

## **Referee Scheduler Report**

### **HGHA Sting 2025/26 Season**

I volunteered & assumed the responsibilities of BOD Referee Scheduler in the early Summer on vacancy with experience from previous BOD tenure.

There were significant challenges this season in certifying with the OWHA through their Officials programing. These related to but were not limited to communications and regionally based recertification clinics. This had many of our local OWHA officials not able to register and/or travel large distances to attend courses.

Notwithstanding these challenges, we were able to support & secure 12 certified Officials (1 Level 3, 8 Level 2's, & 3 Level 1's) for the 2025/26 season. These impressive individuals (8 female & 4 male) were able to participate fully in the season along with our Home Tournament even participating in local Women's League Games & assisting our regional OMHA partners (Muskoka, Parry Sound, & Near North)

I received no formal complaints related to their performance & more times than not received compliments on their professionalism & abilities from both Home & Away teams.

Early in my term I was able to establish our lone level 3 official Ms. Gale Brady into the Chief of Officiating role. Given the inability for the OWHA to supervise and/or support our Officials Ms. Brady an extremely experienced referee has proven to be invaluable in this role.

I must also recognize the incredible efforts of my fellow BOD members in this past season's tenure where they fully supported any initiative proposed to strengthen & develop our Officials.

Similarly, we must also recognize our regional OMHA Referee Schedulers (Huntsville: Lyle Bullen, Bracebridge: Norm Webb, Parry Sound: Kraig Matthews, & Near North: Rebel Kennedy) for their respective efforts in putting officials on our games. Given our skinny Association numbers our OMHA partners represent approximately 40% of our assigned officials' hours. Singularly we would not be able to host our Association Home Tournament if it were not for these Gentlemen's & their respective Officials efforts.

The results of all these efforts we only cancelled one late season competitive game scheduled outside of base area. Moving forward the Competitive programing (regular season & tournament games) continues to present significant challenges in servicing where it requires more (3 & 4 official systems) older officials with higher level certificates.

In efforts to increased official recruitment & support our current Officials (OMHA & OWHA) Ms. Brady has tapped her relationships to host an Officials Open House featuring PWHL & IIHF Officials on May 23<sup>rd</sup> & a local OWHA Recertification Course on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Overall, I believe the association is in a better position to capitalize in these initiatives resulting from this past season's structural improvements along with the outlined support. As with most associations across the Country the need for referees is immense and will require substantial Association support moving forward if we are to continue to offer increased levels of programming.

Thank you for the opportunity to care for you & this associations works in supporting Girls Hockey in Muskoka!

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J Mann

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Date