

Ref-O-Gram

Winter 2002

Report from the Officiating Committee

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a nice holiday and is ready to work off some of those festive calories.

Thanks to those officials and committee members who participated in the three "AAA" Challenge Cups and congratulations to those who have been chosen to officiate at the Ontario Winter Games in March.

The Officiating Committee hosted a Level 4 Clinic in November 2001. Congratulations to all who attended and thank you to Al Fletcher and Steve Moritsugu who instructed it.

The Provincial "AA"s are being held February 28-March 3 in London, the Provincial "A"s are March 14-17 in Stratford and the Adult Provincials are April 12-14 in Markham.

Remember not to leave your maintenance evaluation until the last minute. This puts you and the Evaluator in an awkward position. If you are a Level 3 or 4 and are having difficulty receiving your maintenance in the required time frame, send a letter explaining your situation to your Regional Co-ordinator who can then present it to the committee for review. Level 1 and 2 officials must receive an evaluation at least every other year in order to maintain their levels.

New stick gauges from Ringette Canada should now be available. Please contact your Regional Co-ordinator to purchase one. Apparently, some of the old ones did not meet the correct specifications.

Your officiating membership card should be included in this issue of the Ref-O-Gram. If your card is incorrect, please contact your Regional Co-ordinator. As usual, if you have questions on any aspect of the officiating programme, please contact your Regional Officiating Co-ordinator.

***Karen Meek
Officiating Committee Liaison***

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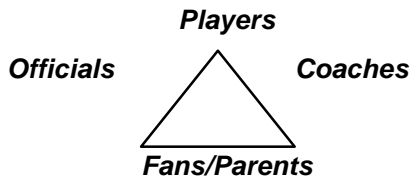
"Blowing the Whistle" Workshop

In October at a workshop, "Blowing the Whistle", held by the Niagara Region Sports Initiative Committee, officials from different sports met to discuss how to attract and retain officials.

With officials from hockey, football, lacrosse, sledge hockey, soccer, basketball and track & field, among others, I watched a video, "Drawing the Line" which focused on inappropriate behaviour by coaches.

Here are some notes from the workshop:

- A typical sport can be described as a triangle with three equal sides.



- But, coaches, officials and fans/parents aren't needed for a game; kids play street hockey with no coaches, officials and fans. I've played pickup hockey and beach volleyball and the same applies. So, the most important ingredient is players; without them we have no game.
- Officials must be fair and impartial, be committed and give a 100% effort.
- Communication on the ice is important, as is looking the part and having a little humanity (smile a little).
- Some suggestions:
 - Keep your head on straight
 - Don't be a tough guy; be a people person
 - Don't get into confrontations
- Dealing with coaches:
 - If you have to focus on the coach, deal with it
 - Answer questions, but don't stop the flow of the game
 - Choose your words wisely
 - Let your whistle do the communicating; keep your mouth shut
 - Silence cannot be questioned

- Don't argue with players or coaches; focus on the game and forget the fans.

We broke up into smaller groups to answer four questions. Here are the questions and responses.

1. Why did you get involved with officiating?
 - Thought I could do a better job than existing officials
 - Frustration with existing officials
 - Money
 - Love of the game
 - To give something back
 - Exercise
2. What are the pros of officiating?
 - Promote fair play
 - Sense of accomplishment and/or satisfaction/fulfillment
 - Friendship
 - Travel
 - Money
 - Fun
 - Being able to work a "big game" (reward)
 - Community involvement
 - Development/internship
 - Watching skilled athletes in action
 - Character building
3. What are the cons of officiating?
 - Lack of focus by other officials who were not into the game
 - Verbal chatter/abuse
 - Cheating and/or manipulation of the rules
 - "Know-it-alls"
 - Physical abuse
 - Abuse from players, coaches, fans
 - Politics
 - Moral dilemmas (when to step in, when to refuse to officiate)
4. What steps would you recommend to improve the environment of officiating?

- More training
- Recruitment
- Reduce abuse
- Enforced code of conduct for all involved
- Mutual respect among all participants
- Teach participants/fans the rules
- Interactive workshop with officials, coaches, players & fans
- Eliminate intimidation of young officials by adults
- Mentoring system (senior officials with new/junior officials)
- Be consistent with expectations
- Encourage young/new officials
- Continuous education of fans, coaches, players and officials
- Target issues and make improvements
- Have coaches learn to officiate
- Have an active officials' association

This quote summarizes what I learned at the workshop: "Know what the rules say and understand the meaning."

Stephan De Montigny

Regional Information

Southern Region

Happy New Year. I hope everybody had a great holiday season and you're now ready to start the second half of the season.

The Southern Region held two Level 1 clinics which registered 41 new officials. Seven officials attended the Level 2/3 clinic.

Just a reminder that next season will be a rule change year. There will be refresher clinics for Level 1 & 2 officials and separate refresher clinics for Level 3 & 4 officials. New officials will attend Level 1 clinics. No Level 2/3 clinics will be offered.

Have fun.

Stephan De Montigny 905: 690-2174

(Editor's note: Apologies to Carol Liscombe, former Southern Region Co-ordinator. In the last issue of the Ref-O-Gram I listed her phone number as Steph's. I understand Carol had some interesting conversations with officials trying to reach Steph. Also, please note Stephan's new e-mail address, listed on the first page with the co-ordinators' contact information. *TM*)

Central Region

So, you made it through the first half of the season and you're ready to jump into the second half. The second half always seems so hectic with all the tournaments, Regionals and Provincials.

This year's Regionals are being hosted by Pickering, March 22-24, 2002. I will be making phone calls soon to invite people.

I know I'm beginning to sound like a broken record, but evaluations are of the utmost importance. You'll never improve your abilities or upgrade if you don't get them. Evaluators in our region are:

Karen Meek	705: 953-9271
Janyce Gunn	905: 725-3402
Kelly Campbell	905: 427-8047
Robert Drury	905: 655-3488

Please contact one of us to make arrangements to come out and watch you.

It is also important to travel to different tournaments. If you are interested in one but don't know who to contact, give me a call.

Good luck with the remainder of your season; we'll see you around the arenas.

Before you throw the envelope away, take out your membership card!

Let's shake on that!

Should you shake hands with the team staffs before a game? It can delay the start of the game and I've heard of an official shaking hands with all but one coach, with whom he had some history, hardly a good way to establish rapport or leave the impression that you're unbiased and will call the game fairly. The best course of action seems to be to not shake hands before a game, if possible.

After the game, though, I appreciate teams coming to shake my hand, as it's usually the younger players and my hands could be cold.

Evaluators' Updates

Steve Blacklock has moved back to Guelph. His new phone number is 519: 824-0199.

Stephanie Renda is in Hamilton this season. She can be reached at 905: 521-9444.

The evaluators who attended the Regional clinic at the Cambridge tournament will advance when they complete their practical requirements.

Disa & Data

Remember, next season will be a rule change year, so all returning officials will have to attend a refresher clinic... Wondering how to get to an arena? Go to the ORA website, www.ontario-ringette.com and look under "Links" for "Arena Maps", at the bottom. The website also has current tournament listings, the ORA Operating manual and other information of interest, including links to many related sites... Ever skated backwards to the free play line after blowing in an offensive free pass, and knocked over a player? Maybe I should get backup lights and a beeping signal, because it happened to me in a Novice game this season... Players with long hair not tied up or tucked into their helmets often obscure their sweater numbers. Here's another problem: a long-haired player fell to the ice in a Tween game recently; another player skated by and her skate blade cut some of the first player's hair. The ref had to clean up hair from the ice before starting the next free pass.

Quote...Unquote

“Most people do not care to be taught what they do not know; it makes them feel ignorant.”

Mary McCarthy, novelist

Jane Larkworthy: Hall of Famer

Almost 20 years ago at a tournament in Stayner, when I heard, “Jane’s here”, my reaction was, “Who is Jane?” Since then I’ve found that she’s an able administrator, a top-level evaluator and a nit-picking writer and editor of rules, among other things. From some of her longtime friends in ringette, I’ve gleaned more information.

Jane, an only child, was born in Stratford and grew up there. She first played ringette about 1974; in her second year she was given a whistle and told to referee as she was a better skater than the other players. Like all good officials, Jane progressed, eventually becoming a Level 4A and officiating at the Nationals.

She also became an evaluator and from 1985 to 1989 was the Chair of the ORA Officiating Committee. Then, Jane moved on to Ringette Canada, serving as Chair of the National Officiating Committee from 1989 to 1995 and as 2nd Vice-President-Technical in 1995. Jane was instrumental in developing the Rules Case Book and has been an editor and contributor to many revisions of the Official Rules.

ORA has recognized Jane’s many contributions: Hall of Fame and Life Member–1990; Official of the Year–1991; Adult Volunteer of the Year–1992. And, she continues her ringette involvement as the Ringette representative to the Canadian Standards Association, playing recreational ringette in Kitchener, assisting in the development of officials in Stratford and the surrounding area and being Director of Officials or an Officiating Supervisor at recent provincial championships.

As well as her involvement with ringette officiating, Jane was a Nationally-ranked softball umpire and evaluator, umpiring at the 1982 Junior Ladies Fastpitch Championships. More recently, with her fiancée, Wayne, she’s become a keen curler. In the warmer months they enjoy fishing and spending weekends at the cottage near Wiarton. Jane has only one dependant, Kelsey, a Border Collie.

Professionally, Jane holds a B.Sc. in Kinesiology from Waterloo and taught there for 17 years. She is now the on-site Kinesiologist at a Wellness Centre in Stratford.

Now, if I were asked “Who is Jane?” I guess I’d have to paraphrase the poet and reply, “How do I tell thee? Let me count the ways...”

TM

Congratulations to **Agnes Jacks**, appointed this January as a member of the Order of Canada by the Governor-General, recognizing her outstanding efforts for Ringette in Canada.

Look for the snowflake lapel pin whenever you see Agnes after the presentation ceremony later this year.

Any comments or suggestions for future Ref-O-Grams?

Please contact the Officiating Committee or Ted Moritsugu, Ref-O-Gram Editor, c/o ORA