The Natural Horse Care Professional Development Programme (NHCPD)

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 The Natural Horse Care Professional Development Programme (NHCPD) establishes the requirements governing continuing professional development for professional members of Integrated Studies for Natural Hoof Care Practitioners Ltd (ISNHCP).

1.1.2 The Programme is intended to support the maintenance and development of professional knowledge, practical competence and ethical standards throughout a practitioner's professional membership.

1.1.3 NHCPD upholds the educational principles established through Jaime Jackson's work, based in the U.S. Great Basin Wild Horse Model, using the Four Pillars of Natural Horse Care as a frame of reference and the Four Guiding Principles of the Natural Trim method as a standard for hoof care; the Oath of Allegiance establishes a formal ethical commitment, while the Code of Ethics defines the ethical obligations governing professional practice.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 This Programme applies to all ISNHCP members and establishes their continuing professional development obligations as a condition of maintaining Full ISNHCP Membership.

1.2.2 The Programme's governing framework establishes participation requirements, professional development cycles, recognition of educational activities, attendance records, completion requirements and educational oversight.

1.2.3 NHCPD is administered by ISNHCP in accordance with its established educational standards and governance arrangements.

1.2.4 This Programme operates alongside the ISNHCP Training and Qualification Standard and Professional Membership Rules. It does not replace or supersede the requirements established under those documents.

2. Participation and the Three-Year Cycle

2.1 Participation Requirements

2.1.1 Participation in the Natural Horse Care Professional Development Programme (NHCPD) is mandatory for all active ISNHCP Full Members.

2.1.2 Upon graduation and admission to Full ISNHCP Membership, practitioners are required to enrol in the NHCPD Programme.

2.1.3 ISNHCP Full Members are responsible for fulfilling their NHCPD requirements within the applicable three-year cycle as a condition of maintaining Full ISNHCP Membership and good standing with ISNHCP.

2.1.4 All qualifying professional development activities must be organised by ISNHCP or delivered by educational providers expressly approved by ISNHCP in accordance with this Framework.

2.2 Programme Structure

2.2.1 The NHCPD Programme comprises two principal components: designated practical training days and corresponding online educational activities.

2.2.2 Practical training provides opportunities for the continued development and refinement of professional knowledge, practical skills and competence through structured educational activities.

2.2.3 Online educational activities form an integral part of the Programme and provide complementary learning relevant to the professional development requirements established by ISNHCP.

2.2.4 The content, format, duration and participation requirements of online educational activities are determined by ISNHCP and may be revised or expanded as the Programme develops.

2.2.5 Members are required to complete both the designated practical training and the prescribed online educational activities applicable to their NHCPD cycle.

2.3 Three-Year Development Cycle

2.3.1 NHCPD operates on a continuous three-year professional development cycle, calculated individually for each ISNHCP Full Member.

2.3.2 Each cycle commences on the member's applicable NHCPD commencement date and concludes upon completion of the corresponding three-year period.

2.3.3 Upon successful completion of a cycle, the member becomes subject to the requirements of the next three-year cycle, provided their Full ISNHCP Membership remains active.

2.3.4 ISNHCP maintains a central record of each member's NHCPD commencement date, applicable cycle dates, participation history and completion status.

2.4 Minimum Professional Development Requirements

2.4.1 Each ISNHCP Full Member must complete three designated professional development training days within each three-year cycle.

2.4.2 Each practical training day comprises 7.5 hours of educational activity, excluding breaks. The minimum practical training requirement for each cycle is therefore 22.5 hours.

2.4.3 The three required practical training days may be completed consecutively or separately within the applicable three-year cycle, subject to the availability of ISNHCP-organised or approved training.

2.4.4 Each cycle comprises three designated practical training days with prescribed educational content. Members must complete all three designated days applicable to their cycle.

2.4.5 Members must also complete the corresponding online educational activities prescribed by ISNHCP for the applicable cycle.

2.4.6 Completion of all three designated practical training days and the prescribed online educational activities is required to fulfil the NHCPD obligation for the applicable cycle. Partial completion does not constitute fulfilment of the requirement.

2.4.7 Professional development undertaken beyond the prescribed requirements does not replace the requirements of a subsequent three-year cycle.

3. Professional Development Activities

3.1 Educational Scope

3.1.1 NHCPD activities are designed to maintain and advance the professional knowledge, practical skills and competence of ISNHCP Full Members in accordance with the educational principles and standards upheld by ISNHCP.

3.1.2 Professional development may encompass practical hoof care, theoretical knowledge, equine welfare, professional communication, consultation skills, business development and other subjects relevant to the practice of Natural Horse Care.

3.1.3 The educational content of the NHCPD Programme is determined by ISNHCP and may be reviewed, revised or expanded to reflect developments in its educational programmes, professional standards and the continuing needs of its members.

3.2 Approved Educational Activities

3.2.1 Only professional development activities organised by ISNHCP or delivered by educational providers expressly approved by ISNHCP are recognised towards fulfilment of the mandatory NHCPD requirements.

3.2.2 ISNHCP determines and approves the content, format and delivery arrangements of recognised NHCPD activities, including their theoretical, practical and online educational components.

3.2.3 Participation in external courses, seminars, workshops or other educational activities does not count towards the mandatory NHCPD requirements unless expressly approved by ISNHCP.

3.3 Practical Training

3.3.1 Practical training forms a mandatory component of the NHCPD Programme and is delivered through designated professional development training days.

3.3.2 ISNHCP establishes the educational objectives, content and practical requirements applicable to each designated training day.

3.3.3 Practical training may be delivered directly by ISNHCP or by educational providers approved by ISNHCP for the purposes of the Programme.

3.4 Online Educational Activities

3.4.1 Online educational activities form a mandatory component of the NHCPD Programme and complement the designated practical training days.

3.4.2 ISNHCP determines the educational content, delivery format and participation requirements applicable to online learning activities.

3.4.3 Online educational activities may include educational presentations, recorded materials, interactive learning resources and other forms of structured learning approved by ISNHCP.

3.4.4 Members are responsible for completing the prescribed online educational activities within their applicable NHCPD cycle, in accordance with the requirements communicated by ISNHCP.

3.5 Training Arrangements and Fees
3.5.1 ISNHCP is responsible for arranging and making available the designated professional development activities required under this Framework.

3.5.2 The mandatory NHCPD educational activities are provided to active ISNHCP Full Members without an additional participation fee, their cost being covered by the applicable Full Membership fees.

3.5.3 Members are responsible for arranging their participation in the required practical training days and completing the prescribed online educational activities within their applicable three-year cycle, in accordance with the arrangements communicated by ISNHCP.

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4. Attendance, Records and Completion

4.1 Attendance and Participation

4.1.1 Members are required to attend the designated practical training days and complete the prescribed online educational activities within their applicable NHCPD cycle.

4.1.2 Members must comply with the attendance and participation requirements established by ISNHCP for each educational activity.

4.1.3 Where an activity includes specific practical or educational requirements, fulfilment of those requirements is necessary for the activity to be recognised as completed.

4.2 Records and Verification

4.2.1 ISNHCP maintains official records of members' attendance, participation and completion of prescribed NHCPD activities.

4.2.2 Completion of individual activities is recorded following verification by ISNHCP or its authorised representatives.

4.2.3 Members are responsible for notifying ISNHCP of any discrepancies in their NHCPD records.

4.3 Completion of the NHCPD Cycle

4.3.1 An NHCPD cycle is considered complete when all prescribed practical training and online educational requirements have been fulfilled within the applicable three-year period.

4.3.2 ISNHCP confirms completion of the NHCPD cycle and records the member's compliance with the Programme.

4.3.3 Where the prescribed requirements remain incomplete at the end of the applicable cycle, the member is subject to the non-compliance provisions established under Section 5 of this Framework.

5. Non-Compliance and Exceptional Circumstances

5.1 Failure to Meet NHCPD Requirements

5.1.1 Failure to complete all prescribed NHCPD requirements within the applicable three-year cycle constitutes non-compliance with this Framework.

5.1.2 Partial completion of the Programme, including attendance at fewer than three designated practical training days or failure to complete the prescribed online educational activities, does not satisfy the requirements of the applicable cycle.

5.1.3 Members who fail to fulfil their NHCPD obligations by the end of their prescribed cycle will cease to qualify for Full ISNHCP Membership and will be removed from the official practitioner listing.

5.1.4 Any subsequent application to restore Full ISNHCP Membership will be governed by the applicable ISNHCP Membership Rules and Reinstatement Policy.

5.2 Exceptional Circumstances

5.2.1 Members who anticipate difficulty fulfilling their NHCPD requirements due to exceptional circumstances must notify ISNHCP as soon as reasonably practicable.

5.2.2 ISNHCP may consider exceptional circumstances affecting participation, including illness, personal emergencies or other significant circumstances beyond the member's reasonable control.

5.2.3 Any adjustment to participation arrangements must be expressly authorised by ISNHCP and documented in the member's NHCPD record.

5.2.4 Exceptional circumstances do not automatically exempt a member from completing the prescribed NHCPD requirements.

5.3 Approved Leave of Absence

5.3.1 Where a member has been granted an approved leave of absence under the ISNHCP Membership Rules, their NHCPD obligations will be administered in accordance with the terms of that approval.

5.3.2 The effect of an approved leave of absence on the member's NHCPD cycle, including any adjustment to the applicable completion date, will be determined and recorded by ISNHCP.

5.3.3 Return from an approved leave of absence is distinct from reinstatement following a lapse or termination of Full ISNHCP Membership and is governed by the applicable membership provisions.

6. Educational Oversight and Quality Assurance

6.1 Educational Oversight

6.1.1 ISNHCP retains responsibility for the educational direction, standards and overall administration of the NHCPD Programme.

6.1.2 All educational activities delivered under NHCPD must remain consistent with the principles, professional standards and educational objectives established by ISNHCP.

6.1.3 ISNHCP may appoint suitably qualified instructors, practitioners or external educational providers to deliver approved NHCPD activities under its authority.

6.2 Quality Assurance

6.2.1 ISNHCP is responsible for maintaining the quality and consistency of educational activities delivered through the NHCPD Programme.

6.2.2 Educational content, delivery arrangements and participation requirements may be periodically reviewed to ensure their continued relevance and suitability.

6.2.3 ISNHCP may consider member feedback, educational outcomes and developments within Natural Horse Care when reviewing or improving the Programme.

6.2.4 Where an educational activity or provider fails to meet ISNHCP's established standards, ISNHCP reserves the right to require corrective measures, modify delivery arrangements or withdraw its approval.

6.3 Educational Integrity

6.3.1 All persons involved in delivering NHCPD activities are expected to uphold the educational principles, ethical obligations and professional standards recognised by ISNHCP.

6.3.2 ISNHCP retains authority over the approval, amendment and withdrawal of educational content and resources made available through the Programme.

6.3.3 Educational materials and resources designated for internal or member use remain subject to applicable ISNHCP confidentiality and intellectual property requirements.

7. Administration, Review and Amendments

7.1 Administration

7.1.1 ISNHCP is responsible for the administration and implementation of the Natural Horse Care Professional Development Programme (NHCPD) in accordance with this Framework.

7.1.2 ISNHCP retains authority to establish and maintain the administrative procedures necessary for the effective operation of the Programme.

7.1.3 Members are responsible for complying with the requirements of this Framework and any applicable administrative instructions communicated by ISNHCP.

7.2 Review and Amendments

7.2.1 ISNHCP may periodically review this Framework to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness and consistency with the organisation's educational standards and governance requirements.

7.2.2 ISNHCP reserves the right to amend, supplement or replace provisions of this Framework and its associated administrative requirements, policies and procedures.

7.2.3 Amendments may be communicated through revised governing documents, formal notices, memoranda or other official ISNHCP communications, with applicable effective dates specified where appropriate.

7.2.4 Changes to the prescribed educational content of the NHCPD Programme will ordinarily take effect from the commencement of the next applicable three-year cycle. Educational activities already completed and recognised within an existing cycle will remain valid for that cycle.

7.2.5 Nothing in clause 7.2.4 prevents ISNHCP from introducing amendments to governing requirements, administrative arrangements or other applicable provisions during an ongoing NHCPD cycle.

7.3 Interpretation and Governing Provisions

7.3.1 ISNHCP retains responsibility for the interpretation and application of this Framework.

7.3.2 Where matters concerning Full ISNHCP Membership, membership status or reinstatement arise, the applicable ISNHCP Membership Rules and Reinstatement Policy shall govern those matters.

7.3.3 This Framework shall be read in conjunction with the ISNHCP Training and Qualification Standard and other applicable organisational policies and standards.