



April 1, 2018 Annual Report 2017-2018 Minnesota District, Officiating Program

The National Governing Body

for the sport of ice hockey

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Registration: 2398 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 1996 completed the registration process. The completion rate decreased from 84% last year to 83% this season. The marginal completion rate, mostly level 1 officials, can be attributed to on-line requirements (Safe sport, On-line seminar modules, and Open Book Exam). Another factor to include is the 21 people that registered to become an official when there were no more Minnesota seminars to attend. Not sure why they proceeded when they were warned there were no more Minnesota seminars available. Minnesota was better than the national average by 4% and this issue is being addressed at a national level. Overall registrants are up 2% percent from last season (50 officials). Nationally the registration rate was up by 2.2%. We are still experiencing shortages in out-state areas.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 73 with 2297 attendees. The number is higher than last year even though many experienced MN officials got seminar credit from a District Officiating Seminar or ODP Junior Camps. 143 officials did not attend a seminar despite holding a late season seminar in December to try and capture those officials. Multiple e-mail notifications were sent out, but only 22 attended.

Evaluations: From the new web-based reporting, about 17% (344) of our completed officials were formally evaluated this season. This is a 3% increase from last season. A total of 453 (+70) evaluations were performed.

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 end of the game, the mentor spends time with the officials on how to improve.

Physical Assaults: There was one "Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials" this year. This issue seems to be cyclical in nature from season to season, never exceeding a high of five.

Injured Officials: We had 4 incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed. These claims were not of a serious nature (broken legs, hip, and rotator cuff).

Game Reporting: The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems in its fourth year. Most issues with the system were user generated and quickly resolved. The game reporting system sends alerts to administrators when a player has reached the threshold of rule 411 of aggressive infractions. Ryan Swafford of district 9 is the Minnesota administrator and continues to do a fantastic job.

International-College Tournaments: Minnesota officials are well represented in International competition. To date we have 12 officials licensed to work International competition. We are also well represented at the Men's and Women's D1 and D3 Collegiate levels.

National Tournaments: This year we will have 46 officials from Minnesota working National Tournaments. This is 28 more than last year due to Wayzata hosting the High School Nationals. I was assigned to supervise the High School at Plymouth and the Boy's Tier 2 18U Tournament in Green Bay, WI.

Development Camps: Six officials will be attending the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado. The Men's Futures camp, High Performance Camp, and Women's Futures Camp will also have representation. The selection process is still not complete for those camps. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. This is the 27th year of this camp. To date are 7 applicants for the 12 slots available. This camp is the most popular development program and continues to be the "Gold Standard" for officials to reach the next level of their officiating career. I want to thank MN Hockey for the resources it provides. The MHOA Women's camp will be held again with Mike Mooney of district 5 coordinating the logistics. It will be held in conjunction with the MN HP15 Girl's festival in St Cloud. Also, all of our female officials are encouraged to work games during the Girl's U18 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 15-21). They will have the 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: The twentieth season of the Junior Officiating Development Program under the leadership of Scott Zelkin gets stronger every year. This program continues to oversee officiating assignments in the USHL and works closely with Mark Faucette (SPHL) and Chris Allman (NAHL) in coordinating development and identification of prospect officials at the Junior, Collegiate, and pro levels of play. Minnesota currently has 40 officials working in this program. Our relationship remains strong and it creates the crowning step in the development process for our officials. Also, many Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at NAPHL showcase events in Blaine. This complements the existing development camps or programs that may not be a good fit for the grass root official who serves as the foundation of our officiating ranks.

Education, Registration and Project RODEO: Project RODEO (Rebuilding Officiating Development Education Opportunities) continues to evolve. More on-line courses have been added, and a committee to look at streamlining the registration process and increase retention has been established. This committee has now submitted legislative proposals to be ratified in order to implement registration changes and new fee structures.

Screening: This past fall every Minnesota official registered with USA Hockey (Complete or Incomplete) who was 18 or older prior to Jan 1, 2018 was screened through MN Hockey. We also took this a step further and were able to import that data into USA Hockey's national database as some of the other affiliates currently do.

Summary: Minnesota officiating remains stable and strong and I have no doubt we will implement strategies to increase our registration completion rate. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2018-2019 season.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief