

St. Albert Ringette Association



Referee Mentoring Hand Book

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Dress and Deportment

Appearance

The appearance of SARA referees is important to SARA. We would like our referees to appear professional in their appearance. The referee's uniform should be clean and maintained. Appropriate cresting should be displayed in the appropriate areas of the uniform. No hoodies should be worn underneath that expose a hood. For referees who wish to wear extra clothing underneath their referees jersey, SARA is adamant it not to have an exposed hood.

Mitts, gloves toques, and headbands are appropriate apparel if the conditions warrant. Head gear worn to maintain body heat must not impede the referee from wearing a properly fitting helmet.

You, as a SARA Referee Mentor must set the example in your appearance as a referee. As well if a referee shows up with an appearance that is less than professional gently let them know that their appearance is unsatisfactory and let them know that they will receive a less than satisfactory rating in your report to the allocator.

Composure

It is expected that referees maintain their composure while officiating. While it is understandable that people have their moments, we as officials must do our best to maintain our composure at all times.

Please inform our new referees that the more they are in control of the game the less likely they are to be in a position where their composure will diminish.

Please share with our new referees little secrets you have developed over the years to help you maintain your composure and a decorum of control of the game situation.

Consistency

It is very important that referees are very consistent in their game calling. If they let a questionable play go uncalled it will be expected by both teams that that is how the play will be called throughout the game. It is better for a referee to be **overly** strict at the outset and maintain the strictness of the calls then to be calling a penalty or game violation one way at the start of the game and a totally different way at the end of the game, as you know. Consistency is the basis of refereeing and for that

matter in any type of employment the referee will work in throughout their working life. It is best to learn to be consistent right from the start of their officiating career.

SARA would like their referees to learn this attribute from the outset of the referee's career. We encourage SARA's mentors to help and encourage consistency to be developed in the new official's game calling.

As mentors it is expected that you will be consistent in your approach to mentoring.

Attitude

The referee's attitude must be one of fairness, positive, fairplay, and eagerness to succeed. It is of no use having officials out officiating SARA's players and opponents if the official is presenting a lack of interest in the work. Unsatisfactory attitude is displayed by tardiness, poor appearance, and body language and inconsistent play calling. While it is understandable that not everyone is at the top of their game every assignment a consistent example of a poor attitude will result in less challenging game assignments and quantity of game assignments for the referee.

SARA will not tolerate a poor attitude from their officials. If consistent reports come back to the allocator about a referee's poor attitude they simply will not receive anymore game assignments. Officiating is a tough job as we all know. It also is not a job for everyone.

An attitude of just going out and referee a couple games to earn a few dollars will not be tolerated. As mentors please make this important fact known to our referees that you are working with.

Game Skills

Pre Game

SARA expects their referees to be consistent in their pregame inspections of the facilities and the equipment used to play the game.

Referees are expected to make sure the nets have no holes in them, the doors that allow access to the playing surfaces are closed securely after the participants enter the playing surface. Visual checks should be made to the ice surface, nets, time clocks, 30 second clocks, game rings, and game sheets supplied by the home team. As well please be cognizant of the other participant's equipment.

Referees should ensure the game starts on time and do their best to ensure the game is completed in the time allotted

Blue Lines

Referees must be consistent in their blue line calls and be totally aware of the rule and its effect on the play. As most of you know coaches will encourage their players to force the referee to make the call in Blue Line Fouls. The referee must be prepared for this and be consistent in their call of the play. It is good idea for the referee to decide from the start of their refereeing career how they wish to call this play.

Free Play Lines (Ringette Lines)

Referees working the free play lines must learn to be consistent and aware of how many players from each team are playing on each side of the free play line. The importance of this rule must be stressed to the officials. You as a mentor must be fully cognasance of this rule while mentoring and step in and blow the play dead when teams are in violation of the “Four in” rule. Bunny games and Novice games are good games to develop an excellent awareness of Free Play Line violations.

Crease

Mentors, please be aware of crease violations and ensure this rule is upheld to the highest standards. Ensure referees you are mentoring are calling this rule consistently and accurately.

Penalties

Please ensure referees are calling penalties accurately, consistently and judicially. If a referee officiates a game with no penalties called that is acceptable. If a referee calls a game where a penalty is served through out the game that is acceptable as well.

New referees must develop the confidence to call penalties on a consistent basis. A tripping penalty in a Bunny game is the same as a tripping penalty in a Junior A game. We must develop our referees to make these calls in a confident consistent manner. Referees must display a high standard and knowledge of penalty violations.

Please encourage, help develop, and exhibit to the referees you are mentoring a strong understanding violations to the game of Ringette. Your expertise, patience, and diligence to this facet of the game will be rewarded down the road when you are coaching or playing the game.

Signals

It is vital that referees have a strong knowledge of the signals used in the game of Ringette. If a referee is using the wrong signal in identifying a situation in the game then no one knows what is going on in the game.

Please be diligent in helping the referees you are mentoring develop and use these signals when working a game of Ringette.

Skating

A referee must display a desire to put forth the effort to skate throughout the game. The referee must have an ability to anticipate the play and be prepared to skate themselves with the play of game. Referees do not need to be graceful skaters, however they must have the ability to skate and keep up with the play.

Positioning

As you know positioning is the most important attribute in refereeing. Please work with, be diligent, and be persistent in assisting our referees to develop a strong sense of the proper position to be in all areas of the ice.

Team Work

It is vital that our referees work with their partners in cordial respectful manner. Teamwork with each partner is vital for everyone from coaches, players, off ice officials and referees to have a positive game experience.

Please encourage the referees you are mentoring to develop a strong team play environment with every referee they work with.

It is vital that referees be able to work with every referee they are assigned to work with. Please inform new referees that the inability to work with certain referees will not be tolerated and will affect the amount of assignments they receive.

Expectations of Mentors

Congratulations! You have been chosen personally by the SARA Executive to be the trend setters for SARA's officials. The executive have appreciated your dedication to the sport of Ringette and specifically your dedication as an official to this sport.

St. Albert Ringette Association expects a high standard from their referees and you have been chosen to assist our referees to achieve this high standard.

We expect you to work with, coach, teach as well as supervise our Referees in achieving our high standards.

We require you to be on the ice for Bunny and Novice games. Please use this opportunity to work with referees in their positioning, signal calling, penalties and game fouls. For higher level games you may wish to be on the ice or you may wish to be in the penalty bench. Please use your discretion for higher level games whether you wish to be on the ice or not.

It is the wish of the SARA Executive for the mentoring process to be seamless and to be as discreet as possible during the play of the game. As you know, you are there to develop referees not to be in the way of game play.

It is our hope your presence will help our referees to develop the confidence to grow as a Ringette Referee. It is expected you will remain positive and work with our new refs while they develop the skills to become an exceptional referee.

Please use the time between periods and games wisely to provide feedback. It is important that the new referees understand that with this job they have expectations that must be met and you are there to assist them in achieving these expectations. This at times may be a challenge to you mentors especially when doing assignments with referees whom have been doing this job for a year or two.

I am expecting reports preferably in an email format on your assessment of referees and their progress. Your reports will allow me to set up formal evaluations for referees whom you feel have worked themselves into a position of becoming a level 2 referee. As well your assessments will let me know if they are being assigned the proper level of game to officiate.

The SARA Executive goal is to develop all our referees to be confident capable. As well our goal for first year referees is to develop all our new referees to be capable of working as a lead referee in a novice game by seasons end.

The Executive would like to identify the capabilities of the referees whom have been doing this job for a couple of years as well.

Your input is vital and appreciated in St. Albert Ringette Association's development of high quality referees.

The last part that you should be aware of is compensation. SARA will pay mentors a minimum of \$20.00 per hour. If you have an accreditation higher then a level 1 referee SARA will pay you your achieved pay level scale for the game you are mentoring on an hourly rate.

Thank You

Randy Rock
SARA Acting Referee Allocator