

Western Region Officiating Report 2015-2016

My goal as coordinator for the past five seasons has been to work with Western Region officials and evaluators to continue the growth of our officials and push them to achieve higher level rankings by being evaluated and attending clinics. We are starting to move in that direction with numerous upgrades in rank of officials in the Western region with the help of many keen and hardworking evaluators and referee in chiefs.

Western Region has had a fantastic year within the officiating community. We brought 35 new refs into the system and upgraded numerous officials. This year at provincial A's we had 10 officials attend, at AA's we had 8 officials, at the Eastern Canadian Championships 1 official and four official attend CRC's.

After attending regionals and watching hours and hours of ringette I am thrilled. We had four evaluators/supervisor at regionals and were able to complete more than 30 evaluations. Referees received lots of valuable feedback and are progressing very well. I am very pleased about the growth of our officials. We have worked hard with these officials and regionals was a great indicator of their commitment and dedication to refereeing. It is because of the wonderful mentors and senior referees in the region who are pushing these referees to excel on the ice. I am delighted about the future of officiating in the Western region.

Our Western Region A/AA Officiating Assignment Program continued to be managed by Steve Baker. Steve continues to do a fabulous job of managing the system. The size of our region continues to be an issue with the sheer number of games that need covered each and every weekend with very few games being played during the week. If our focus as scheduler's and as association was to try and get more ice times during the week it would be a big help in finding more refs to cover games, especially at the higher levels. We continue to struggle covering the demands of games on weekends, especially when there are tournaments happening that weekend. It is my recommendation that associations try to schedule more league games during the week if possible or meet in neutral locations to play some of the league games.

We still have a shortage of high level refs for Open AA and U19AA and U16AA in the region and this will be the case for some time until we can develop our refs and get them through the ranks. We also need to focus our efforts in some of the outlining associations and encourage those refs to attend tournaments, clinics and look to upgrade within the referee hierarchy.

Ongoing Issues

Assigning:

This was our fifth year using the arbiter software. The human aspect still needs to be in place and games still need to be scheduled properly in order to utilize the officials we have in the region properly. Referees also need to be more responsible for blocking off their availability and accepting games in a timely manner.

Evaluations:

We have 3 community, 3 provincial and 2 regional evaluators. Referees need to be willing to travel to larger tournaments to be evaluated. A great place to be evaluated is regionals, we had several referees attend regionals who have been refereeing for several years attend regionals. It was great to be able to get those referees evaluations and offer them some advise for improvements. I was disappointed that many associations had very few or did not have any referees apply to regionals this year. The only way for our referees are going to get better is to receive feedback from evaluators or senior officials.

Lack of Referee's in some Associations:

Some associations (especially those on the outskirts of the region) need to focus on developing referees (current ones as well as new ones into the system). Several associations only have 2-3 officials within their entire association. Associations need to take responsibility to attract new referees. It is hard to have a ringette game without referees.

High Level Games:

We continue to not have enough higher level referees to cover AA games and higher level A games. The Western region has some of the top AA and A teams in the province and we need to continue to grow our higher ranking refs and continue to evaluate referees at the AA level. We need to continue to work with upcoming officials and get them evaluated to move in to the appropriate ranks. A second issue was neighbouring associations such as Cambridge and Mississauga pulling some of our A and AA refs to their association to cover games as they do not have the higher level refs to cover their games either. If we can get schedules out early then we can book referees before they commit to other regions.

Regards,

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Western Coordinator