

The

REF-O-GRAM

September 2007



Ontario Ringette Association's Officiating Newsletter

OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Someone once asked me what I do in the summer when ringette season is over. I have to admit, up until this year I usually spent two to three months going to the beach and playing baseball. Well this summer I only went to the beach once and played in one baseball game (my alumni game....though I did sneak in three hockey games). So I can honestly say I think I am ready for the ringette season to begin.

The 2006/2007 season was another strong year for the Officiating Development program. Registration was up, written evaluations were up and more officials from the Provincial Development Program (formerly known as the Provincial Scouting Program) attended Provincials than ever before. At the National level, Ontario supplied 50% of the officials participating at The Canadian Ringette Championships and 62% of the officials at the Canada Winter Games. Ontario's officiating representation and performance at these National Events continues to reinforce that the hard work our evaluators, supervisors and officials do throughout the year pays dividends for our program and the sport.

Development of officials continues to be the main directive of this program. The committee members and the local RIC's worked hard to find new officials and work with the existing ones. Last fall, ten Level 1 clinics were taught across the province with 138 people participating. In addition, six Level 2/3 clinics were run for current officials looking to increase their knowledge and potentially upgrade in rank. Last December, a Community Level evaluator's clinic was held in Pickering where ten new evaluators were added to the mix, bringing our total number to forty-eight. The number of officials that were upgraded in rank was twenty-eight, which includes fourteen to Level 3 and eleven to Level 2.

The Provincial Development Program (POD) has shown great promise over the past two seasons. The program, which started in 2005/2006, supplied eight of the twenty-eight officials participating at the Provincial "A" Championships held in Chatham. This special development program, overseen by Rick Thomson, helps provide valuable feedback and direction to those younger officials who have shown potential and are willing to work hard to better their game. This program will be a jumpstart for many officiating careers.



Ontario's representation at National events has always been a source of pride, and this year was no different. This year we sent five of the eight participating officials to the Canada Winter Games and eleven out of the twenty-two officials to the Canadian Ringette Championships (CRC's). This province consistently turns out the best officials in the country and we must strive to ensure this tradition continues. As many of the higher ranked officials in this province have indicated their intentions to retire over the next couple of years, we need to ensure that the officials who will replace them are ready to do so. The need to participate at events such as the Canadian Ringette Championships is all encompassing. To become the best official, you need to officiate at the highest level, which can only be done at Nationals. Unfortunately, to get to Nationals is extremely difficult as it requires dedication, hard work and travel. As a result, funding has been put in place to ensure that our officials who have the ability to officiate at Nationals are given every opportunity to get there. Starting this fall, any Level 4 official who has not previously officiated at the CRC's is eligible to apply for funding to help with the travel costs to out of province tournaments where they can get the exposure that is required to help get them to the next level. The application form must be returned to the ORA office no later than December 1.

For those of you living in the NorthEastern and NorthWestern regions, many of you may not know that there is a program in place that will help with travel costs to out of region tournaments. The Outreach Program provides funding for officials who are interested in participating in tournaments outside their region where travel costs may be inhibitive. As it is extremely beneficial to your development as an official, I highly recommend that you consider applying for funding to travel to a tournament in the Ottawa or Toronto area where you can experience officiating different teams and learn from different evaluators. The deadline for applications is October 31st, so fill yours out as soon as possible.

At the Ringette Canada meetings this past July, it was decided that the new rules that were to be implemented in the 2008-2009 season will now be used this up coming season. There are twenty rule changes that will go into effect immediately. Some of them are small wording changes but some of them are more substantial. One of the major changes includes being permitted to pull your goaltender at any time of the game. The preliminary rule changes have been included in this Ref-O-Gram for your review. Please visit the officiating section of the website for the final wording of the rule changes.

Another change for this upcoming season deals with the National Ringette League (NRL). Ringette Canada has changed the way Open AA teams qualify for the CRC's. No longer will the winner of the Provincial Championships be invited to the CRC's to represent the province, instead the open division at the CRC's will only contain club teams. Essentially, the open division at the CRC's is now the NRL Championship. This change will have a profound effect on the number of officials required to participate at the Provincial "AA" Championships as the Open AA division will most likely be dropped from the competition.

As the 2008-2009 playing season will be the next rule change year, the 2007-2008 season will be the last opportunity to take a Level 2/3 or Level 4 clinic until the fall of 2009. This means that for those of you who are interested in upgrading your knowledge and your carded level please ensure that you take the required clinic this fall. Clinic dates and locations can be found in the officiating section on the ORA website at www.ontario-ringette.com/officiating.

This Ref-O-Gram would not be complete without reminding you to make sure you are registered by the November 15th deadline. This will be the third season we have made filling out the registration form and ensuring it gets to the ORA office mandatory for all officials. Registration and payment of dues by the deadline is imperative as you are not covered under the general insurance policy should something happen to you on the ice. If you officiate a game and are not registered, the home team can be fined each time you officiate. Also, for those of you who are eighteen years of age or older and are a Level 3 or higher official, you need to ensure your Police Records Check is sent in to the ORA office before January 1st to be eligible for participation at Provincials. Police Records Checks are good for three years from the time they are issued, which means if you had yours done before the Provincials in 2005, it will not be current for Provincials in 2008 as it will expire before the event. This will be strictly enforced this year, so please don't let this slide. If you are not sure about when yours expires, please contact the ORA office to find out.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Derek Burger for being selected as the Provincial Official of the Year by the Officiating Development Committee. Derek has been a guiding force in this province for many years as an official, evaluator, regional coordinator and most recently Officiating Chair. This past year he officiated at both the Canada Winter Games and the Canadian Ringette Championships where he was a leader on and off the ice. Congratulations Derek your efforts did not go unnoticed.

Brent Bunting
Chairman Officiating Development Committee
bbunting@strongtie.com



EASTERN REGION

I hope everyone had a good summer. It's hard to believe that the 2007-2008 will soon be underway. The Eastern Region will be hosting one Level 1 clinic and one Level 2/3 clinic in September. Please check the ERR/NCRRRL website for dates and location. As of this year, all participants must complete an online registration form if they wish to attend a clinic. For more information, you can contact either myself, your local referee-in-chief or go to the website.

I would like to congratulate Heather Carnegie on receiving the Eastern Region Official of the Year award. Heather was the referee-in-chief for the Nepean Ringette Association and officiated in the "A" and "AA" Provincials. As well, I would like to congratulate Michelle Bainbridge, Alex Hanes, Jessica Lalonde and Heather Verhoeve who officiated at their first Provincial Championships in Chatham.

Just a reminder that the city of Ottawa will be hosting the 2007 World Ringette Championships from October 30th to November 3rd at the Ottawa Civic Centre. It is great that this kind of event is being hosted in our own province and hopefully we will see some of you out there.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the rink. Have a good season, work hard and remember to check and update the Arbiter on a regular basis.

Danielle Lalonde
Eastern Region Coordinator
dglalonde@hotmail.com

CENTRAL REGION

Welcome back! It's hard to believe how quickly the summer passes. It doesn't seem that long ago that the season had just ended.

Before you're able to get started this year, you must be registered. It is your responsibility to make sure that

you either fill out the paper work and mail it in or have your local association registrar send it in after you've completed it. All of the information and details can be found on the ORA web-site under officiating.

If your goal is to attain a position on the list of eligible officials for Provincial's, then you need to travel to some tournaments early in the season to be seen. If you're having difficulties getting into a tournament or don't know who to contact, give me a call.

Just a reminder to those of you who are Level 3 or higher, you must have a Police Records Check done early in the season and mailed to the ORA for confirmation. Without the PRC, you run the risk of not being eligible for Provincial's.

Clinic information will be available shortly however; I would like to remind you that next season is a rule change year. This simply means that there won't be any up-grade clinics offered. What I'm implying is that if you're interested in taking the Level 2/3 Clinic, this is the year to do it. As of last season Ringette Canada implemented some new guidelines for officials taking the Level 2/3 clinic. They read as follows:

"The minimum age for an official to attend a Level 2/3 clinic is 16 years of age as of December 31 of that playing season. The official must have also attended a Level 1 clinic a minimum of two playing seasons prior to the current playing season. Note: Any officials that attended a Level 2/3 clinic prior to the 2006 season that are underage will retain their current level and may continue to be evaluated to Level 2 or Level 3 accordingly, and will not be required to attend another Level 2/3 clinic when they reach the age of 16."
Good luck and enjoy your season.

Karen Meek
Central Region Coordinator
kmeek16@rogers.com

SOUTHERN REGION

Hello one and all, I hope all of you remember this weather and the fact that you're probably keeping your house/car/work at a temperature not that far above what the arenas are at. It's just about that time to start the next ringette season, to soon for some, not long enough for others.

Southern hasn't scheduled any clinics yet, so check the ORA website frequently to keep up to date. Speaking of the website, there are going to be some changes to the officials section. Check it out and see what you think, you may find some things useful.

Registration seems to be an issue every year. Hopefully I can provide some help. If you do not personally sign an ORA registration form then you have not registered. It is your responsibility to ensure that the form gets to the ORA office regardless of what method of registration you choose. I hope that you all will make sure this happens.

I would like to congratulate Cam Mahy for winning the Southern Region Official of the Year award. Cam has put in many long hours and done lots of work within the region. I would also like to congratulate Derek Burger for winning the Provincial Official of the Year award. His resume is too long to put here. Congrats to both of you gents.

I hope to have an evaluator out to most of the tournaments in Southern Region this year, make sure your local Referee-in-Chief explains what you can do to get an evaluation. I hope to see everyone on the ice at tournaments next year. Enjoy the nice weather and start the count down until the season begins.

Jeff Evans
Southern Region Coordinator
jeffevans@rogers.com

WESTERN REGION

Grab your shirt, lace up your skates and start blowing your whistle, it's ringette season again!!! Hi everyone, welcome back to another great year in Western Ringette World.

Last season we implemented an officiating schedule for all "A" and "AA" games within the region. This system received lots of positive feedback from both the officials and the coaches so we will be using it again this year. This means that I will be assigning refs to travel to games in order to make sure that there are qualified officials at every "A" or "AA" game in the region. If you wish to participate in this program you can register at the western website or contact me directly 519-656-9037. Your current rank must be 2B and you must be willing to travel in order to participate.

As always we will be working on trying to get an evaluator at every major event in Western Region. If you are interested in being looked at please contact me via the website and I will try and arrange it. Unfortunately we did not get to see everyone at Regionals last season so I know some of you are still looking for feedback.

Right now there are three Level 1 clinics and three Level 2/3 clinics booked. More will be added should we need them, so you must register online ASAP so we can verify the numbers. If you have been reffing for 3 years or more and have not yet attended a 2/3 clinic please try and attend one this year as it will become mandatory over the next 2 years. There were 67 level 1 officials who applied for Regionals last year, 36 of them had more than 3 years experience and only 8 of those 36 had attended a 2/3 clinic!!!

There will be a price increase for the 2/3 clinic this year as we will be adding a case book to the materials you receive. If you already have a

case book, bring it with you to the clinic and you will be charged a lesser fee.

Level 1: Guelph - September 15th or 16th 2007, 8:00am to 5:30pm
Location to be announced

Level 1: Goderich - Sunday, September 30th, 8:00am to 5:00pm, YMCA

Level 1: London - Saturday, October 13th, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Western Fair Sports Complex, Maple Leaf Room

Level 2/3: London - Saturday, September 22nd 2007, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Western Fair Sports Complex, Maple Leaf Room

Level 2/3: Waterloo - Saturday, October 13th, 8:00am to 5:00pm, Albert McCormick Arena

Level 2/3: Wellington North - TBA

Please note: To Register for a level 2/3 clinic you must be 16 years old by the end of 2007 and must in your third season as an official. Please go to the Western Website to register.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on the ice this year, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need some help.

Have a fantastic season!

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

NORTHEAST REGION

I would hope that everyone has enjoyed a great and restive summer and that the time we have spent with families and friends has renewed us, and prepared us for another busy season of ringette.

The end of last season saw the Regionals held in Sudbury. This bringing together of many officials

from all areas of the region showed that the NorthEast has a wealth of untapped talent. While there were some rough spots behind the scenes, the teams and spectators saw only a well balanced performance on the ice. To all those who helped make it so, Thank You. A special Thanks goes out to Sarah Watters, for her dedication, and hard work.

Congratulations to Dave Bretsznajder of Timmins who was selected as the Regional Official of the year for 2007. I have known Dave for several years, and always enjoyed working with him. He can always be counted on and has shown a dedication that is second to none. Congrats again Dave, and well done.

This year will see the World Championships in Ottawa. The unfortunate part of this is that there was a conflict with the West Ferris Tournament. As a result, the November West Ferris Tournament has been cancelled this year and other arrangements are being made. Other tournaments in the region should run as usual.

At this time, we hope to offer Level 1 Officiating Clinics in Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay. We also would like to see a Level 2/3 Clinic in Sudbury. Arrangements of Dates, times, and locations will be firmed up with the approach of the season. If you are interested in any of the clinics, please contact your local RIC or me directly.

Best of luck to all in the coming season,

George Seymour
Northeast Region Coordinator
nereferee@hotmail.com

NORTHWEST REGION

Mary Kay Migay
NorthWest Region Coordinator
mkmigay@msn.com

New Rules to Come in to Effect This Season

This past summer Ringette Canada approved several rule changes for this up coming season. In all, there are some nineteen approved changes that you will need to be aware of. As the rule change package is too large to include with the Ref-O-Gram and was not available at the time of printing, you will need to visit the officiating section of the ORA website to download the changes. Be aware that there are some major changes, including being permitted to pull your goaltender at any time that you will need to know.

Provincial and Regional Official of the Year Award Winners

The Provincial and Regional Official of the Year awards winners for the 2006-2007 season were announced this past summer. Each winner deserves congratulations for their dedication and outstanding service to the officiating program both on and off the ice.

Derek Burger – *Provincial*
Heather Carnegie – *Eastern*
Cam Mahy – *Southern*
Dave Bretsznajder – *Northeast*
Melissa Findlay – *Central*

Congratulations also go out to Ben Rafuse of Timmins and Bob Clement of Elora Fergus for receiving Provincial Volunteer Recognition awards as Community Builders.

Registration Fees Increase

Registration fees have been increased by \$0.50 for this upcoming season. The new cost is \$26.00 for those who register solely as an official. For those of you who are either registered as a coach or player in addition to being an official, the cost is \$21.00. Please remember to submit your registration form to either ORA office with your

fee or to your local registrar. You are solely responsible to ensure you are registered with ORA by November 15, 2007.

Open “AA” Division Goes in New Direction

This past summer Ringette Canada and the National Ringette League (NRL) came to an agreement on changes to the format of the Open “AA” division at the Canadian Ringette Championships (CRC’s). Effective this upcoming season, the Open “AA” division will no longer contain provincial representatives. Instead, the division at the CRC’s will only contain NRL teams. According to Ringette Canada, “it will remove ambiguity concerning who is the national champion at the Open “AA” level.”

Due to this change, it is most probable that the Open “AA” division will be removed from the Provincial “AA” Championships. This will have an effect on officiating by reducing the number of officials that will be required to participate at the Provincial’s.

London Official Represents Ontario at Eastern Canadian Tween Championships

Ontario’s officiating representative at the 2007 Eastern Canadian Tween Championships this past April in P.E.I., was Amanda Somerville from London.

Amanda is both a Level 4 official and a captain of the NRL’s Waterloo Wildfire. She has officiated at numerous Provincial Championships, including the Provincial A’s in Chatham this past year. Her great year culminated in being selected to officiate the championship game in P.E.I.

Congratulations Amanda on a great season.

Ontario Officials Lead the Way at Canada Winter Games

When the Canada Winter Games were held in Whitehorse last February, Ontario officials were front and centre. Of the eight officials selected to participate, five were from Ontario. As this event is only held once every four years, having five officials participate is a good indicator of how good our officials in Ontario really are and how well our program is doing.

Congratulations go out to Steve Blacklock, Derek Burger, Brent Bunting, Natalie Fortin and Karen Meek for representing our program well.

World Championships Coming to Ottawa

The 2007 World Ringette Championships will be played in Ottawa at the Ottawa Civic Centre from October 30th to November 3rd. This tournament will feature the best players from Canada, Finland, Sweden and the U.S.A.

Police Records Check

For those of you who are 18 years of age or older and are Level 3 or higher in rank, your valid Police Records Check for must be sent in to the ORA office by January 1st to be eligible for Provincials. If you are not sure when your current check expires please contact the ORA office.

Other Events

The Provincial “AA” Championships will be held in Whitby at the Iroquois Sports Centre February 28th to March 2nd. The Provincial “A” Championships will be held in Oshawa from March 20th to March 23rd. Ontario Winter Games will be held in Collingwood from March 6th to March 9th.

Summary of New Rules for 2007-2008

Below is a summary of *some* of the new rule changes for the up coming season. Not all are listed and the exact wording may be changed once Ringette Canada publishes them. Please check the officiating section of the ORA website at www.ontario-ringette.com/officiating for the finalized complete rule change package.

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

Permit the pegging of the nets in the Tween and older divisions

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

- 7.3.b A skater may be substituted for the goalkeeper **at any time**.
- 13.10.d Would be eliminated

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

When taking a free pass - add to the end of the current rule. 'The player entering the free pass circle must enter from the half of the circle in which the ring has been placed.'

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

That it be illegal for a skater to be involved in the play when carrying a goalkeeper's stick.

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

For purpose of delaying penalties and delayed violations, change the definition of "control" to allow play to continue if goalkeeper prevents the ring from entering the goal, but allows a rebound that ends outside the crease.

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

Modify the description of the shot clock signal - Bend arm so that forearm and hand are upright, with fore finger extended make a circular motion with that finger.

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

Minor penalty for delay of game - add to the existing rule 'or a stick is thrown from the bench to a skater or the goalkeeper'

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

Remove the rule 13.11.d – checking an opponent when not eligible to play a loose ring.

Move this rule to Section 11.2.c and renumber existing rules in Section 11.2

REASON FOR SUGGESTED CHANGE

There are many times that a player is not eligible to play the ring on a single blue line or two blue line pass and in trying to time their check when an opponent arrives to play the ring their check is too early. In these instances the rule is very black and white, it is an interference penalty to the player that checked too early. By making these situations violations by this player and awarding a free pass in the zone in which the ring was last contacted or controlled there would not be penalty calls, just loss of possession of the ring and loss of territorial advantage.

Example: Player A1 passes the ring over two blue lines. Player A2 arrives at the ring first. Just prior to Player B1 playing the ring, A2 checks B1's stick, preventing B1 from gaining control of the ring. In this instance instead of calling an interference penalty a 2 line pass violation would be called. Team B would receive a free pass in their attacking zone, Team A's defending zone

OFFICIATING EVALUATORS

Community

- may recommend officials to 2A

Central Region

Dan Bartley, Ajax 905/683-0899
Tara Armstrong, Oshawa 905/434-2613

Eastern Region

Christine Aubry, Orleans 613/841-8710
Belinda Mayer, Ottawa 613/759-8404
Natalie Fortin, Limoges 613/443-4460
Lisa Lagrou, Ottawa 613/421-7138
Andre Lalonde, Ottawa 613/526-2471
Lori Pasanen, Ottawa 613/842-4994
David Hanes, Bath 613/384-4786
Michelle Bainbridge, Woodlawn 613/832-1055
Heather Carnegie, Nepean 613/825-6070
Marc Brisson, Kingston

NorthEastern Region

Laurier Gadoury, Timmins 705/268-0420
George Seymour, North Bay 705/494-7754
Mike Tambeau, Timmins 705/268-6885

NorthWestern Region

Brett Finlayson, Fort Frances 807/274-4855

Southern Region

Rob Evans, Richmond Hill 905/884-7328
Bob Huygens, Cambridge 519/572-0701
Stephanie Renda, Toronto 416/363-4795
Geri Lamers, Cambridge 519/240-5388
Jeff Graham, Mississauga 905/821-1320
Kerri Mahy, Grimsby 905/309-4077
Cam Mahy, Grimsby 905/309-4077

Western Region

Andre Brisson, Woodstock 519/537-5865
Lorie Grant, Kitchener 519/579-5572
Keely Smith, Fergus 519/843-6655

Regional

- may recommend officials to 3A

Central Region

Kelly Campbell, Ajax 905/427-8047
Janyce Gunn, Oshawa 905/725-3402

Pauline Haarmeyer, Pickering 905/839-5344

Eastern Region

Rob Hanson, Cumberland 613/833-0762
Tony Hendrikx, Russell 613/445-3042
Danielle Lalonde-Clarkin, Ottawa 613/729-6728
Marie Shinmoto, Gloucester 613/834-8962

NorthEastern Region

Harry Hirsimaki, Lively 705/692-7112
Wayne Spencer, Sault Ste. Marie 705/759-0644

Southern Region

Jeff Evans, Richmond Hill 905/884-7328
Pat Turcotte, Caledonia 905/765-6955

Western Region

Tania Pettitt-Tracey, Wellesley 519/656-9037

Provincial

- may recommend officials to 4A

Central Region

Robert Drury, Whitby 905/655-3488
Karen Meek, Bowmanville 905/419-1091

Eastern Region

Laura Knowles, Ottawa 613/736-7206
Gerry Leadbetter, Gloucester 613/837-5838
Lynne Phillion, Gloucester 613/744-8040

Southern Region

Brent Bunting, Barrie 705/719-1505
Rick Thomson, St.Catharines 905/646-3355

Western Region

Steve Blacklock, Guelph 519/780-1845
Derek Burger, Baden 519/634-1120

Note: Level 1 officials will continue to be evaluated by their local referees-in-chief.