



Coaches Introduction to Officiating Development

The purpose of this handout is to introduce the levels of officiating to coaches, to draw parallels between LTAD and officiating development, and to further the understanding of the officiating development process so that coaches have more clarity on the system.

Each year there are approximately 100 new officials that take a Level 1 clinic. They join approximately 450 officials currently registered in the province. Despite taking in 100 new officials per year, the total number of officials registered is only slightly increasing from year to year. From refresher clinics in 2010 to refresher clinics in 2013, there was only an increase of 13 officials in total. Alberta has been sitting with a slow and slight rise of officials for over a decade despite a significant growth in the number of teams and players. This means that about 100 new and seasoned officials decide not to come back every season. There are various reasons, from school, to work, to pregnancy, to confidence, and mainly to bad experiences. We all play a part, from associations, coaches, players, and other officials.

When a new official enters the system they take an online module, an in-class module, a one-hour on ice component and an exam. Then it is up to each association to provide mentorship, suitable games for each official and games with senior partners. This new official is learning how to become a ref, and in his or her first year is starting to slowly build their confidence. Below is a chart defining the *Long Term Officiating Development* program from Ringette Canada. We hope that by sharing this, we can encourage better understanding from coaches and parents regarding the expectations of officials at different levels of ringette; thereby, facilitating better retention and more positive experiences amongst both newer and more experienced officials.

Years of Experience	Levels Officiated	Suggested Development Provided (at minimum)	Expected Proficiency
0	U12B and lower	Level 1 clinic, games with mentor, games with a more senior official (1 or more years experience), evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ can keep up with the play ▪ introduction of basic signals (violations, 2 line, goalie ring) ▪ basic penalty execution (tripping, high stick, hooking, and some body contact) ▪ introduction to decision making and anxiety management ▪ introduction to communication strategies
1 to 2	U12A and lower	Refreshers every 2 years, should be attending local tournaments, evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consolidate signals ▪ intro and develop penalty mechanics ▪ develop violation mechanics ▪ develop positioning ▪ develop decision making and anxiety management ▪ develop communication ▪ develop teamwork ▪ introduction to conflict resolution

Years of Experience	Levels Officiated	Suggested Development Provided (at minimum)	Expected Proficiency
2 to 5	U14B to Open (depends on age of Official, number of games officiated, and rank/clinic achieved)	Level 2/3 clinic (invite only)- must be 16 years old, should be attending regional tournaments, evaluations, potentially playdowns or provincials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consolidate penalty mechanics, verbalization, and violations ▪ refine signals ▪ introduce and develop misconduct/match penalty mechanics ▪ consolidate positioning ▪ develop and consolidate decision making ▪ consolidate communication, teamwork and conflict resolution ▪ develop advantage calls
5+	U14A to Open A	Should be attending regional tournaments, evaluations, playdowns or provincials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ refine penalty mechanics, verbalization, and violation mechanics ▪ consolidate multiple penalty mechanics, and consolidate/refine misconduct/match mechanics ▪ refine position, consolidate reading the play ▪ refine decision making, communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution ▪ consolidate advantage calls

Key Points:

- A new level 1 official has just learnt the basic concepts of body contact, this is a skill taught further in detail in Level 2 and 3 clinics.
- New officials, like new athletes or new coaches, take time to develop. No one expects a new athlete to master a skill in their first few years of playing.
- In their second year, they are learning conflict resolution skills, as their first year is focused on anxiety management and communication. These skills take time to build confidence in and should not be expected to already exist (as are all skills, but particularly these).
- All officials develop at different rates, some slower and some faster based on various reasons. One of these reasons is how many games are available to them, or that they are able to take.
- Attending Level 2 + clinics and provincials are invite only, local Referee-in-Chiefs select these officials.
- You can become an official at age 14, and it is also key to point out that anyone invited to the level 2 clinic must be at least 16 years old. When they are a level 2, we expect them to be calling 50% of the penalties, so in those first few years they are working towards being able to call that amount during a game.

For further information on this process or officiating, please contact your Referee-In-Chief or the Officials Development Coordinator at Ringette Alberta.

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