

Western Region Officiating Report April 2012

Wow, I thought last season was busy but this year was just as hectic! In my second year of being coordinator of western region my goal has been to work with officials and evaluators in the region to continue the growth of our officials and push them to achieve higher level rankings by being evaluated and attending clinics.

Western Region has had a fantastic year within the officiating community – we brought more than 50-60 new refs into the system and upgraded numerous officials between levels, sent 6 officials to A provincials, 5 to AA Provincials, 3 to U12 provincials, 1 to Ontario Winter Games and 2 to Nationals. This was definitely a great season for our refs!

Our Western Region A/AA Officiating Assignment Program worked much better this year using the Arbiter Software, there were a few kinks to work out early on but Heather Verhoeve did a fabulous job of managing the system.

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 continue to struggle covering the demands of games on weekends, especially when there are tournament 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 (4 teams meet in Tilsonburg and play several games on a particular day).

As our A and AA teams continue to grow, please remember that exhibition and rescheduled games are a huge issue. Please remind your coaches that the sooner they book a game the better as it is very difficult to find appropriate officials.

Western Region currently has 7 evaluators. It is very important for associations to encourage their refs to attend out of association tournaments (especially Regionals) so they can get feedback and written evaluations. At regionals this year we were able to evaluate 40 referees between three evaluators and to move many of them from a level 1 to a level 2. We need more refs to move up levels to accommodate the growing number of A and AA level teams. Please feel free to contact me for a list of names of evaluators or to request an evaluator to come to your associations tournament.

Next season 2012-2013 officials in the Western Region will have the opportunity to attend a level 2/3 clinic. This will allow officials to move from a level 1 up the ranks to a level 2 or 3, you should be encouraging any official who has been involved in your association for more than 2 years to attend the clinics that will be offered in the fall.

It was extremely helpful to have a rules clinic with coaches this past fall. It is not a rule change year this year however I have 6 referees/evaluators available for parent/team rule clinics if you desire to have one. It is often helpful to have a rules clinic with your players, coaches, parents to develop a better understanding of the rules and the perspective of a referee. My suggestion is to schedule a parent, player and/or coaching rules clinic now so that you can notify your

membership when they register! It is much easier to get everyone involved at the start of the season then to scramble to set something up half way thru!

I will be available through the summer so if you need me please contact me at dpelleti20@hotmail.com

Thank you to everyone for supporting all officials this past season.

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