

## **Western Region Officiating Report 2012-2013**

My goal as coordinator for the past two seasons 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. After attending regionals and watching hours and hours of Ringette I am very excited. I am most excited about the officials, especially the young ones coming through the western region, we have worked hard with these officials and regionals was a great indication 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 really excited about the future of officiating in the Western region.

Western Region has had a fantastic year within the officiating community – we brought more than 50 new refs into the system and upgraded numerous officials between levels, sent 5 officials to A provincials, 6 to AA Provincials, 4 to U12 provincials, 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 for the second year, there were a few kinks to work out early on but Heather Verhoeve did a fabulous job of managing the system. She will not be returning to this task so we will be looking for a new A and AA scheduler to manage the program.

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.

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. I would like to encourage evaluators in our region to get more involved as the bulk of our evaluators were not very active. I would also like to send several evaluators to a community evaluator's clinic as soon as one is available. This is the route to developing our refs.

## **ISSUES**

### Assigning:

This was our second year using the arbiter software, it was good but once again we are still working on getting 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:

Our region needs more community, provincial and regional evaluators. Also our higher level evaluators in our region are not evaluating as much as I would like to see them evaluate, especially to move people within level 2, 3 and to a 4.

### 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 Mississagua 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.

Denise Pelletier

Western Coordinator