

1870 Lorne Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 2L7

Tel: (306) 780-9300
Fax: (306) 781-6021
Website: www.sasksport.sk.ca

Aboriginal Voluntary Self Declaration Procedures Updated by Sask Sport Inc. – June 15, 2007

Aboriginal sport development is a priority for the Sport Federation as it seeks to increase participation levels at all levels. There are tremendous benefits to be received from sport and all people, regardless of age, background and ability, should be encouraged to participate.

As one method of measuring and monitoring Aboriginal participation statistics, Sask Sport Inc. requires regular, on-going data-reporting from its members. To facilitate this, the on-line Sport Profile computer program was designed to enable the members to report Aboriginal participation statistics at the time of their Annual Funding follow-up report. This will enable Sask Sport Inc. to understand where Aboriginal participation is successful within the Saskatchewan amateur sport system, and identify gaps that can provide a target for future initiatives to ensure greater Aboriginal participation.

Provincial Sport Governing Bodies (PSGBs) have an important role to play in tracking the participation levels of Aboriginal athletes, coaches, officials and other volunteers. PSGBs can obtain this information by incorporating an Aboriginal Voluntary Self Declaration question within their own membership systems and/or encouraging their members to incorporate the self-declaration question within their membership application processes.

The number one question asked by our member organizations is whether asking Aboriginal people to self-declare violates any human rights codes. Therefore Sask Sport Inc. obtained clarification from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission in this regard and the ruling concluded that Sask Sport's member organizations are not prohibited by *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* from inviting participants to identify their Aboriginal ancestry. The Commission did caution that once such information is gathered, there needs to be caution not to use the information in a way that might constitute a prohibited preference, such as with respect to employment. Therefore, it is well-advised to make it clear on membership processes that this information is voluntary and that it will not be used for any other prohibited preference as per *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

The following are two suggested examples of Aboriginal Voluntary Self Declaration:

Sample A

Note: The following is voluntary. The data will be used to identify success within our program and service areas.

Please check one of the following that is most applicable to your Aboriginal ancestry:

- Status/Treaty
- Non-Status
- Métis
- Inuit

Sample B

Note: The following is voluntary. The data will be used to identify success within our program and service areas.

Please check and complete the statement(s) most applicable to your Aboriginal ancestry:

- I declare I am Status/Treaty because of my tribal affiliation with the _____ First Nation.
- I declare I am non-status because of my ancestral heritage.
- I declare myself to be Métis because:
I am a member of the _____ Métis Association, or I am affiliated with the
_____ Métis local/community.
- I declare myself to be Inuk because:
I am affiliated with the _____ Inuit community.

For more information contact Cheryl McCallum, Aboriginal Services Unit, at (306) 975-0807 or email cmccallum@sasksport.sk.ca.