

1. Hockey Alberta released the provincial rates for the 2023 – 2024 season. There were nominal increases in most EFHL categories except for U9. Over the past several seasons all categories have received increases with many happening more than once. The only exception is U9 where the rate has been unchanged since the introduction of half ice hockey when the U9 rate per official was decreased. Chris March and I collaborated on rates for the EFHL in 2023 – 2024 based upon the Hockey Alberta template. The 2023 – 2024 rates are posted on the EFHL website under OPERATIONS. Hockey Alberta has authorized the use of a four official officiating format in all levels of U15 and U18. It was the consensus of those in attendance at a June meeting of the EFHL RICs that the manpower required to implement a four-official format in U15 and U18 in the EFHL does not exist.
2. Currently there is no referee contact or referee-in-chief for North East Edmonton and for Enoch. There is a new referee contact in Stony Plain (Barrett Richter) and in Sturgeon (Jessie Norton).
3. The EFHL Referees-in Chief met on June 3, 2023 to review the recently completed schedule and to plan for the 2023 – 2024 season. Items which arose out of this meeting include:
 - (a) Abuse of officials: It was the consensus of the meeting that levels of abuse had markedly escalated in the 2022 – 2023 season. It was believed that the officials needed to take a strong stance against allowing further increases in the abuse of officials. As a result, there will be an implementation of a “Zero Tolerance” policy for violation of Rule 11 including sections 1, 2 and 3. It is incumbent that the EFHL teams are made aware of this change in policy.
 - (b) There are ice allocation problems in Edmonton. I met with Ray Vigneau to discuss the concerns of the referees. Hopefully there will be some changes.
 - (c) Scheduling: There was concern with the large number of EFHL games scheduled to start between 16:00 and 19:00 on weekends.
 - (d) U11 HADP: It was the consensus of the RICs that U11 HADP is best officiated by two referees who are mature and are experienced.
 - (e) In an effort to further develop officials who can officiate the three and four official formats of officiating a request was made to the EFHL to change the officiating format in U13 Tier 2 and Tier 3 to a three-official format. The EFHL responded that the league would approve a three-official format in U13 Tier 2 on a pilot basis in 2023 – 2024. This change is much appreciated by the Officiating Program.
4. The 2023 – 2024 officiating instructional program in Hockey Alberta’s North Region begins September 9th and concludes in late November. All Hockey Alberta officials must recertify annually.
5. The status of the participation of referees as volunteers in Hockey Edmonton’s Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week remains unsettled. A meeting with representatives from Hockey Edmonton was held on August 17th. There will be a change in the volunteer status of officials participating in the tournament. Ongoing negotiations will determine when this change will be implemented.
6. EFHL Operations has approved a change in U9 in the manner in which called rule violations are to be handled.