

Ref-O-Gram

Winter 2000

Chair's Report

This Ref-O-Gram is shorter than past issues as there is not a great deal of information to pass on. There are a number of topics that I am sure you will recognize from past issues.

Evaluations are generally going well again this year. However, we still need those officials who want to improve and advance to get to tournaments!!!! While we don't disregard non-tournament evaluations, realistically, our evaluators give up their weekends to both evaluate and officiate.

A number of evaluators have been able to get to some games during the week, but they've told me it's getting more difficult to find the time during the week to drive to evaluate one game.

As most of you are aware, if you want to officiate at a tournament, you must plan ahead and keep after the tournament referee-in-chief until you get confirmation that you are scheduled for the tournament.

Another tip: ALWAYS KEEP YOUR COPY OF THE EVALUATION. In the past some evaluations have gone missing, but, fortunately, the officials had their copies so the problem was easily fixed.

Enclosed with this Ref-O-Gram is your membership card. If there are any problems with it, please inform your Regional Co-ordinator ASAP. We are only human, and, believe me, we make our share of mistakes. To give you an idea, from last season to this, I confirmed over 90 rank changes. There is a lot of information to check and double-check for these changes and occasionally some gets missed, so let us know if there are any problems.

Belated congratulations to Steve Moritsugu, Provincial Referee of the Year for 1998-99. No, you don't have to leave the province to get the award.

Do you want to know what you need to move up or to maintain your level? The Regional Co-ordinators and all our Provincial Evaluators have that information. All other evaluators have summary information about officials, listing your current rank and card number, but not all your details.

I'm always asking for your input about the officiating program: what you like, what you don't like, and why. We very rarely get feedback; as I have stated in the past, if we don't know it's broken, we can't fix it.

This year we received a lot of feedback about clinics. Basically, officials are not pleased about having to attend a Level 1 clinic instead of a refresher clinic. I have spoken to a number of individuals about this, and there is one thing everyone should understand: there are specific requirements for attendance at a refresher clinic as opposed to a Level 1 clinic, and while a number of officials didn't like having to attend the Level 1 clinic, there were absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS to the clinics.

This particular problem will not arise again for three years, but as I have stated many times before, if you do have problems we will do our best to resolve them. The Officiating Development Committee will address this situation at our next standing committee meeting, in April. Any changes will be included in the next Ref-O-Gram.

If you have Internet access, take a look at the ORA website where you can find the current Operating Manual, tournament listings and other information. The address is:
www.ontario-ringette.com

There is still a lot of ringette left this season, so I'll see you around the arenas.

Chris Bradt 905: 544-9209
Chair, Officiating Development Committee

Regional Officiating Co-ordinators

Central Karen Meek 705: 953-9271

Eastern Mario Periard
Home: 613: 446-5009 Work: 613: 446-5896
Cellular: 613: 277-6197 (answering machine)

North East Dennis Laverdiere 705: 566-4820
Assistant: Ken Lajeunesse 705: 983-4126

North West Mary-Kay Migay 807: 767-7814

Southern Carol Liscombe 905: 768-5911

Western Jeff Clark 519: 642-0564

So, what do the Co-ordinators do to get the big bucks, anyway?

As with most amateur sports, ringette couldn't survive without the time and effort of its volunteers such as the Regional Co-ordinators. Of the current group, Jeff Clark and Ken Lajeunesse are the rookies, Dennis Laverdiere is back for another stint after a break, and Mary-Kay Migay is in her second season on the Officiating Committee. The veteran co-ordinators are Karen Meek, in her 8th season, Carol Liscombe, 5 years, and Mario Periard in his 4th season.

The co-ordinators and the Officiating Chair get together twice a year when all standing committees (G&T, Coaching, Officiating, etc.) meet, to make plans and to resolve any problems.

With rule changes this season, the Co-ordinators have been especially busy. After attending an Instructors' clinic in September, they started running clinics (Refresher, Level 1 and Rules for Coaches) and arranging for other instructors to be at clinics. The end of the last clinic must have been a relief; they could stop talking in a classroom setting and start calling games, evaluating, or both.

As usual, they'll be giving input to the Chair as part of the process for selecting officials for the Provincial Championships. To do this properly, they have to attend a number of tournaments to determine how referees are progressing (or, sometimes, regressing) and to see referees who they may not have seen for a couple of years, if ever.

Responsibilities will vary from one region to another. In some regions, the Co-ordinator may be the Regional representative at some tournaments. Regional Committee meetings and Regional

Executive meetings may also require their attendance.

Most Co-ordinators have a meeting for local Referees-in-Chief early in the season, to help the local RICs get organized for the season, especially those who are handling that job for the first time. And, there are always calls asking for help in finding referees for league games and for tournaments.

A major project is selecting and scheduling officials for their own regional championships. When the infinitely long weekend of the Regionals is finally over, most co-ordinators will sit back, relax and say, "Never again!"

But by the time the Regional Committees have their last meetings of the season, they somehow allow their names to be entered into nomination for the next season. And for that, people, THANKS!

New Case Book Available Soon

With the Rules rewritten, the Case Book had to be completely revised. We understand that it will include the actual rule followed by cases and rulings. It's been a long process, but publication is in sight, possibly about the end of January.

All officials are urged to get a copy from their Regional Co-ordinator. The cost should be \$17.00.

Movin' on??

Please remember to advise the ORA if you're moving. Let them know at

1185 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 705,
North York, ON, M3C 3C6

Phone: 416: 426-7204

Fax: 416: 426-7359

E-mail: ontring@interlog.com

Contest - Best Referee Excuse

Again, the response to the Contest announced in the September Ref-O-Gram was underwhelming. Only Michelle McNellan responded and she's the winner of a \$10.00 gift certificate from the Bay for this excuse:

"Sorry, coach, I used the wrong anti-perspirant this morning after I shaved my armpits. They sting so much, I have to put my arm up a lot."

Overheard in the Lobby...

"Did you have fun playing today?"

"Aw, Mom, every time they got the ring in our end, all I did was stand in the triangle, like the coach said."

"Well, dear, standing there is what you do best."

**Check the enclosed membership card
for your new number**