

Ref-O-Gram

Winter 2006

Officiating Development Chairman's Report

Well, this has been quite a season, hasn't it? There are many things I want to discuss in this report which are of importance.

First, the Field Report and Membership Cards. In April, 2005, Ted Moritsugu was named as the Evaluations Manager and was tasked with the rebuilding and maintenance of the Field Report, which is unquestionably a huge task. Without question, I had no idea what this job entailed when I asked Ted to take it over. The work he has put into the new field report and evaluations is astronomical and the Committee and I thank him very much. The Field Report and Membership Cards will be complete by the end of January and the Cards are enclosed with this mailing. We are hoping that this will be the most accurate Field Report ever and that from this point forward it will be accurate and up to date.

The Mentoring Program has been working very well since the beginning of the season and we have seen a great deal of improvement in many of the members of this program. There has been, however, some misunderstanding of this program. It is not an "elite" program which is focused on taking "elite" officials and making them better. It is a program focused on "coaching" officials who have shown the basic skills and positive attitude that are required to succeed. The members of this program are not "better" than any other official; they have simply shown the desire and effort to succeed. All officials should share the same goals. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Steph Renda (Northwest), Ryan Brown (West) and Jill Wannamaker (West) from the program who have been selected to join the On-Ice Officiating Team for the 'A' Provincials in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Well done. Remember, the journey has just begun. Keep working. A special thank you to Rick Thomson, Director of Scouting for all of the work that he has done in ensuring the members of the program get opportunities they require to succeed. Thank you as well to the tournament Referee-in-Chiefs that have been very supportive of the program.

In the vein of hard work and professionalism, I really hope all of you take the time to read the article by David Baker, the NHL Technical Manager, Officiating which is reproduced in this Ref-O-Gram. He makes many points that are so very applicable to officiating in the sport of Ringette. In the last several months, I have had the opportunity to see the best that we have to offer in terms of On-Ice Officials in Ontario. I have also had the opportunity to see the worst. We are the ONLY paid persons in the sport of Ringette that are actually involved with the on-ice portion of the game. We have a job to do and we are paid to do it. I am concerned at the level of professionalism I have seen in a number of instances. Be prepared for each game, warm up, be aware of the rules and their application and be open to liaisons with coaches, players, other officials and supervisors. It is your job to do so; you ARE NOT a volunteer. Each assignment is a job and you are to approach it this way.

In closing, I would like to thank each of the Regional Co-Coordinators for all of their hard work and dedication. Brent Bunting has been instrumental in the maintenance of the Website with the Webmaster Keith Kaiser as well as production of the Ref-O-Gram.

As we move into the busiest time of the season with Provincials, Regionals, Ontario Winter Games and Nationals, I encourage all of you to put your best product on the ice. The teams, players, fans, coaches and your partners deserve it.

Good luck and have a great remainder of the 2005/2006 season.

Derek Burger, 519/634-1120
Chairman of Officiating Development
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Regional Information

Central Region

Hard to believe that the first half of the season is over. Now the busy time begins; Prelims, Regionals, Provincials, etc.

If you're interested in going to a tournament, but don't know who to contact, give me a call and I'll send you in the right direction.

Remember to get your maintenance evaluations. If you're having difficulty in this area, let me know and we'll make some arrangements.

Regionals will be hosted in Oshawa this year. I will be selecting officials over the next couple of months to work them.

Have a good season and keep up the hard work.

Karen Meek
Central Region Officiating Coordinator
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NorthWestern Region

Well, we're half way done yet another season! I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday and is ready to get back on the ice.

The first half of the year was relatively busy in the Northwest. The Level 1 Officiating Clinic held in Thunder Bay was well attended by both new and seasoned officials, everyone learned a lot and after having seen some of the new officials out on the ice they seem to be applying what they have learned quite nicely. Good job everyone!!

The second half of the year will keep officials busy with regular season and tournament games. Don't forget that if you are interested in being evaluated that you need to contact either your local referee-in-chief (looking to move within level 1) or me (looking to move beyond level 1).

Good luck with the rest of the season and I hope to see you around the rink!!

Stephanie Renda
NorthWestern Region Officiating Coordinator
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Eastern Region

Well I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year. We all know that the upcoming months will be busy with tournaments. If you are interested in attending a tournament in the Ottawa region please send an e-mail to Lynn Phillion or myself. The focus for the Eastern region is to continue with development of officials. We can't do that without all our great evaluators that take the time to go to the rinks and evaluate. Let's have a great second half and see you all around the rink.

Natalie Fortin
Eastern Region Officiating Coordinator
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Southern Region

The second half of the 2005-2006 season is well under way. The next two months is the most important time of the year for all teams.

The Provincial Prelims will be held in Richmond Hill on the first weekend in February, with the winners advancing to either the Provincial AA Championships in Waterloo or the Provincial A Championships in Sault St. Marie. Be aware that not only the winners gain entry to the championships, as there are typically wildcard spots made available in most divisions. These spots are decided by head to head results between the teams not winning their regional championships. This means that ALL games during tournament and league play have added meaning this time of the year. In other words, we need to continue providing 100% effort for all games regardless of the score.

For those of you wishing to be evaluated, it is up to you to contact your local RIC or an evaluator. A list of evaluators was sent to each of you along with the contact information in the fall Ref-O-Gram. The best place to get evaluated is at tournaments, as each tournament should have an evaluator available. Be sure to contact the tournament RIC of your request before the tournament begins so that the evaluator can be notified.

Keep working hard and I will see you around the rink.

Brent Bunting
Southern Region Officiating Coordinator
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“Perception is Reality”

Someone once told me that regardless of how hard you work to better yourself on the ice, it means nothing if you don't look and act the part.

The following article has been taken from the NHLOA website and truly reflects the feelings of the Officiating Committee on how we, as officials, should conduct our selves at and away from the rink.

Attitude and Perception

By David Baker
NHL Technical Manager, Officiating

I think that if any two individual traits can be identified as clear cut downfalls to becoming a successful official, having poor attitude and being perceived in a negative light are the two traits that I would select. The attitude with which you approach officiating and the way you are perceived can quickly eliminate you from any aspirations you might have of becoming an official at the upper level game.

A good, positive attitude towards officiating is essential to development. Those who display a positive attitude tend to develop quickly. A good attitude is shown through hustle, determination and enthusiasm. The official never looks bored or acts as if a game assignment is below his or her capabilities. Officials with a good positive attitude work hard at developing communication with players, coaches and other officials. They don't show off and always give 100%, regardless of the game or the situation.

An official with a good attitude accepts constructive criticism. He or she doesn't make excuses, but listens to the supervisor and absorbs what is said. The official with a good attitude will take something from the supervisor's feedback and become a better official. An official with a positive attitude will not "suck-up" to supervisors, assignors and senior officials, but will listen, watch and learn. An official with a good attitude can easily be spotted. He or she is the official who really looks excited about officiating, at any level.

The perceptions given by an official can also be one's downfall. If an official arrives at the arena wearing old clothes, a team jacket and a baseball cap, who is going to think you are there to take charge of 40 hockey players? If an official is willing to put his or her hand out at the end of the day and accept some money for officiating the games, then that official should show up looking and acting in a professional manner.

On-ice mannerisms can also lead to poor perceptions of an official. Body language can send all the wrong messages. If an official stands with his or her arms crossed, this can be interpreted as being bored, uncaring or uninterested. Hands on the hips may be considered as confrontational or impatient. Hands on the knees during play or leaning on the boards can be interpreted as being lazy and/or out of shape. All of these things can work in a negative manner and make the individual's ability to officiate that much more difficult. The job is difficult enough as it is, so why do anything to make it harder?

Also, you must lead by example. If you are required to wear a helmet and/or visor, wear them properly. Wear them in the manner they are supposed to be worn as described by the manufacturer and your hockey governing body. How can you enforce the rules if you are breaking them? You can't. Dress the part. Make sure your uniform is clean. White laces and polished skates go a long way to showing your dedication to officiating and the willingness to try your best.

Finally, officials must also remember that the more games they do, the more chances there are that they will be recognized outside of the arena. Here too it is important to be careful how you are perceived. The credibility of an official will most likely be affected if they are seen in a negative light outside the arena by those that may see them with the striped shirt on the next day. Officials must keep this in mind.

A good positive attitude and the willingness to learn is a key to becoming the best official you can be. This, along with the awareness of how you are perceived on and off the ice, will assist in developing your professional approach to officiating.

Official of the Year Awards

Do you know someone who has consistently proven himself or herself on and off the ice? Someone who has put in that extra time required to become a better official? If so, maybe it's time for that person to be recognized.

Every year ORA and each of the regions reward those officials who have dedicated themselves off the ice, as volunteers and have proven themselves at a high level on the ice. To be eligible, the official must currently be ranked at 3B for the Provincial award and 2C for the Regional award.

If you think you know someone who is deserving of either award, contact your local association representative and have them submit the application forms.

Past Provincial Official of the Year award winners:

2005 Geri-Louise Lamers - Cambridge
2004 Lynne Phillion - Gloucester-Cumberland
2003 Natalie Fortin - Eastern
2002 Sue Blacklock - Stratford
2001 Kevin Lee - Mississauga
2000 Mario Periard - Clarence-Rockland
1999 Steve Moritsugu - Independent
1998 Kelly Campbell - Ajax
1997 Sue Shantz - Mariposa
1994 Karen Meek – Mariposa
1993 Chris Bradt - Orangeville
1992 Steve Blacklock - Guelph
1991 Jane Larkworthy - Stratford
1990 Mark Renkiewicz - Oshawa
1989 Bradley J. Minor - St. Catharines
1988 Doug MacQuarrie – Gloucester
1987 Sheri Tulk – Sudbury

Registration Cards

Each of you should have received your new ORA Registration Card with this Ref-O-Gram. Please check that your rank on the card is correct. If it is not, please contact your Regional Coordinator so that we may look into the mistake. Always keep your evaluations, as sometimes things do get lost at our end and it may be your only record of the job you did.

Overtime

As the year winds down the chance of having to officiate an overtime game increases. As such, it is a good time to refresh **some** of the overtime rules.

Overtime is covered under Section 5 in the case book and is at the discretion of the tournament organizers.

Unless the tournament informs you otherwise, the length of overtime periods shall be the same as the regulation periods. If you played 15 minute periods, then the overtime periods will be 15 minutes long as well.

Awarding of the ring for the first overtime period shall be determined through the use of a coin toss. The coin toss shall be performed in the referee crease where the home team calls it in the air. The winner of the coin toss gets the ring and the loser gets choice of ends. Should there be subsequent overtime periods, ring placement alternates between teams and teams change ends.

Each team gets one additional timeout per overtime period and can accumulate them as the game continues. And...the goalie CAN be pulled at any time in overtime.

Provincials Selection List

This year's Provincials Selection List consisted of over sixty officials. To be eligible for selection, you must have a minimum rank of 3C at the start of the season and must officiate in at least one tournament with Provincial caliber games prior to the event.

Congratulations to the following people on being selected to officiate at either the A or AA Provincials.

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|------------------|--------------------|
| Dan Bartley | Geri Lamers |
| Steven Blacklock | Kevin Lee |
| Sue Blacklock | Doug MacQuarrie |
| Marc Brisson | Kerri Mahy |
| Ryan Brown | Karen Meek |
| Brent Bunting | David Mio |
| Brad Dillabaugh | Amy Murray |
| Jeff Evans | Mario Periard |
| Natalie Fortin | Tania Pettitt |
| Jeff Graham | Stephanie Renda |
| Lorie Grant | Mark Renkiewicz |
| Janyce Gunn | Sue Shantz |
| Laura Knowles | Miranda Sheppard |
| Andre Labelle | Marie Shinmoto |
| Lisa Lagrou | Amanda Sommerville |
| Danielle Lalonde | Jill Wannamaker |

Rule Changes Again?

So you've had no problems with the rule changes? Consider this: if you want to suggest rule changes for the next revision of the rules, the deadline is June 15. We only get one season under the latest rules before proposing further changes.

The Ringette Canada (RC) playing rules are revised every three years. Proposals from the provincial and territorial associations are voted upon, with support of 2/3 of the RC members being required to approve a proposed rule change. The next rule change year is three years away and comes in to effect for the 2008-2009 season.

A few years ago, during discussion of a controversial call in a World Series game, Steve Palermo, Major League Baseball's Supervisor of Officials said, "Major League Baseball rules should have more input from the officials."

How about you? Do you have any ideas to improve our game? If so, access the Operating Manual on the ORA website and look for the Rule Change Suggestion Form. Remember to get your suggestions in to ORA by June 15.