

## **Western Region Officiating Report 2014-2015**

My goal as coordinator for the past four 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 more than 30 new refs into the system and upgraded numerous officials. This year at provincial A's we had 8 officials attend, at AA's we had 8 officials, and 3 officials at the U12 event. I am very excited to see the western region officials excel and start to break on to the A and AA referee scene. We also have two officials attending the Eastern Canadian Championships and one official attend CRC's.

After attending regionals and watching hours and hours of ringette I am thrilled. We had five evaluators and one supervisor at regionals and were able to complete more than 35 evaluations. Referees received lots of valuable feedback and are progressing very well. I am very pleased about the growth of our officials, especially the young ones coming through the western region. We have worked hard with these officials and regionals was a great indicator of their commitment and dedication to refereeing. There are several refs ready to start working towards refereeing A and AA level games. 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 A and U18AA and U16AA in the region and this will be the case for some time until we can build up our refs and get them through the ranks. We also need to focus our efforts in some of the outlining associations and continue those refs to attend tournaments, clinics and look to upgrade within the referee hierarchy.

## **ISSUES**

### *Assigning:*

This was our fourth year using the arbiter software. It was good but once again we are still working out the kinks. 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.

### *Evaluations:*

We have 3 community, 4 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 but many associations did not have any referees apply.

### *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). I was disappointed that many associations did not have any referees apply to regionals this year. In fact, some associations weren't represented at all. The only way for our referees to get better is to receive feedback from evaluators or senior officials.

### *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.

Regards,

Denise Pelletier

Western Coordinator