

## SHF Pathways to High-Performance Clinics

### Technical Package

The goals of the Pathways Clinics are:

To support Saskatchewan athletes riding in the Excellence and Talent ID categories

To encourage the development of High-Performance coaches

To make High-Performance visible to up-and-coming riders through audit participation



### Background

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation assists athletes in their quest to reach High-Performance (HP) levels of competition through both programming and funding. In the “Excellence” category, we allocate grant monies for athletes competing in the recognized High-Performance (HP) disciplines of Dressage, Hunter/Jumper, and Reining. We do this through Athlete grants, the HP Symposiums, and now, the **Pathways to High-Performance** clinics.

The clinics will provide training opportunities as well as allow us to keep track of athletes who may be identified to be part of a team to represent Saskatchewan at championship events such as CIEC.

The targeted group is High-Performance, but the clinics also support Talent ID Athletes who show the ability, motivation, and competition results indicative of someone who is on the pathway to becoming a High-performance athlete. ***Note that the priority is to support HP athletes wherever possible, and to open it up to Talent ID where space permits.***

## **The Process**

**Step 1** -The SHF will determine (through PC level results and applications) **that there are enough athletes riding at the HP level in each discipline to run a clinic.** Each discipline is required to have a minimum number of riders.

The SHF will determine if there are enough HP athletes on young horses to include a 'Developing Horse' category at the event. Only riders previously identified as HP Athletes will be permitted to take part in this group.

**Step 2** – Dates, locations, and clinicians will be advertised.

**Step 3** – Athletes interested in clinic participation can make application to the SHF for participation.

**Step 4** - General Criteria for Identifying SK HP and Talent ID athletes.

***NOTE: Once an athlete has achieved HP status, they will be considered as having permanently achieved this status until they are declared 'inactive' or have decided to move down to lower levels. A HP rider who has taken time off for personal/horse injury or is developing a young horse capable of HP results may still be considered for Pathways to HP Clinic participation.***

With information from at least the **previous 5 years**, the committee will use the following criteria to identify HP athletes. Riders must be individual members of the SHF, be nominated to the Prairie Cup Series and be members of their provincial discipline group. HP Athletes will not be unduly penalized for not having nominated during the previous year(s) provided all memberships and nominations are made current with payment of registration fees. All points below will be considered when assessing a rider's status.

- a) Competition results
- b) Training and competition level
- c) Previous HP Symposium and provincial or national team members.
- d) High-Performance and Talent ID grant recipients.
- e) Champions and Reserve Champions from the Prairie Cup Series
- f) Those who displayed **HP level results** in EC, NRHA and/or PC designated competitions.
- g) Those who self-declared HP level results at out-of-province competitions.
- h) HP Athletes who have been inactive due to personal or horse injury will not lose their status if they have been forced to take time off.
- i) HP Athletes with a new or young horse (with competition results not yet posted) will not lose their designation as a HP Athlete if their horse and schedule of training supports a pathway to HP.
- j) Clinics, lesson and competitions schedule.
- k) Community involvement, volunteerism.

### **Step 5 – Rider Selection for each discipline.**

Applicants will be assessed according to the criteria above. This will be done by the HP Committee who may consult to gain insight into an athlete's eligibility with discipline groups representatives. High-Performance officials, coaches and the SHF Competitions Committee. Previously identified HP Riders may be considered for eligibility even if they have not been actively competing in the previous year(s).

- a) **Dressage – HP riders must have achieved strong EC competition results at Third Level and above. Scores will be used to determine HP status and must meet established Prairie Cup minimum averaged scores of 57%. Riders competing at second level and below are encouraged to apply.**
- b) **Reining – HP riders must have achieved strong NRHA competition results and meet established Prairie Cup minimum averaged scores of 67. Riders earning scores below 67 are encouraged to apply.**
- c) **Hunter/Jumper – HP riders must have achieved strong competition results (that will include results from EC/FEI recognized events) at 1.10 and above. Riders competing below 1.10 are encouraged to apply.** Standings based on the level of competition and number of horses beat will be considered in assessing HP status.

Each of the three clinics provides space for a specific number of athletes, as determined by the number of riders a clinician can reasonably accommodate during a weekend. Consultation with specific clinicians will determine the total number of riders.

1. Dressage will typically accommodate 8 riders.
2. Reining will typically accommodate 12 riders.
3. Hunter/Jumper will accommodate 20-25.

### **Step 6– HP Committee representatives will contact selected riders.**

Once assessments are complete, successful applicants will be contacted. They will be given a deadline by which all fees must be submitted. Following this deadline, the clinic will be opened to 'standby' HP riders and Talent ID riders.

### **Step 7 - Cancellations**

Cancellations must be accompanied by a vet certificate for horse-related cancellation, or doctor's note for person, and must be made at least 24 hours prior to the start of the clinic. Withdrawal from the clinic due to horse being unfit or unsuitable for lessons, may be considered non-refundable. There is a \$50 non-refundable administration fee for cancellations.

## **Other**

**Coaching PD Hours** - The Pathways Clinics are also designed to serve as a recognized coach session. Coaches who are also clinic participants will qualify for PD hours.

**Educational Sessions** - Additional educational sessions may be offered where time and location permit but are not a guaranteed portion of the clinics.

**Audit Options** - Auditing is offered at no charge, but registration will be required.

**Food and Beverage** - SHF will have meals or meal vouchers available for riders. Auditors are responsible for their own meals.

**Stabling** – Stabling will be determined by the host facilities. Any required proof of vaccination or negative EIA test will be at the request of the host facility.