



## April 8, 2018 Annual Report 2018-2019 Minnesota District, Officiating Program

The National Governing Body

for the sport of ice hockey

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**Registration:** 2380 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 2112 completed the registration process. The completion rate increased from 83% last year to 89% this season. The increased completion rate, mostly level 1 officials, can be attributed to local supervisors touching base with these new officials to follow through with the registration requirements. The Minnesota completion rate was better than the national average by 5%. Overall registrants are down 1% percent from last season (17 officials). Nationally the registration rate was up by .3%. We are still experiencing shortages in out-state areas.

**Seminars:** Local seminars numbered 75 (up 2 from last year), with 2216 attendees. The attendance number is slightly lower than last year. However, many experienced MN officials got seminar credit from a District Officiating Seminar or ODP Junior Camps. 100 officials did not attend a seminar despite registering with USA Hockey. 60% were new and under age officials.

**Evaluations:** From the new web-based reporting, about 19% (401) of our completed officials were formally evaluated this season. This is a 2% increase from last season. A total of 551 (up 98 from last season) 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. MN Hockey, the jurisdictional governing body has rendered a decision on this event. 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 and a long way from the heart (finger, wrist, ankle, and rotator cuff).

**Game Reporting:** The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems in its fifth 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.

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**National Tournaments:** This year we had 15 officials from Minnesota (6 men and 9 women) working National Tournaments. This is down from the previous year mainly due to the fact we did not host a National Tournament. I was assigned to supervise the Tier 1 U16 & U18 Boys tournament in Grand Rapids, MI.

**Development Camps:** One official 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 the 3 women and 8 men that have applied for those camps. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. This is the 28<sup>th</sup> year of this camp. To date there 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Andy McElman (SPHL) and Keith Kaval (NAHL) in coordinating development and identification of prospect officials at the Junior, Collegiate, and Professional levels of play. Minnesota currently has 30 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. Plans are to move officiating registration up to June 1 to try and capture the younger official (an issue on the eastern seaboard). It should not affect our numbers or processes.

**Screening:** This past fall every Minnesota official registered with USA Hockey (Complete or Incomplete) who was 18 or older prior to Jan 1, 2019 and did not have a screen currently on file 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 and retention rate. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2019-2020 season.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief