



# in the NEUTRAL ZONE

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1-866-733-7767

II / MMV

## A Newsletter designed for you



**Benoit Girardin**

Executive Director

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Dear athletes, coaches, officials, managers, and administrators,

We are proud to introduce a new information tool about our passion and area of expertise: dispute prevention and resolution. IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE is a fitting description and reflection of our mission to offer a centre where members of the sport community can obtain information and independent, neutral assistance on conflict resolution.

Under the guidance of our Board of Directors, chaired by Allan Stitt, a recognized expert in alternative dispute resolution (ADR), our team will publish IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE four times a year to help you prevent and resolve disputes. Our Board of Directors is comprised of 11 members from the sport and ADR communities:

Mr Allan Stitt, Chairman of the Board • Mrs Genevieve Chormenki • Mrs Susanne Dandenault

Mr Christian Farstad • Mr Pierre Hutsebaut • Mr Bruce Kidd • Mrs Dianne Norman

Mrs Tamar Pichette • Mr Gordon Peterson • Mr Steven Sugar • Mr Benoit Girardin, ex-officio

IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE will feature subjects such as the design of internal appeal process, how to prevent a dispute, how to prepare for mediation or arbitration, issues related to selection, doping, carding, harassment, etc. – in short, news to help you avoid and manage conflicts.

Watch for our upcoming issues and events, and above all, feel free to send us your ideas, comments and suggestions!

[info@adrspportred.ca](mailto:info@adrspportred.ca)



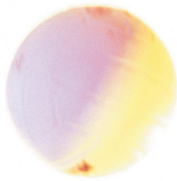
**Julie Duranceau**  
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# Conflict Prevention: the Resource Centre

The following are a few of the features offered through the SDRCC's Resource Centre:

- 1 A Q&A section**  
Consult more than 20 questions and answers to learn more about the SDRCC.
- 2 A Jurisprudence Database that includes a *Case summary* for each decision**  
This Jurisprudence Database is an indispensable tool that offers insight into the way that conflicts are handled by arbitrators and the solutions they recommend. There is no need to plough through lengthy and detailed decisions; *Case summaries* for each decision are presented concisely and in colour in a format that can be read in minutes. They also contain a "Lessons Learned" slide recapping the key aspects of the decision.
- 3 A Doctrine Database and a *loan service* for books and other publications**  
You may be looking for books or articles on sport law, dispute resolution systems or alternative dispute resolution methods. The Doctrine Database provides you with free on-line access to a list of references on the subject, and the chance to consult these documents free of charge using our loan system.
- 4 Help documents on internal policies, agreements and contracts**  
Although these documents have no status in law, they present the basics on writing internal policies, mediation and arbitration clauses and agreements, and other legal documents.



The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (**SDRCC**) includes a Resource Centre that offers information on the many questions that can arise with respect to resolving disputes in the Canadian sport community. The centre is accessible free of charge at [www.adrspportred.ca](http://www.adrspportred.ca).

- 5 A directory of legal representatives who specialize in amateur sport**  
We suggest names and CVs of legal representatives who have particular knowledge in amateur sports.
- 6 A toll-free line (1-866-733-7767) and staff who is always available to answer your questions**  
Although virtual, the Resource Centre is dynamic and constantly evolving. It is managed by Julie Duranceau, who can be reached easily by calling 1-866-733-7767 or writing to [jduranceau@adrspportred.ca](mailto:jduranceau@adrspportred.ca). She will answer your questions, help you in your search for information and provide you with the assistance you need with respect to the prevention and resolution of sport disputes.



# Conflict Resolution: The Dispute Resolution Secretariat

## A few statistics

Since January 2002, the Secretariat has received more than 75 requests for conflict resolution through arbitration or mediation, and has rendered over 40 decisions.

These statistics demonstrate the usefulness of such a Secretariat: it gives a voice to those who would otherwise not have one, it encourages participants to find common grounds before an arbitration decision irreversibly determines the outcome of the dispute, and it provides members of the sport community access to arbitrators and mediators when required.

The Dispute Resolution Secretariat (**Secretariat**) of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (**SDRCC**) can help end the impasse through arbitration or mediation.

With the Secretariat, you  
have no need to hesitate  
to exercise your rights.



## A few advantages

The Secretariat offers distinct advantages over a regular court of law:

### **Informal process**

The process offered by the Secretariat is informal; while we recommend certain procedures that facilitate the arbitration or mediation process, we remain open to suggestions as to how to handle any given dispute. Our Code of Procedure is flexible and SDRCC personnel work closely with the parties to personalize the mediation and arbitration services to their needs.

### **Speed and efficiency**

The Secretariat was created exclusively to handle disputes within the sport community, and it devotes all of its time and energy to this task: the time span is therefore shorter than that of a regular court of law.

### **Lower costs**

With the Secretariat, you have no need to hesitate to exercise your rights, as the costs involved in filing a request and conducting the mediation or arbitration are minimal (or even non-existent in certain cases), and the flexibility of the process often negates the need for legal representation.

### **Expertise**

Our arbitrators and mediators are trained to handle the particular demands of the Canadian sport domain.

In short, the Secretariat has finally provided Canada's sport community with a decision-making structure that addresses its particular needs.

To contact the staff of the Secretariat, please call **1-866-733-7767** (toll-free), or write to **info@adrspportred.ca**.

# Events

<b>February 22, 2005</b>	Official Opening Cocktail of the offices of the SDRCC, Laval, QC
<b>February 26, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, Yellowknife, NT
<b>March 2005</b>	On-line publication of our Corporate Plan
<b>March 10, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, Toronto, ON
<b>March 17, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, Ottawa, ON
<b>March 22, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, St John's, NL
<b>March 22, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, Charlottetown, PEI
<b>March 23, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, Halifax, NS
<b>March 24, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, Fredericton, NB
<b>April 14-16, 2005</b>	Presentation of the SDRCC, Regina, SK

Visit our website at [www.adrsportred.ca](http://www.adrsportred.ca) for details about the time, place and topics of the presentations, and for information about how to register.

Don't miss our next issue of **IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE** on May 15, 2005

To receive a copy of **IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE** by mail or by e-mail, send us an e-mail at [info@adrsportred.ca](mailto:info@adrsportred.ca)



## SDRCC's Latest News

**The Resource Centre added two new tools to its Web site :**

- 1** User-friendly Case summaries including "Lessons Learned" available on-line at [www.adrsportred.ca/resource\\_centre/jurisprudence/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.adrsportred.ca/resource_centre/jurisprudence/index_e.cfm)
- 2** A lending department for books and publications available on-line at [www.adrsportred.ca/resource\\_centre/doctrine/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.adrsportred.ca/resource_centre/doctrine/index_e.cfm)



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