

July 31, 2023

Alaska State Hockey Association board members,

As you are no doubt aware, there have been some changes happening at Alaska Hockey Officials over the last few months. One big change is the software we use to schedule games; we are moving from RefRanger to HorizonWebRef. As you can imagine, changing software comes with its own set of challenges. One of those challenges is that we need to change the template for the way games are requested to be added to our system, and we are having to change the way our schedulers are contacted. The following will outline each of these items in more detail.

Undoubtedly the most important change occurring is the update to contact information for our schedulers. With the move away from RefRanger we lost access to email accounts that ran tandem. So, beginning August 1, 2023, there are new email accounts for each of our schedulers, which are listed below and can also be found on our website at: [Schedulers - Alaska Hockey Officials](#).

- Gaylyn Towe - Anchorage Youth Hockey Scheduler
  - [anchorage.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com](mailto:anchorage.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com)
  - 907-350-1789
- Gabe O'lena – Anchorage Adult Hockey Scheduler
  - [anc.adult.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com](mailto:anc.adult.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com)
  - 907-398-6615
- Meghan Rothermel – Mat-Su Youth and Adult Hockey Scheduler
  - [matsu.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com](mailto:matsu.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com)
  - 907-229-8606
- Scott Sivulich – Anchorage and Mat-Su High School Hockey Scheduler
  - [highschool.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com](mailto:highschool.scheduling@alaskahockeyofficials.com)
  - 907-841-2518

When requesting a game be added to the Horizon system, please include all the following information:

- Game Date
- Game Time
- Home Team
- Away Team
- Location
- Age level
- Length of game

Then, please follow up your email with a text message to the phone number for your scheduler listed above just to ensure games are not missed. Your scheduler will let you know that your request was received and what the status is.

Horizon has a public game schedule link, but it must be accessed by users with an account. When requesting games with your scheduler, request to be set up to view the public game schedule to confirm your games have been entered in the system.

**The bottom line is still the same, if you haven't heard from your scheduler and/or don't see your game on the public interface, WE ARE NOT TRACKING YOUR GAME. Please call, text, or email your scheduler and follow up so things are not missed.**

Some of you remember that we used a spreadsheet for bulk importing of games with RefRanger. This is a feature of HorizonWebRef as well. We are fine tuning that document and preparing to bring it to production in time for the comp scheduling meeting at the end of August. Stay tuned for more information.

The last piece of scheduling information that I would like to relay is that Horizon has an API (application programming interface) that allows it to connect to Sportsengine and directly import games for teams that use Sportsengine for scheduling. This has not been tested and I am not sure how well it works but would like to solicit volunteers to help us test this feature. If this feature works effectively, an organization will be able to enter their games one time in their Sportsengine interface and that will auto-populate our scheduling software, minimizing the touches and thus minimizing the opportunity for error.

If you would like to take part in testing the Sportsengine integration, please reach out to [president@alaskahockeyofficials.com](mailto:president@alaskahockeyofficials.com).

Changes are always accompanied by FUD, (Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt), however once all the wrinkles are ironed out, it is the AHO Board's belief that we will be able to provide a much-improved experience for our customers and in turn a better product on the ice. Please be patient as we grow and change.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Scott Sivulich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Scott Sivulich

President, Alaska Hockey Officials