



March 23, 2017 Annual Report 2016-2017 Minnesota District, Officiating Program

The National Governing Body

for the sport of ice hockey

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Registration: 2349 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 1970 completed the registration process. The completion rate increased from 83% last year to 84% 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). Minnesota was better than the national average by 7% and this issue is being addressed at a national level. Overall registrants are down 1.2% percent from last season (28 officials). Nationally the registration rate was up by 4.1%. We are still experiencing shortages in out-state areas.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 76 with 2134 attendees. The number is lower than last year because many experienced MN officials got seminar credit from a District Officiating Seminar or ODP Junior Camps. 215 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 20 attended.

Evaluations: From the new web based reporting, about 14% (283) of our completed officials were formally evaluated this season. This is an increase from last season. A total of 383 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 were no "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 2 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 4 last season.

Game Reporting: The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems in its third 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 for 411 rule 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 and Women's D1 and D3 Collegiate levels with play-off assignments to be announced.

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National Tournaments: This year we will have 18 officials from Minnesota working National Tournaments. This is 2 fewer than last year. I was assigned to supervise the Boy's Tier 2 Tournament in Lansing, MI.

Development Camps: Two officials will be attending the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado. The Men's Futures camp will have 8 officials attending. There is 3 officials for the Men's High Performance Camp and 5 officials for the Women's Futures Camp. During the NIT HS tournament, MHOA will again offer a development experience to 5 officials. Game supervision and personalized development programs will be given to these officials. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. This is the 26th 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 nineteenth 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 Minor 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. 45 Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at NAPHL showcase events around the country. 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 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 has been established.

Screening: This past fall every Minnesota official registered with USA Hockey (Complete or Incomplete) who was 18 or older prior to Jan 1, 2017 was screened through MN Hockey. Next year, I would like to take this a step further and be 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 2017-2018 season.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Tatro". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief