

# Western Region Coaching Report

After many years as Western Region Coaching Coordinator Michael Genereaux has decided to step down to pursue other interests. Mike has been an integral part of our Region Executive and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and thank him for the countless hours he has put in helping to nurture coaches throughout our Region for so many years!

We had a very busy year this past season with 191 coaches taking part in clinics throughout the Region. We had six CSI clinics with a total of 117 coaches attending, three CI-1 Clinics with 60 coaches attending and two CI-2 clinics with 14 coaches attending. Some reasons for the increase in attendance is that we had a number of coaches from outside our Region attend clinics this past season as well as an increase in the number of teams in the Region. In addition to this we also completed on ice evaluations certifying 15 new CI coaches.

We currently have the following active LFs and MLFs in our Region:

- Michael Genereaux
- Jodi Walsh
- John Mezenberg

Next year we will be welcoming Craig Hennessey from Seaforth to the team and look forward to having him help out as much as possible.

In order to Track coaches' qualifications we have been using the ORA office's information as given the number of teams in our Region it would be a full time job to maintain our own database. Tracking online MED certification continues to be the hardest thing to track as we do not get notification unless coaches advise us once completed. I believe we need to work with NCCP to find an easier solution to ensure that our coaches have received their MED certification other than relying on them to tell us or going coach by coach to review NCCP transcripts.

During our coaching clinics we received many comments about whether there was a possibility of having the Coaching Packages in an electronic format, including links throughout the workbook and reference material to make it easy to jump between both. I believe this would be a great idea and would also allow us to send the packages to participants prior to the clinics so they could review prior to attending and allow for some broader discussion on many of the topics included. In addition as coaches are becoming more and more computer savy many would prefer to use their computers rather than have a hard copy.

Another comment that has been brought up not only during clinics but around the arenas during discussions with coaches and bench staff is that of trainer certification. Many people I have spoken to wonder what the relevancy of the CSI course has to their duties as a trainer while on an A or AA bench. They feel that their time might be better spent at a course specifically designed for a trainer such as

what hockey or lacrosse does rather than at a coaching clinic. This is even more relevant as we see the increase of injuries within our sport such as concussions and other serious injuries. Perhaps a course specifically designed to teach them how to deal with these types of issues is time better spent.

Overall our coaches' behavior throughout the region has been positive. However we have had some incidents that have had to be addressed. This is a difficult problem to solve given we cannot be at all games but rely on Associations and Officials to follow up with us if a coach's behavior has been unacceptable and the Region is required to step in.

John C. Mezenberg  
Coaching Coordinator – Western Region