

# Texas Arena League Armadillo Division: Growing Strong and Reaching New Heights

*The 2025 Texas Arena League Armadillo Division expands arena polo to two locations and introduces higher competition levels*

DALLAS, TX, UNITED STATES, March 11, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For the 2025 [Texas Arena League](#) Season, the ever-growing Armadillo Division has expanded to a second location and will now accommodate even higher-goal levels of play. As the Texas Arena League (TAL) continues to grow, both its Classic and Armadillo divisions have adapted to meet the needs of the ever-evolving Texas arena polo community. With the overwhelming response to the inaugural Armadillo Division in 2023, TAL has tailored this popular division for its third season by introducing new opportunities for both players and spectators alike.



Nick Lahutsky and Loreto Natividad playing in the National Arena Bronze Cup at Legends Polo Club during Texas Arena League photo by Murrell Photography

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The Armadillo league made it fun with challenging and well-balanced teams.”

*Michael Farah*

“The three of us “Polo Hermanos” are at different clubs now but promised each other we would play together this year. The Armadillo league made it fun with challenging and well-balanced teams.” -Michael Farah

The Armadillo Division was first introduced in 2023 to address the rising demand for competitive play at the 0-3

goal level. As more teams signed up, it became quickly apparent that there simply weren't enough hours in the day to host enough games for all participants. To ensure that every team had an opportunity to compete, two additional weekends were added to the TAL calendar. These additional weekends were dubbed the Texas Arena League: Armadillo Division, named after the state small animal in homage to true Texas spirit and tradition.

In 2024, the Armadillo Division attracted a whopping nine teams at the 0-3 goal level whose games took place over one weekend at Legends Polo Club. The success of this division was clear with both players and fans praising the increased opportunities for competition and crowd-engaging plays.

“Playing in TAL’s Armadillo League with the Interim Physicians team has become my most anticipated event of the year. John Hand, my best friend and former teammate (Texas Tech Polo Club), started the team in 2024 after we both took a 6-year hiatus from playing polo. Since then, we’ve aimed to make this a yearly tradition. TAL offers us the ability to compete in the arena again, see old faces, and reminisce on our past polo days. Despite our team’s practice taking place during games 1 & 2 of Armadillo League, we have strong talent on the team and all enjoy playing together, win or lose!” -Dallas Taylor

For 2025, the Texas Arena League Armadillo Division has raised the bar even higher. The 0-3 goal level was adjusted to 0-4, adding a whole new level of challenge for competing teams. With eight teams now signed up for the newly revamped division, the competition will be held under the banner of the United States Polo Association (USPA) [National Arena Bronze Cup](#) at the prestigious Legends Polo Club over two weekends.

“Getting to compete for the National Arena Bronze Cup is such a great



Captain Patrick Shanahan of Team Marines carries the ball at Legends Polo Club during Texas Arena League photo by Murrell Photography



Robert Orthwein carries the ball in front of Aiden Meeker of Texas A&M in the National Arena Chairman's Cup played during Texas Arena League's Armadillo Division photo by Tequila Sunset's Photography



opportunity. Military polo is such a small knit community and being able to represent it at a national level is an honor." -2nd Lt Rowan August Neidinger, Team Marines

One of the most exciting changes for the 2025 season features a brand-new addition to the Armadillo Division: the 8-12 goal hosted at Brookshire Polo Club. This additional weekend came at the request of last year's players who were seeking an even more advanced competitive experience. This year's 8-12 goal division is being played as the USPA National Arena Chairman's Cup at Brookshire Polo Club with 6 participating teams. Since the tournament's inception in 1949, this may be the largest number of teams to ever compete for the National Arena Chairman's Cup. Finals for this tournament will run concurrently with the 0-4 goal armadillo division at Legends Polo Club February 28th-March 2nd.

"It (Armadillo Division) at Brookshire Polo Club is a nice addition to TAL. After playing the U.S. Open Arena Polo Championship, I believe it is a step between to show some people that they could also do the Open. The league has also helped grow TAL in the Houston area and will hopefully pull some more people into playing next year. For me it has helped the level of play across the board from the players to the horses." Chad Bowman

"The TAL 8-12 goal Armadillo league has been such an exciting and wonderful addition to the Texas Arena League. The new 8-12 goal league has really elevated the level of arena polo being played and has provided a great way for players to continue competitively playing outside of the



Joanie Jackson scoops the ball in front of Johann Felhaber during Texas Arena League's Armadillo Division at Brookshire Polo Club photo by Tequila Sunset's Photography



Uly Escapite receives the PoloGear USA Player of the Week award at Legends Polo Club during Texas Arena League's Armadillo Division

TAL Classic Division. My goal in joining the league was to continue to improve myself by competing at a higher level amongst players better than myself and to help keep myself sharp during the "off" weekends from the Classic division. I do feel like a little fish in a big pond at times but have relished the opportunity to play higher level arena polo and strive to continue improving my skills and reaction times. " -Stephanie Colburn

"My favorite part of playing in TAL is getting to play with my daughter and the time we spend together. Family is so important, and my parents and sister come to the games and watch and help support our team which has been such a blessing."- Ashley Owen

As with Classic Division, every player in Armadillo Divisions receives a limited-edition U.S. Polo Assn. sherpa hoodie with TAL logo embroidered. Awards are given in each game for Galvin Agency MVP, Nutrena Best Playing Pony and Sportsmanship. Added for 2025 the PoloGear USA Player of the Week and Casablanca Defenseman of the Week awards.

#### Armadillo Division Week #1 Awards

PoloGear USA Player of the Week Legends - Uly Escapite

Casablanca Polo Defenseman of the Week Legends - Jose Velez

PoloGear USA Player of the Week Brookshire - Joe Bob Lequerica

Casablanca Defenseman of the Week Brookshire - Will Mudra

Nutrena Best Playing Pony

Macaroni - James Glew

Daisy - Loreto Natividad

Serious Fun - Brady Williams, owned by Karl Hilberg

Gringo - Matthew Schloemer

Boomerang - Joe Bob Lequerica

Sunny - Robert Orthwein

Gunsmoke - Stephanie Colburn

Ruby - Will Mudra

Taquito - Nick Cifuni, owned by Mary Ellen Clinton

Indy - Shane Rice

Lola - Javier Insua

Annie - James Glew

Niner - played by Team Marines, owned by Will Walton

Mathew - played by Adrian Aguilar, owned by Legends Polo Club

#### Galvin Agency Most Valuable Player

Robert Orthwein

Joe Bob Lequerica 2x

Niklaus Felhaber

Will Mudra

Chad Bowman

James Glew

Nick Lahutsky  
Uly Escapite 2x  
Patrick Shanahan  
Loreto Natividad  
John Hand  
Adrian Aguilar

Cavalor/JD Polo Sportsmanship  
Joaquin Callejas  
Ashlyn Whiteley  
Rachel Mittman  
Dallas Taylor  
Todd Thurston  
Audry Persano  
Shane Rice  
Will Mudra  
Stephanie Colburn  
Roxy Mounter  
Patrick Shanahan  
Mariel Juarez  
Mike Farah  
Matthew Schloemer

The Texas Arena League Armadillo Division is proving that the sky's the limit when it comes to the growth of arena polo in the Lone Star State. Fans and players alike can look forward to the thrilling finals of the 2025 season with plenty of action left in store. For more details on the 2025 season, score updates, and ticket information, visit [texasarenaleague.com](https://texasarenaleague.com) or follow the Texas Arena League on Facebook and Instagram. You can also follow the scorekeeping and stats on [polosk.com](https://polosk.com)

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