

2017-2018 Officials Directors Report

The 2017-2018 season saw several new referees join our ranks, as well as many returnees. I am proud to say that we have a strong group of officials here in the Battlefords!

New this year was Arbiter, which is an online assigning program. Our hope was that it would make assigning more efficient and, even more importantly, get more on-ice opportunities for ALL officials. There was a steep learning curve for all, but I am very pleased with how it worked. The program allows us to track the history of each official--this is important as our main goal is to develop every official, and give him/her the chance to succeed. Essentially we want them to work towards officiating "higher level" games.

Mentorship of younger officials is very important in development. Through on-ice sessions and feedback during actual games, we strive to push our young officials to get better every time they step onto the ice. It is not an easy place to be, as there are several things going on at once during a game. Showing them the tools they have and improving their confidence makes reffing that much easier. We as officials are very fortunate to have the support of the BMHA as well.

I hope that all our officials from this year, young and old, return for another season this coming fall. I also encourage people who have never reffed to consider joining us at our clinic: September 30, 2018 from 9am to 1pm at Battleford Central School. Once again, we will have an on-ice session immediately after the clinic to help reinforce rules, positioning, and procedures. Don't forget that the online modules will need to be completed prior to the clinic. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions.

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