



The National Governing Body
for the sport of ice hockey

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April 15, 2013 **Annual Report 2012-2013** **Minnesota District, Officiating Program**

Registration: 2427 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 2168 completed the registration process. The completion rate remains at 89%. Overall registrants are down one half a percent from last season. The rate of decline has finally stabilized from past years where the 9% and 7% decline was an adjustment to an abnormal growth rate.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 67 with 2326 attendees. We used 98 Instructors. The decrease in attendance is 4% from last year, a figure consistent with the national decrease of officials attending seminars. Most of the decrease was in the number of level 2 & 3 officials. A decrease at these levels indicates a possible retention issue. Enhanced rule knowledge sessions at Level 3 seminars helped improve the pass rate on the closed book exam from 63% to 71%.

Evaluations: With the new web based reporting, we are at about 18% (386) of our officials having been formally evaluated this season. This number appears to be down from last season. This would be a direct result in the reporting process used to calculate completed evaluations. A new tool available this season was the development of a web based on-line evaluation program through USA Hockey. I would estimate that half of our evaluators are not using this tool and even though an evaluation had been completed, the electronic or web statistics will not reflect those handwritten evaluations.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program remains a great teaching tool. This program puts a seasoned official on the ice to guide new officials, not to call the game for them but to instruct them in positioning and in some cases advise them of the penalty situations. At the conclusion of the game, the mentor spends time with the officials on how to improve. To date there have been about 300 mentored games in Minnesota.

Physical Assaults: There was one "Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials" this year. This issue seems to be confined to adult leagues. This issue was resolved on March 23, 2013 with the player receiving a one year suspension. Prior to this assault, the last assault we had was in the 2009-2010 season.

Injured Officials: We had three incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed. These claims were not of a serious nature. This is down from a total of seven last season.

MN Boarding & Check from Behind Pilot: Increased penalty structures for Boarding & Checking from Behind were mandated by MN Hockey. Along with this mandate, our seminar and supervisory staff devoted countless hours and resources to relay the role officials must subscribe to and act upon when these dangerous acts happen. Overall, there was an increase in the penalties assessed for these acts. However, it seems the ratio of minor plus misconduct to major and game misconduct penalties in the past increased to the new major and misconduct option rather than the major and game misconduct option.

International Tournaments: Once again, Minnesota was represented in International competition. Kristine Langley, Jerilyn Glenn, Alicia Hanrahan, and Johnathan Morrison all worked international tournaments.

National Tournaments: This year we had 14 officials from Minnesota working at National Tournaments. This is down from 25 officials that worked last year. This decrease was mainly attributed to the geographic logistics of the 2013 sites and the elimination of the 12U Youth tournament. I was assigned to supervise the Youth Tier 1 Tournament in Pittsburgh.

Development Camps: Five officials will be attending the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado. The appointments for other camps have not been made at this time. We have 12 applicants for the Regional Camp and will receive five or six appointments. There is one applicant for the Men's National Camp. There is one applicant for the women's Regional Camp. In lieu of the Minn-Kota Camp we are now offering 12 officials a Model Camp development opportunity during the NIT HS Tournament. Game supervision, classroom, and presentations by MSHSL, Collegiate, and Junior League supervisors will be on the agenda. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. There are 14 applicants for the 12 slots available. The MHOA Women's camp has been put on hold again for this summer. However, all of our female officials are encouraged to apply for the MHOA Men's Camp or work games during the Girls 16-17 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 10-16). They will have to opportunity to work high level hockey and be supervised during each game. There continues to be an abundance of opportunities for officials to develop and deepen the Minnesota officiating talent pool.

Officiating Development Program: Minnesota currently has 45 officials working within this program, an all time high. This program continues to develop officials above and beyond the scope of our camps and local evaluators by assigning and evaluating officials to High School elite, Junior, Collegiate and Professional games. Our relationship has never been stronger and it creates the crowning step in the development process for our officials.

American Development Model: 32 Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at ADM showcase events around the country. This complements the existing development camps or programs that may not be a good fit to the grass root official who serves as the foundation to our officiating ranks.

Summary: Minnesota officiating remains strong. I credit our success to our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate continued accomplishments for the 2013-2014 season.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Tatro". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief