

**Western Coaching Committee Meeting
January 10, 2009
Sport Nova Scotia
Halifax, NS**

Present: Curtis Tobin, Adrienne Smith, Sherry Clark, Lisa Tulk, Elaine Wescott, John McAssey, Norma Graham (via conference call) NSEF President Barbie Lewis, Executive Director Heather Myrer

1. **Call to Order:** Curtis called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** there were no additions to agenda.
3. **Review of Minutes of February 16, 2008:** This was missed at the last meeting therefore it was reviewed at this meeting.

1. Concern was had with the section of the minutes named Highlights from the National Meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Norma, seconded by Elaine to amend the Highlights Section of the original minutes to read, “there was discussion on the circulation of the National Meeting Highlights.”

As a result of that discussion, the following original motion was made” – Motion by Curtis, seconded by Lisa that the Highlights of the national meetings are to be done up by the Coordinator and presented to the MCC or Acting MCC before disbursal to the other Committee members. Motion carried.

2. Concern was had regarding Curtis’ non-pro status being in the minutes of the February 16, 2008 meeting. It was moved by Lisa, seconded by John to remove the section stating Curtis’ non-pro status from the minutes of February 16, 2008. Motion carried.

MOTION: It was moved by Lisa, seconded by John to approve February 16, 2008 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

4. **Review of minutes of September 25, 2008**

MOTION: It was moved by Norma, seconded by Adrienne that the minutes of September 25, 2008 be accepted as distributed. Motion carried.

5. **Business Arising:**

Lisa showed the group the helmet that was discussed at the last meeting. It is not necessarily “pretty” nor do people feel that it is not functional.

Further discussion was had regarding the lack of helmet wear for juniors at Western/Breed competitions.

ACTION: It was decided that this discussion would go forward to the Western Coach update.

General Performance Rules: there is concern that the new rules are not useable. Many of the rules do not apply.

Action: Adrienne will send Curtis the letter she sent to the national committee regarding her concerns. Curtis will then take concern of the impact to National Coaching Meetings

4. **P'tit Trot Program:** NSEF has adopted the FEQ's P'tit Trot program. It will be ordering manuals and promoting to western coaches at the upcoming update. The committee is very pleased with the program and a great tool for young athletes.

5. **National Meeting:**

There is no agenda as of yet but we know that there is a technical component on Wednesday morning of the meetings.

Issues/Concerns to be brought forward

1. Helmet use at competitions – query to other provinces
2. Western Learn to Ride 1-4 Manual – needs revamping and updating.
3. Impact on EC General Performance Rules

Curtis brought forward that he has a personal issue and my not be able to attend the meetings. As a result, it was decided that Norma would be Curtis' alternate if necessary.

ACTION: Curtis to email national chair on agenda items and advanced receipt of agenda. As well, Curtis is to ask about action items from last year's minutes.

6. **2009 Western Coach Update:**

Day 1 – Administration -Halifax

1. P'tit Trot Program
2. Impact of EC General Performance Rules
3. Rider Level Standards – breakout groups
4. National Meetings Highlights

Day 2 – Technical – Equine Excellence

1. National Meeting Technical Report/Update
2. Motivational speaker

ACTION: Committee members to email update suggestions to Curtis if they have any.

We may need to put on other clinics throughout the year such as mentor or evaluator clinics. Sherry suggested Lindsay Grice come for a weekend series in June. She will look into dates and discuss with Curtis. They will apply for funding to help offset expenses.

7. **Rider 4 Assessment:** There were two Rider 4 assessments in the fall - one in Greenwood whereby 3 candidates were assessed and passed, and one at Equine Excellence whereby 2 candidates were assessed and passed. The examiners in Greenwood were Joey Lewis and Lisa Tulk (lead); auditors were Sherry Clarke and Norma Graham. At Equine Excellence, the assessors were Sherry Clark (lead) and Lisa Tulk, no auditors. Curtis will track assessors and auditors and send to office.

Some suggestions were given on the administration of the program to make sure the best possible exam can be given and that more coaches have the opportunity to assess and/or audit.

8. **Adjournment:** 6:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS from Western Coaching Meeting January 10, 2009

1. Regarding Helmet Use

ACTION: It was decided that this discussion would go forward to the Western Coach update.

2. Regarding EC General Performance Rules

Action: Adrienne will send Curtis the letter she sent to the national committee regarding her concerns. Curtis will then take concern of the impact to National Coaching Meetings

3. Regarding Western National Meeting

ACTION: Curtis to email national chair on agenda items and advanced receipt of agenda. As well, Curtis is to ask about action items from last year's minutes.

4. Regarding Western Coach Update

ACTION: Committee members to email update suggestions to Curtis if they have any.