

Western Region Officiating Report 2013-2014

My goal as coordinator for the past three 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.

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 12 officials attend (for 6 of them this was their first invite to provincials), at AA's we had 3 officials, and 4 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.

After attending regionals and watching hours and hours of ringette I am thrilled. We had two evaluators at regionals and were able to evaluate more than 25 officials. They 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 had a new coordinator, Steve Baker. There were a few kinks to work out early on but Steve 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 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.

Western Region added 3 new evaluators to our roster, Chris Faulds, Mark Goldhawk and Sarah Ewing. Western Region currently has 8 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.

ISSUES

Assigning:

This was our third 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.

Code of Conduct:

I was very concerned about the behaviour of some parents and coaches at regionals this season.

The code of conduct clearly states:

Abusive or offensive language is not to be used on the ice, bench area or the public halls and lobbies of the arena.

Bench Staff must abide by the decisions of the game officials, ie: referee, timekeeper or scorekeeper.

Bench Staff should ensure that all players are the best possible representatives at all times.

Bench Staff should respect the roles played by the volunteers, Host and officials and other bench staff and deal with them in a courteous and friendly manner.

Any kind of abuse can't happen. We need to remind the ringette community that our officials are there to keep the game safe for all involved. We are losing an alarming number of young referees because of verbal abuse. If this sort of thing continues, eventually there will not be enough referees to facilitate games. I urge you all to remind your coaches, players and fans that any sort of abuse to officials will NOT be tolerated. If you have questions about rules don't hesitate to contact myself, or schedule a rules clinic for your association.

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 but many associations did not have any referees apply.

Lack of Referee's in some Associations:

Some associations 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