

Northern Stripes



Connor LaForge, Cory Yestel and Peter Leveille stand for the anthem at a Midget AAA versus National Women's Team game.

IMPORTANT—REGISTRATION AND CLINIC CHANGES FOR 2010

We are in the process of changing the delivery of our clinic program. Every official will have to register on line with HCR (Hockey Canada Registry) and work through the on line learning modules. The purpose of the HCR is two fold, one to ensure accurate information (you will enter your own name, address, phone number etc) and secondly it will reduce the workload on our volunteers around the province who, in the past, had to enter this information for every official. Once you are registered in HCR, you can update your information at any time. The E Learning was piloted in the North Zone and was very well receive by both officials and instructors. If everything goes as planned, you will be directed to the Hockey Canada link in late summer, with a specific login and password. It will be your responsibility to register and work through the E Learning modules prior to registering for a clinic next year. Please monitor the North Zone web site for up to date information.

Mike Rebus

ajhl@northzone.ab.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Referee Recognition	Page 2
NHL Experience/Chairman Report	Page 3
Senior Assignors	Page 4
Remembering Minor Hockey Week	Page 4
Shadow / Supervision	Page 5
Treasurer Cents	Page 5
World Junior Experience	Page 6
Sturgeon County Hockey	Page 7
Banquet / North Zone Open	Page 7
AJHL / CIS	Page 8
Special Events / Provincials	Page 8
Federation	Page 9
Clinic Information	Page 10
Match Penalty / Discipline	Page 10
Senior Committee	Page 10
RIC/EMHA and Minor Committee	Page 11
World Under 17 Experience	Page 12

REFEREE RECOGNITION

This may come as a surprise, but this is a letter to applaud the good work being done by our referees. I am sure that positive feedback for referees is a rare thing, but I feel compelled to show my support and appreciation.

My son was playing in an Atom game in the Edmonton area recently and my hope is that you are able to determine who the referees were, and pass on my gratitude. They did an exceptional job, and they should be recognized for it.

We had played this team before, and the previous games were "high spirited" to say the least. This match was much the same. There were quite a few penalties being called, against both sides, and they were well deserved.

At one point though, with their goalie freezing the puck the whistle blew. Emotions were running quite high, and there was some pushing and shoving around the net. Some kids went down, and it appeared to me that this might degenerate to violence. I have read and heard some of the stories of the nasty side of minor hockey, but luckily I have never witnessed it first hand. I was afraid it was going to happen last night.

One of the referees was quick to act, and took control of the situation before anything could get started. A strong, assertive voice, and the courage to use it, was all it took. The kids all stopped immediately, and a potentially ugly situation was averted. My first concern was for the safety of the kids (on both sides), and that referee did an excellent job of keeping everyone safe.

I talked with my kids about the importance of respecting the referees, and how part of their job was to keep the games safe for everyone. I pointed out how things might have gone differently if they had not stepped in. It was an important lesson, with a very convincing performance to help it hit home.

It was not an easy game, and the referees certainly had to work hard. I had to leave the game early, and I did not get a chance to thank them. I hope the younger referee learned the value of reading the situation and being able to stop it before it gets started. And I hope that the older referee knows that at least one parent appreciates the skill and the difficulty of doing their job.

I hope they both know that they are doing good work, keeping our kids safe. The referees don't get enough support from the parents, and that is unfortunate. My writing this may improve that, even just slightly. The great thrills of playing (and watching) minor hockey are only possible with their hard work and effort. Keep up the good work!

Best Regards,

"Hockey Dad"

**Congratulations to Daniel and Tyler Cook on a job well done
- North Zone Referees Executive**



Devin Wentzell, Brandon Rose and Bryce Horbachewski getting ready for the RAMHL All-star game in Fort McMurray

NORTH ZONE EXECUTIVE PHONE LIST

Chairman:

Kumail Moledina

Vice Chairman:

Lance Hyndman

Treasurer:

Dave Butler

Secretary:

Ryan Weyland

Directors:

Ryan Petryshyn

Gary Tremblay

Cory Kokotailo

Colin Watt

Senior Referees:

Dwayne Yakubow

Senior Linesmen:

Guy Doucet

Supervisions & Shadow Program:

Kevin Adam

Clinic Coordinator:

Dean Ziegler

CJHL Liaison:

Cory Moser

Match Penalties Representative:

Lance Hyndman

EMHA Representative:

Herman Costa

Federation Representative:

Duncan MacDougall

Female Hockey:

Karen Kost

MAAA/Jr B Ref Supervisor:

Gary Tremblay

MAAA/Jr B Linesman Supervisor:

Ryan Petryshyn

CIS/ AJHL Supervisor:

Mike Rebus

Past Zone Chairman:

Ray Keller

West Regional Coordinator:

Doug Laboucane

Provincial Chairman:

Wally Popik

NHL EXPERIENCE

Just want to say that I had an amazing time meeting the referee's and watching the Oilers win with seconds left. Before the game, my dad and I met up with Greg Atkins. He showed us all around Rexall place. The first place he took us to was down by the dressing rooms and storage rooms. Greg took us to the private lounge. Private meeting take place in there. Then, Greg took us to the two bars that go around Rexall, really nice bars. We got to go to the media boxes and walked around checking each box out and what happens in them. After that, the players came on the ice to warm up. When this was happening, I got to go into the penalty box to watch the warm up. Got a lot of pictures of the players. After the game was over, Greg took us to the refs room and we got to talk about the game, what happened, what penalties were assessed, all that good stuff. I got a picture with one of the referee's jersey on. All in all, I had a great time. The picture below, from left to right... Referee #13 Dan O'Halloran Referee #9 Dan O'Rourke Linesmen #84 Tony Sericolo Linesmen #70 Derek Nansen

Brady

Brady Korzenowski, North Zone Official



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another hockey season is nearing its end. It was great to see a big increase in our numbers this year. We increased the number of officials by 16% this season in the Northzone. I would like to thank everyone for their great efforts in recruiting officials for our program.

Congratulations to all officials whom were selected for provincial or league playoff assignments. Remember to maintain the standard of play throughout the provincials and playoffs.

There may be some changes coming to our clinic program for the 2010-2011 season. We may be moving to using online clinics and to the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR). I ask you all to check www.northzone.ab.ca throughout the offseason for any new potential developments.

I hope to see all of you out to the final General Meeting on April 19. We will be holding our elections that evening.

I would like to thank the Northzone executive, local referees in chief, assigners, supervisors and mentors, whose time and effort is the backbone of our program. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to the officiating program. The strength of our Zone is in its volunteers.

I hope that everyone has a great summer and will look forward to seeing you back at the rink in September!

Kumail Moledina, Chairman

SENIOR ASSIGNORS

Wow.... It's hard to believe that it is February already and all teams are getting into playoffs. This is where the real fun begins, it's the most wonderful time of the year! Waiting for playoff assignments is just like a child anticipating the arrival of Santa! Hopefully all your hard work in regular season will pay off with playoff assignments.

This year was my first year assigning and for the most part things went well. I must thank Guy Doucet, Ken Dentzien, Kumail Moledina and Jerry George for helping me along the way. There were a couple 'hairy' weekend but we made it through. Another HUGE thanks goes out to those officials who helped me out with last minute games and making swaps. Keeping Guy and me updated with your dark days makes our job a lot easier.

Just some notes to keep yourself in playoffs:

- 1) Review your rulebook so that you stay sharp on your rulings. There have already been some 'deep in the book' situations happen this playoffs.
- 2) Take extra water and snacks with you in case you do have a long game with Overtimes. You need to stay hydrated and keep your energy levels up.
- 3) Remember to pack your bag so that you take all your gear with you. You would hate to not take your jersey and pants and be forced to wear a linesman jersey with snap arm bands and wear your black suit pants on the ice without any shin pads.
- 4) MOST IMPORTANTLY; have fun out there and respect the game as this is a GREAT time of year to be on the ice.

With playoffs going strong it is important that officials covering these games are being supervised. Since games are getting less and less, it would be great if you can help out with supervisions. Please help out the rural areas and even the federation and minor programs by doing supervisions. Your feedback to the assignors will gratefully help them out when it comes time to picking officials to work the later rounds of playoffs.

One small note for the summer. If you are changing any contact information over the summer please keep Guy and I informed as before you know it we will be getting back in contact with you for next hockey season.

Good luck to all the officials who get selected to work playoffs and have a great summer!

[Dwayne Yakubow-Referee Assignor \(sr-ref@northzone.ab.ca\)](mailto:sr-ref@northzone.ab.ca) & [Guy Doucet-Linesmen Assignor \(sr-lines@northzone.ab.ca\)](mailto:sr-lines@northzone.ab.ca)

REMEMBERING MINOR HOCKEY WEEK

The majority of players enjoy the Minor Hockey Week experience. For many players it is the highlight of the entire season and in some cases it remains as a defining moment in their hockey career. Many of our officials also enjoy the Minor Hockey Week experience. Connor Gourley is a fourteen year old official from Sherwood Park who was assigned to a Novice final at Confederation Arena. Following his game, Connor wrote to Darcy Cooper the Sherwood Park RIC.

Mr. Cooper,

I just wanted to say thanks for the MHW week Final assignment today, it was amazing how many people were there and how loud it was. The game was tied until the last few minutes when the KC team scored and then got an empty net goal. My partner and I were given Oil Kings tickets for January 31 as well as a medal.

Thanks for the opportunity, it was a great experience.

Connor Gourley

Obviously, the experience is what you make it and want it to be. Connor worked the Novice 7B Final with Brett Semeniuk.

SHADOW / SUPERVISION

The North Zone Supervision Program has been extremely successful this season and has exceeded the numbers posted last year. The total number of supervisions completed as of February 21, 2010 is 1,883 compared to last season's overall total of 1,748. The number of supervisors performing supervisions this year reached 215 compared to 198 in 2008-2009. Also, a total of 860 officials were seen this season representing 50% of the registered referees and linesmen. The shadow program has also been busy this year with 322 mentorship supervisions performed, compared to only 189 total for all of last season. The top fifteen supervisors for the season so far are as follows:

Supervisor	Total
Ziegler, Dean	100
Poitras, Denis	42
Laforge, Connor	39
MacDougall, Duncan	35
Stewart, Ken	35
Kost, Karen	31
Bhagrath, Sanjeev	30
Brown, Stefan	27
Dutka, Ryan	26
Poitras, Lou	25
Rebus, Mike	25
Buskas, Don	24
Tremblay, Gary	24
Gaal, Jon	23
Cousens, Steven	22
Martinot, Ian	22
Melanson, Kelly	22
Ward, Kevin	22
Total	574

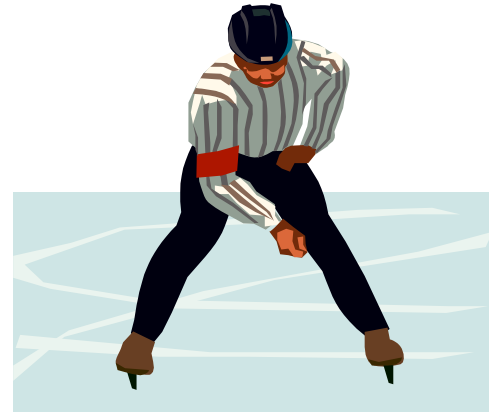


Amazingly, these 18 individuals have completed approximately 31% of the overall supervisions in the program. This year, as in the past, awards will be given to the top performers in the supervision program. The top shadow supervisor this season has been Denis Poitras of Beaumont, completing 23 shadows so far.

Rural centres contributed greatly to the program this season: Sherwood Park (154), St. Albert (156), Whitecourt (123), Fort McMurray (114), Fort Saskatchewan (90) and Beaumont (75) have led the charge with strong representation. Keep up the good work!

Check out the North Zone website for additional updates as the season draws to a close. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me by e-mail at supervisions@northzone.ab.ca.

Kevin Adam
Supervisions / Shadow Coordinator



TREASURER CENTS

This year we had a huge increase in registrations, last year we had 1560, this year 1808, the increase was mostly with level 1's and 2's in Edmonton.

As a reminder, the next newsletter will be in September, it will contain lots of useful information regarding the coming season including the clinic schedule, so it is important that you keep me informed of any address/phone number/email address changes you have over the summer (contact info below). However, if your e-mail address doesn't change over the summer, you can have the newsletter e-mailed to you in the fall, just sign up on our web page at northzone.ab.ca. Make sure you keep your contact information up to date.

Because we have no March General Meeting, cheques for February hockey has been included with January assignments, except for M15 AA which will be paid with Playoff games in April. All cheques for playoff hockey will be available at the April 19th meeting.

North Zone Referees Committee

Final Registration Numbers - 2009/10

Level	Total	Edm./Sr.	The Rest
1	848	175	673
2	796	282	514
3	118	50	68
4	25	22	3
5	7	6	1
6	2	2	0
Associate	8		0
Life	4		0
Total	1808	537	1259

Dave Butler, Treasurer
treasurer@northzone.ab.ca

WORLD JUNIOR EXPERIENCE

The 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship in Saskatchewan was a fantastic experience. I arrived in Regina on Christmas Eve and we started on Christmas Day with a morning skate, video conference meeting with all of the officiating staff in both Saskatoon and Regina, and a Christmas dinner at the hotel. Our days generally consisted of having a morning skate every second day, a morning meeting at 9:15 am sharp, and then there were 2 games a day in the afternoon. The on-ice skate included some on ice testing where they timed us. The morning meeting was used to discuss the prior games and clarify any issues that would arise during the tournament. The US supervisor implemented a "tick" system where you would receive a tick for various offenses for speaking out of turn, being late, falling down, and any other arbitrary offenses they wanted to penalize. Somehow I wound up with about 12 ticks and I think the next closest guy had about 3. At \$5 a tick, it was a pretty hefty fine that I'm not proud of.

We had a very tight knit group of officials in Regina so we bonded quickly and were able to develop a team atmosphere right away. This translated into our performance on the ice as the games in Regina went very smoothly. I ended up refereeing 4 games in Regina. Early in the morning on New Year's Day we were shipped by bus up to Saskatoon where we met up with the other group of officials in preparation for the Medal Round and Relegation games. I ended up refereeing 3 more games in Saskatoon, including the bronze medal game between Sweden and Switzerland. In total I refereed 7 games and even did 1 period as a linesman. During one of the games where I was the standby referee, I got the call after the second period that a linesman had pulled his groin and couldn't continue. The supervisor looked high and low for any other linesman in the building because he was scared of putting a referee on the lines. The period went fine and I even called two icings, an offside, and kicked a Swedish center out of the faceoff circle - all on a nationally televised game on TSN. I was feeling pretty good about myself until one of the supervisors told me to stick to refereeing.

All in all it was a great experience both on and off the ice. There were an enormous amount of volunteers that took care of our every need and we were treated very well. The gold medal game was exciting to watch as 15,000 fans packed Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon to watch an intense game between Canada and the United States. The sound was deafening when Canada scored with less than 2 minutes to play to tie the game 5-5 but you could hear a pin drop when the US team scored in overtime to clinch the gold medal. People were also buying a massive quantity of 50/50 tickets that game and some lucky fan ended going home with the \$150,000 prize. Being a part of the tournament was a longtime dream come true and I will cherish the memories forever.

Derek Zalaski

Level 6 North Zone Official



Edmonton referee
Derek Zalaski with
Calgary linesman
Jeff Jobson

STURGEON COUNTY HOCKEY

I would like to congratulate the following refs for working the Sturgeon Pembina Midget AA All Star Game held in Morinville February 13, 2010. Brock Mulligan was the head ref, Karrah Stephen and Shane Hoerber pushed the lines, great job guys.

I would like to thank Ken Dentzien and Darren Selk for running a mini clinic on February 12, 2010 in Morinville which was a huge success. We had over 22 officials come to the clinic and they were Martin Westra, Shamus Westra, Montana Dobinski, Michaela Dobinski, Ross Stevenson, Logan Muller, Bryce Melville, Taylor Holterhous, Tyler Hagel, Brennan Connery, Coleman Herrick, Bryan Blowers, Brayden Llyod, Brandon Du-brule, Cody Werstiuk, Kylie Werstiuk, Matt Van Der Kly, Mark Van Der Kly, Dakota Morrison, Ty Schrum, Gerald Chamberland, Simon Forcade, Tyler Proulx and Gavin Forcade (if I missed anyone I am sorry).

If there are officials looking to get some supervisions in please let me know because Morinville is hosting a novice tournament March 5-7, 2010 and a Pee Wee AA tournament March 19-21, 2010. You can reach me at refassignor@hotmail.com.

I would like to thank all my officials for all there hard work this season.

Ryan Dutka—Ref Assignor

2010 NORTH ZONE OPEN

The North Zone Open Golf Tournament will be held on June 19, 2010 at the Westlock Golf Course. Cost is \$130, and will include Green fees/power cart, a hot dog and beverage at the turn, transportation to and from the course, dinner, and tons of great prizes. Interested parties are asked to sign up early, as only 40 spots are available.

Colin Watt

social@northzone.ab.ca

2010 NORTH ZONE AWARDS BANQUET

The North Zone's Awards Banquet will be held on May 15, 2010 at the Ramada Conference Centre. The prices are \$35 for a single or \$60 for a couple, \$25 for a single student, or \$40 for a couple (in which the official is a student). The cost of admission includes dinner, entry into draws for some great door prizes, and a performance by Master Hypnotist Norm Shaw.

Colin Watt

social@northzone.ab.ca



Scott Fulmer and Craig Domke get ready to skate in the Gold Medal Game of the Macs Midget AAA 2009/10 tournament.

AJHL



Playoffs are well under way in this league and congratulations to those of you selected to work playoffs. Reminder that only officials working the game and supervisors are allowed in referee room for playoff games. Thank you for another good season in this league. Congratulations to Craig Domke for receiving a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the AJHL (shown in picture below being presented with cheque by North Zone Life Member, George McCorry). Pictured above are Geoff Shantz, Jim Kostuk and Phil Meagher getting ready for the AJHL All-star game in Fort McMurray.



CIS

This year CIS was assigned in conjunction with the WHL and it was very successful. Half of the league games and all playoff games were done 4 man. This gave our officials some opportunity to travel out of province to officiate and also to gain some experience in the 4 man system. Congratulations to Guy Doucet and Derek Zalaski for being selected to work the semi-finals in Saskatoon.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We have had mini clinics in St Albert, Beaumont, Morinville, Leduc, and Devon. In many instances the local RIC or instructor in the area gets the young officials together to have an ice session to go through procedures. Our zone has hosted novice Jamborees in the following locations: Drayton Valley, Stony Plain, Wetaskiwin, Edmonton, and Tofield. All the instructors that have worked these have had comments on how well the parents have been interested in helping keep the young officials in the system longer.

Don Buskas

Special Events Coordinator

PROVINCIALS

We had 17 Provincial Tournaments in our zone this year. Congratulations to all the officials who were selected to work these tournaments and to those selected to do the finals. A special thank you to those individuals who volunteered to give up their weekend to supervise. Dwayne Yakubow, Ray Keller, Ryan Dutka, Karen Kost, Aaron Best, Dean Ziegler, Don Buskas, Dale Hofmann, Doug Laboucane, Kumail Moledina, Ross Peck, Deen Ramono, Gary Tremblay, Rod Long, Duncan MacDougall and the North Central Zone for looking after the tournament in Hobbema. This is only a partial list of supervisors who volunteered as I did not have all the names at time of writing this newsletter so a thank you to those who volunteered and are not mentioned.

FEDERATION NOTES

I would like to thank those officials who made Edmonton's Minor Hockey Week Tournament a success. Your voluntary contribution is an integral part of the Tournament. 526 teams played 752 games in the Tournament. In the BB portion of the Tournament there were 60 finals with 138 assignments. Twelve officials from Sherwood Park, eight officials from St. Albert and one hundred sixteen officials from Edmonton covered the assignments in the finals. Cooperation from our membership was outstanding. The Minor Hockey Week Tournament conducted a referee recognition program during the Tournament. This program included providing all officials working games in the finals with two Oil King game tickets and providing one official with two tickets to an Oiler game and a chance to meet with the NHL officiating crew at the Edmonton Oiler – Philadelphia Flyer game on February 3, 2010. Brady Korzenowski was the recipient of the Oiler tickets and Brady's report appears elsewhere in the Newsletter. Also a part of the referee recognition program was the awarding of jackets to one hundred officials. These officials were selected by a weighted, random draw. Each official was given an entry in the draw for each game officiated in the Tournament. Jackets will be distributed in late March.

There were two severe incidents of referee abuse during the Minor Hockey Week Tournament. One incident involved a coach confronting and verbally abusing two officials on the ice following his Atom team's overtime loss in the final. The coach was suspended for six games and the entire episode is currently being reviewed by his home District. The second incident occurred following a Bantam semi-final at Clareview Arena when a spectator confronted one official as he left the ice. The spectator then entered the referees' room and continued to verbally abuse the officials. The spectator was suspended for four of his team's games. This decision has been officially appealed to the EMHA by the North Zone Referees' Council. The EMHA is currently organizing the appeal hearing.

Playoff games begin on March 10, 2010 and conclude on March 25, 2010. Playoff games will be played in Edmonton, Sherwood Park, St. Albert and Spruce Grove/Stony Plain. The format is double knock out. All games must have a winner with the overtime format being depleting players. In overtime each team begins with six players. The playoff rate for referee fees applies to all games. The Provincial BB Tier 1 and 2 Midget and Bantam and Peewee Tier 2 series with Calgary will be in Edmonton on March 26, 27 and 28, 2010 at Clareview Arena.

Clinics begin in mid-September. The structure of the clinic program is changing and there will be more changes this year. Be alert for these changes. Failure to respond promptly may cost you more money and even could result in you not officiating at all. There were instances this season where officials procrastinated and eventually ran out of clinic options. Failure to attend a clinic meant no registration which meant no officiating.

I would like to thank the District referee coordinators and assignors for their dedicated commitment this past season. Gary Greenough, Frank Fithen, Bill Clark, Peter Irwin, James Gregory, Ron Oscroft, Angie Mayer, Karen Kost, Darryl Desjarlais, Eugene Petruk, Colleen Fox, Brett Niawchuk, Jim Bassingthwaite and Bob Broomhall have done a great amount of work getting you your assignments this winter. Their efforts are much appreciated by the hockey program.

Rest, relax and enjoy the summer.

Duncan MacDougall
Federation Coordinator

FEDERATION DISTRICT REFEREE COORDINATORS

North East District	Bill Clark
North West District	Duncan MacDougall
South West District	Gary Greenough
South East District	Ron Oscroft
Knights of Columbus	Darryl Desjarlais
Edmonton Girls	Karen Kost

CLINIC INFORMATION

Just a reminder that all clinic date requests are to be in by April 1st, 2010 otherwise your clinic will be slotted in wherever it fits. I would prefer to have these in the electronic form as that way I can keep them on file.

We will be looking at a few new instructors this year due to some veteran instructors retiring. To date I have received 7 applications back which I will then present to the executive for their input as to who will make the cut.

Check back in late August to see the new clinic schedule online at www.northzone.ab.ca.

Have a great summer.

Dean Ziegler

North Zone Clinic Coordinator

clinics@northzone.ab.ca

REMINDER:

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

MATCH PENALTY ON OFFICIAL

With the hockey season coming to a close there has been an increase in the number of match penalty on official penalties needing to be assessed. Eleven incidents have occurred to date with four being 9.6a, six being 9.6b, and one 9.6c. This is an increase of five incidents over the same period in the previous season. Suspensions assessed for these infractions have ranged from one month up to one year.

With 19 incidents reported provincially we have had more than our fair share of these infractions. While I am unable to explain the recent increase it is important that we as officials' do not put ourselves into vulnerable positions where these infractions could occur.

Hopefully I will not have to speak with you in regards to this penalty. However if I do it is important that you follow the appropriate procedures for assessment of this penalty. If you are unsure of what is required a document is available on the website at http://www.northzone.ab.ca/match_penalties.htm.

Be safe and enjoy the remainder of the officiating season.

Lance Hyndman

Vice Chairman / Match Penalty Coordinator

vicechair@northzone.ab.ca

SENIOR COMMITTEE

Congratulations to all officials who were selected to work the various league playoffs and provincial tournaments in the Zone.

Anyone looking to move into the senior program next season, please send me an email stating your intentions no later than August 1, 2010. It is very important to get your intentions in as early as possible.

Enjoy the Summer!

Kumail Moledina, Chairman

chairman@northzone.ab.ca

Hockey Alberta Referee's Annual General Meeting. All officials are welcome to attend:

Date: Sunday June 6, 2010

Location: Holiday Inn, 6500 - 67 St, Red Deer

Registration: 9:30 AM

Meeting: 10:00 AM

Golf Details

Pheasantback Golf and Country Club

Saturday June 5, 2010—2:00PM

Bus leaves Holiday Inn at 11:30am

Golf, cart, bus, prizes and steak supper

Contact Lance McKinnon at 403-669-4654 to register before May 25th.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline this year has been very disappointing with 16 NO SHOWS and numerous guys not adhering to our 48 hour policy for calling refs

43 Incidents to date with \$604 in fines collected.

Please be more diligent in writing your games down and remembering when they are so we don't have any more games going two man. Also Reverse abuse seems to be creeping back into the program and I urge everyone to remember to treat disrespect with respect and always try to avoid confrontation.

Good luck to all those who continue on into the playoffs and with the short notice of games in playoffs it's even more critical to get a hold of your refs A.S.A.P. make sure to use all contact information provided to get a hold of them.

Gary Tremblay, Discipline

REFEREES IN CHIEF

We are well into the second half of the season and hockey has even finished for the year in some centres. We had a very successful second referee in chief meeting on January 11, 2010 with 17 associations being represented. The minutes of this meeting were distributed to all of the RIC's shortly thereafter. If for some reason you did not receive a copy or if you have any questions on the items discussed do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to praise all of the referee in chief's and assignors throughout the zone for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. The role of referee in chief and assignor is not an easy task - working hundreds of hours to ensure officials are assigned to cover games; handling issues presented by minor hockey boards; dealing with discipline concerns; and fielding comments from parents, coaches, and anyone else with an opinion and a voice. While you may not hear it very often, you are a vital component to our program and your dedication is very much appreciated.

So we can ensure that relevant information is provided for next year's hockey season, please keep me updated with any referee in chief changes or updates to contact information.

It has been a pleasure working with all of you this season and I commend you for the great work you have done.

Lance Hyndman

Vice Chairman / Match Penalty Coordinator
vicechair@northzone.ab.ca

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn (formerly the Edmonton Inn) in the Ridgewood Room at 7:30PM sharp. It will be held on the following date:

Meeting Date **April 19 (Elections)**

The following positions are up for election. If you have any interest and want to know more about these positions, please contact Ray Keller (raykeller@northzone.ab.ca) for more information.

Vice Chairman (one year term)
Treasurer (two year term)
Directors (4) – (one year term)

EMHA AND MINOR COMMITTEE

With the Regular season now over and playoffs starting I would like to thank all officials that officiated in the city AA program. The feedback from AA Council as well as the EMHA has been very positive so everyone keep up the good work. Congratulations to all officials that received playoff assignments. Officials picked for these assignments are dedicated, committed and have a great attitude.

What started out as a very promising season quickly took a turn for the worst. We had a tough time getting officials to work games, especially on weekends. Most leagues play on Saturday and Sunday as they are provincial leagues and teams have to travel into Edmonton to play. As an official working elite hockey you need to be committed, have a great attitude and make yourself available on weekends. It is very hard on the assignors to constantly try and find guys to work hockey when everyone is dark. If you can't make yourself available maybe you need to reconsider working the AA program.

Next season the city AA program will be using the RAMP system for all AA hockey in the city. You will be required to put your dark days in the system on the 20th of every month starting in Aug. 2010 so the assignors will be able to assign you games. You must also keep them updated so assignors know who is available when needed. I will be sending out an email to all officials in the city AA program letting everyone know what is expected from them if they wish to work AA hockey in the city.

The EMHA continue to support the referee program. They have agreed to once again help financially support the shadow program in Edmonton which continues to get better every season thanks to the volunteers. The EMHA also financially supports Edmonton officials who attend development camp. The EMHA is happy with the job the officials have done this year and the way the games have been officiated and would like to see this continue in the future.

In closing I would like to thank all the assignors Brett Babkirk, Jonathan Button, Colin Wass, Scott Mah, Sanjeev Bhagrath and Jay Crockett for a job well done. Thanks to Minor committee (Duncan MacDougal, Colin Watt, Ryan Petryshyn and Kevin Adam) for their support, commitment and patience as well as the executive for all their hard work, guidance and support again this season. If you would like to officiate, assign or supervise AA hockey in Edmonton next season, talk to myself, someone on the minor committee or anyone on the executive and they will give you the information you need.

Good luck to all officials working playoffs and I hope to see you all again next year.

Herman Costa

Minor Committee Chairman & EMHA Referee Representative

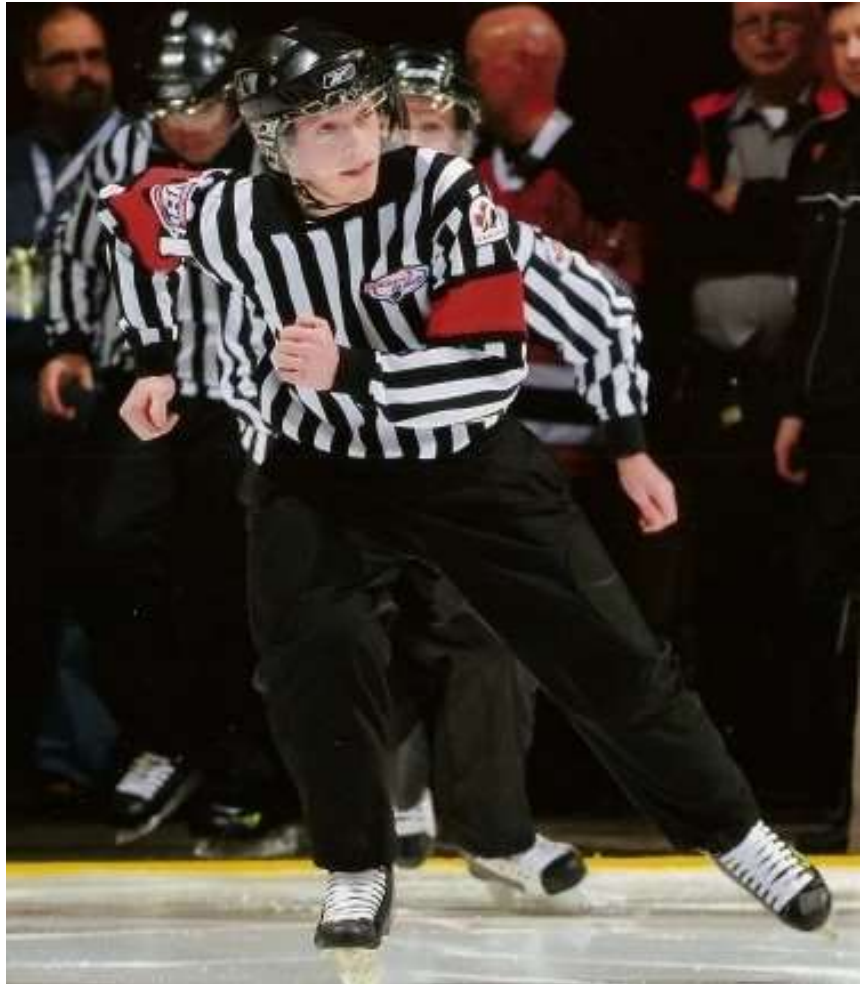


WORLD UNDER 17 EXPERIENCE

To have been selected to referee at the 2010 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge was a great honor. Upon arrival in Timmins, Ontario on December 27th amid many delayed flights, I was one of the lucky ones that ended up with all my bags when we left the airport. We began the week with a meeting that night to discuss the differences in rules and procedures between the IIHF and Hockey Canada, as well as get our game assignments for the pre-tournament games which took place on the 28th. The tournament was to be held with 2 games each day at the McIntyre arena in Timmins, a great barn with all kinds of character (it was built to be a smaller scale replica of Maple Leaf Gardens), and 2 games each day in one of 5 nearby towns.

I turned out to be odd man out that didn't get an exhibition game, which did not help the nerves I already had in coming to this event with no idea what to expect. My IIHF debut came the next day in Kapuskasing, about an hour and ten minutes northwest, in a game featuring Team West and Team Quebec. Neither team was expected to be a medal contender, but this was a spirited affair, with a great pace, lots of good physical play, but also a lot of penalties. The next day I saw Team Pacific pound on Team Atlantic, both physically and on the scoreboard, before getting New Years Eve off to be the standby again. All the officials and the supervisors went out that night to ring in the New Year, but I had an afternoon game the following day, so my crew left shortly after the countdown struck zero.

After working my game in Cochrane on the 1st, we headed down to the Mac, and were surprised to see Shania Twain in attendance at the Team Ontario game that night. Shania hails from Timmins and had returned home to be the Olympic Torch bearer for the town. And yes, she looked pretty darn good in person too.



At the end of the round robin, I was delighted to learn that I'd been selected to work the semi-final game between Sweden and USA. With USA going up 3-0 less than 7 minutes in, it looked like they would skate to an easy victory. They scored again halfway through the second to make it 4-0, which seemed to wake Sweden up. Shortly after, they drew a penalty and wasted no time scoring on the powerplay. Then, just 2 minutes later, they scored on a penalty shot to bring themselves to within 2 goals just before the second intermission to set up the craziest period I've ever been a part of. Sweden pressured for most of the period, and was finally rewarded when USA got frustrated with their inability to get the puck. Sweden scored another powerplay goal, after which a USA player cross-checked the goal scorer, putting them in a prime position to tie the game. Sure enough, they did just that, and then actually ended up going ahead 5-4 with less than 4 minutes left. Controversy struck with just under a minute to play, when a US player brought the puck in offside. The Sweden bench was adamant that it was intentional, and that the faceoff should be in the US end. However, the front linesman had just been bumped off of his line, forcing the back man to make the call from a bad angle. As a result, he was not 100% sure that it was in fact an intentional offside, so he kept the faceoff just outside the Sweden zone. Well, the US won the faceoff, one of the Sweden defenders inexplicably fell, allowing the US player to snipe a shot into the top corner, forcing overtime. The Swedish team was livid with us, lost their composure, and never recovered. The US scored in overtime to earn a birth in the Gold Medal Game, while Sweden was relegated to the Bronze game. My crew was blamed so much by Sweden that none of us worked a medal game, even though we had had a very strong game.

The experience of working this sort of event is something that will remain with me for the rest of my life. I met a lot of great people, be they officials, players, volunteers, supervisors, parents, you name it. We were treated like kings, with the volunteers constantly asking us if we needed anything. On the ice, I learned a lot, got a lot of very good feedback from supervisors, and learned from the other guys as well as far as communicating with the linesmen, taking that extra second to make sure we're all on the same page. I can only hope now that I get the opportunity to represent the North Zone, Hockey Alberta, and Hockey Canada at an international event again in the future.

Colin Watt

North Zone Official and Director