

Northern Stripes

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I cannot believe that the first half of the season is already gone and we are only a short period of time away from the start of playoffs. The season has gone well to date however there remain some recurring issues that all of us as officials need to address.

First off is the standard of play. We have slipped in our application of the standard and must remain diligent in calling the guidelines as discussed at your clinics this season. We have done a pretty good job but we are struggling with consistency, not only between officials, but with the official themselves. Please continue to seek advice from fellow officials, your local RIC, supervisors or zone executive in helping you in this regard.

The other major issues continues to be report writing. League administrators are finding it quite challenging when officials do not do their job in completing appropriate writeups correctly. This creates huge challenges for administrators in either making decisions with little to no information or having to track down the official to get the required information. Remember it is part of our job and an important one to do correctly!

The biggest change for some of you was the one-day clinic that was implemented this season for level 2 and higher. We have received mixed feedback on the change, with some liking the change while others finding it difficult to get the appropriate amount of time on key areas. The entire clinic program will be looked at again over the next few months once the clinic season is over and we will look at addressing some of the concerns that came up this year to improve the program for next season.

I hope everyone has a good season and see you at the rink!

Ray Keller
Chairman

chairman@northzone.ab.ca

RECLASSIFICATION

Those officials wanting to be reclassified to a level 3 or 4 for next season need to apply on line at our website. Submissions must be into me by January 1, 2008. Please follow the information on our website, www.northzone.ab.ca to complete your application.

Ray Keller
Chairman

chairman@northzone.ab.ca



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Supervisions & Shadow	Page 2
Senior Committee	Page 2
EMHA/ Minor Committee	Page 3
Treasurer	Page 3
Tofield	Page 3
Senior Assignors	Page 4
Development	Page 4
Discipline	Page 4
Federation	Page 5
Clinics	Page 6
RIC's	Page 6

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

**CHECK US OUT FOR ALL
YOUR LATEST
NORTHZONE INFO &
UPDATES**

WWW.NORTHZONE.AB.CA

General Meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn (formerly the Edmonton Inn). Please note the room for each meeting below. The dates for this seasons meetings are as follows.

Meeting Dates

January 21 – Pitcher Plant RM
February 25 – Ridgewood RM
April 21 (Elections) - TBA

All meetings will start at 7:30 PM sharp. Please try and make it to at least one meeting over the season and help our Zone to continue its history as a leader in Canada.

SUPERVISION & SHADOW PROGRAM

The North Zone Supervision Program is off to a relatively slow start, hopefully only due to a lack of forms being submitted. The following statistics are current as of Monday, December 3 2007:

Total Number of Supervisions Completed: 375
 Number of Active Supervisors: 64
 Number of Officials Supervised: 221
 Number of Mentorship (Shadow) Supervisions: 48

Just a friendly reminder to please submit your supervision forms as soon as possible, either by e-mail to supervisions@northzone.ab.ca, via fax to 757-9347, or by simply bringing them to a general meeting. It really helps to get the forms in as they are completed rather than compiling them for a month or two. This will also help us target problem areas and identify officials who are in need of someone to watch them.

The 31 new shadow jackets should be in and distributed by the printing of this newsletter. 27 jackets were also provided last season, however, only forty-eight mentorship supervisions have been reported to date. Please take one or two mornings or afternoons a month, get out and work some Novice hockey. The results will be appreciated.

If you are in need of someone to come and watch you and check your progress, please e-mail me and we will coordinate a supervisor to come out and see you to the best of our ability. The more lead time we have of your schedule, the better!

Thanks everyone! If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me by e-mail at supervisions@northzone.ab.ca.

Kevin Adam
Supervisions Coordinator
supervisions@northzone.ab.ca

SENIOR COMMITTEE

The first half of the season was a very busy one in the senior program. First, there has been considerable movement once again in the program, particularly on the referee side. The supervision program continues to have growing pains and has worked well at some levels and not at others. It is imperative that you, as officials in the senior program continue to give back to fellow officials through the form of supervision. This is how we all improve and is the most powerful way to help in improving officiating as a whole. One way to help out is to get out to the rinks over Christmas and take in one of the numerous tournaments in the Zone.

Congratulations to the following officials who were selected to work the Mac's Tournament in Calgary: Ryan Weyland, Brett Babkirk, Stephen Garner, Scott Knibbs and Greg Chronohaus for the male side and Shauna Wing, Shelley Knowlton and Stacey DeWynter on the female side. Good luck to all officials, I know you will do the zone proud!

Have a good season!

Ray Keller
Chairman
chairman@northzone.ab.ca



NORTH ZONE EXECUTIVE

Chairman:
 Ray Keller

Vice Chairman:
 Mitch Carriere

Treasurer:
 Dave Butler

Secretary:
 Kumail Moledina

Directors:
 Ryan Petryshyn
 Kevin Adam
 Cory Kokotailo
 Lance Hyndman

Senior Referees:
 Jerry George

Senior Linesmen:
 Guy Doucet

Supervisions and Shadows
 Kevin Adam

CIS and AJHL Supervisor:
 Mike Rebus

Clinic Coordinator:
 Don Buskas

CJHL Liason:
 Lance Hyndman

Match Penalties Representative:
 Cory Kokotailo

EMHA Representative:
 Herman Costa

Federation Representative:
 Duncan MacDougall

Female Hockey:
 Karen Kost

MAAA Supervisor:
 Gary Tremblay

Past Zone Chairman:
 Darin Bauer

West Satellite Chairman:
 Andy LeBlanc

Provincial Chairman:
 Wally Popik

EMHA AND MINOR COMMITTEE

The Edmonton AA hockey program has started with a few concerns. We as officials must call the new standard and rules emphasis at all times. There have been concerns that checking to the head and hit from behind penalties are being substituted with the least penalty possible. There is also concern that officials are not calling the Mouthguard rule. This is a risk management issue and the category directors want this enforced. This also includes officials that work interlock games with the Edmonton teams. Also No Shows, Late Cancellations and officials not calling their assignors back have become a problem. If you are on the AA hockey list and you don't want to work the hockey just let the assignor know and we will take your name off the list. Also canceling your assignment so you can work another game for any reason without consulting and receiving permission from your assignor is a definite breach of our rules. If anyone has any concerns during the season regarding rinks, coaches, fans, teams please feel free to call or email me.

Herman Costa
Minor Committee Chairman
EMHA Referee Representative



TREASURER

Are you missing your last two pay cheques? Are you not getting calls from assignors? Did you borrow this newsletter from a friend because you never get one? Have you moved? Has your phone number changed? Did you tell us? If any of this sounds familiar, we need to hear from you. Every year we waste our time and your money mailing newsletters and cheques to the wrong address. Don't rely on your information being updated when you take your clinic, depending on workload and where you take your clinic, it could take until mid January to have your file updated, which in some cases, means you will miss two newsletters and three pay cheques.

If your contact information has changed, you need to update your address and phone number with the treasurer. Please visit <http://northzone.ab.ca/AddressChange.htm>

Also if you officiate Senior male or female hockey, or "A" hockey in Edmonton, you will receive your game fees by cheque at the monthly general meetings, except November games which are mailed in early December, and February games which are available at the April General meeting. Game fees are calculated using the information received from your assignors, if you feel your pay is incorrect, check with your assignor first. You also need to contact your assignor if your assignment has changed, for example you are assigned to be a linesman in a game, but one of your partner does not show, you need to tell your assignor so your pay can be adjusted.

Dave Butler
Treasurer
Treasurer@northzone.ab.ca

TOFIELD

Things are well underway out in Tofield this season. We held our clinic on Oct.20/21, however we only had 7 officials attend of which only 4 were local. So with 2 locals attending 1 day clinics elsewhere, that leaves us with 6 officials. Our first tournament of the season was held on November 16, 17, 18, at the atom level. Covering all of these games was a challenge as a couple of guys used were from last years list but were still eligible to officiate yet for a short time. This tournament I believe served as an eye opener for our minor hockey executive as to just how serious the shortage of officials in the rural centers is. At the midget level Rob Boos from Camrose has been a big help to me already in covering some of these games. Tofield minor hockey has adopted the new provincial rates for 07-08 but it has not seemed to help in the recruitment of new officials or retaining current ones. So I am not sure if money is the real issue. Supervisions are underway and most of my guys have already been looked at. On a final note we are covering the same number of teams as last year. 2 Novice, 2 Atom, 2 PeeWee, 1 Bantam, and 1 Midget team.

Larry Suchy



REFEREES' COUNCIL

SENIOR ASSIGNORS

The hockey season is well underway and all leagues are now in full swing in the Senior Program. We are noticing that our newer officials to the Sr. Program are submitting a lot more dark days than our experienced veterans in the program. Unfortunately the majority of hockey in the Sr. Program comes Friday to Sunday and we often need officials to work at least 2-3 days per weekend. We are doing our best to keep the number of games between officials as equal as possible however availability plays a big role in how successful we can be at that. Please remember that the next 5 supervisions in your assigned leagues are due before the January General meeting to be eligible to work playoffs.

The 48 hour rule - A linesman that is working the Sr Program should be contacting the referee 72-48 hours prior to that particular game. Any earlier than that usually ends up in a referee forgetting who he is working with and too late means a fine is coming! If a referee waits until game day to contact the Sr Lines assignor, then he will be fined. The only exceptions to this rule occur when a switch is made and it happens within the usual guidelines.

Finally, the winter driving season is here and we want to remind our officials to take care on the roads at all times. The driver is responsible for his partners and those that he shares the road with so be early and be safe!

Jerry George and Guy Doucet

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Individuals interested in improving their officiating skills and/or learning valuable information to bring back to their local centers, are invited to apply to the development program. This program is a great opportunity for persons between the ages of 18 and 30 to officiate top-level hockey while obtaining valuable information and feedback regarding their performance.

The first step in the development process is attendance at the Alberta Cup Selection Camp. This is tentatively scheduled to be held in Edmonton on April 12 & 13, 2008. At this camp officials will participate in on and off-ice testing as well as officiate games as both a referee and a linesman. Evaluation and instruction is provided to the officials based upon their performance. From this camp two officials are selected to officiate at the Alberta Cup at the end of April.

A group of officials from the Alberta Cup Selection Camp are then selected to attend Development Camp in Camrose. This is a week-long camp in July where participants become highly involved in all aspects of officiating. Agenda topics include standard items such as procedures, positioning, techniques, and rule knowledge; but also includes on and off-ice fitness testing and specialty seminars delivered by experts in particular areas of hockey (i.e. nutrition, coaching, top-level officiating, etc.) This week is the pinnacle in the development process of up and coming officials. If you are interested in attending these camps or require additional information please check the North Zone web site or contact me directly. The deadline for applications is February 25, 2008.

Lance Hyndman
development@northzone.ab.ca

DISCIPLINE

Hello to all members, well the season is almost half over and the number of incidents is relatively down from last year. This is a good sign. No shows still continue to top the list though. Please remember if you take a game, to record the Date & Time correctly and remember to show up! This is a commitment you make and parents, coaches and especially players who are counting on you to make it. Otherwise the game can't go on. Please conduct yourselves professionally in and around the rink. This means dress code, arriving on time, & communicating with parents and coaches. Take the time to answer questions and watch the reverse abuse also. If we continue to strive at these things, we could possibly get to 0 incidents. Again I would just like to thank all of you for the hard work and effort you're putting in this season. Keep up the good work!

Mitch Carriere
Discipline
vicechair@northzone.ab.ca

FEDERATION NOTES

It is the responsibility of the official to insure that he has taken his assignments correctly. Be certain you have the correct date, the correct time, the correct arena and the correct number of games. There should be no confusion or miscommunication. If you cannot do your assignment give it back to your assignor. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU REASSIGN YOUR OWN ASSIGNMENT.** This problem is a discipline issue.

SHARED RESPECT! Officials are reminded that use of profane and abusive language when communicating with players is unacceptable and unprofessional. Officials must show respect to all players regardless of the circumstances.

Please adhere to the rates on the North Zone Rate Sheet for 2007 – 2008. The officials are responsible for charging the correct rate. This applies to officials in Edmonton, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Stony Plain and Spruce Grove who officiate games in this program.

YOUR NAME MUST BE PRINTED LEGIBLY ON THE OFFICIAL GAME SHEET. There are no exceptions.

I have received complaints that officials are not doing reports for penalties that are to be reported. In this program all misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct and match penalties must be reported. Most complaints about lack of or incomplete reports have been in the Pee wee category.

Please enforce the standard of play. If you see a rule violation assess the appropriate penalty. The severity of the violation, the time of the game when the violation occurs, the score in the game and the mood of the referee are considerations which should not become a factor in deciding if a penalty will be assessed. If you see it, call it! The enforcement of restraining fouls is a priority. For restraining fouls there is a danger zone and there may be consequences as a result of entering the danger zone. If the consequences occur, the referee must assess a penalty when he sees the consequence of the player having entered the danger zone.

The Minor Hockey Week Tournament is January 11 to 20, 2008. All officials are expected to contribute volunteer time when requested. If you want games speak to your assignors. Each official is a volunteer contributing time **FREE OF CHARGE.** Get involved in Canada's largest hockey tournament.

The Zone 8 Hockey Alberta Atom 4 on 4 Tournament was held on November 4, 2007 at Coronation Arena. The officials who worked the tournament were K. J. Gamblin, Nicho Jaedicke, Christopher Cousens, Brenden Volovich, Branden Picken and Jonathan Jagerhofer.

League play began October 3, 2007. Round 2 began play November 26, 2007 and will conclude January 10, 2008. Round 3 begins play January 21, 2008. The playoff round will be in March 2008. The Edmonton – Calgary Provincial playoff will be in Edmonton in March 2008. This Provincial playoff will involve Midget and Bantam teams. The Pee wee teams will participate in the province-wide playoff.

Duncan MacDougall
Federation Coordinator

FEDERATION DISTRICT REFEREE COORDINATORS

North East District	Bill Clark
South East District	Dave Kemp
South West District	Gary Greenough
North West District	Duncan MacDougall
Knights of Columbus	Darryl Desjarlais
Edmonton Girls	Don Markewich

REMINDER:
If you're a hockey player & you're under suspension from hockey, you're also suspended from officiating until such time as you are re-instated

CLINICS

It has been a very busy season with all the changes with the implementation of the one-day clinics. The officials attending accepted the one-day clinic format for level 2 officials that were registered last season very well and there were many positive comments about the length. There were still clinics with a wide variation in the experience levels of the officials attending and this made it difficult to instruct to the experience level of all those attending. Each less experienced official should leave the clinic with the knowledge they need go on the ice and officiate a game properly while the more experienced officials should leave with greater knowledge on handling the tougher situations that arise. I have stressed the last few years that we try to get similar experience levels attending each clinic in order to have the proper instruction needed for those attending and with the implementation of the one-day clinic there is a very wide range of experience levels at each clinic. We will be having a meeting with the instructors and executive to see what changes can be made in the way clinic dates and locations are assigned. As of Nov 10/11 there have been 69 classes in 37 different locations throughout the whole zone. Of these there were 30 one-day classes and 39 two-day classes. With about 1300 people registered it averages out to about 18 participants per class. This is an area of concern, as we are not fully utilizing the resources we have for instructing clinics as we can have up to 30 participants in each class. The clinics are the most important aspect of the officiating program and we will be working on finding a solution to having larger clinics with similar experience levels of officials to give the best instruction we can to those attending.

The first date for clinics next season will be Sept 13/14 as all the instructors must attend a leadership course the weekend of Sept 6/7. Anyone who is interested in instructing send me an e-mail and I will send you an application.

Don Buskas
Clinic Coordinator
clinics@northzone.ab.ca

RIC's

Well, the first half of the season has flown by. Hopefully all well out in your areas. Please keep me updated with any new Referee in-chiefs in your communities. I will also be contacting most of you this month to get some feedback and see how things are going.

Also this season we will be continuing with our annual meetings with all RIC's in the zone. Monday, January 14, 2008 @ 7:30pm & it will be held at the Ramada Inn (same location as General Meetings) in the Pitcher Plant room. The objective of this meeting is to share what is happening in the North Zone with Referee in Chiefs from various communities. It is a chance to network with other RIC's, share ideas, and discuss ways to improve the program across the Zone. Various members from the executive will be there as well to answer any questions you have about the upcoming events, supervision program, etc. Please contact me by email or on my cell phone to let me know you are able to attend.

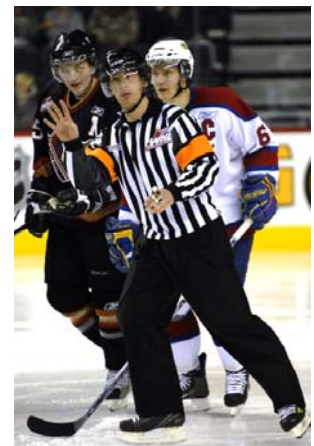
Mitch Carriere
Vice Chairman
vicechair@northzone.ab.ca



Sanjeev Bhagrath giving sledge hockey a try @ Development Camp



Shauna Wing at the Esso nationals.



Ryan Agar calling a double-minor

FEMALE

After two very busy months (October and November) with numerous assignments, the next months and heading into the new year are looking much more manageable from a game assignment perspective. Everyone is working hard and making great strides in their respective levels of competency.

Supervisions are very important to our zone's overall program success. We have some of the best officials in the country, right here in our zone. Increasing the competencies of other officials, doesn't happen through osmosis, but rather happens as a result of hard work, sharing our expertise and spending time with our fellow officials. We are very grateful to have such a great North Zone officiating team. Let's share our knowledge with our younger less experienced officials so one day they can return the favour to others!!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Shauna Wing for her success at this year's Under 18 National Championship held in Kitchener, Ontario November 7 to 11, 2007. Shauna was chosen to do lines in the gold medal game. This very prestigious assignment is the result of Shauna's hard work and dedication to the program. Congratulations Shauna!

Have a wonderful holiday season everyone!!

Karen Kost
Female Program Coordinator

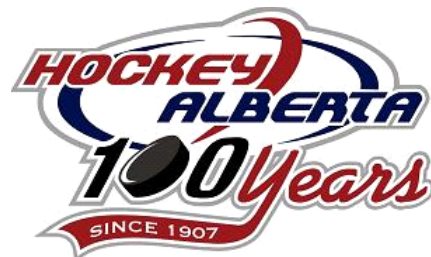
HOCKEY ALBERTA 100 YEAR AWARDS

Hockey Alberta celebrated 100 years of organized, amateur hockey in Alberta on November 29, 2007. As part of the celebration Hockey Alberta recognized 100 recipients who had a major impact on the sport of hockey in Alberta over the last 100 years.

"Each Centennial Award recipient has such a longstanding passion and commitment to hockey, Hockey Alberta is proud to give them the greatest honour we have ever bestowed. These individuals and organizations truly do inspire us to build the next 100 years of hockey in our province," stated Terry Ledingham, Hockey Alberta President.

Among those individuals recognized were 6 officials that have been involved over the years in the north zone. The winners include:

Bob Anderson, Edson
Ernie Boruk, Edmonton
William Fletcher, Sherwood Park
George McCorry, Edmonton
Ron Panchyshyn, Edmonton
Wally Popik, St. Albert



The North Zone Referees' Committee would like to congratulate these individuals for their leadership, direction, and ongoing support and commitment to the North Zone and hockey in Alberta.



Dwayne Yakabow in AJHL action



Jim Armistead (center) worked his final game of his career with Jerry George (left) in the Allan Cup Final.



NOT RECOMMENDED!!

SOCIAL

SLO-PITCH and YEAR END AWARDS

Things are going to be a little different this year. The awards evening will be in conjunction with our annual elections meeting on April 21, 2008 in the Ridgewood Room of the Ramada Conference Center. This will be an excellent time to come out and vote as well as see the winners of our prestigious awards. There will not be an official banquet this year but more of a social event. The plan is to have a slo-pitch tournament. The tournament will be played on May 10, 2008. The tentative place will be at Rundle Park. The format will be mixed teams and to sign up you will need to e-mail Ryan Petryshyn with your name and others you would like to play with. The social committee will make the final teams to try and make it fair. We are looking into bringing out a few barbeques and having hamburgers and hotdogs. This is a family oriented event so bring the kids, as there will be entertainment supplied for them as well. Keep your ears open for more information. There will be no alcohol allowed at this year's social event.



**Ryan Petryshyn
Social Committee**

**Send your pictures to
secretary@northzone.ab.ca
to be in the next newsletter!**

9th Annual NORTHZONE OPEN

This year's tournament is going to be held at the Athabasca Golf and Country Club. You can check out the course at <http://www.athagolf.com>. It will be held on June 21st, 2008. Bring your sun-screen as this is the longest day of the year. Cost is \$120.00. Included in your fee is transportation to and from Edmonton, green fees, cart rental, hot dog & a beverage at the turn, dinner, and many prizes. You can enter as a single or in a foursome. Payment can be made at any Northzone meeting or by contacting Cory Kokotailo at match@northzone.ab.ca.

**Cory Kokotailo
Social Committee**



OR



After years of practice in the off-season you can see the similarities between Tiger Woods and your vice-chair Mitch Carriere.



Matt McFadyen turning it up ice.



Injury suffered by Gary Tremblay during pre-season. The cut resulted in 12 stitches. 3 under the skin to put the tissue back, 2 on the knuckle and 7 across the top of the hand



Former Northzone Referee Kyle Rehman making his NHL debut. Congrats!