

Update # 1, January 15, 2010

Dear NSEF Member

We will be providing you with a series of updates regarding our relationship with our national sport organization, Equine Canada (EC). There is a hard working joint committee of the six provinces (PSO) who are involved in the dispute with EC. (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, NS, PEI and NFLD)

This committee has met in person in October and every week via conference call thereafter. We have been working diligently on your behalf to resolve the issues we have been having with EC.

To date, the committee has:

1. Hired a consultant who wrote a well documented report that will assist with meetings between the six PSO's and their respective governments, Equine Canada, Sport Canada and if need be, Centre for Sport Dispute Resolution.
2. Compiled information that outlines the six provinces' position on the situation at hand. This paper will also assist us with clarifying our role in sport and recreation delivery in our respective province.
3. We have individually met with and attained provincial government support as it pertains to sport and recreation delivery in our province as well as reassurance that we are the recognized provincial sport governing body for equestrian in Nova Scotia.
4. Three of the PSOs have obtained legal counsel and each confirm that we are within our legal right to contest EC "Membership Reform".
5. We have sought and received support from the provincial government as it pertains to the delivery of the NCCP Coaching Program in NS. We are confident that the delivery of this program is the responsibility of the PSO.
6. We have sent a letter to the Federal and Provincial Ministers responsible for Sport outlining the dispute. We included all pertinent documents and information that supports our position. A letter of response is pending from the federal minister.
7. We have filed a complaint to EC. We are now awaiting its outcome. EC is currently stating that it will review the validity of the complaint.
8. We are in the process of hiring legal counsel to prepare our joint case that will go before a committee at the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada, if necessary (meaning that if EC does not recognize our complaint, we will move forward in this direction).

The entire NSEF Board of Directors supports this committee and is confident that a resolution is forthcoming in the very near future. We thank you for your patience and support and please know that we are committed to providing you, our member with the best programs and services we can offer!

Barbie Lewis, President
NSEF