

EVENTING SOUTH AFRICA COACHING PORTFOLIO

NEWS UPDATE #1

During the past few months the ESA Coaching Portfolio Chairman in consultation with the Equestrian Sports Development Department have come together to develop and propose a strategy for Eventing South Africa to move forward with the qualification, licensing and registration of Accredited Eventing South Africa Coaches as per the SASCOC strategy requirement of having all sports Coaches licensed, qualified and registered by 2016.

Background – SA vs Worldwide Eventing Coaching Standards

South Africa is in a strong position on the world-wide Coaching stage as it already has an established Coach Development Structure and Framework which integrates successfully with the Internationally recognized Coaching Frameworks. The SA EQASA (Equestrian Qualifications Association of South Africa) Modules and exams not only integrate into the SA NQF (National Qualifications Framework) which allows previous local experience and skills to be recognized but also aligns successfully with the IGEQ (International Group of Equestrian Qualifications) and the well-known FEI Coaching Levels. In fact, many of SA's local Equestrian Coaches have attended FEI Coaching Clinics. After extensive research, it has been established that South African Equestrian Coaching requirements have a lot in common with the Irish, British (BHS) and Australian Eventing Coaching Standards and therefore rather than re-invent the whole structure, the Portfolio Panel is recommending that Eventing SA introduce an Eventing credited Coaching list. These Coaches will start to run Eventing Coaching Clinics and act as mentors for the less experienced (Development/Assistant) Coaches in their own established and Eventing-emerging Provinces.

Pre-Requisites to becoming an EventingSA Accredited Coach

In the previous System few Equestrian Coaches followed a formal career development path or system, therefore formal qualifications, licensing and registration were not much of an issue. Pupils often approached riders that they would aspire to copy rather than for their Coaching or technical expertise. In the new Equestrian Development System each Discipline has now been tasked with developing Professional coaches in their particular sport or discipline. To do this EventingSA has to insist on a baseline entry qualification and criteria. This is the EQASA Level 1 Coach qualification, a current First Aid Certificate and membership of the ECASA (Equestrian Coach Association of Southern Africa). As a member you are promoting yourself as a Coach with a professional approach to Coaching as well as acknowledging a professional Code of Ethics. Coaches that join will have their contact details and qualifications displayed on the EventingSA Website (which will hold a directory) and the Professional Coach site as well. The EQASA Level 1 knowledge includes a good grounding and basic knowledge of horse care, correct teaching methods and is internationally recognised. Coaches with Coaching knowledge and experience above the age of 40 years old, qualify for the RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) process where a portfolio of evidence is used to establish the level of the Coach application or the taking of the Level 1 exam. It is acknowledged that there are a number of qualified Level 1 Coaches in Eventing and those above this can expect to move on to a different accreditation level. All existing Eventing Coaches and those aspiring to become one are encouraged to apply to become part of the EventingSA Accredited Coach Programme by completing the attached CV application.