

## Dear SHF Member - Sport License Holders:

Please be assured that your provincial federation, the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, will continue during 2010 to administer, plan and deliver the NCCP coaching and rider certification programs in this province. You do not need to contact the Ontario Equestrian Federation to participate in the coaching or rider certification programs. Our provincial coaches *will* continue to be able to work with the SHF provincial office and all coaching programs *will* continue in this province as they have done in the past.

The most recent message released ( on Friday March 5th) from Equine Canada stipulating that the Saskatchewan Horse Federation is no longer “allowed” to deliver and administer the instructor and coach training programs (as well as other related programs) for equestrian sport is not based on supporting documentation and is, in fact, quite false. Despite their pronouncements to the contrary, Equine Canada has no jurisdiction over the delivery and administration in such provincial matters and therefore can not impose sanctions such as the withdrawal of a province’s right to deliver the Rider Certification or the Coaching Certification programs to the members of a province. Equine Canada quite simply does not have that authority or that power. The draconian measures they are attempting to unleash against six provinces who have profound disagreements with their new policies regarding memberships are unfounded and are not based on matters of fact.

The recent attack against the six provinces as is seen on their website and in the March 5<sup>th</sup> email memoranda to all Sport License holders gives no real understanding of what is happening and what is, in fact the truth in these matters. In actuality, while EC is informing the Coaching Association of Canada and Sport Canada that they are entering into negotiations and mediation in efforts to resolve this situation amicably, their recent actions belie this claim and show such not to be true.

The present and unfortunate conflict involving Equine Canada has caused the six (6) provinces to become educated, enlightened and much better informed concerning the Canadian Policy for Sport. And In particular these provinces, of which Saskatchewan is one, have arrived at a better knowledge and understanding of Sport’s operational systems and particularly the NCCP programs, especially in respect to the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders. There are binding agreements between federal and provincial governments covering just how Sport is to be developed, managed and implemented in Canada. And so we would like to share with you some information contained in the official documentation describing the mandate of the CAC (Coaching Association of Canada Mandate - Source: The 2005 Regina Resolution and amendments of September 1, 2009). It is important to bear in mind that ***“The Canadian Sport Policy recognizes in all areas the responsibility of provincial/ territorial governments in education”***.

***September 1, 2009 - Appendix A – Roles and Responsibilities***, describes how the different stakeholders (CAC, federal-provincial/territorial governments, NSO’s, Provincial/Territorial Coach and Sport Leader program delivery mechanisms) are to interface in assuming their respective roles and responsibilities. We find this documentation is clear and straightforward. The following sections demonstrate that neither a NSO nor the CAC are responsible for, or are authorized to determine who will be tasked with the delivery and promotion of the NCCP in any given province or territory. The Coaching programs of the NCCP are to be delivered in a province as determined by the provincial/territorial governments and their agents (the Provincial/Territorial Coach & Sport Leaders – P/TCSP) .

From The Regina Resolution - Appendix A: effective September 1, 2009:

*“Provincial/Territorial Coach and Sport Leader programs delivery mechanisms:*

*The Provincial/Territorial Coach and Sport Leader programs delivery mechanisms (or their duly authorized bodies) are the organizations mandated by provincial/territorial governments to:*

- a) assume the general responsibilities for the delivery and promotion of the NCCP and other related programs within their respective jurisdictions;*
- b) Select, train, and upgrade multi-sport Master Learning Facilitators and Master Evaluators;*
- c) participate in inter-provincial/territorial forums dedicated to the advancement of coach and sport leader development and to elect Provincial/Territorial Coach and Sport Leader representatives on the CAC;*
- d) account to their respective provincial/territorial governments or agencies appointed by them for this purpose; ...etc.”*

In the province of Saskatchewan, the provincial government has mandated **Sask Sport** as the delivery mechanism for the NCCP in all sports (and it is therefore logical that only the provincial government could put an end to, or change, this mandate). The different sport federations (PSOs) play a key role in partnering with *Sask Sport* in the delivery of the sport programs, including coaching. There is no mention anywhere in this federal sport policy document that an NSO (e.g. Equine Canada) has any ability to interfere or to change this mandate. The P/TCSP in our province is the Manager of Coaching working under *Sask Sport*. **The Saskatchewan Horse Federation is the authorized body under Sask Sport to deliver the equestrian coaching programs in Saskatchewan.**

As for the role of Equine Canada, and from the same document: .....

*“The National Sport Organizations (NSOs)*

- a) Develop and maintain the sport specific aspects of NCCP;*
- b) Select, train, and upgrade sport specific Master Learning Facilitators and Master Evaluators;*
- c) Oversee the implementation of sport specific Learning Facilitator and Evaluator training and upgrading, by consulting with their P/TSO counterparts and by conducting planning and evaluation meetings of regional Master Learning Facilitators and Evaluators;*
- d) Assist with the maintenance of coach, instructor, learning facilitator and evaluator records on the NCCP database;*
- e) Promote and provide incentives to participate in the NCCP; etc.”*

Clearly NSO's (ergo Equine Canada) are not responsible for determining who will deliver and promote the NCCP in any given province or territory. Their job is to set the national standards that will be applicable and available in every province in Canada. They review these standards, adjust or revise them as needed. They send the records on coaching to the NCCP database. They do not authorize who delivers the program in the separate provinces. Only the provincial ministry can do that. Equine Canada therefore cannot legitimately or legally designate the province of Ontario to administer the coaching programs in Saskatchewan. And the Ontario Equestrian Federation, it would seem, is acting improperly and aiding and abetting Equine Canada by agreeing to do so.

As for the Coaching Association of Canada...

*“The CAC:*

***Within the framework of the mandate provided by the Ministers, the CAC, in collaboration with other stakeholders, will have the authority to make final decisions on any aspect of the ordinary course of business (development, delivery and promotion) of the National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) and other related programs, including to:***

- a) protect its rights and properties as they relate to the programs;***
- b) undertake operational responsibilities related to the development (including evaluation and certification) and promote the programs in collaboration with other stakeholders;***
- c) prioritize the development of training and learning activities for community coaches;***
- d) specify minimum standards related to the programs' development and delivery; etc."***

Again, clearly the roles of the CAC are of a different nature than those of the NSO and the other stakeholders. We must keep in mind that should the CAC find itself where it needs to make a final decision on matters relating to the course of business of the program, it is to be done in collaboration with the other stakeholders.

It is clear that the CAC does not determine which party will be responsible for the delivery and promotion of the NCCP in any given province or territory. This responsibility lies with each provincial/territorial government.

Since the publication of the latest message by Equine Canada on Friday, March 5th, we have had several members contact us. Not only are they confused and alarmed in reading the Equine Canada message, they also are questioning the role of their PSO in this program.

Where do we, or do you, go from here? How can you proceed through the Rider Certification programs? Will your results be valid? Will your efforts in coaching be recognized by the CAC and will you be able to attain a national status for your accomplishments?

We have been assured by our provincial government and by Sask Sport, with whom we are in close contact, that we can and will continue to offer the coaching programs in our province despite the actions and protestations of Equine Canada. Our government and Sask Sport are behind us and will support us and will negotiate on our behalf with the CAC and Sport Canada and ensure that any of your qualifications are recognized with the CAC, with the corresponding national status under the national programs.

Concerning the Ontario Equestrian Federation, we note that they have chosen to be "partners in this folly" with Equine Canada and to infringe on the proper authority and roles of the other provincial associations. In all likelihood this is done in ignorance of how the Canadian Sport Policy works. We are very disappointed in their actions to be sure. At the moment they follow the line of propaganda that comes from the Equine Canada Board and office, and it is quite wrong as we have documented earlier.

By taking your Rider levels in this province from a qualified and accredited coach and completing and meeting standards as is appropriate, you will have met all the qualifications to be accredited at the levels you have taken. In a nutshell, Equine Canada is simply saying in all of this that they will recognize your achievements when done with a certified coach, but they demand that the processing of your paper work is to be done in Ontario. We, the SHF, are saying that it must not be done in Ontario but must be done in Saskatchewan according to the terms of the 2009

Appendix A to the 2005 Regina Resolution for Coaching to the Canadian Sport Policy, which is binding on all sport bodies in this country. It is only a matter of time, in our view and that of others, before Equine Canada is brought to accountability for its actions in this matter.

So, the answers to the above questions are: we/you should: a) carry on with “business in-province as usual”, and b) continue to work with the coaches and our Saskatchewan provincial coaching program, and c) know that your results will certainly be valid as we use only qualified people to deliver the programs and we have been assured this will continue to be the case by our own provincial government and its authorized agency, Sask Sport.

Please feel welcome at any time to contact the SHF office for further clarifications and explanations. The Canadian Sport Policy is a complicated system to understand and to be sure there are many within the sport circles who do not fully understand all the details, implications and ramifications of these agreements.

**We continue to work together as six enlightened provinces. Our aim is to achieve an agreement for mediation in efforts to solve the impasse and the dilemmas that currently face us due to the present policy decisions of Equine Canada. As always, we work diligently keeping the best interests of the membership in the forefront of our best efforts on your behalf.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Mae Smith,  
Executive Director.

Under the authority of the SHF President, Terry Fagrie