

NORTHERN STRIPES

The official North Zone
Referee's Committee
Newsletter!

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DECEMBER 2006

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Christmas season marks the halfway point of the season and it has been an interesting one. The biggest challenge of all of us has been the adoption of the new standard of play. While the transition has gone better than expected, we do have a few officials out there that feel they are above the game and do not want to enforce the new standard. This change has made the game much better and is here to stay! The credit goes to all officials who have been diligent in following the new standard.

The Zone is sending officials once again the Mac's Tournament in Calgary (both for the male and female portion of the tournament) over Christmas. Congratulations to those selected to work this tournament. There are also numerous minor hockey tournaments over the Christmas break in the Zone and I encourage you to help out. I know our officials will represent the Zone well at these tournaments.

Games will increase in intensity and importance in the second half. As officials, remember to brush up on your rules, procedures and the new standard video as we head to the playoffs and provincials.

I cannot thank the tireless efforts of our executive and the local referees in chief, who run their local organizations. Things have been quite challenging for these people because of people being very busy combined with the decrease in officials this season. Keep up the good work!

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year!

Ray Keller
Chairman
chairman@northzone.ab.ca

REMINDER:

If you are a hockey player and you are under suspension, you are ALSO suspended from officiating until such time that you are re-instated.



General Meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn (formerly the Edmonton Inn) in the Pitcher Plant Room. The dates for this seasons meetings are as follows.

Meeting Dates

January 15

February 26

April 16 (Elections)

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.

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FEMALE PROGRAM

The female program has had a very strong start to the season. We have been able to move new people into all categories of our Senior Program, and hope the new officials will take advantage of their development opportunities.

We once again we ran a female clinic in conjunction with the Edmonton Major and it was once again success. All the participants found it very beneficial to be part of the unique class and hope it continues.

Congratulations go out to Jill Clulow, Aaron Best, Lisa Lamoureux, and Mellisa Scheuerer for being selected by the North Zone to officiate in the Mac' Midget AAA tournament. I am sure they will do a great job representing the Zone.

Jill Clulow has also been selected to work the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse March 3-12. Congratulations Jill!

The program is also looking for supervisors to assist in coaching the officials working female hockey. If you have the time, and are interested, please contact Darrin Bauer or Karen Kost.

Darrin Bauer
Female Program Coordinator
pastchair@northzone.ab.ca

TREASURERS CENTS

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 you 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>

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

NORTH ZONE EXECUTIVE PHONE

Chairman:
 Ray Keller

Vice Chairman:
 Jerry George.....

Treasurer:
 Dave Butler

Secretary:
 Mitch Carriere

Directors:
 Ryan Petryshn
 Kevin Adams
 Cory Kokotailo.....
 Lance Hyndman

Senior Referees:
 Jerry George.....

Senior Linesmen:
 Ken Dentzien.....

Supervisions
 Cory Kokotailo

Shadow Program:
 Kevin Adam

Clinic Coordinator:
 Don Buskas

CJHL Liason:
 Guy Doucet

Match Penalties Representative:
 Monty Wood

EMHA Representative:
 Herman Costa

Federation Representative:
 Duncan MacDougall

Female Hockey:
 Darin Bauer

MAAA Supervisor:
 John Potter

Past Zone Chairman:
 Darin Bauer

West Satellite Chairman:
 Andy LeBlanc

Provincial Chairman:
 Wally Popik.....

DISCIPLINE/ MATCH ON OFFICIALS

It had been relatively quiet at the start of the season but things seem to be picking up now. At the time of writing I have dealt with or I am in the middle of several incidents. It is extremely disappointing to see most of the complaints are surrounding reverse abuse. We have rules to deal with unruly coaches or players and instead of using them we are choosing to swear, degrade or humiliate players of all ages or team officials. Officials that choose not to obey this shall be severely dealt with. We make a commitment to this program from taking assignments, following rules, acting professional at all times whether we are on the ice or just watching the game and not lowering ourselves to others standards. Please show some initiative and try and take the high road and set an example for all others to follow.

“Weakness of attitude, becomes weakness of character”

Einstein

Match On Official Penalties

It has been a somewhat average start for match on official penalties. At the time of this report, we have had 5 match on official penalties. The breakdown is as follows: 1-a, 2-b, 2-c. Three have resulted in HA suspensions and two are in the

I would like to remind all of you of some important points regarding these calls:

- DO NOT over handle the players. Use only the required amount of force for the situation and release the player as soon as possible but do stay close enough to grab the player should they not move to the area you direct them. Many match penalties on official can be avoided by paying close attention to this point.
- Make sure the player/team official did not mistake you for someone else.
- Be certain that it is intentional.
- You must take the top copy of the game sheet with you after the game. If anybody has questions, please inform the person (s) that this is Hockey Alberta policy.
- Call me as soon as possible with the basic details and I will direct you from there. You can e-mail details to me as well as your reports to: match@northzone.ab.ca A standard form for match penalties is also available on our website.

Thank you to all the officials I have dealt with on these unfortunate incidents up to this point.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season,,

**The Judge
Monty Wood**

CLINICS

All the scheduled clinics for this season have been held and there still seems to be a shortage of officials in some areas. It looks as if the zone is going to have a decrease of registrations by almost 200 officials. This is going to make it tough to cover the games in some areas, but neighboring associations always seem to get together to help each other out. There were 65 classes at 39 locations this season including the west satellite. Many of these classes had lower than normal attendance.

The leadership course for instructors will be in Edmonton on the Sept 8/9 week-end in 2007, so we will be taking on some new instructors. If you would like to instruct, send me an e-mail requesting an application. The final decision on the number and names of new instructors will be made in late March.

Mini clinics will be available again and the best time to have them seems to be in early January when everyone is getting ready for the playoff and provincial run. Let me know if you want to host one. They are free to the host association and you let the instructor know what items you need help with.

Don Buskas

SUPERVISIONS

Now that the hockey season and winter has set in most wonderfully, I am sure we all want to spend a little extra time in the arenas of the Northzone. The 2006-2007 season is well underway and the new rule emphasis is having a tremendous effect on how the game is played. Hockey games are even faster paced then before as players are now allowed to showcase the skills that they have. Officials have also been called upon to showcase their skills too, the skill of calling a fair game. With the new rule emphasis for the season, the officials' job has become very critical and that is where the supervision program steps in.

The best way to learn this new standard of play is to get out and watch as many games as possible, and while you are there, take a supervision form or three with you and catch your peers doing something right, and maybe, catch them doing something wrong. The best way for us to implement the new rule emphasis is to be consistent across the board as it is only fair to the team playing if the rules are always enforced the same. The way to ensure this is by watching, learning and talking with other officials, during supervisions, after supervisions, or in the car on the way to games. The constant feedback and construc-

tive criticisms will make us all better officials.

This season is off to a tremendous start already from the Supervision Coordinators viewpoint. Our zone has performed over 200 supervisions this season thus far, and with the busy Christmas tournament season coming quickly, I expect these numbers to spike greatly. Everyone keep up the good work supervising and we can make this new rule emphasis year the best one yet.

A reminder that forms are available from myself at Northzone General Meetings, held in the Ramada Hotel on Kingsway Avenue in Edmonton, or through the Northzone website by clicking on the supervisions link. If you would like to be supervised or want to offer your supervision skills for tournaments, please contact myself through the website or your local assignor or Referee-in-Chief.

Keep up the great season everyone and hope to see you all on the ice soon.

**Cory Kokotailo
Supervision Program Coordinator**

SENIOR COMMITTEE

The first half of the season has been a busy one in the senior program. The adjustment to the new standard of play has went quite well and we are seeing teams adjusting well. One area of concern is the assigned supervision program, as we have seen this critical part of the program not shown the commitment that it requires. Jerry and Ken have been doing everything to accommodate your schedules but some have decided that they will not follow through with their commitment.

Congratulations to Jordan Robinson, Kumail Moledina, Trevor Baker, Dave Duncan, Brett Babkirk and Dustin Zelenak, who have been selected to work the Mac's tournament in Calgary. Good luck to all.

Things will be very busy in the second half as we prepare for the Allan Cup in Stony Plain, Telus Cup in Red Deer and the Junior B Provincials in Spruce Grove.

Good luck to all officials and continue the good work!

Ray Keller

RECLASSIFICATION

A reminder to all officials who are looking to be reclassified for the 2007-08 season, to get their information in to me by January 1, 2007. Details are available on our website, www.northzone.ab.ca.

Ray Keller



8th Annual Stripes Classic Saturday, June 23, 2006 - Barrhead Golf Course

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and with the Stripes Classic planned for June many of our officials better be asking Santa Claus for lessons this year. This annual golf tournament is open to officials throughout the North Zone.

We have changed the format of the event this year as we will be boarding a luxury coach in Edmonton and traveling to Barrhead. Included in your fee is transportation to and from Edmonton, green fees, cart rental, hot dog & a beverage at the turn, steak dinner, and prizes. Total cost for this exciting event is \$110 and the application deadline is the April General Meeting on the 16th, 2007.

social@northzone.ab.ca

EMHA/ MINOR COMMITTEE

The Edmonton AA hockey program is off to a good start. We must remember to continue calling the new standard and rule emphasis. There have been a few complaints from the EMHA but overall the officials are doing a good job. Minor Committee has met several times to review and add officials to our lists. We have seen plenty of movement once again with officials moving up the lists and with new officials as well as officials coming from out of town being added. There are plenty of opportunities this season for city officials to see some top hockey. Midget AAA National Championship Telus Cup is being played in Red Deer, Mid AA Provincials and numerous all star games being played in the city.

I would also like to remind all officials working the AA program that you must dress appropriately (collared shirt and dress pants). You must also show up a minimum of 30 minutes before game time. If you take an assignment it is yours to keep. If you have to cancel a minimum of 48 hrs is required with a good reason for canceling. So before you take an assignment check your schedule to make sure you're available. No shows and late cancellations continue to be a problem and are unacceptable. If there is a no show in one of your games, one official will call Herman Costa (Minor Committee chairman) and their assignor

within 48 Hrs. All officials who do not abide by these rules will be turned over to the discipline committee.

Also with Christmas coming we all know it is tournament time. The Bantam AA and AAA tournament in Callingwood arena, as well as the Bill Kurucz Midget AA and REM 15 tournament at the CAC arena. There will also be many Federation tournaments in the city of Edmonton this holiday season. Please help out the assignors by taking some games, it is a very busy time for everyone and with your help it will make the assignors jobs much easier. We will be using 3 assignors for the Christmas tournaments. Please let your assignor know that you are available to help out so they can pass this information on to me.

If anyone has any concerns during the season regarding rinks, coaches, fans, teams or if you have any questions about the AA city program, please feel free to call or email me.

Keep up the good work and Have a safe holiday season.

Herman Costa
EMHA Referee Representative
Minor Committee Chairman

Referee - In - Chiefs

We have reached the mid point of the 2006/2007 season. I am sure implementation of the new Hockey Canada rules standard has met its challenges along the way but I think things have been improving as the season progresses. We had an excellent meeting with a great turnout in September to discuss the new rules and I would once again like to get everyone in the region together.

The next RIC meeting will be January 9, 7:30 PM at the Ramada Inn. The big discussion item will be the new standard and how things are going in your community but we would also like to discuss clinics for next season, the supervision program and anything else that has come up in the first half of the season. By then we will also hopefully know who is hosting provincial tournaments and we can talk about the process for approving and assigning officials for these tournaments.

Remember that these meetings are your chance to discuss what's on your mind and network with the other RIC's in the area that you can share officials with if necessary. I will be sending out a reminder email closer to the meeting, please let me know if you will be attending.

Hope to see you all in the New Year!!

Jerry George
Vice Chairman

D-CAMP/ ALBERTA CUP

Individuals interested in improving their officiating skills and/or learning valuable information to contribute 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 supervision and feedback regarding their performance.

The first step in the development process is attendance at the Alberta Cup Selection Camp. This is held in Edmonton on March 30 to April 1, 2007. 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 from July 16-22, 2007 in Camrose. This is a week-long camp in which participants become highly involved in all aspects of officiating. Agenda items 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 26, 2007.

Lance Hyndman
development@northzone.ab.ca

SENIOR PROGRAM ASSIGNORS

The 2006/07 season has been another busy one but overall things are going pretty well! It now seems like every weekend is a busy one and things don't look to change much heading into the second half of the season. We would both like to thank those officials that have helped us out on short notice or changed their plans to accommodate us.

Officials all seem to be adjusting to the new standard and feedback from the leagues is getting better as the season progresses. It is important that everyone maintains the new standard, those that don't will be easy to eliminate from lists come playoff time.

The one other area that has been identified as a concern is the assigned supervision program. Supervisions are a critical component to the senior program and an expectation of all officials working within the program. This season with the MAAA National Championship in Red Deer and

Jr. B Provincials in Spruce Grove it is even more important that these supervisions are completed. It is the responsibility of both the officials to follow up with us if they are not getting supervised and the supervisor to let us know if they are unable to make their supervision.

With 2 National Championships (MAAA & Sr. AAA) and Jr. B Provincials there should be lots of reasons for officials to be doing everything they can to put themselves in the best positions possible for these assignments. Calling the new standard and making sure your required supervisions are complete are the two easy steps to make decisions difficult on someone else at the end of the season.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jerry George
Ken Dentzien

TOFIELD

Things out in Tofield are in full swing again this season. We held our annual clinic on October 14th & 15th. 17 officials attended, however only 8 were locals. We are responsible for providing officials for 2 novice, 2 atom, 2 pee wee, 1 bantam, & 1 midget team. This is one more team than last season. We have already held 2 tournaments this year at the bantam & atom levels. Each were very successful. Next up is the pee wee tournament in early Dec. Supervisions are underway with some of the younger officials showing a lot of improvement. In closing, I'd like to say that while I don't have strength in numbers this year, but the officials I do have are showing a lot of commitment to the program. In all the years I've been doing this job, this year has been the best by far for assigning officials to games. I call them up and they take the games. Thanks Guys!

Larry Suchy
Tofield R.I.C.

FEDERATION NOTES

The number of registered officials in Edmonton has again declined. However, there remains a small surplus of entry level officials aged 13 and 14 relative to the number of officiating opportunities that are available to them. When accepting assignments it is very important that each official insure that he has the correct date, the correct time, the correct arena and the correct number of games. There should be no confusion. Miscommunications result in games being officiated below the expected number of officials and this result means others miss out on a potential assignment.

SHARED RESPECT! Officials are reminded that the 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 provided on the 2006 – 2007 North Zone Rate Sheet.

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

This season has been a learning experience for all participants including the officials. Remember that if you see a rule violation that rule violation must be penalized. The severity of the violation, the score in the game, the time in the game when the violation occurs and the mood of the referee are considerations, which should not become a factor in deciding whether or not a penalty is assessed. If you see it, call it. The enforcement of restraining fouls must continue to be a priority.

There is a danger zone and there are consequences for entering the danger zone. If these consequences occur, the referee must assess a penalty when he sees the consequence.

The Minor Hockey Week Tournament is January 12 to 21, 2007. All officials are expected to contribute volunteer time when requested.

If you want games speak with your assignors. Each official is a volunteer contributing his time FREE OF CHARGE. Get involved in Canada's largest hockey tournament. The finals will be at Callingwood A, Callingwood B and Confederation Arenas.

Mention must be made of the six individuals who worked the Hockey Alberta 4 on 4 atom tournament. The tournament was held on November 5, 2006. The officials to be commended at Jacob Walker, James Lemoine, Justin Rahall, Roy Everitt, James Greene and David Todd.

League play began October 4, 2006. Round two began November 25, 2006 and will conclude January 11, 2007. Round three begins January 22, 2007. The playoff round will be in March 2007. The Edmonton – Calgary provincial playoff will be in Calgary. Overtime in Minor Hockey Week and in most playoff games will be using a depleting player format.

FEDERATION CONTACTS

Duncan MacDougall

North Zone Referees' Council rep to the Federation of Community Leagues' Hockey Council

Referee Coordinator North West District

Bill Clark

Referee Coordinator North East District

Dave Kemp

Referee Coordinator South East District (SEERA)

Darryl Desjarlais

Referee Coordinator Knights of Columbus

Gary Greenough

Referee Coordinator South West District

Dave Sawatski

Edmonton Girls

Duncan MacDougall

2007 Banquet and Awards Presentation Saturday, April 28, 2007 - Mayfield Dinner Theatre <http://www.mayfieldtheatre.ca>

This year the North Zone has decided to try a different format for our annual banquet and awards presentation. The event will take place at the Mayfield Inn where the evening will begin with the allocation of hardware to this year's deserving award winners. Following the awards presentation we will proceed to the Mayfield Dinner Theatre for a fantastic buffet dinner and to watch the production "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes". This is a funny, classy, sexy musical that tells the hilarious story of Lorelei Lee, a gold-digging blonde bombshell and her street-wise, wise-cracking showgirl friend Dorothy Shaw as they take a vacation cruise through Europe. It is bound to be an entertaining evening for all.

Tickets for the event are \$70 per person and can be purchased through your North Zone social committee.

Lance Hyndman
social@northzone.ab.ca

