

Education and Rider Development Principles and Policy
(as approved by the Board of the OHTA on February 11, 2008)

The OHTA puts resources into the area of Education and Rider Development to support one of our primary objectives: to promote and develop the sport of Eventing in Ontario. We develop our plans and allocate our resources based on the following principles:

We believe that informed coaches and riders are essential for the safe growth of the sport. We believe that there are many learning opportunities and resources available to our members provided by other organizations and individuals, and that our job is to consolidate this information in a way that is accessible and timely for our members' benefit. We believe that if there is a dearth of learning opportunities in an identifiable and important area, we should attempt to fill the gap. We also believe that resources should be directed to programs that are specifically designed for our younger competitors – the future of the sport.

These principles support some specific initiatives, as well as provide guidance for decisions on what we will and won't do. Our initiatives fall into three main categories:

- A. Information on and provision of rider development opportunities
- B. Support for coaches
- C. The Ontario Young Riders Program.

A. It is our job to communicate and potentially partner with other entities that put on educational events, such as clinics and workshops, of interest to the Eventing community. It is our job to make sure our members are aware of these opportunities. It is our job to identify those areas where opportunities are not being provided elsewhere, and to address this.

We are:

- Providing information to our members on all clinics of interest
- Organizing and subsidizing, if necessary, annual spring seminars in 2 locations to launch the season, and to provide comprehensive overviews of rule changes and other items of interest to Eventers.
- Looking for opportunities for our Young Riders to participate in clinics put on by others

We are not:

- Organizing or subsidizing clinics where the learning opportunity is already available and is provided by others

B. It is our job to communicate with all eventing coaches so that they have the most accurate information possible. It is not our job to determine qualifications or promote any qualification program. This work rightly belongs within the mandate of other organizations.

We are:

- Communicating directly with coaches and providing all relevant information we can

We are not:

- Promoting or developing any coach certification program

C. It is our job to provide programs which foster the development of our younger riders

We are:

- Offering a robust Young Riders Program funded within the program and through extraordinary, discretionary funds, such as bequests and grants.
- Allocating any and all annual OEF grant money to the Young Riders Program

We are not:

- Subsidizing our Young Riders Program with funds generated by the general membership.