

The

REF-O-GRAM

September 2011



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With the 2011-2012 season about to unfold, I would like to welcome everyone back. I hope that you enjoyed your time off and that you're ready for a busy year.

At this time, I would like to thank Brent Bunting for all of the time, commitment and dedication he poured into the Officiating Development program over the past 5-6 years. His passion for the game, knowledge and experience has made this program much stronger. Brent and the previous Directors of Officiating have set the bar high when it comes to the development of our officials; it is my intention to carry on with their efforts and to continue to move this program in the forward direction.

I would also like to recognize Jeff Graham. Jeff has played a valuable role on the Officiating Development Committee as the Northeastern Region Coordinator, but has decided to step down to focus on his new family. We wish you all the best and will miss your smiling face.

On the upside, I would like to welcome Dave Bretsznajder as Jeff's replacement. I know he'll be an excellent addition to our committee.

As this is a rule change year, every Instructor and Official must take a clinic. The Instructor Clinic is set up for September 16-18, 2011 in Toronto. There will also be multiple Refresher Clinics for the officials. Please get in touch with your Regional Coordinator for more information

Reflecting back on last season, I would like to congratulate Brent Bunting, Robert Drury, Lorie Grant, Janyce Gunn, Danielle Lalonde-Clarkin and Karen Meek for their selection to the Canada Winter Games in Halifax. This event takes place every four years and is a rare opportunity and a unique experience, congratulations!

To those of you selected to officiate at the A and AA Provincials, well done. Your selection is a reflection of your hard work and dedication.

The Canadian Ringette Championships were not a disappointment either. Once again, Ontario officials represented over half of the officiating crew at CRCs. These consistent numbers prove the strength of our program. Congratulations to Brent Bunting, Rick Daly, Robert Drury, Jeff Evans, Nat Fortin, Lorie Grant, Janyce Gunn, Danielle Lalonde-Clarkin, Kevin Lee, Karen Meek, Amy Murray and Mario Periard on their participation.

At the Eastern Canadian Championships in Halifax, we were well represented with Geri Lamers and Stephanie Renda attending.

Our Provincial Officiating Development Program (POD) is still going strong. With the guidance of our POD Manager,

Jeff Evans, and numerous evaluators, we've had some excellent development in our younger officials. Last season, they had the opportunity to officiate at the U12 Provincial Event which is a natural stepping stone and progression towards our other Provincial Championship events. Thank-you to Jeff for his dedication to the POD program over the previous seasons; the 2011-12 season will see Tara Armstrong stepping into the role of POD Manager. Congratulations and we look forward to her guidance and enthusiasm!

None of the above events would have been a success without the help of the many supervisors who attended. These people volunteer their time to spend countless hours at the arena making sure that we're on the ice on time, protecting us from coaches and fans and providing us with feedback after each game. They open and close the arena each day and are always willing to lend their ear when a coach feels the need to vent. A huge thank you goes out to Tara Armstrong, Christ Bradt, Brent Bunting, Derek Burger, Rick Daly, Rob Evans, Jeff Evans, Laura Knowles, Andre Labelle, Cam Mahy, Karen Meek, George Seymour, Marie Shinmoto, Brian Sime, Wayne Spencer and Pat Turcotte.

This season will see Pat Turcotte taking over as the Evaluations Manager. He will be responsible for receiving and maintaining the evaluation data for the province as submitted by each evaluator. This is a vital task to ensure that our database is up-to-date and current.

Congratulations to all of the individuals who were selected as their respective Regional Officials of the Year. Your desire to learn and achieve is precisely what this program is looking for.

Hard work, dedication and passion are only a few of the words that describe our 2010-2011 Provincial Official of the Year. Amy Murray exhibits these qualities both on and off ice and is a true inspiration to all officials. Her passion and determination to strive for the top is infectious and I have no doubt that someday she'll get there.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a great season. Set small goals for yourself and strive to conquer them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

See you at the rink!

Karen Meek
Chair Officiating Development Committee
kmeek16@rogers.com



Western Region

Welcome back! It's hard to believe we are already on the ice and summer is over. It seems like the summer weather doesn't last quite long enough. If you have not already jumped on the ice, it is time to get your skates sharpened and dig out that equipment.

I want to thank everyone that helped out last year in the Western Region with officiating. It was my first year as coordinator and it was a steep learning curve by times. So many people stepped up to help out with covering A and AA games; taking Fridays off from work to ref at tournaments and giving up time away from their families and friends to referee a sport we all love. I had so many incredible people step up and help, I appreciate all of you. Thank You!

Congratulations to all of the Western officials who participated in the Provincial A's, AA's, U12's and Nationals. You put in the time and effort and worked extra hard to achieve your seasons goals as referees, so congratulations.

If your goal this year is to attain a position on the list of eligible officials for Provincials, then you need to travel to some tournaments early in the season in order to be seen. If you are having difficulties getting into a tournament or don't know who to contact, send me an email and I will help you. A reminder to those of you who are 18 or older, you must have a valid Police Records Check done by November 15th. Police Record checks are only valid for 3 years, so if you are not sure if yours is still valid, either contact your local RIC or the ORA office. Without the PRC, you run the risk of not being eligible for Provincials or Regionals.

As this is a rule change year, EVERYONE must attend a clinic. Clinic information will be available on the Western Website, at www.wrra.ca. Please make sure you register online early so you can attend the clinic requested.

Before you are able to get started this year, you must be registered. It is your responsibility to make sure that you either fill out the paper work and mail it in with payment or give it to your local association Referee-in-Chief. Information and details can be found on the ORA web site under Officiating.

As always we will try to have an evaluator at every major event in Western Region. If you are interested in being looked at please contact me and I will try to arrange it.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on the ice this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need some help.

Have a fantastic season!

Denise Pelletier
 Western Region Coordinator
dpelleti20@hotmail.com



Central Region

Happy Ringette Season! It's that time of year again and although we're sad to see the warm summer months go, let's be honest, we're all secretly excited that ringette is back! This season will be as busy as ever! It's a rule change year, which means all officials are required to take a refresher clinic. Our clinic dates have not yet been confirmed but please look to your local RIC's for clinic dates. If you don't take a refresher, you can't referee.

As in past seasons, Central will be assigning an evaluator to each referee. Please take every opportunity to learn from our dedicated evaluators. They have a lot to offer and will do their best to coach you towards becoming a better referee. Remember, we're all in this together.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two very important people. First, to Robert Drury who has stepped down as RIC in Whitby. Robert has been an essential part of the ringette community, not only in Central, but across Canada as well. He has spent thousands of hours both on and off the ice to make our officials better and I would like to especially thank him for all the work he has put into Central Region Ringette over the years. I would like to also congratulate Lyndsey Matsumura who will be taking over from Robert as the RIC for Whitby Ringette.

The second person I would like to recognize is Brent Bunting. Brent has stepped down as Officiating Chair for Ontario Ringette and I would like to thank him for his tireless dedication to this sport, and to the officials. It goes without saying that Brent always had our backs and was never afraid to fight for what he thought was best for the officials in this province. He has been a great mentor for me personally and to many others as well. Although he will be missed in this role, we will certainly still feel his presence around the arenas. Thank you Brent and good luck with your two new little projects☺

But as the saying goes, every ending is a new beginning, and I am so excited that Karen Meek will be taking over as Officiating Chair. There are no words to describe Karen's ringette commitment and experience and I am so honoured that I will get to work with her as part of the Officiating Development Committee. I wish her the best of luck in her new position – I cannot think of a better person to take over for Brent!

I would now like to congratulate the following officials for their achievements last season:

- **Canada Winter Games** – Robert Drury, Janyce Gunn and Karen Meek
- **Canadian Ringette Championships** – Rick Daly, Robert Drury, Janyce Gunn and Karen Meek
- **Provincial ‘AA’ Championships** – Dan Bartley, Sam Campbell and Rick Daly
- **Provincial ‘A’ Championships** – Sam Campbell, Rick Daly, Lyndsey Matsumura and Becky Murray
- **Regionals** – Lyndsey Matsumura (Supervisor), Mykala Abel, Tara Armstrong, Nino Battaglia, Emma Bragg-Smith, Kelly Campbell, Sam Campbell, Gavin Clark, Cara Coghlan, Mackenzie Collier, Scott Court, Emma D’Arcy, Connor Edmonstone, Chris Feher, Nicole George, Emily Lam, Rebekah Lindensmith, Becky Murray, Taylor Noel, Michelle Osbourne and Doug Reynolds

Finally, I would like to congratulate the award winners for Central Region this year:

- Central Region Official of the Year – Becky Murray
- Laurie White Memorial Award – Connor Edmonstone

Well done Connor and Becky! You are both examples of what hard work and a love for officiating can do. I would also like to make a correction from the last Ref-O-Gram. The 2010 Central Region Official of the Year was Lyndsey Matsumura.

Finally, I want to wish everyone the best of luck with their goals for this ringette season. Ask questions, learn from your mistakes, and set goals that are both meaningful and achievable. We’ve already seen a lot of change this year and we will only see more as the season rolls on. I encourage each one of you to be open to change; believe that change is good and work together to help make changes happen as smooth as possible. Remember, it is only through teamwork that we all succeed. Let’s really rely on one another for the 2011-2012 season!

Amy Murray
Central Region Coordinator
amykmurray@hotmail.com



“Teamwork: simply stated, it is less me and more we.” – Terry Gregson, retired NHL referee

Eastern Region

Hello everyone and welcome back for another new season. Your first priority should be to make sure that you are registered as an official. Although most of you will be registering through an association, it is still ultimately your responsibility to ensure that you are registered with ORA. You must provide your RIC with a signed copy of the registration form by September 15th or you will not be insured and therefore should not be on the ice. It may also be wise to follow up with ORA to make sure your form has not slipped through the cracks.

This is a rule change year, so all officials must attend a refresher clinic. Please contact your RIC if you haven’t heard from him or her with details on these clinics. They will also be posted on the Eastern Region Ringette Association web site. You must register ahead of time for the clinic, as the venues will have a limited capacity. Registration must be done through me as I will be keeping track of numbers for each clinic.

If you required a maintenance evaluation and did not get one last season you have until December 15th to do so. Again, the onus is on you to make sure you have maintenance evaluations as required. If you are unclear about the requirements, please refer to my brief “in a nutshell” document posted on the Arbiter under the “forms” tab.

If you have any questions at any time during the season please contact your RIC. His or her contact information should be posted on your association’s web site.

Have a great season everyone. Hope to see you all on the ice sometime soon.

Marie Shinmoto
Eastern Region Coordinator
bunkyii@rogers.com



Northeastern Region

I'm Dave Bretznajder, the new Regional Coordinator for the Northeast Region. First of all, I would like to thank Jeff Graham for all of his hard work over the past few years. Your assistance has been greatly appreciated.

As for the 2011/2012 season, we will have another very busy season. This year is a rule change year, which means that every official must attend a clinic in order to continue officiating.

An Instructor Clinic has been scheduled for September 16-18, 2011 in Toronto. All existing and new instructors must attend this clinic. This clinic will be held at the Westin Bristol Hotel. Once we have our instructors certified, we will be setting up our Level 1 and Refresher clinics. We will most likely be holding a clinic in all of the major associations. Clinic information will be posted on the ORA web-site.

Last but not least, congratulations to Alex Parker for attaining her Level 3 ranking.

I look forward to a busy and exciting year.

Dave Bretznajder
 Northeastern Region Coordinator
juliedave@onlink.net



Southern Region

Hello and Welcome Back to another season. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer off, as it was needed! The last part of the season proved to be a very busy one with the Winter games, AA and A provincials, CRC's, the U12 event, and Regional's.

As you are well aware this year is a rule changed year. So, what does that mean? In order to officiate this year **ALL**, returning officials are required to participate in a refresher clinic. If you are new to reffing you will have to take the Level 1 clinic. Dates for the refresher and level 1 clinic will be determined at a later time. All dates will be posted on the ORA website, www.ontarioringette.ca. *Please make sure you register with your Regional Coordinator for the refresher clinics and your local association for the Level 1 clinic.*

I would like to congratulate all officials who attended the Provincial AA & A Championships, Regional Championships, and the U12 event. I would also like to congratulate Geri Lamers and Stephanie Renda for being selected to represent Ontario at the Eastern Canadian Championships and Brent Bunting, Jeff Evans, and Kevin Lee for being selected to officiate at the Canadian Ringette Championships.

I look forward seeing you around the rinks.

Margareth Peressutti
 Southern Region Coordinator
mcp10@shaw.ca



Former ORA Official Chris George Inducted into Ringette Canada Hall of Fame

This past June (2011) Chris George became the 5th Ontario Ringette official inducted into the Ringette Canada Hall of Fame – only the 7th ringette official ever selected (thus far) to the Hall.

Chris began his Ringette involvement as an on-ice official in Gloucester in 1976. In the very next season, he was selected to referee the Ontario Provincial Championships and a year later selected for both the Ontario Winter Games and the Provincials. In only his third year of officiating ringette, Chris was selected to referee at both the ORA Provincials and the first Ringette Canada National Championships – where he was chosen to work the Belle level (U18) national final. This set of achievements almost certainly position Chris as the fastest rising official in the history of our sport... he went on to officiate at the first four Canadian Ringette championships and also a string of 6 consecutive ORA Provincials.

Chris was also an accomplished educator and travelled extensively around central and southern Ontario conducting Referee Clinics and training instructors. While committed to the development of Ringette and perfecting his craft as a skilled official, Chris invested hundreds of hours a season to become one of the nation's leading officials and one of the nation's leading volunteer administrators.

Like many officials in our sport, Chris' on-ice performance was only one part of his contribution - he also had a strong legacy of giving back! Chris was a local Referee-in-Chief (Martingrove Ringette Association), Master Instructor for the National Officials' Certification Program and ORA Provincial Director of Officials for three years from 1981 to 1984.



During his tenure as a leading official in the country, Chris attained the highest level of officiating certification available at the time and was a regular institution at provincial and national championships. Chris

was rarely included in any event where he was not selected to officiate semi-final and final competitions at the highest competitive levels.

Chris is currently an Acting Captain with the Toronto Fire Department. After a lengthy hiatus from Ringette to run a group home for troubled youth and then honing his skills as a

firefighter and firefighting instructor at Humber College, Chris has returned to Ringette coaching and supporting his daughter Nicole in the Whitby Ringette Association. He has also continued to engage in his love of officiating although now mentoring his son as a father-son duo in the sport of lacrosse. Chris continues to shine with his good judgment and prowess as an official having risen as quickly as he did in Ringette to accomplished ranks and assignments of a senior stature in lacrosse.

When informed of his selection to the Ringette Canada Hall of Fame, Chris had this to say, "I am both grateful for, and humbled by, this incredible honour. It gives me great satisfaction to see that the sport of ringette continues to mature as a platform for both personal growth and athletic excellence," remarked Chris. "I have always felt that one of the most significant gifts we can give to our children is the opportunity to excel and the fastest game on ice remains unequalled in this regard."

Ted Moritsugu Inducted into Richmond Hill Ringette Association Hall of Fame

The Richmond Hill Ringette Association is proud to announce that Ted Moritsugu has been inducted into the Richmond Hill Ringette Hall of Fame. The presentation was made at the RHRA 2011 Banquet held on June 11, 2011.

Ted has been a Richmond Hill resident for over forty years and was involved in ringette in Richmond Hill since its early days, as well as contributing to the provincial organization long after his daughters stopped playing the sport.

Ringette first started in Richmond Hill in 1978 when the Arena Administrator heard that ringette was a growing on-ice sport for girls. Believing that girls in our town should have a chance to play, he started a one-hour weekly program.

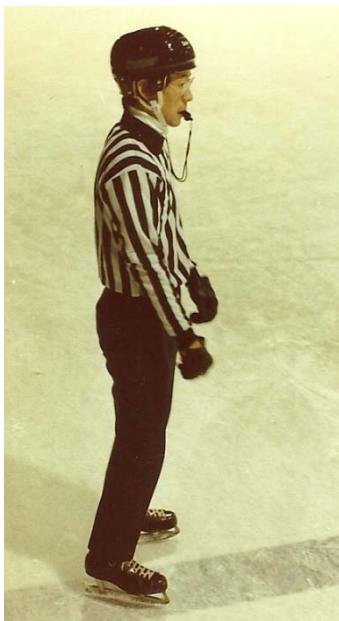
In 1979, Ted's daughter Lynne asked if she could join this sport, and there began Ted's involvement in what became the Association as we know it now.

In the summer of 1980, Ted and a few other parents met to try to create a more structured program. At the end of the 1980/81 season the



newly formed RHRA joined the Ontario Ringette Association. In its first year, goalie equipment and sweaters were borrowed from the Hockey Association. Ted was always on the lookout for broken hockey sticks which he sawed, planed and sanded then painted red, white or blue as coloured sticks indicated positions at that time.

Registration increased each year, and the 1981/82 season had enough players to form a four team house league, with each team having age defined "big shifts" and a "little shifts" which changed every 2 minutes on the buzzer. Seeing a need for coaches and referees, Ted worked to improve his skating skills as the only adult participating in the Power Skating sessions held each fall.



During the 80's ringette evolved. Markham started an association, which allowed Richmond Hill to have league play with neighbouring teams. Teams also entered into tournaments, and eventually competed in the Regionals. During this era, Ted was coach, referee, president, and referee-in-chief, often holding more than one position a season. He also wrote articles for the Richmond Hill Liberal to raise awareness of the sport.

Ringette was a family affair for the Moritsugu's. Ted's three daughters all played

for many years, some coached and refereed; his son refereed at the national level; and wife Nancy assisted with coaching, managing, time keeping, fund raising, hosting board meetings and billeting out-of-town referees.

In 1987, Ted was inducted into the ORA Hall of Fame as a Community Builder. In 1990, Ted and Nancy were recognized by the town of Richmond Hill as Volunteers of the Year, for developing ringette in the community.

In addition to building our Association, Ted volunteered with the ORA, as Chair of the Provincial Rules Development Committee, Referee Evaluator, Editor of the Ref-O-Gram (the referees' newsletter), Regional Referee Evaluator, and as a Supervisor of Officials at Provincial Championships from 1995 to 2004 and in 2007, some years at both the A and double A's.

Ted Moritsugu was primarily responsible for the establishment and growth of the Richmond Hill Ringette

Association through its first decade. Without his dedicated efforts, our Association would not be where it is today. Thank you, Ted.

King of the Ring

By Ned Bekavac *Guelph Tribune*

Sports

Feb 11, 2010

For Jack Kemper, the ring is the thing.

This past weekend, as the Guelph Ringette Association celebrated its officials as part of the 30th annual Guelph Ringette Tournament, Kemper could be seen doing what he's seemingly always been doing –refereeing ringette.

"It's just exciting to do. I just love the game, I don't know how (else) to explain it," says the longtime local ringette ref.

So strong is his love for the sport that Kemper has been officiating it for more than two decades now. He first got into ringette in Guelph in the mid-'70s when his parents were involved and his sister, Dora, was playing. (Dora would eventually move west and go on to win a national title in the Deb division with Calgary in 1990). In the early '80s, Kemper started coaching. Later that decade came refereeing. And to this day, he's still a star of stripes.

"I didn't think I'd be at it this long," Kemper says with a laugh.

Growing up playing house league hockey, there was something about ringette that really tickled his fancy.

"Ringette is a more team-oriented game because you have to pass a lot, like over the blue lines, and there is a lot more skating too . . . you really have to go all the time," says Kemper.

The appreciation for the game runs deep in his family to this day. He met his wife, Michelle –a current ringette player and coach – through the game. Daughter Ashton, 8, plays for the Guelph Novice B team –the team Michelle coaches –and daughter Mikaela, 4, has just started ringette this year as she plays in the Bunny Minor division.

"It looks like I will be involved for many more years to come," says Kemper, whose refereeing achievements include being selected to officiate at the Ontario Winter Games and at provincial AA and A championships.

With the 30th ringette tournament celebrating on-ice officials as its theme, we chatted with Kemper and fired a few questions his way.

Q: You've been refereeing ringette for 20-plus years. Can you relay a memorable on-ice moment?

Jack Kemper: This is a hard answer to put in words because you had to see this happen to get the full extent. I was on the ice doing a game and there was a turnover of the ring in the end zone. My partner was the lead official and I was the back official and when the turnover happened we had to skate very quickly and as my partner got up to speed, one of the girls on the ice clipped him and he fell on his back with his legs in the air. He then started sliding from one blue line passing both player benches and coming to a rest at the other blue line. It was the most incredible fall I ever saw. I blew the whistle and stopped play to see if he was O. K. and luckily for him he was. He also broke his helmet in the process. So after the initial shock, a minute of laughter broke out from both teams and fans, and me of course, and then we restarted the game. On a side note, we have an award we give out to the ref who has the greatest fall at the end of the provincial championships and he won the award hands down. Some of us still talk about it to this day.



Q: It's a random Saturday night and you're not refereeing. What might you be up to?

J. K.: A random Saturday night that there is no ringette, I am usually doing activities with the kids. Then when they go to bed I will sit back and relax listening to my music for the night or watching a late night movie.

Q: Do you foresee ringette ever becoming an Olympic sport?

J. K.: I would like to see it as an Olympic sport but I don't think it will happen because it is not a very popular sport overseas. There is some ringette in Sweden and Finland. Hopefully one day it will happen. I think it deserves to be there.

Q: We've all heard the stories about overzealous "hockey parents" taking it out on referees. Does this ever happen in ringette and, if so, can you tell us about one time it did?

J. K.: Overzealous parents, yes it does happen but not to the extent of hockey. To tell you the truth you really don't hear them yelling at you anyway because you are very focused on the game. You have to remember that ringette parents are just as passionate as hockey parents so they get right into the games. There are some refs that have kicked out fans out of the arena for being complete idiots, so it does happen.

Q: Your whole family is involved in ringette. How many hours a week is the family spending doing ringette things? What are some of the family's favourite non-ringette activities?

J. K.: Hours a week vary from week to week but it can range from three hours to about 20 and on occasion it could be more. Some weekends can get very hectic. Especially when you are doing a tournament like Guelph for instance, because I will be refing, my kids will be playing and my wife is coaching or playing or doing both. So you can be at different arenas at the same times, but we manage O. K. with good planning.

Non-ringette activities: The kids play soccer and baseball in summer and we also do lots of camping trips. My wife and I play baseball and I still play on two hockey teams which I have to fit between the ringette. So we keep very busy. We also like to go bowling

Q: You refereed 10 or more games at the tournament. How does the body feel when all is said and done . . . and how do you unwind?

J. K.: My body feels pretty stiff and sore after I am done. Once it is all done I go home, lay down, have a few drinks and hopefully don't have to get back up until the next morning. (If I can get back up.)

Upcoming Events

Not only will the beginning of the season be off to a fast start, but the last couple of months are power packed with events, as well. Here is this season's calendar of events:

- **October 8-10** - AAA Challenge Cup – Eastern Region
- **November 25-27** - AAA Challenge Cup – Western Region
- **February 10-12** - AAA Challenge Cup – Central Region
- **March 1-4** - AA Provincials – Whitby
- **March 9-12** - Ontario Winter Games – Collingwood
- **March 15-18** - A Provincials – West Ottawa
- **April 8-14** - Canadian Ringette Championships – Burnaby, BC
- **April 12-15** - U12 Event – West Ferris
- **April 12-15** - Eastern Canadian Championships – Montreal, QC

The POD Experience

By: Courtney Pettitt

The past two years I have been in the POD program have really been amazing. At first, I found it to be a tad overwhelming. I remember being at my first A/AA tournament and having about 8 black jackets (Evaluators) watching me. I recall how nervous I was and feeling like I was doing everything wrong. My post game evaluation was not the best, but this was a big stepping stone for me.

Near the second half of the year, I was getting more comfortable receiving feedback, both positive and negative. During the season, I reffed mostly "A" tournaments and did some regional games in my home association. I found that I didn't receive as much feedback in my first year as I did in my second year. The first year, I was trying to get comfortable knowing that evaluators were always watching and somebody would be providing me with some feedback. Officiating the higher level games was a good challenge for me and by the end of the year I started to feel more comfortable. I ended my season with two 3C and one 3B evaluations which I felt was a good accomplishment for me.

My second year in the POD program, I really focused and felt much more comfortable with people watching. I also found I was more comfortable talking with other refs about different situations and not being afraid to ask a dumb question. Every tournament that I went to, I received at least one formal evaluation or was provided with verbal feedback about things I could work on. Sometimes it was the same thing, but a lot of

the time it was something different. As I progressed into my second year, I started getting higher calibre games and found that people were comfortable with me doing them. It was reassuring to know that I had gained the trust from other officials. Being in the POD program helped people know who I was. I now feel very comfortable being evaluated.

This year the POD program enabled us to go to the U12 Provincial event. It was so much fun. You really felt like you were at provincials but without all of the pressure. Every game there was something to work on and you knew the next game they were watching to see if you could change it. Getting my first ever mini game was very exciting and very nerve racking. I was so excited that I don't remember much of the game, but I do remember all the refs cheering for me and my partner as we entered the ice. To me, that was the best part. I felt like I had earned that spot and others were happy for me. Along with the mini game, I also received the gold medal game for the Jacks division and earned a 4C evaluation.

Without the POD program, I do not believe that I would have been able to achieve these accomplishments. The time people spent with me and the feedback they provided me with helped so much. I finished my second year with a total of six 3C evaluations, three 3B evaluations and one 4C evaluation. The POD program has had a positive impact on my officiating career and has been a huge stepping stone in my development.

Courtney is a Level 3 official and recent graduate of the POD program



The Beginning of a Referee

By: Robert Drury

I have heard the question asked several times in the past: “why do people become referees?” When we ask this question in our clinics the number one reason for new referees is: “I want to make money” (that is before they find out how much they will actually make each month on average). There are others who want to get more involved with the sport and others who want to do it for the exercise, but I don’t believe that I had ever met someone who was born with the passion to be a referee until I was at the Canada Winter Games last February.

During the 2009 World Junior Championships in Prague, I had decided to blog my experiences for family and friends and Ringette Canada picked it up. They asked if I would consider blogging again during the 2011 Canada Winter Games and I agreed. After posting on the Thursday of the event, I had a fan from Nova Scotia leave an online comment on the blog, indicating that she was very thankful of me for doing this. She had attended every Nova Scotia game with their twin seven year old daughters, one who wants to continue to play as she gets older, and one (Abigail) who wants to be a referee! She indicated that Abigail would go to the games with a printout of all the referee signals and watch the referees intently, to figure out exactly what was being called. She would ask her mom to read her all of my blogs and checked several times each day for updates (even though I was only getting updates done every day or two).

I read this comment while waiting for the Nova Scotia game to start on Friday. After letting a few of my fellow officials read the comment, we decided it would be nice if we could find them and see if they wanted to sit with the referees for the game (generally the referees sit away from the fans in our own area); the challenge was going to be finding them. There had consistently been about 1000 people showing up for the Nova Scotia games, and we had no contact information. So we enlisted the help of the Ringette Canada staff along with several of the Canada Games volunteers who know the Ringette community, and eventually a little before game time we were able to track them down.

The supervisors took the girls down to the referee’s room to get some pictures taken with the referees of the Nova Scotia vs. Manitoba game; Karen and Danielle even let them have a picture wearing their referee shirts. They left the room with a souvenir, Danielle’s rule book, as the printout that Abigail had was an older one, so not only did the rulebook have all the signals in it, it had all the rules as well. Given it was Danielle who was the model in all the pictures of signals in the rulebook, they thought it was pretty cool. They then sat with the rest of the officiating crew for the entire game, asking a few questions throughout, and although Nova Scotia ended up losing, they had a good time nonetheless. After the game we

took them back down to the ref’s room for some more pictures and they left very happy.



As referees we don’t have many fans out there, so it is always nice to meet someone who is cheering for us, and also to know that there are members of the next generation who are not only passionate about our great sport, but about officiating as well.

Robert is a Level 5 official and is currently Ringette Canada’s editor of the rule book

Upgrade Requirements

All officials wishing to move up in rank must apply for their upgrade on-line. The “Request for Upgrade” form can be found on the ORA web-site in the Officiating section.

This procedure is the responsibility of the official. Once the request has been confirmed, the official will be notified by either their local Regional Coordinator or the Officiating Chair.

Level 2 – To upgrade, you must have a minimum of 2 on-ice evaluations by a community, regional or provincial evaluator. At least one evaluation must be by a different evaluator. You must have completed the Level 2/3 clinic.

Level 3 – To upgrade, you must have a minimum of 3 on-ice evaluations by a regional or provincial evaluator. At least 2 evaluations must be by a different evaluator and 1 must be by an evaluator from a different region. You must have completed the Level 2/3 clinic.

Level 4 – To upgrade, you must have a minimum of 4 on-ice evaluations by a provincial evaluator. At least 3 evaluations must be by a different evaluator and 1 must be from an evaluator from a different region. One evaluation must be on a “AA” tournament final game or a game deemed to be a level of difficulty comparable to a “AA” Provincial Championship game. You must have completed the Level 4 clinic.

Kitchener Official, Lorie Grant Achieves Level 5

Congratulations to Lorie Grant for achieving her Level 5 status last season and joining the ranks of Brent Bunting, Robert Drury, Natalie Fortin, Janyce Gunn, Danielle Lalonde-Clarkin, Kevin Lee and Karen Meek.

This is a very special level and can only be attained at the Canadian Ringette Championships and Canada Winter Games.

Police Records Check Requirements

All officials 18 years-of-age and older are required to have a PRC. This must be done at the beginning of the season. Any official without one, will not be able to officiate.

All PRC's are valid for three years, so if you are not sure if yours is valid, please contact the ORA office.

Hitting From Behind, Cross-checking and Slashing Headline the Rule Changes and Focus Items for 2011

This year's rule changes are not as "difficult" to follow as those from three years ago.

There's no "control" change to make life difficult. There should not be any "weird" signals and life should be fairly straight forward.

The main change to the rule is a modification to the Major penalty, which incorporates contact with the head or hitting from behind. It is now a major penalty for boarding, body contact, charging, cross checking or elbowing, that includes initial contact to the head or contact from behind (unless the intent is to injure; which constitutes a match penalty).

In addition, Ringette Canada has identified two "Areas of Emphasis" for this up-coming season: cross checking and slashing. The main focus is to ensure that we, as officials, consider intent and safety, not just advantage, when assessing penalties for cross checking and slashing. Over the years, we have gotten away from calling those slashing penalties in the arms and into the body because "it was small" or "she was trying to play the ring." We have allowed defenders to "push out" the offensive players with their sticks, in a subtle cross checking, but painful manner. But by doing so, the game has deviated away from where it should be and there is much more stick work in it than there should be.

These rule changes and areas of emphasis items will be discussed in detail during the Rule Change clinic, so pay

attention, as instructors and evaluators will be expecting you to make these changes to your game this fall.

Below is a summary of the rule changes for 2011-2012.

Section 3 – Dress of Players

3.1 Players of the same team, including goalkeepers, must wear identically coloured sweaters or tops. Snug fitting clothing must be worn, **which must cover the player's arms and legs.**

Section 11 – Violations

A violation is committed if a player:

11.2.a accidentally shoots or holds the ring out of play, **is the last player to contact the ring prior to it coming to rest on the back, side or top of the net**, is the last player to contact the ring prior to it leaving the playing area, or dislodges the net.

Section 12 – Consequences of Violations

12.1.c Play is stopped immediately if the ring leaves the playing area, if the net is dislodged from its normal position, **if the ring comes to rest on the back, side or top of the net**, or if a goalkeeper fails to wear mandatory protective equipment while involved in the play.

Section 16 – Major Penalties

16.2 A Major penalty is committed if a player commits a boarding, body contact, charging, cross checking or elbowing infraction that includes initial contact to the head or contact from behind. Should the on-ice official deem this contact was as a result of any intent to injure a Match Penalty shall be assessed.

Annex B – Officials

1. Appointment of Officials. For all play directly under the jurisdiction of Ringette Canada, the National Director of Officials / Officiating Committee Chair, or designate, **shall appoint up to four and not less than two on-ice officials** to referee each game, as well as a scorekeeper and a timekeeper. **The National Director of Officials/Officiating Committee Chair, or designate, may also appoint a Shot Clock Operator (as outlined in Annex A) if appropriate for the level of play.**

Ringette Canada Changes NOCP Classifications

Starting this season, the structure of our rankings will change slightly. To accommodate the LTAD model, where the U12 division no longer exists at the Provincial or "competitive" level, the "C" category of our ranking system now pertains to the U14 age group.

What this means is that if you are working towards a 2C, 3C or 4C, or you require your maintenance evaluation, you will now need to be evaluated on U14 games instead of U12 games. Though this may make things more difficult for some, it should provide for a better method of evaluation of all officials.

Central Region

Sam Campbell, Ajax	Community
Kent Missons, Oshawa	Community
Amy Murray, Sunderland	Community
Tara Armstrong, Oshawa	Regional
Dan Bartley, Ajax	Regional
Kelly Campbell, Ajax	Regional
Janyce Gunn, Oshawa	Regional
Rick Daly, Oshawa	Provincial
Rob Drury, Whitby	Provincial
Karen Meek, Bowmanville	Provincial

Eastern Region

Michelle Bainbridge, Carp	Community
Patricia Burke, Stittsville	Community
Dan Cockburn, Ottawa	Community
David Hanes, Kingston	Community
Marie-Catherine Laframboise, Gloucester	Community
Paul McBride, Ottawa	Community
Brian Sime, Kinburn	Community
Rob Hanson, Cumberland	Regional
Marie Shinmoto, Gloucester	Regional
Nathalie Fortin, Ottawa	Provincial
Laura Knowles, Ottawa	Provincial
Danielle Lalonde-Clarkin, Ottawa	Provincial
Lynne Pillion, Ottawa	Provincial

Northeastern Region

David Bretsznajder, Timmins	Community
Laurier Gadoury, Timmins	Community
Jeff Graham, North Bay	Community
Andre Labelle, Massey	Community
George Seymour, North Bay	Community
Mike Tambeau, Timmins	Community
Harry Hirsimaki, Sudbury	Regional
Wayne Spencer, Sault Ste. Marie	Regional

Southern Region

Marc Brisson, Brantford	Community
Doug Cope, Mississauga	Community
Rob Evans, Richmond Hill	Community
Darcy Hodgson, Cambridge	Community
Cam Mahy, Grimsby	Community
Kerri Mahy, Oakville	Community
Lyndsey Matsumura, St. Catharines	Community
Margareth Peressutti, Richmond Hill	Community
Stephanie Renda, Toronto	Community
Pat Turcotte, Caledonia	Regional
Gerri Lamers, Vaughan	Regional
Chris Bradt, Hamilton	Provincial
Brent Bunting, Barrie	Provincial
Jeff Evans, Richmond Hill	Provincial
Rick Thomson, St. Catharines	Provincial

Western Region

Andre Brisson, Tillsonburg	Community
Lorie Grant, Kitchener	Community
Denise Pelletier, Kitchener	Community
Evan Sharp, Guelph	Community
Steve Blacklock, Guelph	Provincial
Derek Burger, Wellesley	Provincial
Tania Pettitt-Tracey, Wellesley	Provincial

Community level evaluators can evaluate up to 2A, Regional level evaluators may evaluate up to 3A and Provincial level evaluators may evaluate up to 4A.

For information about, or to contact an evaluator, please contact your Regional Coordinator.

