

Buenos Aires, 27th March
2017

Empire Polo Club
Battro Polo Fields Report

Reference: Visit to the polo fields from the 22nd to 25th of March.

Current situation of the polo fields

Leveling

Because of the type of weather in the area, a crown is not necessary to allow the surplus water to run out of the polo field limits. However, it is always important that the surface of the game is as leveled as possible so that there are no unevenness, and above all, areas that are more humid than others this could be dangerous during the games.

We have observed that there are some low patches that must be leveled with sand or with a mix of soil plus sand, during the summer, so can be covered with the bermuda grass. On field 1, in the center of that field, we saw a low patch that was filled with only sand. In cases where you should fill some low patches with more than 1/2 inch, it is convenient to use mixtures with organic soil to give greater consistency to that soil, and not be a loose soil with pure sand, and very easy to destroy and so difficult to cover with grass. When the low patch is small, you can use only sand, but as it gets deeper you have to add more soil to that sand. Sometimes you will use just soil.

For the microlevel, it is important to cover all the divots, but only cover the hole made by the horse. It is not necessary to cover the horse mark. Besides, you should use only the sand to fill the hole and no more. That will help to reach a leveled surface and avoid the bounce of the ball.

Turf

The grass quality of the mains polo fields is very good. The density, color, health and coverage are what we expect for a polo field with cool season grass.

We advise to use some rye seeds with sand + org. mat. when you fill divots, during the coolest months of the season. Then, don't use seed so the bermuda will cover those divots.

There were some weed (Nutsedge) specially in field 1. That weed is difficult to control with herbicides on Ryegrass, because those chemicals could damage the Rye every time you spray. During the season, we recommend controlling them by hand, pulling the weed and roots. Out of season, you can keep using Monument and also you can try Sempra (halosulfuron).

Soil

Soil is one of the main issue to look after in a polo field management.

In the first 3-4 inches of soil, the soil texture is sandy with organic matter. That mix is very convenient for a polo field soil. After that thickness, appears a fine grain that is easily compacted. In the main fields the soil compaction starts after the first inch deep, and in the other fields, the soil is harder even closer to the surface.

The field ground must be looser, to avoid slipping. All that we can uncompact, will be an increase of the security of the games. This will reach with solid and hollow tines in different moments.

Works to recover the polo fields after the events

The works that you are doing for the recovery of the fields after the events are correct. You work with a lot of dedication, responsibility and criteria, so that the turf return in good conditions. We recommend more emphasis on soil management to have better fields during the polo season.

Works to be done

During this polo season

Sand

It is no news to comment the benefits of sand on the polo fields. But it is very important to keep in mind that you have to do the placement of the sand in the moment where it is going to take more advantage in the polo season. Topdress with 250 tons a few days before the most important games, only one time in this season. This week you will start with the final, so we advise to topdress those fields as soon as possible. Then drag with a light wire drag to incorporate the sand into the ground and discover the grass. Surely, you will have to water then to moist that sand and avoid flying during the game.

Deep solid tines

As soon as possible, use deep solid tines (3/4 inches diameter and 12-14 inches depth), for all fields. Start with the main fields where you will play the finals and then continue with the others. For a better job, it is better to do this work after an abundant watering or rainfall. Now you have 2 machines that could be used for this type of work, but we recommend using the brand VertiDrain (<http://redexim.com/>), the widest possible, with wheels to be able to transport it from one field to the other. Having many grounds, the ideal would be to have, at least, 2 VertiDrain.

For a good job, you should achieve an amount of aprox. 70 holes per 1,000 sq ft.

Watering

The soil of a good polo field should be well humid. It is common to water enough for the growth of the grass but not enough for the polo. Polo needs much more water to achieve a

good grip. As we discussed with the players, the best moment of the fields are after a good rain. Now, is important to double the amount of water that is being used on the fields.

Events during the polo season

All the events that take place on the polo fields during the season, not only cause damage to the fields, also alter the work programs. We suggest to avoid all those avoidable events that are done on the fields, to maintain and increase their quality.

Mowing

In each cut, always use the large machine that has the rollers. That machine, relevels the footmarks and improves the level of the playing surface. The helical self-propelled machines only copy the ground and have no weight, therefore, they are only for aesthetic use.

Fields: 5 to 10

These fields have less maintenance than the main ones, and it is very important to maintain the same importance. You can invest less than the main fields, but there is always a limit that you don't have to go through, which is when the fields becomes unsafe for the game. We noticed: less cutting frequency, less irrigation, and broken sprinklers. All the polo fields received the same players and horses, and a field with little maintenance, is bad for any type of game. We suggest, invest more time in the maintenance of these fields, in the same way that you are doing with the main fields.

Safety zones

As the word says, the safety zone is the safest area of the field, but this is not always taken into account. It is the area where the player turns after passing the goal. It is a turning and braking area, and that makes it very dangerous if it is not in good conditions.

To achieve security in these areas, it is very important to:

- Prohibit the circulation of vehicles that are not working on the field,
- And give the same treatment as in the rest of the field.

The same happens on both sides, outside the boards.

Out of polo season

Out of the polo season, we agree with the works to:

- Recovery of the turf from the events,
- Fertilization and weeds control,
- Type, moment and application of organic matter
- Ryegrass overseeding
- Topdressing

We suggest keep doing these jobs, but adding:

- More deep aeration with the VertiDrain
- Fill every low patch as soon as possible with sand or mix of sand plus organic matter if its bigger than 1/2 inch, to reach the complete recovering with bermuda.
- Adding more sand close to the beginning and during the season.
- More water during season.

Final comments

In general, the turf and soil mixture with sand and organic matter are fine, but we still have to put more emphasis on soil management, which is the main issue on the polo field.

This report is general; therefore, it is very important to keep the fluid communication to follow up the works, and the evolution of the fields.

Our next visit will be in July-August 2017, within a program of 4 annual visits.

Again, we would like to thank you for your trust and appreciation.

Best regards,

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Battro Polo Fields