				
Cork	O	2		1	1			
Crawford	C	1						
Crotto	J	2				2		
Cudmore	O	3		3				
Dabas	F	1				1		
Daniels	J	1		1				
Darritchon	M	1		1				
de Andrade	R	1				1		
de Estrada	S	7		4		3		
de Lamare	P	1	1	1				ABUSE AFTER GAME
de Lusaretta	J	2		2				
del Carril	M	1			1			
Di Paola	M	3		2	1			
du Plessis	N	1				1		
Hine	N	1				1		
Elizade	F	3		2	1			
Elizade	M	2		2				
Emerson	W	1		1				
Escobedo	A	1				1		
Fewster	J	3		1		2		
ffrench-Blake	M	1		1				
Fisher	H	1		1				
G Zavaletta	J	3		2		1		
Gabarini	T	3			1	2		
Gastambide	S	1					1	
Gonzalez	N	1			1			
Good	J	3		3				
Guevara	F	1			1			
H Padmanabh Singh	H	1			1			
Hall	K	2				2		
Hanbury	C	1		1				
Harper	J	5		4		1		
Harper	W	1				1		
Harrison	P	2			1	1		

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Heguy	P	1		1				
Henderson	M	6		4	2			
Hine	L	1			1			
Hitchman	C	1			1			
Horne	F	1				1		
Howe	M	1			1			
Hughes	B	1				1		
Hutchinson	M	1				1		
Hyde	J	2		1		1		
Imaz	E	1			1			
Jackson-Gaona	H	1		1				
Jenkinson	K	1		1				
Kirby	A	1			1			
Laborde	S	2		1		1		
Laprida	I	2		2				
Le Poer	R	3		1	2			
Lewis	H	1				1		
Lewis	R	1					1	
Llorente	P	2				2		
Lodge	S	1					1	
M Nero	J	1		1				
M Zubia	J	1		1				
Macdonough	P	2		1		1		
Machado	M	2		1		1		
Mackenzie	C	1		1				
Mannix	F	3			1	2		
Mawaz	H	1				1		
McCarthy	S	1		1				
McCarthy	J	1				1		
McGregor	I	1			1			
Meade	F	1				1		
Meadows	G		1					ABUSE AFTER GAME
Menard	A	1		1				
Merlos	A	3		3				
Meyrick	G	4		2		2		
Monteverde	L	1			1			
Morley	T	1		1				
Muzzio	A	3		2		1		
Negri	I	1			1			
Norris	L	1			1			
Ormerod	E	1		1				
P Clarkin	J	1						
P Luksic	J	1			1			
Panello	T	2				1	1	
Pemble	R	1		1				
Perry	M	2		2				
Pieres	P	3		3				
Pieres	N	3		1	1	1		
Pieres	G	2		2				
Pieres	F	3		3				
Plaza	M	2		1		1		
Podesta	M	1		1				
Puga Pravda	M	1			1			
Renucci	G	1		1				
Richardson	J	1						
Roberts	N	2		1	1			
Rogerson	N	1				1		
Rowan-Hamilton	A	1				1		
San Roman	N	1		1				
Scwarzenbach	G	1		1				
Seller	P	1		1				
Seth Smith	W	1				1		
Severn	T	3		3				
Sherriff	G	2		1			1	
Sola	F	3		3				
Sorzana	B	1		1				
Stirling	P	3		1	1	1		
Strada	I	2			1	1		
Terrera	G	1				1		
Thomas	J	1				1		
Toccalino	S	2		1	1			
Toccalino	I	1			1			
Tomlinson	L	3		2	1			

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NAME		YELLOW	RED	UNSPORTSMANLIKE / UMPIRE ABUSE	WHIPPING	DANGEROUS PLAY	DANGEROUS STICK	OTHER
Tomlinson	M	5		3		2		
Torreguitar	R	1			1			
Ulloa	H	1				1		
Walton	C	2		1		1		
Watson	B	2			1	1		
Webb	P	2		2				
Webb	A		1					HITTING A PLAYER
Wilson-Smith	H	1		1				
Wiseman	S	1				1		
Wooldridge	C	4		1	1	2		
		285	4	133	52	91	6	

Bold = 4 plus

Guidelines	Guidelines	Guidelines
	Up to Ban/Fine	Up to Ban/Fine
ABUSE OF PLAYER OR OFFICIAL	Club	HPA
Verbal abuse or disrespect to another player	Two matches	One week and/or £2,000
As above but with foul language or gesture which is visible or audible to any spectator or member of the public	Three matches	Two weeks and/or £5,000
Verbal abuse or disrespect to an official	Three matches	Three weeks and/or £10,000
As above but with foul language or gesture which is visible or audible to any spectator or member of the public	Four matches	Two months and/or £50,000
MISUSE OF STICK		
Negligent misuse of the stick which endangers another player, official or pony	Two matches	One week
Intentional misuse of the stick which endangers another player, official or pony	Four matches	Two months and/or £10,000
Intentional misuse of the stick which causes damage to another player, official or pony	Two months	Three months and/or £50,000
DANGEROUS PLAY		
Dangerous play which endangers another player, official or pony	Two matches	Two weeks and/or £2,000
Second finding as above	Four matches	One month and/or £5,000
Third finding as above		Long term ban/ and up to £20,000
ABUSE OF PONY		
Jagging in the mouth, misuse of the whip or spurs	Two matches	Three weeks and/or £10,000
Continuing to play an injured or exhausted pony	Two matches	Three weeks and/or £10,000
Mismanagement/lack of attention to the welfare of any pony at polo, in the stables or when out to grass	Two matches	Three weeks and/or £10,000
REFUSING TO PLAY		
Leaving the field of play other than in the usual course of the match	Two matches	Three weeks and/or £10,000
Refusing to participate in any match	Four matches	Three weeks and/or £10,000
ASSAULT		
Physical response to physical aggression	Three matches	Three weeks and/or £10,000
Assault by striking or other means of another player in any physical way	Four matches	Two months and/or £20,000
As above but of an official in any physical way	One month	Long term ban and/or £50,000
SOCIAL MEDIA		
Abuse of any/another player on any social media site	Refer to HPA	One year and/or £20,000
Abuse on any social media site of any club or HPA official of any status/position	Refer to HPA	Three years and/or £50,000

Hurlingham Polo Association Safety Committee Injury Survey Results

2018 season
(439 survey responses)

Correspondence to: Dr Victor Chua, chair of Safety Advisory Committee
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16 July 2019

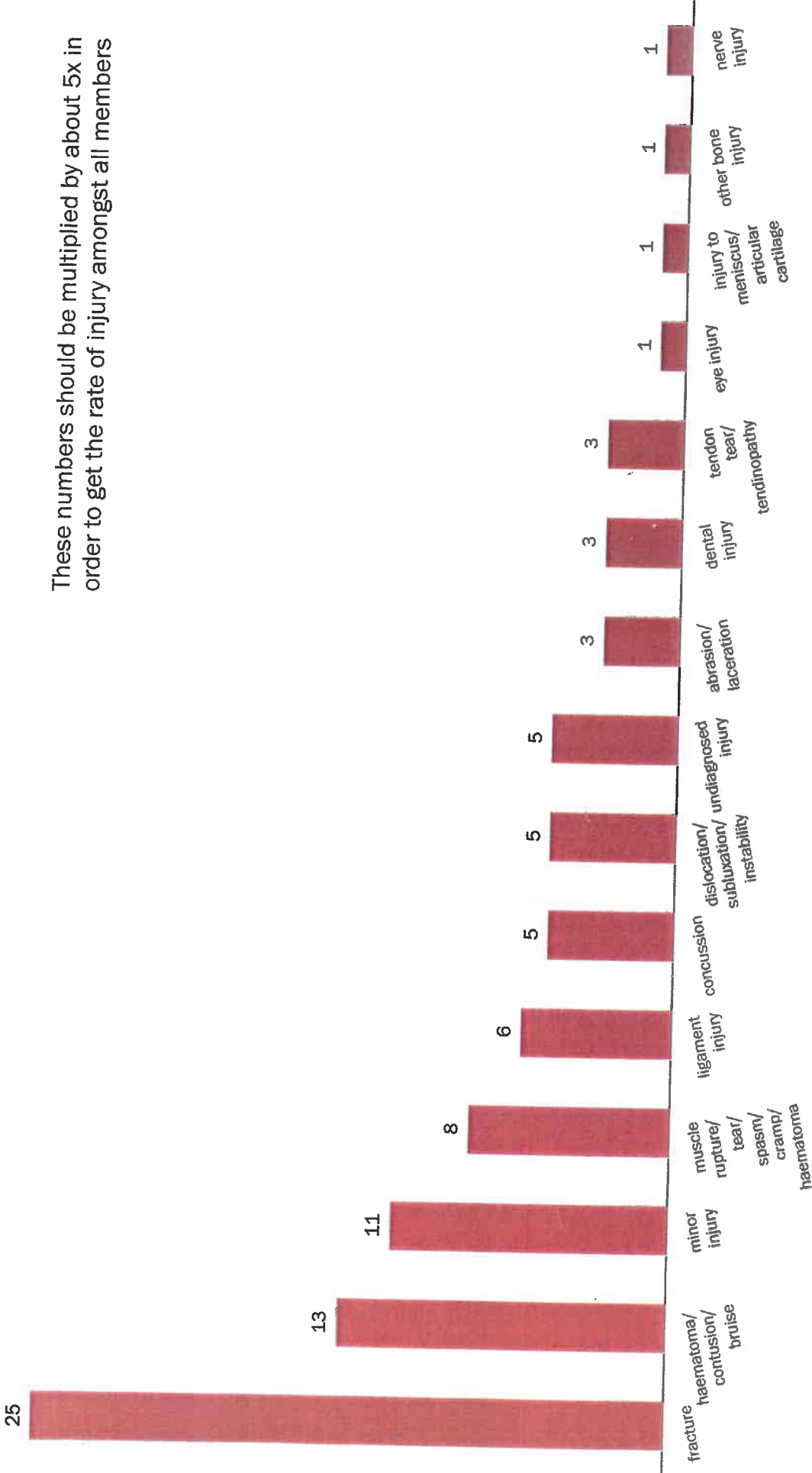
2018 SEASON SURVEY

- All members who joined the HPA in 2019 were asked to fill out the online survey as part of the online process
- As of 17 June 2019, 439 people had responded, a response rate of about 20%
 - If we assume that that people injured have an equal probability to fill out the survey, the numbers in this survey could be multiplied by 5 (the inverse of the 20%) to arrive at the true injury rate
 - We must get the response rate higher in future years
- This survey complements our injury reporting system because it relies on players themselves to report injuries. Our injury reporting system relies on clubs to report injuries, and many clubs report 'no injuries'.
- However, it does assume that players in the 2018 season return for the 2019 season. This survey will obviously miss the most serious injuries, where players retire for injury reasons.

The most common type of injury in polo last season was a fracture

INJURIES BY TYPE

No. of injuries

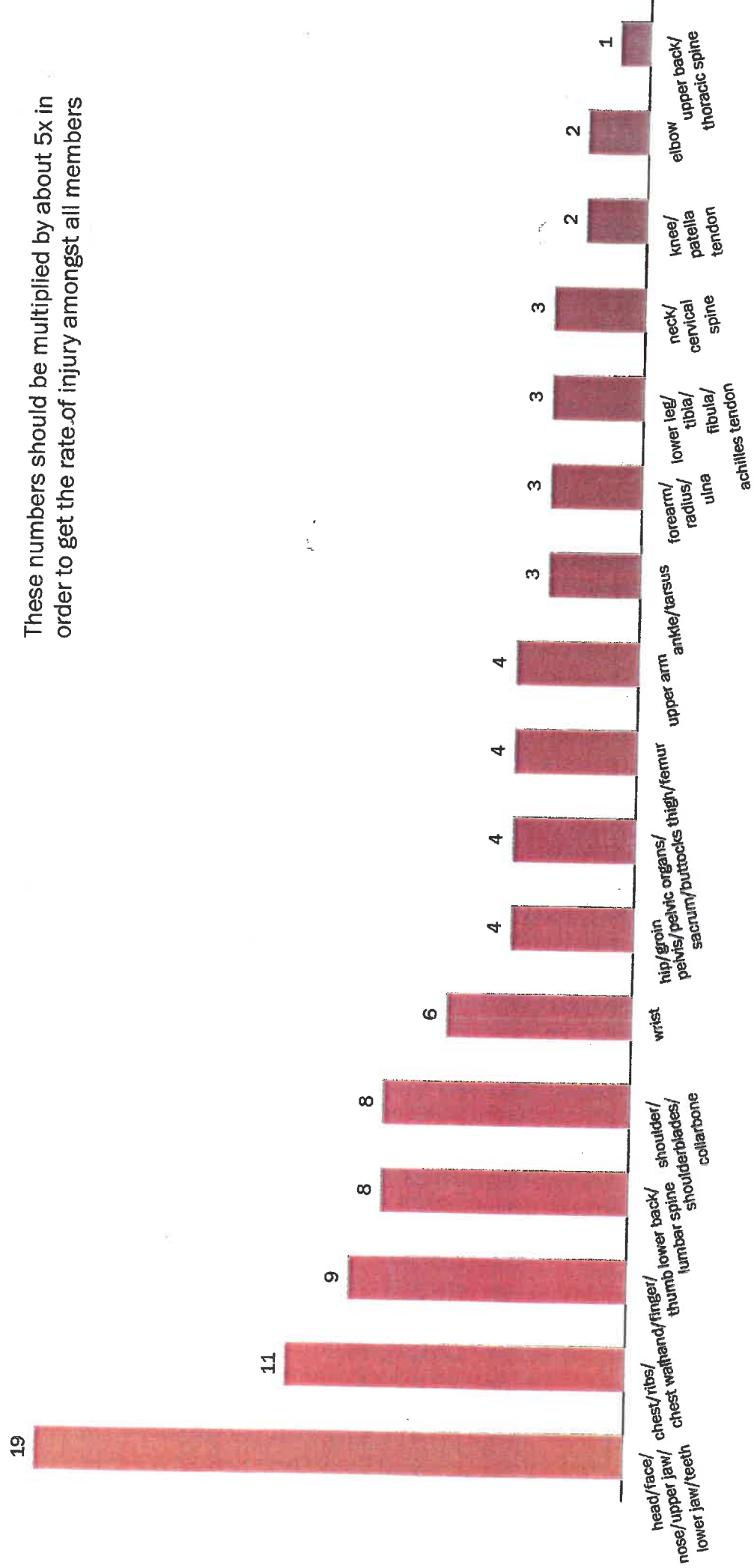


These numbers should be multiplied by about 5x in order to get the rate of injury amongst all members

The most common injury site last year was to the head/face area

INJURIES BY SITE

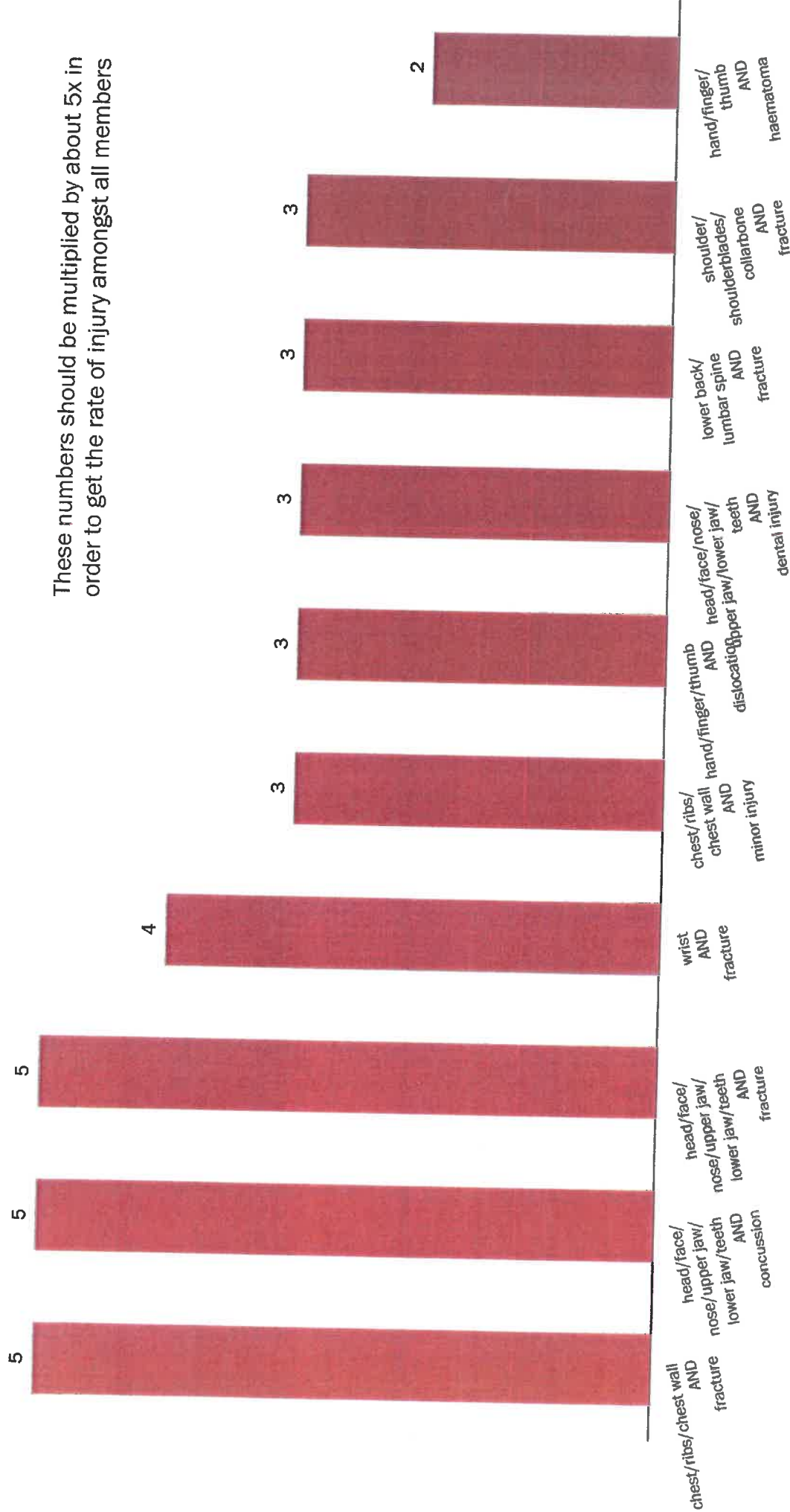
No. of injuries



The three most common type of injury and site of injury were fractures to the chest area, concussion, and fractures to the head/face area

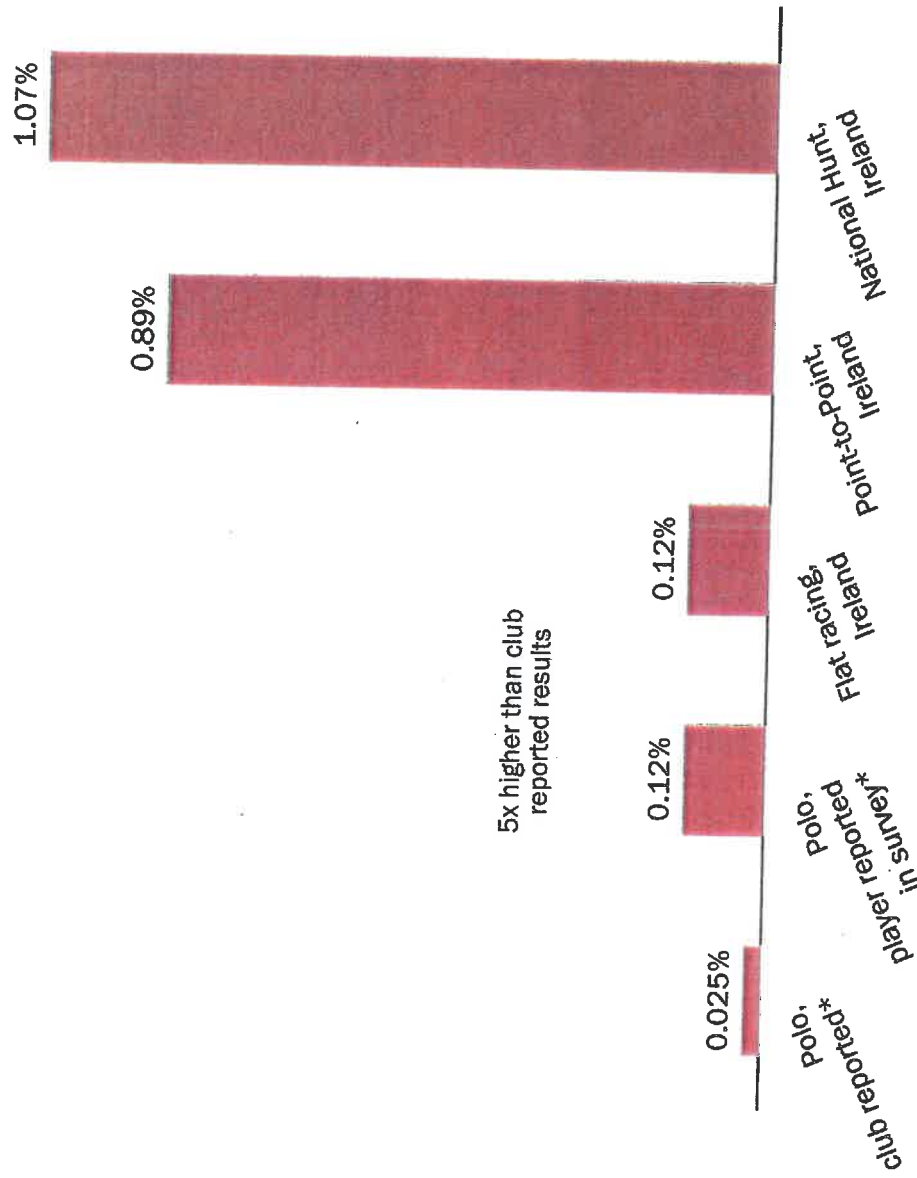
INJURY COMBINATIONS – SITE & TYPE

No. of injuries



Our player reported injury survey suggests that the true injury rate is about 5x the club reported rate. Polo has the same injury rate as flat racing, and is far safer than steeplechasing

INJURIES PER CHUKKA IN POLO AND INJURIES PER RACE START



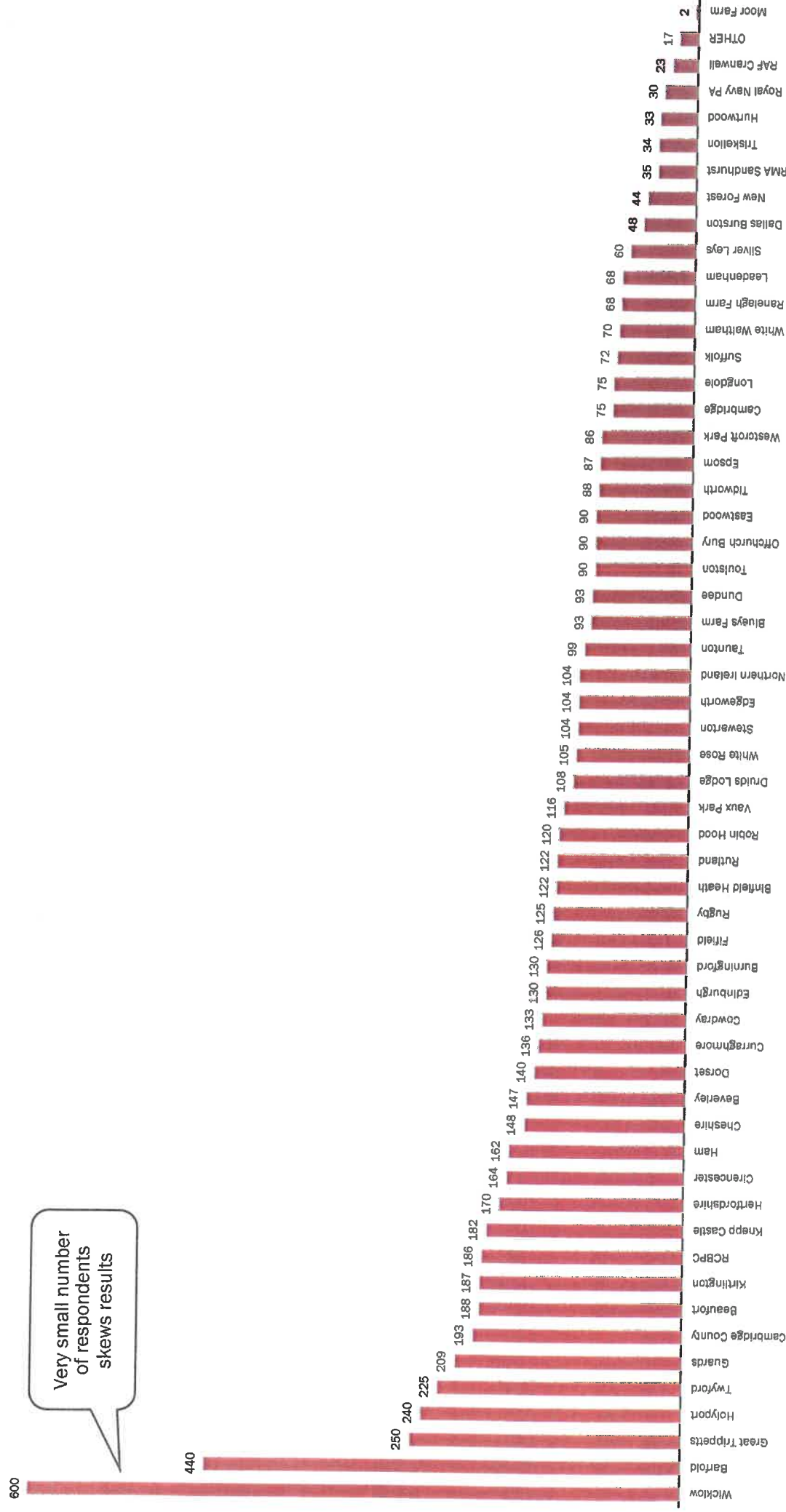
- Our player reported survey shows that the injury rate in polo is probably about 5x the club reported injury rate
- Polo has a similar injury rate to flat racing
- Polo has a much lower injury rate than national hunt or point to point
- We were able to obtain accurate injury rates in Ireland from the Irish racing authority's chief medical officer. These are likely to be more accurate than ours as most races will have a race medic/paramedics

*Injury rate per chukka
Polo figures are an average from 2014-2018 for club reported, 2018 only for player reported survey
Irish Horseracing Regulatory Body statistics were averages of 10+ years, and are per race start. Credit: Dr Adrian McGoldrick

The average number of chukkas played per club differs significantly

Average number of chukkas played

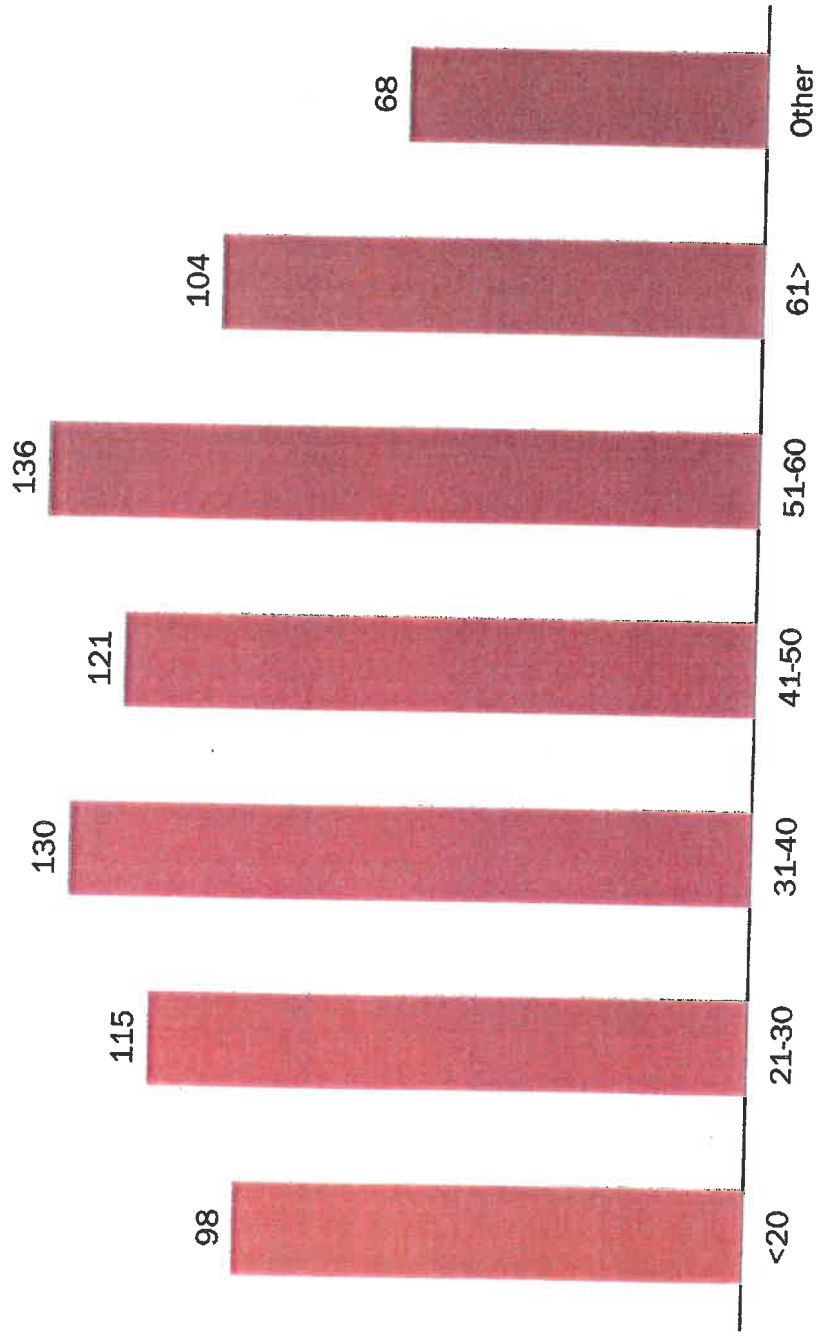
No. of chukkas



The age group that plays the highest average number of chukkas is the 51-60 age group

Average number of chukkas per age group

No. of chukkas



68	93	81	64	68	24	41	Total no. of respondents
6,669	10,689	10,570	7,732	9,233	2,486	2,803	Total no. of chukkas

NEXT STEPS

- Improve survey take-up next year by changing membership signup flow
- Compare types of injury between polo / flat racing / steeplechasing