

The

REF-O-GRAM

February 2012



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Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that the first half of the season is behind us and the second half is well under way. I would just like to take a moment to thank the Officiating Committee for steering me in the right direction and making my transition as Chair a smooth one. A big thank you also goes out to Brent for being at the other end of the phone or e-mail to answer my many questions.

This season has certainly proven to be a busy one. We started out with the Instructor clinic in September certifying 20 Instructors followed by eight Level 1 Clinics and 25 Refresher Clinics. At the moment, Ontario has approximately 575 registered officials. A special thank you to Chris Faulds for volunteering to travel to Atikokan to instruct the Refresher and Rules Clinics for the Northwest Region.

The second half of the season is no exception when it comes to events. The opportunities are endless if you're willing to work hard and put in the time: Provincial AA's March 1-4, Whitby, Ontario Winter Games March 8-11, Collingwood, Provincial A's March 15-18, West Ottawa, Canadian Ringette Championships April 7-17, Burnaby, BC, Eastern Canadian Championships April 12-15, Quebec, U12 Provincial Event April 12-15, West Ferris, as well as Regional Championships and Local Association tournaments that help round out the season.

This year the Officiating Development Committee decided to send a Provincial and Regional off-ice Evaluator to some of the major tournaments throughout the Province. This program has proven to be extremely beneficial as we have been able to submit approximately 200 written evaluations from October to December. Thank you to all evaluators for your commitment to development and a bigger thank you to Pat Turcotte for managing all of the evaluations and upgrades.

Our POD Program (Provincial Officiating Development) is also running smoothly under the direction of Tara Armstrong. Tara is keeping close tabs on the officials in this program ensuring progression of their development.

This past December, I had the opportunity to travel to the World Club Championships in Finland. Although I was there as a spectator, I had a difficult time watching the game as I found myself focussing primarily on the officiating, more specifically the non-Canadian portion of the crew. Of the six person crew, Canada was represented by two officials; One, our very own Lorie Grant. I know from past experience that the officiating at the international level is quite different from ours. We take years to develop our officials and yet only few will ever get the opportunity to officiate at this level. Through our clinics, evaluations and tournaments, we ensure that our development program has our officials effectively prepared with knowledge and experience in order to succeed and excel at the international level.

It is a great honour to be selected to any international event. With that selection comes high expectations for great ringette, excellent personal performance, good partnerships and experienced supervision. Unfortunately, due to our official development program, rarely are all expectations met to our high standards. I am certain that Lorie's experience was not what she had anticipated, but I am proud of how she dealt with each challenge she was faced, how she performed on the ice and mostly how she represented each and every one of us with maturity, experience and the class of a highly developed official. Congratulations, Lorie and well done!

In closing, I wish you all good luck and hard work for the remainder of your season.

See you at the rink!

Karen Meek
Chair Officiating Development Committee
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Western Region

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is still thinking ringette, ringette, ringette. The holidays are over and we have jump started the second half of the season with lots of ringette. It will be an extremely busy second half of the season with many western region tournaments, Provincials, Ontario Winter Games, Nationals and Regional Championships.



It has been a busy year thus far with refresher clinics and level one clinics for new officials. First, congratulations and welcome to Western's new officials. Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to do a few games by now. Remember to ask your Referee in Chief to sit down and evaluate you some time in the next few months.

Keep in mind all the points of emphasis during your refresher clinics:

- **Cross Checking** - If player makes contact with a cross check by pushing their stick outwards and onto an opponent, this must be called a penalty. If a player keeps stick close to body and does not push, only guides an opponent, this continues to NOT be a penalty.
- **Slashing** - When a player checks opponent and contacts an exposed area (upper arm or midsection) a penalty must be called. When a player checks an opponent and contacts the stick followed by the glove followed by the stick, etc, a verbal warning should be given to the player, and a penalty may be assessed for subsequent offences. When a player takes a one-handed swing at an opponent who is going by them to try and slow them down – and makes contact with the body, a penalty must be assessed.

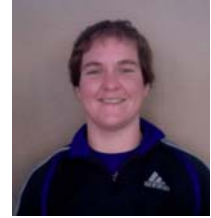
Thank you to all the referees of the Western Region who have stepped up to cover many game this season so far, without the referees there would not be any games.

This time of year is the busy tournament time and if you are interested in attending any please submit your names early. These are the building blocks for exposure, evaluations and upgrades. You will not move up thru the system if you do not travel outside of your home association, so please try to attend one before Regionals.

Regionals will be held the weekend of March 30th to April 1st in the Guelph and Elora/Fergus Arenas. Online Registration for Regionals will be posted on the western website www.wrra.ca in February. If you have never participated before, please do not hesitate to register, last year we used over 70 officials during the weekend!

Enjoy the rest of the season.

Denise Pelletier
 Western Region Coordinator
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Central Region

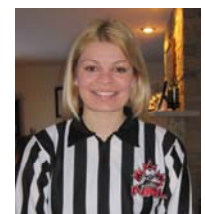
January's here and with the cold and snow comes the most important part of our season! We will all be vying for those cherished invitations to Regional, Provincial, and National events and I encourage you to keep focused on your goals as we go forward. Give your best at every game and keep in mind that as we approach this crucial part of the season, someone is always watching. It's important to remember also that you're officiating performance on the ice is not the only thing being watched; your relationships with others, professionalism, and off-ice conduct is also crucial to those deciding who will attend the big events.



In searching for resources for this ROG, I came across an old presentation I had seen at an Officiating Conference last year, given by Terry Gregson, the current NHL Director of Officiating. He discussed the NHL officials as a team, using the motto, "less me, more we." He explained that in order to meet the required performance standards, teamwork was absolutely necessary. It involves an "evolution of individual to collective mentality with common goals and common purposes to serve the game." He ended his talk with this point: "We put the game first, the team second and ourselves third." Keep this in mind as you move through the second half of this season. At the end of the day we too are a team and need to support one another, both on and off the ice.

Good luck with your goals this season and see you at the rink!

Amy Murray
 Central Region Coordinator
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"Teamwork: simply stated, it is less me and more we." – Terry Gregson, retired NHL referee

Eastern Region

It seems like we have only just made it through the rule change clinics (barely sane!) and now half of the season is behind us already. I think there is still some adjustment going on with respect to the areas of emphasis on the slashing and cross-checking but it is important that we all continue to try to hold a consistent line. It has been my personal observation that this has made a difference in the game for the better.



Eastern Region hosted the first Challenge Cup of the season on Thanksgiving weekend. Congratulations to Mario Periard, Danielle Lalonde, Jessica Lalonde, and Amy Murray who were selected to officiate at this event. Thank you to Derek Burger and Laura Knowles who gave up part of their Thanksgiving weekend as well to supervise.

The Nepean tournament was also a success and we thank the out of region folks who came to officiate. Also a big thank you to Karen Meek and Tara Armstrong who came to evaluate. With their help we completed an unprecedented number of evaluations to get us off to a great start this season.

Please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that you receive evaluations as needed for upgrade or maintenance of your rank. Don't leave it to the last minute. Be proactive and seek assistance from your RIC.

Have a great rest of the season everyone!

Marie Shinmoto
Eastern Region Coordinator
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Northeastern Region

Here in the Northeast we are keeping very busy.

Sudbury had their annual tournament in early December. There was good representation from all surrounding associations with regards to players/participants and officials.

Timmins will be hosting Playdowns at the end of January, good luck to all participants!

I look forward to seeing you in the second half of the season.

Dave Bretsznajder
Northeastern Region Coordinator
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Southern Region

Happy 2012 everyone! I hope everybody had a great holiday season and you are ready to start the second half of the ingette season.

This being a rules change year kept many us extremely busy before the season even started. Southern Region held two Level 1 clinics and 7 refresher clinics. Congratulations to those who attending the level 1, and thank you to all instructors for helping to facilitate these session as it would not have been possible without you.

Regional Championship will be held Mississauga this year on the weekend of March 29 to April 1st. If you are interested in attending please speak with your local RIC.

Enjoy the rest of the season and see you around the rinks ☺

Margareth Peressutti
Southern Region Coordinator
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World Club Championships – My International Experience

By: Lorie Grant

When Laura Knowles called to inform me of my selection to officiate at the World Club Championships, I actually asked her to repeat herself. After I got off the phone I did a double take....wait a second.....where did she say? I know it started with an F...Fergus? No, she said Finland...Holy smokes (ok we all know it was another word). And after my return, everyone asked me “How was it?” My answer was one word, “Unbelievable”

The travel there was half the adventure. I had a lady who mixed medication and wine on the plane pass out right beside me. I learned the hard way that the airport in Frankfurt is HUGE. Realized that not everyone understands the sense of urgency one has when having to wait in line at security while their connecting flight was already pre-boarding. But all that aside, the most important thing is that I arrived safely, and so did my skates.

The event was second to none. They even went as far as to have lunches provided for us at the football stadium (yes....I mean soccer) The food was interesting to say the least. Options on day one were Grilled Herring or Meatpie spaghetti. Finland is also the only place I know where you could buy a cup of Frankfurters. Yep! 5 hotdogs in a cup, and you saw lots of people walking around with them. I needed to try them once, didn't want to upset the locals. The volunteers who helped were amazing. They laughed at my attempts to speak Finnish to them, and were willing to take us almost anywhere we needed to go. They welcomed us to their city and country and even a few of them were curious about things back in Canada. One day I asked where I could find a shirt that had the Finnish flag on it, the lady looked at me like I was crazy and told me that they didn't have the same pride that we Canadians have about our Maple Leaf. This I found very odd and told her that I was very proud to be Canadian!



But we didn't go all that way for hotdogs and shirts. The Ringette was some of the best I have seen. The Finland teams were deep with talent and skill. Some of the things they could do with the ring I didn't think were possible. They moved the ring around quite a lot and sometimes you would lose track of assists. Luckily their post goal celebrations left no doubt to

anyone who scored and gave you time to go up and ask for the assists. Three of the last four games (1 semi and both medal games) went into overtime, and for parts of those games it was edge of your seat exciting. I think one of the goalies actually grew a third leg to make a save late in the game. I had the privilege to work the bronze medal game. It was an amazing experience. The game was fast and thrilling. The crowd was into every shot, music between plays and overtime, what more could you ask for.

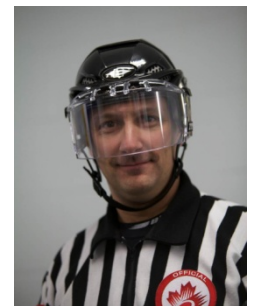
They say you can't buy experience, you need to live it. Well I have come back with that and so much more. I've been told stories about the difference between “our game” and “their game”, and now I understand what they meant. I come back to “our game” with a renewed appreciation for our development program. Simply put, we are spoiled here! To have the number of hard working, dedicated people that game in and game out give feedback to make us better is something I think we under estimate. To all the evaluators that sit in the cold and work to help make all of us who we are on the ice, I would like to say a much deserved thank you! Our development program truly is what separates us from all the rest.

I am honoured to have had this chance to officiate in an International event. This is something I have had my sights set on for quite a while, and still have a hard time believing it wasn't a dream. Thank you to all of you (you know who you are) that have helped me along the way. I wouldn't have had this opportunity without each and every one of you.

Lorie is a Level 5 official, an evaluator and an instructor and has also officiated at Canada Winter Games and the Canadian Ringette Championships.

Rockland's Mario Periard Achieves Level 5 Status

What was an oversight on my part was no oversight for Ringette Canada. Congratulations to Mario Periard of Rockland, for achieving his Level 5 at the conclusion of the 2011 Canadian Ringette Championships last April.



Mario has officiated at both the National and Provincial levels, including the Ontario Winter Games and the past four Canadian Ringette Championships and currently officiates in the NRL.

Provincial Official of the Year

At the conclusion of every season the Ontario Ringette Association recognizes one official who stood out during the season and showed strength, leadership and passion in the sport of ringette. If you know somebody that is deserving of this award, please submit your suggestion to the ORA by April 1, 2012 for consideration. Below is a list of the previous winners.

2011 – Amy Murray
 2010 – Karen Meek
 2009 - Lorie Grant
 2008 – Brent Bunting
 2007 – Derek Burger
 2006 – Janyce Gunn
 2005 – Geri-Louise Lamers
 2004 – Lynne Phillion
 2003 - Natalie Fortin
 2002 – Sue Blacklock
 2001 – Kevin Lee
 2000 – Mario Periard
 1999 – Steve Moritsugu
 1998 – Kelly Campbell
 1997 – Sue Shantz
 1994 – Karen Meek

2011/2012 Areas of Emphasis

Below is just a reminder of Ringette Canada's Areas of Emphasis. I think that we've adapted well to the changes, but like with anything new, it takes time.



WHAT change are we looking for?

• Cross-Checking

- If player makes contact with a cross check by pushing their stick outwards and onto an opponent, this **must** be called
- If a player keeps stick close to body and does not push, only guides an opponent, this is **NOT** a cross-check

• Slashing

- If player checks opponent and contacts an exposed area (upper arm or midsection) this **must** be called
- If player checks an opponent and contacts stick followed by the glove followed by the stick, etc. then this should result in a verbal warning
- If player takes a one-handed swing at an opponent who is going by them to try and slow them down – and makes contact with the body... this **MUST** be called

• Deliberately pushing an opponent into the crease to get a stoppage in play.

- If the official deems this to be deliberate, a penalty should be called
 - Depending on the degree of contact either a Body Contact or Interference penalty may be assessed
- Note: It is not okay to ignore the violation*

Upcoming Events

March 1-4 - Provincial AA's, Whitby
 March 8-11- Ontario Winter Games, Collingwood
 March 15-18 - Provincial A's, West Ottawa
 April 7-14 - Canadian Ringette Championships, Burnaby, BC
 April 12-15 - Eastern Canadian Championships, Quebec
 April 12-15 - U12 Provincial Event, West Ferris

The Way We Were

Do you have old pictures from years gone by? We are always looking for photo's of officials from earlier years. To think that at one point players did not wear masks and officials did not wear helmets...oh how the game has changed.

If you have pictures that you are willing to share, please forward them to Karen Meek at kmeek16@rogers.com.



The following story has been taken from the TSN website at www.tsn.ca and has some good insight into what is required to be a top level official at the NHL level and is similar and relevant to those officials aspiring to officiate at the top levels of ringette.

FRASER: THE REQUIREMENTS OF BEING AN NHL REFEREE 10/26/2011, TSN

Mr. Fraser,

What physical criteria is involved in becoming (and maintaining) an NHL on-ice official - in terms of height, weight, age, etc.? They're not exactly the overweight umpires in baseball who keep a box of donuts in the dugouts to snack on between innings (LOL).

Anxiously awaiting your reply.

*Uncle Greg DiLorenzo,
Holbrook, NY*

Hey 'Uncle' Greg:

I don't know if you are looking to apply for the job but here are some of the attributes that the NHL Officiating Department looks for in their recruiting efforts throughout North America and around the world as recent as last season with the hiring of 39-year-old Marcus Vinnorborg from Ljungby, Sweden.

In each of the 2,165 NHL games that I refereed, I could always count on receiving "help" from the patrons on the other side of the glass (sometimes 20,000+ strong) that fashioned themselves as experts in the art of officiating. Anyone that thinks they can fill the job requirements please forward your applications to the NHL Officiating Department in Toronto.

Every sport is very demanding to officiate; each with its own unique challenges. If you don't believe me step into our world and umpire a Little League Baseball game or if you really want to challenge your aptitude (and patience) lace up your skates and blow a whistle in a youth hockey game. The coaches and fans that attend those games can be the most biased and difficult to deal with from all levels of sport - they are called 'parents!' Sarah Palin had it right when she described the only difference between a "Hockey Mom" and a pit-bull was lipstick!

With all due respect to my colleagues in the other major sports the game of hockey is the most difficult to officiate in of all sport. Movement in an athletic shoe on firm turf, field or hardwood is much more natural than skating on a thin skate blade on ice. The very first physical requirement of the job, Greg, is that of superior skating ability. This encompasses

balance, agility, mobility, foot speed forward and backwards to place yourself in the very best possible position on the ice to see play and make the best possible judgment. This skill set is a must to also avoid player and puck contact in the confined 200 x 85 foot ice surface so as to not interfere with the game flow and to provide for personal safety.

Another physical requirement beyond athleticism is what you alluded to (LOL) relative to "donuts in the dugout" which implies that a high level of physical conditioning is a must. The NHL Officiating Department, under the direction of David T. Smith, Director of Medical and Fitness sets high personal standards that each official must maintain. Specific programs are created for either rehabilitation of injury or strength and conditioning no differently than the NHL teams provide for their players. Dave Smith performed in this capacity with the New York Rangers (Stanley Cup 1994) and Florida Panthers prior to joining League management.

At the annual training camp for officials, held in September each official, under Smith's direction, completes medicals followed by a rigorous fitness test before they hit the ice. The fitness test includes a VO2 Max test on the bike, Wingate test on the bike (a leg killer), flexibility (stretch and reach), shuttle run drill, sit-ups and push-ups.

Those of us that have existing medical conditions were checked over thoroughly and completed specific tests. As an example I have no ACL in my left knee and am bone on bone following five surgeries. My right knee also has minimal cartilage remaining following three surgeries. (I am attempting to avoid a fourth surgery following a slight tear suffered in Prague, where I opened my final season (2009-10) with the Rangers and Lightning.) As a result of these medical conditions I was required to complete a computer generated leg strength/speed evaluation test on the cybex machine each training camp.

In terms of physical size it is quite obvious that hiring practices have changed considerably since Ray Scapinello, Willie Norris and I were hired in the 1970's. At 5'7" I was the tallest of all three of us! If all abilities are relatively equal, size does matter; especially with regard to the linesmen. The "twin towers" of Mike Cvik and Shane Heyer top out at 6'9" without skates and helmets. Combined with their physical strength they have a commanding view from their vantage point on the ice. While few of the linesmen possess this height all of them are very strong physically and hit the gym on a regular basis throughout the season.

To give you an idea of range in age of the elder statesman of the NHL Officials Association is linesman Dan Schachte who is 53 years old and will hit the 2,000 game plateau this season. Dan played hockey at Wisconsin for the late Bob Johnson. The only other Centurion in the linesmen's ranks is Andy McElman. The youngest linesman is newly hired, 27-year-old Matt MacPherson from Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

A total of four referees have celebrated their 50th birthday or beyond. That list includes in order of age, Paul Devorski, Denis LaRue, Don Van Massenhoven and Brad Watson. The young pup in his first year under contract is 26-year-old Graham Skilliter from La Ronge, Saskatchewan.

As Father Time marches forward it is imperative that older officials work even harder to maintain their conditioning and foot speed if they are to continue in their current capacity.

Last but not least of all I think every hockey official must know the game and understand their specific roll within it. We recognize that no one pays to watch the referee call penalties or for the linesmen to drop pucks and break up fights. That being said the officials perform a vital service by upholding and maintaining the integrity of the game and keeping the environment safe and fair by enforcing the playing rules as are handed to them by the NHL Rules Committee and Board of Governors. This involves applying a broad authority in judgment that is handed to them. As we know it can be a thankless job given the subjective scrutiny that each call can be reviewed and measure by. Most often the task is performed very well if not to perfection; albeit in the imperfect world called hockey officiating.

As each referee works hard to give the game his very best each night out I am reminded of a couple of cliches that I heard when I signed my first contract with the NHL as a 21-year-old in 1973.

The first was from Hockey Hall of Fame Referee Frank Udvari who discovered me at a referee school after playing my final season of Jr. A hockey when he said:

"You are now a referee. This is the only job where you are expected to start your first game by being perfect and to get better each game after that!"

The other was from my friend Bill Beagan, who as Commissioner of the IHL watched me work my first game in his league in Dayton, Ohio that erupted into a bench clearing brawl.

Tommy McVie was the playing coach for the Dayton Gems and I had no idea what to do in this first time situation for me. The brawl last over 20 minutes and due to my lack of experience all I assessed was two roughing minors and two fighting majors when both benches emptied and everyone on the ice was fighting including the goalkeepers.

At the conclusion of the game, commissioner Bill Beagan kindly guided me in a teaching way as to what I should do when (not if) this situation was to present itself. Before he departed the officials' room he left me with this final thought that has stuck throughout all these years when he said:

"Kerry remember this, from experience you will acquire judgment; from poor judgment you will acquire experience!"

Some just might say I was the most experienced referee in the history of the game...

