	<p><b>Associations/Referee-In-Chiefs</b></p> <p><b>FIRST STRIPES</b></p> <p><b>An Optional Officiating Program for Half-Ice games</b></p> <p>Date Updated: October 2024</p> <p>Updated By: Lauren &amp; First Stripes Working Group (Anne Kokko, Sherri O’Muir, Kim Patten)</p>
<p><b>Intention</b></p>	<p>This document was created for Associations and Referee-In-Chiefs to explain and describe this optional program, how it works, and how you can use it.</p>
<p><b>Purpose of the Program</b></p>	<p>First Stripes is a Pre-level Program, designed for Half-Ice games. It was developed using the Long Term Officiating Development Matrix, and is intended to build officiating skills that can translate into the Full-Ice program.</p>
<p><b>Certification</b></p>	<p><b>Half-Ice games only.</b></p> <p>Officials that are part of the First Stripes program are NOT to be used on Full-Ice games.</p> <p><i>Suggestion:</i> U10S2 games are probably the best fit, with U10S1 (second half of the season) being the next best fit - please give the U10S1’s time to learn how to play from their coaches first.</p>
<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>First Stripes program will require officials to be age 12 or older by September of that season.</p> <p><b>Note for assignors:</b> Please keep in mind the following: RAB has a minimum age of 14 for the Full-Ice (Level 1) program, and to take a Level 2 clinic Ringette Canada has a minimum age of 16.</p> <p><i>Be cautious about leaving someone in these stages for 4 years.</i></p>
<p><b>Number of Officials</b> (please note that plenty of options are given to fit the needs of your association)</p>	<p><b>NEVER ALONE!</b> Acceptable combinations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 1 Pre-Level + Mentor</li> <li>2) 1 Pre-Level + 1 Pre-Level + Evaluator/Senior Mentor</li> <li>3) 1 Pre-Level + 1 Pre-Level/1 Pre-Level + 1 Pre-Level + Evaluator/Senior Mentor (2 games happening at once)</li> <li>4) Coach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-level Officials are NOT to officiate solo, or ‘with’ a coach, this program operates with 2 officials or NONE</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>**Coaches are still asked to be on the ice when there are officials, as coaches are still in charge of rink markings, and coaching their athletes on ice.</b></p> <p>Definitions of mentors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Evaluator</b> = Fully certified via evaluation clinics</li> <li>- <b>Senior Mentor</b> = Official that has completed their 2/3 or 4 clinic, but has not yet taken the evaluation clinics, <b>MUST</b> also have proven to give mature and constructive feedback</li> <li>- <b>Junior Mentor</b> = 1 Level or 2 WITH Evaluations completed, or having taken the Level 2 clinic, and 18 years old. <b>MUST</b> also have proven to give mature and constructive feedback</li> </ul> <p><b>**After 5 mentoring sessions, the RIC can check in with the official to determine if more mentoring is wanted/needed. RICs can use association board members to be present at games - if the official needs support. The official must always have a mentor or support.</b></p>

**SETUP AND GAMEPLAY DOCUMENT -**

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/ringettealbertagames/files/Children%27s%20Ringette%20Guide%20-%20AUG%202024.docx.pdf>

This document is the main rules document for Half-Ice games and is on the RAB website.

**Roles**

(Different roles and their expectations)

**Officials:**

- Apply rules and knowledge learned in this training
- Communicate with coaches before the game
  - Using a gamecard
- Manage the game
- Ensure safety is a priority
- LEARNING is the main role of officials!

**Coaches:**

- Set up nets, barriers, dots, creases, and gamesheet/minor officials AS normal
  - **Officials will not be doing this**
    - Pre-Level Officiating Program is **optional** - coaches will do this task ALL the time, with or without officials
- When Officials are present, coaches should not have to interact with the ring, and are asked to stay out of the paths of the officials and not use their whistles
- Help their players understand the rules
- Interact with the officials in a calm tone, these officials are LEARNING

**Mentors:**

- Understand the differences between the half-ice and full-ice program
- Provide helpful and constructive feedback

**Spectators:**

- Cheer with positive statements
- Understand that officials are LEARNING and should NEVER question their calls
- Help foster a positive sports environment for all involved

**Associations:**

- Decide if this program is being used
- Inform the coaches, spectators on the teams, and leagues
  - Supplemental education as handouts
- Monitor this level, check in with officials regularly
- Manage game assignments, payment, and appropriate pairings

**Uniform**

All on-ice officials are expected to meet the minimum requirements of the Officials uniform:

1. A Helmet (preferably black)
  - Can have a half visor, no cage mask
2. A referee PINNIE
  - Jersey and crest are not required at this level
3. A pea whistle (that slides onto your fingers - NOT on a lanyard like a coach)
4. Black, loose-fitting pants
5. Skates

	<p>Ringette Alberta will have pinnies. If your association is looking to run this program, the pinnies will be loaned out and expected back at the end of the season.</p>
<b>Payment</b>	<p>It is up to the Associations on what they want to pay officials at this level. Ringette Alberta recommends having similar pay structures to your U10S3 or U12s, as you will have some Full-Ice officials mentoring the half-ice officials.</p>
<b>Process</b>	<p>This is a pilot program and is optional. Meaning that one association might opt in, and another opt out. That is perfectly fine.</p> <p><b>1) Intake</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Once associations have decided if they want to run the program, recruitment starts within the association - just like with the Full-Ice program</li> <li>- Let RAB know you are interested in the Program</li> <li>- RAB will have a link to a test</li> <li>- The association will send this link to their new officials, officials will use the manual to complete the test</li> <li>- There will be no fails</li> </ul> <p><b>2) Registration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All officials will need to <a href="#">register</a></li> </ul> <p><b>3) Monitor &amp; Assign &amp; Pay</b></p> <p><b>4) Return Pinnies</b></p> <p><i>Note to associations:</i> Please do your best, when running this program to be consistent with where you are assigning, with this being an optional program, there will be games without, but within an association, those coaches would appreciate some consistency.</p>
<b>Gamecard</b>	<p>Officials will be given a GAMECARD, which will include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-game duty roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make it clear who is to do what between coaches and officials</li> <li>- Reminders for the officials</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Ice Diagram with positioning details</li> </ul> <p>AND most importantly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-game Coaches agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A coach from both teams will need to sign off on a statement before the game, setting expectations</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Post-game reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Link or QR code for a quick post-game survey</li> <li>- Helps RAB and associations monitor this program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Documents</b>	<p>This document is created for the information of the associations and Referee-In-Chiefs, but there are other documents as part of this program and its education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>First Stripes Officials Manual</b></li> <li>- <a href="#">First Stripes Officials Intake &amp; Test</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>First Stripes Gamecard</b></li> <li>- <b>First Stripes Officials Post Game Report</b></li> <li>- <b>First Stripes Mentoring Manual</b></li> <li>- <b>First Stripes Coaches Information</b></li> <li>- <b>First Stripes Spectators Information</b></li> <li>- <b>Code Of Conduct And Ethical Behavior Policy</b></li> </ul> <p>It is also important to recognize that any feedback will be taken into consideration at the end of the season, and used to determine how to improve the program.</p>
<p><b>Skills Officials will be focusing on</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to some positioning and signals</li> <li>- Whistle confidence and reaction time</li> <li>- Communication</li> <li>- Basic violations (crease, passing line, etc.)</li> <li>- Basic penalties (tripping, body, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>PROGRAM RESOURCES:</b>  <a href="https://ringettealberta.com/content/first-stripes">https://ringettealberta.com/content/first-stripes</a>  All of the resources are available online.</p>	

## FIRST STRIPES GAMECARD

### PRE-GAME TASKS

**Coaches:**

- ✓ Set up markings
- ✓ Set up barriers
- ✓ Set up nets
- ✓ Fill out game sheet (coaches will always set up the ice for the game)

**Officials:**

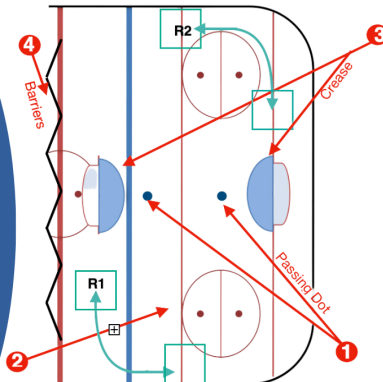
- ✓ Check Ice Surface
- ✓ Collect Rings
- ✓ Check Game Sheet (on backside)
- ✓ Confirm Agreement (on backside)
- ✓ check the Nets

**Home Team:**

Must provide Timekeepers.  
Time keepers will buzz every 90 seconds, for both games on the ice surface.

**Every Buzzer:**

Play is to start with a pass from the passing dot, or if the goalkeeper has it, they start with the goalkeeper ring. Team last in possession will start with the ring.



Positioning is shown in green  
Rink Markings are shown in red

First Stripes is an **OPTIONAL** program, teaching new officials the basics before they decide to enter the full-ice program. Officials are asked to have the coaches read and agree to this statement, please note that there is also a survey submitted to BOTH the association of the official AND Ringette Alberta

**TRAITS TO KEEP IN MIND**

- BE INTERESTED
- ACT PROFESSIONAL
- BE OPEN TO MENTOR FEEDBACK
- FIND YOUR CONFIDENCE
- KEEP A GOOD ATTITUDE
- BUILD YOUR ABILITY TO RESPOND



If there are officials on ice – as a coach, I WILL collaborate with the officials in a **safe and respectful** environment, remembering that **these officials are learning**, just like the players on the ice, and potentially the coaching staff. While it is the coach's responsibility to teach their players the rules of the game, it is the official's responsibility to enforce those rules through game play - all while developing their NEW officiating skills.

**AS COACHES – WE WILL RESPECT THE OFFICIALS AND COMMUNICATE RESPECTFULLY**

Home Team 
Visiting Team

Officials - Please complete this after EVERY game



Post Game Survey