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December 5, 2014

To: PSGB Presidents

Cc: Executive Directors or Secretaries  
Sport Consultants, Sask Sport Inc.

From: Dawn Kobayashi, VP Sport

Re: Respect in Sport (RiS) Policy change re: Equivalency for *Speak Out* Training

**Background:**

In February 2013, Sask Sport Inc., with the support of the membership, launched Respect in Sport (RiS) as a required training element for active coaches. We appreciate that our membership has been diligent in adopting policies and timelines for ensuring all active coaches registered with your association have completed the certification in order to coach on the field of play. Of note, through the cooperation of our membership, over 17,000 coaches have completed this important training for the purpose of creating a safer and more respectful sporting environment for participants.

**Issue:**

Previous policy direction stated that any coaches that had taken Hockey's Speak Out program would be given equivalency recognition to Respect in Sport. Equivalency status meant that Speak Out training by a coach could be carried over (i.e. transferred or recognized) from one sport to the next (i.e. a hockey coach with Speak Out training could be exempt from requiring RiS training to coach in baseball, soccer, volleyball, etc.).

Speak Out has been retired by Hockey Canada, and hockey coaches are required to take the Respect in Sport program (no transfer or recognition of equivalency from former Speak Out training).

***Due to this change, the Sask Sport Board has approved similar policy direction in that Speak Out training be no longer recognized as an equivalent training program to RiS by any other sport.***

The following courses will still be recognized as an equivalent training program to RiS for all coaches:

- National Coaching Certification Program - Empower Plus
- Respect in Schools Program

**Action Required:**

The following actions are recommended:

1. Revise your sport-specific Respect in Sport policy (and any other resources if necessary) to no longer recognize Speak Out as an equivalent training to Respect in Sport.
2. Look to implement this policy change by no later than your next RiS training status verification deadline for active coaches (based on your season of sport).
3. Directly communicate the policy change to your membership and coaches, and also generate awareness and understanding through other communication sources such as your website, etc.
4. Include your Sport Consultant in the notification so that Sask Sport has record of your policy change.

For further information or clarification please contact your Sport Consultant. Sask Sport has also updated the Respect in Sport resources and materials on our website such as the policy template, FAQ questions, power point presentation, etc.

The above materials are can be referenced or accessed at <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/RiS>.

Thank you for your cooperation.