

Ref-O-Gram

Winter 2007

Officiating Development Chairman's Report

Welcome to officiating in 2007. Although things may appear to stay the same, they are in fact ever changing. Over the past six months, there have been some changes to the Officiating Development Committee here in Ontario and at Ringette Canada.

Late last spring, Sue Blacklock stepped down from her position as Ontario's representative on Ringette Canada's Officiating Committee. This past summer, Marc Brisson relinquished his role as Western Region Co-coordinator leaving Tania Pettitt-Tracey as the sole Coordinator. In November, Derek Burger resigned as Chairman of Officiating Development in order to take on the position vacated by Sue Blacklock, and I, Brent Bunting, stepped down as Southern Region Officiating Coordinator to take the position vacated by Derek Burger. In December, Jeff Evans was subsequently selected to take the Southern Region Coordinator position vacated by me. All reflecting changes or shifting of the personnel involved in the decision making process for officiating in Ontario.

When Derek took over the role as Chairman of the Officiating Development Committee in 2002 he provided immediate leadership and credibility to a committee that had been without a Chair for two years. He helped stabilize the committee and forged ahead with new policies and programs. Though Derek has left his position with ORA, he will still be highly visible as both an official and an evaluator. His position with Ringette Canada will enable him to work more closely with officials at, and those officials working towards getting to, the national level. From the committee, I wish to thank Derek for leading us to where we are today and look forward to working with him in his new position.

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Brent Bunting. I have been involved in Ringette since 1981, when I helped my father coach my sister's petite team. I have been a referee since 1982 and have officiated at numerous Regional, Provincial and National events. I am an instructor, a Provincial Evaluator and have been Director of Officials for two Provincial events. My goal moving forward is to continue building on the policies Derek has started and to maintain the stability he provided.

Enclosed, you should find your registration card, indicating your current rank and registration number. If either your rank or your registration number is incorrect, please ensure that you contact your Regional Coordinator so that we can fix the mistake and trace why the error occurred. As a reminder for next year, every official is solely responsible for ensuring that their registration form is filled out and received by ORA office by November 15th. Several officials, including some Level 4's, officiated games after the November 15th deadline without being properly registered. Those of you who forget to register are subjecting your local association to possible fines and are not covered under ORA's insurance policy. Please ensure that you register.

The next three months will be the busiest and most important part of the season. Last fall, the Games and Tournaments Committee decided to increase the number of teams permitted to compete at Provincials from seven to ten per division. This will increase the number of officials required to work at each provincial championship event by five or six. With the Provincial "AA" Championships being held in Nepean and the Provincial "A" Championships being held in Chatham, much is expected out of all of us. Every game, whether it's league or tournament play, has meaning and every call will be scrutinized that much more. We must be at our best in all games. The players expect it, the coaches expect it and we should expect no less from ourselves. If it means getting an extra hour of sleep before that final game, then that is what we must do to ensure we can perform at our best.

In closing, I would like to stress to you that no matter how hard we may tell you to work, please remember that we officiate for the enjoyment of the sport. If it is not fun, then we would not be here, so above all else, **make sure you have fun!**

Brent Bunting
Chairman Officiating Development
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Regional Coordinator Reports

Western Region

Well, the holidays are over and we are already half way through the season. The busy 2nd half is off to a roaring start!!

First, congratulations and welcome to Western's 54 new officials. Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to do a few games by now. Please remember to ask your Referee in Chief to sit down and evaluate you some time in the next 2 months. Congratulations also go out to the 33 officials that attended the 2/3 clinic. Like the new officials, you also need to ensure that you are evaluated this season, so please contact me to set something up.

Western's A-AA scheduling program has been in effect now for 3 months and has been going relatively well so far. I need to thank all the officials and RIC's for their patience and co-operation; I definitely couldn't have done it without all of your help!! Changes have been made to the pay structure for the 2nd half of the season and if you are not aware of them please contact your RIC for more info. If you are interested in participating in the program please contact me (remember that you must have attended a 2/3 clinic to be eligible).

This time of year is the busy tournament time and if you are interested in attending any please submit your names early. Western has Stratford, Waterloo, Guelph, Seaforth, Woolwich, Kitchener and St Thomas coming up in the next 2 months. These are the building blocks for exposure, evaluations and upgrades. You will not move up thru the system if you do not travel outside of your home association, so please try to attend one before Regionals!

Just in case you have not heard, Marc Brisson has resigned as my co-chair as he has moved out of Western Region. You will still see him

around the rink, and he will still be available for evaluations. I have asked Lorie Grant to assist me, so if you can not get hold of me, please feel free to contact Lorie at lgrant@rogers.com. If you ever have questions or need help please feel free to call or email me whenever.

Enjoy the rest of the season!!

Tania Pettitt-Tracey
Western Region Officiating Coordinator
t_tracey@rogers.com

Southern Region

Half way through, just a bit longer and another great season will have gone by. Too quick for some, not quick enough for others.

For those who don't know, my name is Jeff Evans and I'm now the Southern Region Officiating Coordinator. Brent has stepped up to the plate to become the Chairman of Officiating Development. We will miss Derek as Provincial Chair, but look forward to working with Brent. Brent will be helping me to make sure that things go seamlessly from him to me.

There are no Provincial Prelims in Southern Region this year, but Regionals are going to be held in Richmond Hill from March 30-April 1st. If you're interested in attending, let your local RIC know.

As is always the case this time of year, I hope everyone is getting out to tournaments. Through tournaments we get new experiences, more games and get seen by others. This is also the place to get evaluations. If you aren't in a tournament already, try to get to at least one, you'll be hooked. If you can't make a tournament and would like an evaluation you can

contact your local RIC or an evaluator listed on the previous Ref-o-Gram.

Hope your 2nd half is a great one and see you around the rinks!

Jeff Evans
Southern Region Officiating Coordinator
jeffevans@rogers.com

Central Region

Hard to believe that the first half of the season is over, now the busy time begins. We have tournaments, Regionals, Provincials and Nationals to look forward to.

This year the Regionals are being hosted in Oshawa April 5-7, 2007. I will be extending invitations to this event in early February.

Just a reminder that all Level 3 and 4 Officials require an evaluation every season and that Level 1 and 2 are required every two years. Here is the list of evaluators within our region. Please feel free to give them a call to make arrangements for an evaluation.

Karen Meek	All Levels
(905) 985-2816	
Robert Drury	All Levels
(905) 655-3488	
Janyce Gunn	Up to 3A
(905) 725-3402	
Kelly Campbell	Up to 3A
(905) 427-8047	
Pauline Haarmeyer	Up to 3A
(905) 839-5344	
Dan Bartley	Up to 2A
(905) 683-0899	
Tara Armstrong	Up to 2A
(905) 434-2613	

Also, if you're a Level 3 or 4 with the potential of being invited to Provincials, make sure you've had your Police Records check done and sent into the ORA office or you could be staying at home.

Good luck with the remainder of the season. I hope everyone attains their goals.

Karen Meek
Central Region Officiating Coordinator
kmeek16@powergate.com

Eastern Region

Danielle Lalonde-Clarkin
Eastern Region Officiating Coordinator
dlalonde@cpma.org

NorthEastern Region

George Seymour
NorthEastern Officiating Coordinator
nereferee@hotmail.com

NorthWestern Region

Mary Kay-Soltys
NorthWestern Officiating Coordinator
mkmigay@msn.com

Stress management for referees

Sources of stress:

- importance of the game
- behaviour of players and coaches
- crowd reaction
- presence of an evaluator
- performance of your partner
- speed of the game

Preparation:

- know the rules
- be well rested and focused on the job at hand
- retain a sense of proportion and your sense of humour

Mistakes:

- remember that ALL referees make mistakes
- have high standards, but strike a balance between idealistic aims and realistic achievement
- at the end of a game, admit your mistakes and learn from them

Reaction from coaches, players and fans:

- a disagreement with your decision does not mean you were wrong
- feedback from coaches and players is valuable, but not during, or immediately after, a game (especially a loss)
- constructive feedback and positive reinforcement from other referees is extremely valuable

- crowd reaction is rarely based on a sound knowledge of the rules

Effective relaxation techniques:

- deep breathing exercises
- tensing neck and shoulder muscles, then relaxing
- use breaks in play to "not concentrate"
- avoid refereeing when tired; fatigue leads to impaired judgement
- take breaks; don't be a hero

*Adapted from "Stress Management for Referees"
by Graham Waters, Squash Life, Fall 1998*

The Evaluation Experience

Do you remember starting out as an official? One day of instruction, before you were "thrown to the wolves". Who will help you implement what you've learned?

The coaches, players and fans may try, but you'll get the right answers through the National Officials Certification Program evaluation process. Practice makes perfect only when you practice the right things!

Do you dread evaluations? Those who understand the process welcome them. Evaluations are key to your success. Listen carefully to what is said, read the form and ask questions. The recommended level should not be the deciding factor of whether or not you will accept the evaluation.

If you disagree with, or do not understand, something that's presented, question it. Evaluations are a two-way dialogue. The evaluator owes you a rationale for every comment and check mark. You may not agree, but you need to know!

Presenting a person with criticism, no matter how constructive, is difficult. Our evaluators are a diverse group with varying people-skills and Ringette backgrounds. Experienced evaluators often know what comments you will make. Some evaluators need your responses to fully share their knowledge and experience. Expect to leave an evaluation with two or three pieces of information to apply to your next games. With any luck, the original concerns will not reappear

on your next evaluation and you will be well on your way to an upgrade.

Not all evaluations are in writing. Verbal evaluations, addressing a particular concern, can occur frequently and are usually very effective. Listening to comments from experienced officials or working on rule interpretations after a game are vital learning experiences. Learn something from every game you do!

Becoming a good official takes time. A positive attitude will help you go far. Remember, the evaluator works for you.

*Al Fletcher
ROG Winter 1999*

An Evaluator's Viewpoint

In evaluating Level 1 and Level 2 officials, I seem to be writing the same comments frequently, such as "Hustle!" and "Lead the play".

Selling your calls or selling yourself as an official is a lot easier when you look and act competent.

The first judgment of an official on the evaluation form is "Appearance". On a long-form evaluation, the evaluator may comment on the referee's sweater, skates & laces, pants, helmet, grooming and fitness.

You may look good if you check yourself in the mirror in the dressing room, but how do you look to others when you're on the ice?

Do you look alert, with good posture, or do you stand with your hands in your pockets or with your shirt cuffs pulled down over your fists, looking cold?

Do you skate lackadaisically, as though you don't really care about the game (after all, it's only a bunch of Novice B's) or are you putting effort into the game, both mentally and physically, no matter what the level of play or the tempo of the game?

Players are expected to work hard to perform well; we expect the same of referees.

*Ted Moritsugu
ROG Winter 2001*