

Ref-O-Gram

Winter 2003

Officiating Development Chairman's Report

Hello, all. Best of the Holiday Season to everyone. Hope things with you and yours went well.

The season is now well under way, with a number of tournaments already completed and many more on the horizon and league play well into the second half of the schedule. Remember to contact your local or regional referee-in-chief in order to have your name submitted for tournaments and league play. It is **your** responsibility to get your name put forward so you can be selected to work tournaments and special events. Don't hesitate to contact me as well if I can be of assistance in providing information on how to take part in ringette events away from home.

With this issue of the Ref-O-Gram you will find your Officiating Card. Please ensure that your rank is correct on your card. If it is not, contact me right away by phone or e-mail so we can work together to rectify the situation. Always remember to keep ALL copies of your evaluations so, if required, you can prove what rank you should be. You earned the rank, now ensure you are given the credit you are due. However, before you contact me, remember that if you are a level 1 or 2, you need an evaluation at your current rank every two years. That means if you were a level 2C, you must have a 2C evaluation dated between December 15, 2000 to December 15, 2002. If you are a level 3 or 4, you need an evaluation every season at your current rank. For example, a level 4C would need an evaluation to 4C or higher between December 15, 2001 and December 15, 2002. In both cases if you do not fulfill this requirement, you WILL be downgraded one full number category. If you haven't had an evaluation within these time frames, that may be the reason your rank is lower than you expected.

After many years as Western Region Co-ordinator, Jeff Clark has decided it's time for a change. Bill Kaiser succeeds Jeff as the Co-ordinator for the balance of the season. Thanks, Jeff, and welcome aboard, Bill.

Done a shot clock game yet? If you are working these games in your area, please review the rules surrounding shot clock use. It is imperative that we are all familiar with these rules so they are called on a consistent basis for all of the teams. We owe it to all participants to be in touch with the on-ice rules of our sport.

Early in December the Challenge Cup tournament was held in Mississauga. This event was used for the first time as a "scouting" event for officials. Regional co-ordinators provided me with names of officials who they thought would benefit from this type of opportunity. It was a great success, with many newer officials having the chance to show what they had to offer the program, with the potential for future selection to Provincial Championship events. Now, if you are sitting there saying, "Hey, I would like that kind of chance", let your regional co-ordinator know that you are interested so you, too, could have the chance in upcoming seasons.

In closing, I wish you the best in the rest of the season. Never hesitate to contact me by phone or by e-mail. I look forward to seeing you at the rinks.

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Moving? Remember to advise the ORA at
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Rule Changes Again?

So you've finally got a handle on the shot clock rules and other changes? Consider this: if you want to put forward rule change suggestions for the next revision of the rules, the deadline is June 15. We only get one season under the latest rules before we have to propose any more changes.

The Ringette Canada (RC) rules are revised every three years. September 1 is the deadline for provincial and territorial associations to submit proposals for changes to RC. All proposals are circulated among the provinces and territories and voted upon. Proposals supported by 2/3rds of the provinces and territories make up the rule change package voted upon at the 2004 RC Annual General Meeting. Changes adopted at that meeting will be included in the next rule book, effective for the 2005-2008 seasons.

During last fall's World Series, during discussion of a controversial call, I heard Steve Palermo, Major League Baseball's Supervisor of Officials say, "Major League Baseball rules should have more input from the officials."

How about you? Do you have ideas which might improve our game?

If so, access the Policy Manual on the ORA website and look for the Rule Change Suggestion Form. Remember to get your suggestions to the ORA by June 15.

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

The Agnes Jacks Scholarship

Ringette Canada awards a number of \$1,000 scholarships each year towards post-secondary education for ringette players, coaches and officials with a strong academic performance and a commitment to ringette. The deadline for the 2003-2004 academic year is January 31, 2003.

Get more details and application forms from the ORA or Ringette Canada offices or from the Ringette Canada website at www.ringette.ca.

Evaluators' Updates

Steve Blacklock has a new phone number in Guelph. It's 519: 780-1845.

Disa & Data

The Rules Case Book should be available from your Regional Co-ordinator or from the ORA offices by the time you read this. Price? Not sure, but the last one

was \$17.00... You can subscribe to get automatic updates from the ORA website. See the website at www.ontario-ringette.com.

About evaluations

I heard a referee-in-chief tell a young Level 1 official that he hadn't had any evaluations because he wasn't close to earning a Level 2 rating. This approach doesn't allow the official a chance to get feedback about his strengths and what he should be working on to improve. In an ideal world, every official would be evaluated in every game. The purpose of the evaluation process is for officials to learn and improve, not just to pass a test.

Overheard at the rink

From your typical leather-lunged fan:

"How come white gets the free pass, ref? It shoulda been 'Touchdown!!'"

On ice, during a game with no shot clock, from a team used to playing with the clock, as the attacking team applied pressure and circled the net:

"Where's the shot clock? Where's the shot clock?"

Ed Miles, a Ringette Pioneer

Last year, at the Provincial A Championships in Stratford, I met Ed Miles, whose name had sounded familiar, when he was mentioned as part of the host committee. I found out why: Ed and his late wife, Jackie, had started production of the Nu-Sty-Al aluminum ringette stick in the late 1970s. I was lucky enough to have a couple of long chats with Ed about his interesting life and his involvement with ringette, especially in its earlier days.

A Toronto native, Ed and his family moved in 1968 to the Montreal area because of a job-related transfer. With three sons and no daughters, Jackie volunteered with girls' activities, including volleyball. Ed, meanwhile, was on a committee responsible for organizing the building of the first twin-pad complex in Canada, in Pierrefonds.

In 1972, Jackie drafted Ed into refereeing ringette in Pierrefonds; the rules were only a page and a half long. A parents' meeting was held to discuss the rules and to ask how parents thought they should be called. This resulted in a lot less reaction from stands than referees hear today.

The two-referee "deep left" system had been developed in Quebec. At Ontario/Quebec liaison meetings in the early 1970s, Ed introduced this style of refereeing to Ontario officials. About this time, the practice of a Mohawk turn and backwards skating from the blue line was developed, instead of forward with shoulder check.

The Miles family moved to Stratford in 1974 and Ed reffed at the first Ontario Provincial Championships, in Etobicoke. In the Belle final, at a stoppage, he threw the ring down a hallway to gain time to consider ring placement, resulting in the maxim, "When in doubt, throw it out".

With CCM sponsoring, Ed introduced a monthly draw to award helmets to Ontario ringette referees. About 16 helmets were given away over two seasons. Eventually, helmets became mandatory for ringette referees.

From 1976 to 1978, Ed was the first ORA Ref-in-chief. Among the changes he was proud about was the requirement that each region bring a female official to provincials. At the first Provincials, in Sudbury, a practice day for officials was organized. Skating practice, including Mohawk turns, was held. Ed arranged for a father to be in the stands at the blue line to yell as the referees made their front-to-back turns, to simulate game conditions.

During Ed's time, officials were instructed not to have any physical contact with fighting players. Some female refs were not strong enough to break up a fight and some male refs were a lot taller than most players. As well, possible problems from male-female physical contact could be avoided. Fighters were to receive a one game suspension.

Ed developed the aluminum Nu-Sty-Al stick (now the Thunderstick); it was safer (no splinters or jagged edges if broken), and had a longer-wearing tip. It was approved by an on-ice official at the first Ringette Canada Championships, in Winnipeg in 1979.

Other highlights and interesting memories gleaned from Ed:

- At the first Ontario Winter Games in the 1970s, ringette was a demonstration sport, allowed 55 minutes.
- 1978-79: Ed became the first Ringette Canada RIC; because he travelled extensively for work, the cash-strapped Ringette Canada didn't have to pay for his travel expenses.
- 1984: Took the Stratford Belles to Finland & Sweden, playing games and teaching their host teams.
- 1985: Ed & Jackie were recognized by ORA as Community Builders.

A witness to many changes over the years, especially in mandatory equipment, Ed had been a goalkeeper in hockey and was carded by the St. Mike's system, then part of the Toronto Maple Leafs development program, as a bantam. With this background, he knew that a ringette goalkeeper wasn't wearing a chest pad when he stepped on the ice to referee a game. After much discussion, she contended that she had adequate protection as she was wearing a padded bra. Can you picture Ed skating away, struggling not to laugh?

It's interesting that the small Stratford Ringette Association has provided two Ringette Canada referees-in-chief: Jane Larkworthy and Ed Miles.

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

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