

The

# REF-O-GRAM

February 2014



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Welcome to the second half of the ringette season. I hope everyone has had the opportunity to ref a lot of games and travel to some tournaments. Tournaments are a unique experience; you get to meet new people, ref with different partners, receive feedback and challenge yourself on different levels of games. For a number of reasons, my favourite part of a tournament is the change room. This is a meeting place where you can reunite with friends you may have seen last week or maybe last season. More importantly, it's a classroom, a place to listen, learn and improve your own game. It's also a safe place to vent when you've encountered some challenging issues in a game. For these reasons, and many more, I hope that you all allow yourself the opportunity to attend one of the many tournaments across the province before the end of the season.

This season has already been an incredibly busy one and the second half is just as crazy. In the first half there were: two AAA Challenge Cup tournaments, a Community Evaluator Clinic, numerous tournaments and the World Ringette Championships. The second half of the season holds another AAA Challenge Cup, more tournaments, Ontario Winter Games, Provincials AA's, Provincial A's, U12 Provincial Event, Canadian Ringette Championships and the Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships.

The World Ringette Championships were hosted in North Bay, ON, the birthplace of ringette. This prestigious event takes place every three years with the attending officials having been selected from across Canada. I am proud to say that all three Canadian officials selected for this event, as well as the director of officials, were all from Ontario. After officiating in a number of exhibition and round robin games, Amy Murray was selected to officiate the Gold Medal game between Canada and Finland in the U19 World Championship final. The senior division of the World Championship event saw Canada and Finland compete in a best 2 of 3 series where Brent Bunting and myself split each assignment with a Finnish official as the series was completed after two games.

Our POD (Provincial Officiating Development) program is still running smoothly. This season we had 11 participants start in the program. All POD participants were in attendance for their first mandatory tournament, a successful weekend, held in Pickering and now have the option of attending either Richmond Hill or Ajax as their second mandatory tournament. These officials are encouraged to attend other tournaments, as well, in order to continue their growth and development away from the program. Keep up the hard work, your efforts will pay off. Congratulations to Kristy Mueller and Brittany Flowers who have graduated early.

Are you having fun with the application of "Move it or Lose it"? From what I've seen around the arena, we are adapting quite well to the new rule. There are still going to be those

times when you question yourself, but like everything new, it takes time.

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 move forward. Give your best in every game and keep in mind that as we approach this decisive part of the season, someone is always watching. It's important to remember that your officiating performance on the ice is not the only thing being watched; your interaction with others, professionalism and off-ice conduct is also critical in deciding who will attend the big events.

Enjoy the remainder of the season. See you at the arena.

**Karen Meek**  
 Chair Officiating Development Committee  
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## Western Region

Bring on 2014! I hope everyone is still in ringette mode. The season is only half way done and there are lots of tournaments coming up in the second half of the season. It will be an extremely busy second half with many western region tournaments, Challenge Cups, Ontario Winter Games, Provincials, Eastern Canadians, Nationals and Regional Championships.



It has been a busy year thus far with level one clinics for new officials and refresher clinics for all officials in Ontario due to the rule change year. Everyone should be familiar with the "Move it or Lose it" rule.

Please keep in mind:

If play is stopped due to the ring being immovable, or if it cannot be safely played, the ring is awarded to the team that:

- gains second control, or
- did not have initial control, or
- has initial control, provided the opposing team is not actively checking

It is the responsibility of the player who is in control of the ring to avoid situations that would cause the ring to become immovable.

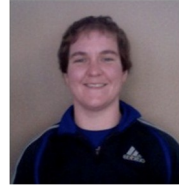
Congratulations and welcome to Western's new officials. Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to do a few games by now. Remember to ask your Referee in Chief to sit down and evaluate you some time in the next few months. I encourage all refs to request to be evaluated by an evaluator, this will give you feedback on how to improve your refereeing and how to move up in rank. One of the best ways to be evaluated is to travel to tournaments. 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 28th to March 30th in the Guelph and Elora/Fergus Arenas. Online Registration for Regionals will be posted on the western website [www.wrra.ca](http://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!

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.

Enjoy the rest of the season.

**Denise Pelletier**  
 Western Region Coordinator  
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## Central Region

Happy New Year! We are halfway through the ringette year and find ourselves yet again in the most critical part of the season. Every game counts from here on out, both for us and for the teams. As we work to achieve our respective goals, teams are also working to attain the top spot in their leagues. It is crucial that we are at our best during this critical time and remember that no matter what game we are assigned to officiate, those players are counting on us. Let's not let them down!



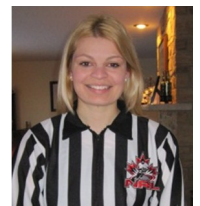
It is important to also remember that eyes and ear are everywhere. As you work towards your individual goals, no matter what game you're on, someone will be watching. It's the BEST time of the year because the practice is finished for us all...we (players, coaches, officials) must all be in our top form!

On a final note, if you haven't been evaluated yet this year, now is the time. YOU are responsible for getting someone out to see you, so don't be afraid to ask.

Good luck the remainder of the season in achieving your goals!

Enjoy the season!

**Amy Murray**  
 Central Region Coordinator  
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*"In order to challenge ourselves, we must be comfortable in being uncomfortable." - Leighton Hodges, IRB Referee*

## Eastern Region

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope that everyone had a great first half of the season. At this time of year, I would like to remind each of you how important it is to ensure you and your RIC work together in ensuring you are working towards your goals. Please ensure you are obtaining



your maintenance evaluations, and actively pursuing evaluations to further your development and attain your goals.

I would like to thank our Eastern Region instructors for their support and professional delivery of the Refresher clinics this past fall; as well as the shuffling about to facilitate and deliver the Rules Clinics for the various bench staff in the region. Your hard work and dedication are appreciated!

We have 2 Eastern region evaluators who have moved from Community level, up to Regional level. Patricia Burke and Brian Sime join the ranks of Regional level evaluators. Thank you to all Eastern Region evaluators for your continued hard work and genuine interest in developing our officials. With officiating development being a paramount focus, I would like to thank all evaluators who continue to support all officials with their coaching and feedback.

Eastern region has the following tournaments approaching: Silverspoon (Jan 24-26), Kingston (Jan 31-Feb 2), Gloucester (Feb 6-9), West Ottawa (Feb 14-16); and of course the 'AA' Provincials being hosted by Gloucester (March 6-7).

Thank you to the Arbiter ladies, Patricia Burke and Kristy Bremer, for their persistent and much appreciated work in assigning Eastern region league games. Continued thanks to Kristy Mueller for her work on ensuring paysheets are up-to-date. Join me in welcoming Jennifer MacInnis in a second administrative role for her: RRER treasurer.

Keep up the hard work team!

**Shelley Stairs**  
*Eastern Region Coordinator*  
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### Southern Region

Welcome to the second half everyone!! This is a very busy half for all regions with fun filled tournaments, Regionals, Provincials and Nationals to look forward to.



This year the Regionals are being hosted in Cambridge March 28-30, 2014. Please let your local referee-in-chief know if you're interested in officiating there.

I hope everyone is getting out to some tournaments. Through tournaments we get to discover new experiences, more games and get seen by others. This is also the place to get evaluations. If you aren't in a tournament already, try to get to at least one, you'll be hooked.

Southern CORL A-AA scheduling program has been in effect now for approx. 3 months and has been going relatively well so far. I need to thank all the officials and RIC's for their

patience and co-operation; I definitely couldn't have done it without all of your help!!

Good luck with the remainder of the season. I hope everyone attains their goals



**Geri Lamers**  
*Southern Region Coordinator*  
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### Northwestern Region

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday!

My name is Justina Swan and I am working with Chris Faulds as the Regional Coordinator for the Northwest Region.

For those of you who aren't as familiar with who we are or where we are, look for the Manitoba border and head east towards Lake Superior. The Northwest Region consists of Atikokan, Dryden, and Thunder Bay Ringette Associations and in the first half of the year, we officially registered the most officials we have had in this region in some time. This is a big step forward for us as we are trying to rebuild the Ringette community in the Northwest. In order to do so, I was in attendance at the September Instructors Clinic as well as the November Community Evaluators Clinic and was able to pass on our new rules to our existing and new officials.

This year I would like to welcome 5 new officials to everyone. Some have been and/or are currently players and coaches and some have been officials in many years past and are now returning to our great sport. For those of you in the Northwest who are new to the officiating community, this group of people from across the province has some of the best resources you can have. They are always willing to answer any question you may have and are always willing to let you pick their brains.

As I am new to this position, I would like to thank each every one of you who have helped me in the years past to get me to where I am today - passing along what you all have taught me to "my" new and experienced officials. As such, I am always looking for suggestions and ideas as to how to help develop these new officials.

As a reminder to everyone, the Northeast Regionals are coming up at the end of March - if you are interested in attending, please let me know and I will get in contact with Tournament Organizers and the Referee-In-Chiefs/Regional Coordinators. Also, if any of you are looking for feedback, please let me know as soon as possible and we can arrange a time for me to come out and see you!



Enjoy the rest of the season and remember to stay on your feet!

**Justina Swan**  
 Northwestern Regional Coordinator  
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**Evaluations Manager**

One of our officials found this excellent article recently:

<http://mmqb.si.com/2013/12/04/peter-king-spends-week-with-nfl-refs/>

It is a great read for any NFL fan, but certainly much so for a developing official. I was asked to put the read into the perspective of the ringette official, so here goes.



The article discusses how NFL games are reviewed, and errors in judgment can decide whether a chance for a Super Bowl assignment for each on-field official is possible. In the game of ringette, the post-game reviews can decide whether a final might be offered at a tournament, Regionals, Provincials or even Canadian Ringette Championships. That review might also reward the official with a maintenance evaluation or even an upgrade.

Anyone who knows that an evaluator/supervisor is at his or her arena, has to have at least a slightly exaggerated feeling of pressure. Areas of focus, a chance for upgrade, or even a little self-doubt can make many close on-ice calls even more challenging under a watchful eye. So, how are we supposed to react?

At the Free Play Line, we see the classic situation of a stick extending cross-check style, as the ring carrier moves across the defender. We look at the contact, did it put the player off her line, and if so, was the effect enough to call a penalty (or even a second penalty, if that team already has one person in the box)? At the net, we see an incidental bump from behind, which puts the defender into her crease, forcing either a crease violation, or a four-minute major body contact penalty call.

According to the article, the answer to both of the above situations is that the official must make the same decision in each case, with or without the watchful eye of the supervisor/evaluator. The decision is to be made for the game, and not to receive a favourable evaluation afterward. It is the post-game conversation with your evaluator (or even on-ice partner), that allows for the discussion of your decision, good or bad. These dialogues allow us to self-evaluate and adjust where necessary, for our next game.

**Northeastern Region**

**Dave Bretsznajder**  
 Northeastern Region Coordinator  
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The evaluation process works best when we act true to our beliefs on ice, and then follow up with intelligent conversation and assessment. Managing any task is a four step process – PLAN, DO, CHECK, ADJUST.

PLAN to officiate the game according to the rules, DO your job on ice, CHECK how well you made your difficult decisions, and ADJUST where needed. Changing how we perform on ice to suit another person takes away from this valuable tool for making us better.

Finally, being rules knowledgeable is your greatest asset. Reviewing your Rules and Case Book is necessary for two reasons:

1. Being 100% clear on every rule and its application (and good luck with that!) will give you great confidence when dealing with coaches and evaluators in any unusual situation. Your confidence then gives you a better on-ice presence.
2. Being familiar with all of the rules will not embarrass you when that odd game situation does occur in your game. Have you gone over the Penalty Shot Procedure? Will you know where to stand on a penalty shot, and who to talk to? What needs to be said to each player involved? Also, do you know what happens if someone leaves the penalty box early, and scores a goal after her penalty time expired?

Having those answers already in your head is guaranteed to make your game better and help you to referee the game and not the evaluator.

Have a great on-ice season,

**Pat Turcotte**  
 Evaluations Manager  
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**PODs and “Inside” Clinic Information**

This season the PODs are off to a strong start. Their first mandatory tournament was in Pickering, where the group collectively showed improvement throughout the weekend.

You will next see PODs at the Richmond Hill and Ajax tournaments. If you are an evaluator at either of these tournaments, please let me know you will be there. The PODs would love your feedback and guidance.



During mandatory tournaments, PODs attend extra clinic sessions. We review areas that many officials moving from Level 2 to Level 3 need to work on. I thought many of the ROG readers might benefit from one lesson:

**What is my job as back officials while on the FREE PLAY LINE (FPL)?**

When first officiating, the role of the FPL official is to count the number of attacking and defending players in the restricted zone, and make the appropriate call if four-in occurs. As officials gain experience and the level of play improves, our role on the FPL increases.

When transitioning towards being a Level 3 referee, these are other things you will need to consider when on the FPL:

- Still keep your eye out for four-in.
  - o However, if there are four attackers, check their net to see if the goalie has been pulled.
- Do not become ring-focused! What does that mean while you're on the FPL?

- o When a shot is taken, do NOT follow the ring. Keep your eyes in the slot! Scan the area: Where has the shooter's follow-through gone? Has a defending player retaliated? *You're only going to know the answers to these questions if you do not follow the ring.*
- o When only one player and the ring are in an isolated area of the ice (i.e. the corner), do not watch her. Keep your eyes scanning the ice surface. Is a pick being set? Is it legal? Is a player being overly aggressive? Etc. *If a player is alone with the ring, there should be no concern for you to follow her with your eyes.*
- o Ensure you know what is going on past the blue line. As the games do get faster, you will need to know if there are offensive players waiting for a quick pass out of the defensive zone. (This is known as a "deep threat.") *This can be the most challenging positioning obstacle to overcome.*

While this is not an exhaustive list of what FPL officials need to be doing, these tips will make your transition to Level 3 a little smoother, and hopefully more successful.

I will leave you with one final tip. When you are at a tournament (as a player or referee), if you see an evaluator watching a game, ask her/him if you can sit and watch with her/him. Evaluators are often happy to explain what they are seeing on the ice and you may get tips that will in turn help your officiating.

Best of luck!

**Tara Armstrong**  
 POD Manager  
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## U19 World Ringette Championships

By Amy Murray

Being someone who believes that goal setting is very important, I was surprised when I was selected to officiate at the 2013 U19 World Ringette Championships. I had already accomplished my goal for last season, of refereeing a final at the Canadian Ringette Championships. World's was not on my "radar" at all. It was a new experience for me to have something like this happen unexpectedly. It's a completely different feeling than achieving a goal you are actively working on. In retrospect, it solidified my belief in the importance of working hard in every game; sometimes unforeseen things come along!

World's was definitely an amazing experience! The games were faster than anything I'd every refereed before, which was no surprise. The Finnish athletes especially



took skating and conditioning to a whole new level. But the off-ice experience was just as great! I felt that I was able to interact with the players and coaches on a more personal level off-ice and to really feel how excited and honoured they were to be part of this event as well. I felt that we really were "all in this together" and enjoyed the opportunities to discuss ringette with everyone who was part of this event.

The most special thing for me however, was to have my sort of ringette "mom and dad," in Karen Meek and Brent Bunting, to share the referee experience with. It felt very serendipitous to have two people who really developed my refereeing as partners for this event.

I was also humbled by meeting the members of the Sam Jacks' Family. They were at the arena the entire week and really support ringette here in Canada and abroad. I had never taken the time before to think about how difficult it must be to not only create a sport, but to get to a point where it is played in different countries around the world. That process baffles me and it was so inspiring to sit with the Jacks Family and listen to their stories about how Sam Jacks first came to invent ringette.

Having the opportunity to work with referees from Finland was also a great learning experience. There was an obvious

language barrier and some differences in rule interpretations, which made things tricky as times. Communication between partners became very important, along with taking the time to find the "why" if something went funny on the ice. It was nice to also to have these discussions with Laura Knowles, our Supervisor. She felt very much like a coach at this event, pushing us to be better not only individually but as a team.

The Canadian fans that travelled to North Bay were integral in creating an exciting on-ice environment. Not only did they support the players, but I think we truly felt supported as officials also. I want to thank everyone (including my mom and dad who travelled up for just one game) for all their support and encouragement. I certainly felt special and am truly honoured to have had the opportunity to represent our sport and our referees at this event

## Ringette Legends Game

By Brent Bunting

Have you ever been on the ice and had that "deja-vu" moment, where you've said to yourself "I know I've seen this happen before"? Well I went through two periods of that last September when I officiated at the Ringette Legends Game in Richmond Hill as part of Ringette Canada's road show to kick off the start of the 2013/2014 season.

My partner for the game was Ringette Canada Hall of Famer Mark Renkiewicz, who had quietly retired from officiating a year earlier. With the exception of a couple more grey hairs, he looked and skated the same.

I think this was the only game I have ever officiated where I could not get the smile off my face. I spent more time watching the players than the play. It was like a time warp had taken me back to the 1980's for one shift and then to the 1990's for another. I wasn't sure if we were playing stick colours or using the free play line.

There were players from Etobicoke, Walden and Scarborough, all associations that once ruled the sport. On one bench was Gary Miller, on the other, Gerald Lamoureux and Peter Maik. All coaches who at one time sailed the top ship in the province and country.



Seeing Peter Maik behind the bench again brought back memories of when I first started officiating in 1983. Peter was the RIC of Etobicoke at that time and gave me my start, which included using me to officiate exhibition games for his Deb AA team, which just happened to be one of the top teams in the country. How's that for being fed to the wolves when you're only fourteen? And what would a game be like without Peter "hollering" something at me? Well, I didn't get to find out as he and Gerald Lamoureux both yelled at me about me being blind (or something like that).

What a day, what a lot of fun and what a great way to start off the season!

## Ringette Canada Publishes Clarifications for "Move it or Lose it"

### Situation 1 - Delayed Penalty and Second Stick

Delayed penalty to Team A, Team B has the ring. Team A gains second control and play is stopped as a result. Team A is in control of the ring when play is stopped. The penalty is assessed to Team A and Team B is awarded the ring for the free pass to start play.

### Situation 2 - Delayed Penalty and No Second Stick

Delayed penalty to Team A, Team B has the ring. Team A is actively checking Team B and the ring becomes immovable resulting in a stoppage in play. The penalty is assessed to Team A and Team A is awarded the ring for the free pass to start play. The cause of the stoppage of play is the ring becoming immovable, not the penalty.

### Situation 3 - Delayed Penalty and No Second Stick

B1 has the ring and is tripped by A1, A1 also falls down. A2 arrives in the area right away and the ring is immovable so play is stopped. The penalty is assessed to Team A and Team B is awarded the ring for the free pass to start play. The penalty caused the situation of the ring becoming immovable, this is the same type of situation of a penalty causing the player to go into the crease or carry the ring the blue line.

### Clarification on rule 7.8 c – Actively Checking

There has been some confusion on what obligation the team without the ring has around actively checking.

Actively checking is not solely stick checking, it could also be legally using the body to maintain position on the ring carrier after an attempt to play the ring. The failure to actively check is a situation where the team without the ring is not making any attempt to gain control of the ring. If A1 has the ring and B1 takes a legal position (one that the official is not penalizing) and A1 continues to push forward, or through a small space between the boards and B1, to attempt to get past B1, and B1 holds their ground, and the ring becomes immovable, play should be stopped and given to Team B. Although B1 isn't actively **stick** checking, they are making an

attempt to play the ring in a manner that is deemed legal by the official, and therefore the obligation to move the ring is on the ring carrier. Failure to keep the ring from being tied up will mean play is stopped and a free pass (or goalkeeper ring) is awarded to the team not initially in control.

Some situations that would constitute not actively checking would be a player falling and sliding into the ring carrier and pinning their stick in such a manner that it cannot be moved. If players B1, B2 & B3 create a triangle around the ring carrier, A1, not allowing A1 to move, however are making no actual attempt to play the ring.

If B1 has made no attempt to play the ring, but simply pinned A1, the ring carrier, against the boards, play should be stopped and a penalty for boarding or body contact should be assessed. **"It is the responsibility of the player who is in control of the ring to avoid situations that would cause the ring to become immovable"**. The onus is on the ring carrier to keep the ring moving and not put it in a position to be tied up.

## Upcoming Major Events

January 17-19 - AAA Challenge Cup, St. Mary's  
 February 26-March 2 - Ontario Winter Games, Bala/Muskoka  
 March 6-9 - Prov AA Championships, Gloucester/Cumberland  
 March 13-16 - Prov A Championships, Kitchener  
 April 3-6 - U12 Provincial Event, Sault St. Marie  
 April 7-12 - Canadian Ringette Championships, Regina, SK  
 April 17-20 - Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships, Mississauga

