



Resolving Disputes Internally

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SDRCC's long-term strategy envisions a fair Canadian sport system. In line with the objectives of the Canadian Sport Policy pertaining to resource, the SDRCC is looking to "strengthen the capacity of leaders and participants in the Canadian sport system to develop and implement sound policies that will reduce the risk of disputes and acquire the knowledge and skills to deal with internal disputes more efficiently." Indeed, a sound, fair, and thorough internal appeal process is often where sports-related disputes are resolved.

This edition of *In the Neutral Zone* speaks equally to the athlete deciding whether to appeal a decision or preparing to file an appeal, to the administrator in charge of finding suitable candidates to act as panel members, or to volunteers who are entrusted with the task of hearing and ruling on the dispute.

Before getting into the heart of the subject in the following pages, the SDRCC would like to address the concerns voiced by several NSOs and MSOs about the challenge they face when looking for appeal panel members who are independent or at the very least free from perceived potential bias. The SDRCC recognizes that in most sport organizations, everyone knows each other and there are several close ties between the members. The majority of organizations in this situation to whom the SDRCC staff spoke were receptive to the idea of sharing "human resources" with other organizations, in building a common multisport "pool" of potential appeal panel members.

While the SDRCC could not undertake to manage such pool, we are pleased to serve as the initial platform to put in touch NSOs and MSOs that are interested in participating in this initiative. Organizations willing to provide the names and contact information of one or more individuals from their sport who have a profile fitting of an appeal panel (see article on page 3 of this newsletter) are invited to let us know.

The role of the SDRCC will be limited to putting in touch the interested organizations for them to exchange the relevant information and work out between themselves the way in which they want to manage it. The invitation also extends to organizations that do not need to recruit panel members from among other sports, but have some of their members interested and qualified to sit on appeal panels of other sport organizations. If interested please email Fredy Luni at fluni@crdsc-sdrcc.ca.