



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association
2022 Spring Meeting
St. Louis Park Marriot
April 23rd, 2022

- Meeting called to order at 8:04 AM by Scott Kuhl, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- Brian Thul took Roll Call

MHOA Board Members

President-Scott Kuhl Present
North Vice President-Tod Plackner Present
South Vice President-Dave Kemp Present
Secretary-Brian Thul Present
Treasurer-Kurt Hyster Present
District 1 Supervisor-Paul Marshall Present
District 2 Supervisor-Jason Sturm Present
District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski Present
District 4 Supervisor-Matt Holm Absent
District 5 Supervisor-Ryan Szymanski Present
District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp Present
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen Absent
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford Present
District 10 Supervisor-Robert Erickson Present
District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich Absent
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present
District 15 Supervisor-Mac Nelson Absent
District 16 Supervisor-Ron Laituri Present
WHAM Supervisor-Lisa Knutson Present
Adult Hockey Association Supervisor (AHA) - Unfilled
MHOA Past President-Mike Mannin Present
USA Hockey RIC-Steve Tatro Present
USA Hockey Female RIC-Krissy Langley Present

MHOA Appointed Positions

MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (North)-Emil Makinen Present
MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (South)-Unfilled
USA Hockey, MN District, Prospects Development Coordinator-Unfilled
USA Hockey Evaluation Coordinator-Bruce Carlson Present
USA Hockey Mentor Coordinator-Eric Olson Absent
USA Hockey, MN District, Game Report Coordinator-Ryan Swafford Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (North)-Emil Makinen Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (South)-Ryan Swafford Present
MHOA Seminar Coordinator-Mark Verplaetse Present
MHOA Camp Director-Dave Weisjahn Present
MHOA Seminar Technical Advisor-Mark Verplaetse Present
Data Base Coordinator-Glen Toewe Absent
Webmaster-Scott Johnson Absent
Guests: Kendall Hanley, Mark Arriola

1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda by Dave Kemp and seconded by Plackner. The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

2. Reports

Recruiting and Retention-Mark Arriola

Below are the areas that Mark presented to the board for consideration moving forward to promote and retain officials.

- 1) When listing seminars on the USAH and MN Hockey pages, add a link to the USAH officials page which details the requirements that need to be completed. There should also be a note that there are several steps that will be needed. Too many of the new officials registering are not aware of the requirements.
- 2) For Seminars and completed registration which occur after 11/30 of any year, most districts are reluctant to accept new applicants at that time. Suggestion is to accept members on a conditional membership basis for three reasons. First, to ensure they have an association with which they can work games. Second, understanding that games will be assigned on an at-need basis. Third, for the following season they are already ready to work games when they become available.
- 3) Mentoring should be revamped to be an on-call process. Having a dedicated 1:1 relationship limits the number of games which the mentor/mentee can work together. If the list of available mentors remains open, the assignor has more flexibility to ensure the mentee has someone to work games with.
- 4) Mentoring should also be expanded to include off ice and dry land training. The mentor coordinator can create a lesson plan and syllabus for the mentor to follow. This can include review of rules and situations, positioning, signals. The dry land can be as simple as having the mentee act as a referee/linesman when watching televised games.
- 5) District 1 presently controls all assigning activities for the MN Hockey Rec league. To increase the number of games available for the new officials, have all brand-new officials for metro districts also register with District 1. Then they can work Rec League games within their respective districts. This opens the number of available officials to work games. It also gives the brand-new officials the opportunity to work games under a less stressful setting and work on the skills they will need when they work non-Rec League District games. This proposal could also be expanded to include WHAM as a similar means to get new officials game experience.
- 6) One of the bigger deterrents for new officials are the associated costs to get started. There are two paths to assist them. The first is to reimburse some or all the registration costs upon successful completion for officials still in school. This way they are not out any costs when they make it through the process. It would be a nice incentive to complete registration sooner. The money can be pulled from the Bill Leslie fund. The second would be to align with on-line or in town suppliers to provide a reduced cost official starter pack. The Officials Wearhouse has a starter package that we could use as a starter. If the officials complete 10-20 games, a portion of their cost would be reimbursed. These would be additional incentives to stay with officiating. It
- 7) Advertising using existing social media. All Districts and Associations have a social media presence. MN Hockey would commission or have members within the association create a short recruitment video which outlines the need for officials, the web link to the USAH official's page. This video can then be distributed to all hockey associations within MN Hockey for them to post on all their social media outlets.
- 8) When brand-new official's registrants are added to the USAH registration log to be pulled out, District Supervisors can sort for the new officials in their district. Then they can reach out to new registrants to make contact and guide them through the process.

Respectfully submitted.
Mark W. Arriola

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Secretary-Brian Thul

- The minutes from the fall meeting were distributed and corrections were provided. Motion to approve the 2021 Fall Minutes was made by Marshall and seconded by Langley. Minutes for the 2021 Fall Meeting were approved by voice vote.

Evaluations Report- Bruce Carlson, USA Hockey District Evaluation Coordinator

- **USA EVALUATION REPORT TO MHOA 4-23-22**
The past season was a wash, what with the USA Hockey Evaluation Program support going down early last year. (March 30,2021). While the local evaluators were able to access the program on a haphazard method, no reports were able to be compiled in any usable form. I could from time to time be able to retrieve individual reports, but never able to formulate any usable info.
- Many local evaluators lost their ability to access the program, and I resent permissions to access too many times to count. Some worked, most didn't.
- Because of the loss of our IT support, the program dwindled too almost non-existent. However, USA Hockey has NOT dropped their support of the program. They have assured us (DEC's) of the return to a viable program as soon as the new IT department can work on it. Having other more critical issues to resolve, we are down on the list to be worked on. With the possible return of our old eval program development program, it might be possible to at least return to the old program by the beginning of next season.
- The national District Evaluation Coordinators have been continuing to upgrade the existing system to a system that will appeal to more local officials' associations thus getting them to use the USA Hockey system. 17 meetings to date with more to come will get us to have a new eval program ready to activate by the 2023 season. Much progress has been made, a lot more is needed. A reworked evaluator's handbook along with a better evaluation form is in development.
- More to come at the fall meeting.

Discussion: Incentive for evaluators? Most districts are paying evaluators.

Seminar Report-Mark Verplatse, USA Hockey Officiating Program Seminar Coordinator, Minnesota District

This past season was quite successful, but not without its unique challenges. First, all districts in USA Hockey used the same material to conduct its seminars. This was a huge win because anywhere an official went, zoom or in person, all received the same instruction. Secondly, the experiment where Level 1 officials received their video training as part of the seminar was successful but could be more successful. Late season signups were the biggest challenge because we needed to provide seminars for these people. (183 signups in November, 79 in December 31 in January) This was due to word getting out that we need officials, and in some places, games/scrimmages getting cancelled. We conducted a huge late season push to get all the late season signups complete and we were marginally successful.

In Minnesota, we had 2365 officials register, an 11% improvement over 2020/2021. Of these, 2045 managed to complete all their requirements, 86.5% completion rate which is the best of all USA Hockey Districts. For comparison, 20/21 had 1822 completely registered officials.

Seminars conducted via Zoom were Level 3 and 4, and 2nd year Level 2. Level 1- and first-year Level 2 were required to attend an in-person seminar where, unlike last year, we were able to provide on ice instruction. I want to thank all the instructors who participated.

Some numbers:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Number of officials registered | 2365 |
| Number of completed officials | 2045 |
| Number of incomplete | 320 |

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Level 1:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Number of officials registered | 1044 |
| Number of completed officials | 802 |
| Number of incomplete | 242 |
| No Seminar | 157 |
| No Open Book | 185 |

Level 2:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Number of officials registered | 368 |
| Number of completed officials | 327 |
| Number of incomplete | 41 |

Level 3:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Number of officials registered | 829 |
| Number of completed officials | 796 |
| Number of incomplete | 33 |

Level 4:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Number of officials registered | 111 |
| Number of completed officials | 109 |
| Number of incomplete | 2 |

2022 seminars:

Registration for 2022-2023 season begins June 1, 2022. I will need all seminar dates and times submitted to me by **May 15**.

In the past, many districts conduct their seminars early in the season and conduct only 1 seminar per level, particularly in the metro area. Those districts that are geographically dispersed conduct multiple seminars per level spread out over time. With the late season surge in signups, I'm going to ask that metro area districts conduct several seminars per level, in particular Level 1, early in the season and late in the season. This will help us reach those late signups; however, I don't see us eliminating a late December or early January seminar, just not as many as we did this past season.

Editorial: a sizable number of late season signups were driven by Minnesota Hockey Districts. I would like to see each district become invested in the proper education of our officials and help us with scheduling of seminars. What I mean by this is with ice so difficult to come by late in the season, I would like the district to set aside ice time and meeting space to conduct the seminar. I believe that this will help us with late season scheduling and create more synergy between our officials' associations and the Minnesota Hockey Districts. Open for discussion.....

Thank you all for your help this past season.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Verplaetse

USA Hockey Officiating Program Seminar Coordinator, Minnesota District

Conversation: We need two seminars in late November or early December within the metro area. Should we think about doing our seminars in the summer? Board does not believe this is the direction we should go at this point.

It would be beneficial for Districts to provide ice for our seminars as this support our training program.

Registration is cut off February 1st, seminars will be cut off the end of February and all requirements must be completed by the end of March.

Treasurer-Kurt Hyster

| MHOA Funds | Income | Balance |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | | \$ 6,278 |
| HP Game Income | \$ 1,495.00 | \$ 7,773 |
| Reimbursements | \$ 1,090.67 | \$ 8,864 |
| Balance | | \$ 8,864 |

Kurt shared detailed information regarding the financials. The above is showing the current balance for the main MHOA account. We will be rewarding \$3500.00 in scholarships this year to seven strong candidates who will be attending post-secondary schools next year.

Motion to approve the treasurers report by Kavanaugh and seconded by Swafford, motioned passed by voice vote.

Comments: We must tighten up our expense reports. Google Maps must be used for mileage. Kurt will be using a Google Form to populate the amounts. It worked well to book hotel rooms early. **Kurt will continue to book rooms for the state tournaments. Supervisors will communicate any unusual circumstances regarding lodging before Kurt secures the rooms for the state tournaments.**

Mentorship Report - Eric Olson No Report

Incident Report – Ryan Swafford

MHOA officials reported a total of 1135 incident reports for the 2021-22 Season. This is an increase from 636 (+78%) last season. While this number is up from last season, there still may be areas of pervasive underreporting. The Bantam age level remains the highest incident rate category. There remains an issue of reporting penalties incorrectly by officials. MHOA should continue to look at incorporating a more robust education to be included in our annual seminars to increase compliance.

Totals

Match = 51

GM = 1011

Every year I notice different issues or errors in the database when doing the annual report that make me clean it up, and this year was no different. Here is what I am seeing as one of the most pervasive items I found.

- Officials don't know the correct rule they are selecting for the penalty assessed
- Several penalties were listed as only GM, when the penalty was a Major plus GM
- There were 11 Minor plus Misconduct penalties recorded and not deleted by the local supervisor
- There were 3 "Second Major in Same Game" penalties recorded, while I guess this is possible (maybe?), the reports that coincided with the entries were not those situations.
- There were more "Other Incidents" reported this year, a lot of them dealing with fans (just an observation)
- Too many duplicate reports not deleted by Supervisors
- Team names and level are a mess
- Tier I, II and Recreation are too hard for people to understand
- Officials don't understand that Bantams are 14U

Moving on.... I understand that the system has its flaws, but I am looking for your help. These are a couple observations I have made while reviewing the system. Please feel free to email me back anything you think I have missed so we can compile a list for USAH to hopefully improve the system.

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Here are some of my observations.

- Officials are in the system, even when they are no longer officials
- Rules don't align with correct rule references
 - Why have a rule reference that don't require a Major, GM or Match?
 - e.g., 601(a) this is a minor penalty, or (c1) should not be an option to pick
- Too many options in dropdown for type of penalty
 - Why is Minor penalty or Minor plus Misconduct an option?
- Is it 404(a) or 601(d5)
- Game Misconduct or Game Misconduct Penalty (why two options)?
- Many officials don't understand when the penalty requires 5 + GM, they often enter just GM
- Two references to 639(b)?
- Why is 403(b) still listed? Once you get a Major, you are out, right?

Again, if you have any other ideas for improvement, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Ryan Swafford

MN District, Game Report Coordinator

Supervisor Reports-Highlights and areas of concerns

District One-Paul Marshall

Paul thanked his officials for their dedication and professionalism throughout the season. It was a successful season in D1! Paul shared a concerning incident at a Squirt C tournament at Xcel Center where player used extremely offensive and harassing language towards an official.

District Two-Jason Sturm

Jason thanked his officials for an outstanding year and all their support as he transitioned into the supervisor role mid-season. Areas of concern is the parent comments during the game, especially during the district playoffs. This will be an area of focus during the off-season. We will be stepping up enforcement during playoffs next year.

District Three-Matt Olsonoski

District 3 covered 3621 games, without a single cancellation or missed game due to official(s) shortage. All games were worked using D3 standards for number on-ice officials per game. (4-man: BAA, JRGA, JRGB) (3-man: 16U, BA, 15UA) (2-man: BB1, BC, 15UB, All 12u and 10u games)

Game breakdown (3621)

- 48 try-out scrimmages
- 446 scrimmages
- 1808 league games including Jr Gold
- 1007 tournament
- 274 district tournament games
- 38 regions

District 3 also hosted Jr Gold A and 16U state tournaments. A special thank you to Matt Holm and Dave Kemp for their help supervising the tournaments. Only one single incident occurred but the on-ice officials handled it beautifully. Thank you to all supervisors for sending great officials.

District 3 added a total of 32 officials to our roster this season. D3 started 16 first year officials, 11 officials came from other places with varying levels of experience and 5 officials came "out of retirement." The season took a true group effort. D3 had one official work 3 games for the season and another official lead the group working 264 for the season. **Darrell Gedney (MHOA Service Award recipient 2022) – 252 for the season in D3**

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Below is taken from the District 3 handbook. A couple of you have asked for a copy of our rules. The full handbook can be found under the District 3 rules and updates tab on the attached link. [District 3 rules and updates](#)

4. DISTRICT 3 PLAYING RULES

- *4.1 USA Hockey rules, as amended by Minnesota Hockey and District 3 Beltline Hockey League, shall be used.*
- ***4.1 Scrimmages:** If a scrimmage is played with a team from outside the home association (e.g. extended try-out scrimmage), the procedure for players assessed minor penalties may be adjusted to provide the maximum opportunity for the players to display their skills. Major, game misconduct or match penalty assessments must be served by the offending player in accordance with the provision of the USA Hockey rulebook. The offending player must serve the Minnesota Hockey – District 3 Rules and Regulations 10 | Page appropriate penalty time in the penalty box, but the player can be replaced to maintain the on-ice strength.*
- ***4.2 Coach Conduct:** In the event a coach receives a game misconduct penalty, the referee will inform him/her that he/she has ten (10) seconds to vacate the players' box. A coach's failure to leave the box will result in his/her team receiving a bench minor penalty. If the coach still has not left the players box, the referee will inform him/her that he/she has ten (10) seconds to leave. If the coach fails to leave after his/her second warning, his/her team shall forfeit the game.*
 - ***4.2.1** Any coach who receives a game misconduct for abuse of officials will receive a three (3) game suspension for their first offense, except under rule 401(b) when a team receives 12 penalties in a game, the head coach will only receive a one (1) game suspension. The coach will however be subject to the USA Hockey rule of progressive discipline.*
 - ***4.2.2** If a coach receives a second game misconduct for abuse of officials, they will be suspended until they can attend a grievance hearing, minimum five (5) game suspension.*
 - ***4.2.3** If a coach receives a game misconduct for abuse of officials with an eighteen (18) year of age or younger official working the game, the coach will receive a five (5) game suspension for the first offense.*
- ***4.3 Fighting:** If a fighting penalty is assessed by a referee during any game, the penalty for fighting will be a major penalty and a three-game suspension. For a second violation, the player will be suspended from all participation for the remainder of the season.*
- ***4.4 Multiple Penalties in a Game:** For all teams except Bantam AA and Pee Wee AA, any player who receives three (3) penalties in the same game shall be immediately removed (ejected) for the remainder of the game. An additional player from that team shall serve the penalty for the offending player. The offending player shall immediately leave the ice and will not be allowed to return to the team bench. The ejected player will not receive additional game suspensions. Bantam AA and Pee Wee AA will follow the USA Hockey rule of four penalties in one game which will result in a game misconduct. District playoffs at all levels will follow the USA Hockey rule of four penalties in one game which will result in a game misconduct.*

District Four-Matt Holm

District Five-Ryan Szymanski

Told story about new officials doing district championship game and Athletic Director in attendance sent an email complimenting the officials. Game coverage was the concern throughout the season.

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District Six-Dave Kemp

State Tournament Report

For the first time in many years, I did not host a state tournament. Was assigned to Plymouth to assist Matt with the Junior Gold A tournament.

Game Totals

- Total District Games – 4009
- Scrimmages – 524
- Play-off Games - 303
- Denied Scrimmages – 234 (due to lack of officials)
- Tournaments – 1292
- League – 1890

Hosted the PAA region tournament in Prior Lake. We provided goal judges for all league championship games and for the regional tournament.

Due to the shortage of officials, we worked all levels using the 2-official system.

Incident Reports

133 Incident reports received thru District 6

Discipline committee met every two weeks with a record set late in the season with 22 attendees for one very long meeting.

There was a significant increase in reported abuse of officials' incidents from coaches and parents. Also, an alarming increase requesting and more often demanding that I review and overturn the officials call after watching the Live Barn video.

As other districts I spent too much time trying to address the official shortages. Reasons for the shortage were: many senior officials leaving the game, abuse from coaches and parents, complaints from parents that the officials were wrong, cutting back because of family, officials make more money working for other districts. Too much time this year was spent on complaints and issues (Incident Reporting/Evaluation Tools) which gave me little time to do evaluations.

District 8-Paul Moen

2021-2022 District 8 Supervisor Of Officials Report.

District 8 can proudly say, we never had to cancel a single game this season. D1 did help us out a couple of times, We had a total of 4019 games, which included 854 Scrimmage games, 1212 Tournament games. This goes to say, we had some officials with over 200 games and 16-18 with over 100 games. We have lost some of our Level 3 officials who see it easier to just work High School level. I have sounded off on some asking why they can't give back to their program that got them started, didn't phase many. This is going to happen with many more in the next couple of years. We have the most Junior Gold teams within the Junior Gold League, its getting harder to fill the assignments with them playing a 24 game schedule.

We did have an incentive this season for new Level 1 officials. D8 paid any new officials a bonus of \$200 if they worked ten games. 34 officials qualified. Some worked 10-11 games and quit, but some worked 40 or more games. If the District will do this again next season, we are going to raise the number of games they must work.

Our biggest problem this year was parents and coaches sending in videos of which they called missed calls or wrong calls. You explain, we don't watch video, they crucify you. They don't think their little boy would be involved in any sort of fight. When the 3 game for fighting rule game out for MN Hockey is when it started. Yes, the player that cross checked your son into the boards only got a game misconduct, your son for punching that player got 3 games. During Regionals and State Tourneys, MN Hockey came out with a published rule, ALL REFEREE CALLS ARE FINAL. We need this published in their Handbook. Also, videos will not be allowed. Yes there is a rule in the book, but not plain enough.

Sorry I can not attend the meeting on Saturday. With Easter on the 17th, we had to move the Great 8 Festival back to the 22-24th. I have got permission to leave early Saturday to attend the dinner and awards night. Hope to see you all there.

Paul Moen
Supervisor of Officials
District 8

PWAA STATE TOURNAMENT:

District "8" hosted the PWAA State Tournament March 18-20, 2022. Great hockey was played with very little penalties being called the whole week-end. Outstanding crowds all three days in attendance. Held a Coaches meeting Thursday night at their Banquet and explained all the rules and requirements. Coaches seemed to like the meeting prior to play, very few questions during any of the games. In fact after all teams left the meeting, one coach stayed behind to ask me a question between he and I. I won't say which team it was but his question rather startled me. Will you be enforcing mouth guards? We haven't worn them the whole season. Of course my answer was, yes, mouth guards are required. That's as far as I went with the subject.

The four crews that were assigned to work this tournament were outstanding. Must have been the best from each District. The crews were from D1, D8, D9 and D15. Outstanding Officials. NOT ONE COMPLAINT. I spent more time on my phone trying to control our parents from D8 during the D8 Squirt Playoffs being played at the same time. . My problem with these crews were as I stated prior to the Tournament, who and how do I explain, someone has to go home on Sunday. Lost some sleep thinking. There is an easier way, we must find it. District 15 worked the Consolation game at 10 AM, District 9 worked the third place game at noon and District 8 worked the Championship at 2 PM. District one was the crew that did go home. First class reactions from all three of the officials. Very nice notes sent to me from two of the people. Nothing but Class.

One crew alone had 1136 miles they traveled. Each drove separate. One official drove over 500 miles. Should we be sending people that far or keeping them closer to home?

In all, a great week-end and I'd like to thank Mark V for helping me out in Woodbury. Very long week-end for both of us. All MN Hockey people came by during the week-end

District 9-Ryan Swafford

District 9 had another great season. We enjoyed working 3008 Arbiter scheduled games, this is up 13% from 2657 last year. D9HOA assigned around 300 officials to 7118 positions/slots, this is up 29% from 5532 last season. D9 hosted two Regional Tournament (PWA, Ban AA) and zero State Tournaments. The D9/D4 South Seminar Series hosted three virtual seminars and three in-person on six dates. We trained over 500 officials, utilizing 16 different helpers/instructors; all went great.

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District 10-Robert Erickson

- SHRA went with 2 officials for all regular season games. This led to us being able to cover all games and not have any cancelled due to officials shortage.
- Not allowing teams to schedule scrimmages on busy weekends was also beneficial and would recommend if districts are struggling to cover games and scrimmages combined.
- Gamesheet has been a great addition for D10. Some bumps in the road throughout but I feel like it will be a great long term system.
- Bantam B & Peewee B State went very smooth not many issues.
- Lastly, I will be stepping down as Supervisor of D10. Mike Mannin will be taking over effective immediately. Thank you to everyone over the past 3-4 years for all your guidance and support.

District 11-Nick Biondich

District 12-Chris Kavanaugh

District 12 Report

I think everyone was glad to get back to sort of normal in 21-22. Overall, number of officials was good, but over half of the D12 officials were at level one. Number of completed level 3 officials was down from 36 in 20-21 to only 28 in 21-22, with a quarter of them still in high school. Local schedulers did an outstanding job reaching out across the district to ensure coverage of games and tournaments. It remains obvious that coaches still do not know the rules, especially any new ones and this creates a bit of conflict at times for the on-ice officials that do know the rules. The district hosted three regional tournaments (Peewee AA, Bantam B and 12UA) and one state tournament (12UB). I reached out to one of our young aspiring female officials, Maria Gherardi, to help with evaluations and general supervision of the tournament. Maria did an awesome job and I think learned a lot from the experience! We held three in-person seminars and two virtual events. Feedback from the level 3's in the district was generally that they would like to go back to an in-person seminar so they can reconnect with their peers, so I am considering that.

District 15-Mac Nelson

District 16-Ron Laituri

This year started out with D16 holding 7 in-person seminars and 2 virtual seminars. It was good to get back to in-person seminars but, find that the virtual seminars seem to work better for level 3 officials. Over Thanksgiving weekend, Mike Mannin and Mark Verplatse came to Bemidji to supervise and evaluate the officials working the Bantam AA/A as well as whatever other games were going on. tournament. The feedback provided by Mike and Mark was very well-received by the officials working in the tournament, and the formal evaluations were appreciated by all. D16 wants to thank these gentlemen for spending their time to work with our officials for the weekend, it was very valuable experience for our association and district. D16 hosted 1 Regional Tournament in Bemidji. This tournament was smoothly run with the 4-official system. We hosted The Bantam AA State Tournament in Baudette. This tournament was supervised by Nick Biondich with help from Bruce Baumgartner and both did an excellent job of making sure that everything went well. We also hosted the Bantam A State Tournament in East Grand Forks. This Tournament was supervised by Tod Plackner and Emil Makinen and they did a fantastic job as well. No issues to report from either tournament. D16 sent 2 crews of officials to work at the Bantam A State Tournament, 1 crew to the Bantam AA State Tournament. Along with this, Kiera Nelson, one of our young female officials, got the opportunity to go to a Wild game and speak with the game officials. She had an exciting time and was incredibly grateful to get the opportunity for this experience.

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The game assignors in the district did a wonderful job this year scheduling officials for games when there were not many officials to choose from and our district director, Mark Elliott, did a wonderful job of supporting our officials and the calls that were made. Moving forward, we would like to improve our recruiting and retention strategies to draw in a new generation of officials as well as keeping the officials we have.

Ron Laituri
D16 Supervisor of Officials

WHAM-Krissy Langley



Our main emphasis this season was to get games covered!

Women's Hockey Association of MN put out a plea to the entire association mid-December looking for referrals and incentivized members to register right away & become an official in WHAM! They also immediately kicked in an extra \$5/official for all single games across the metro.

We covered **950 Arbiter** scheduled regular season games, this is down compared to pre-covid season. We had to cancel/re-schedule 2 games this season (1) due to lack of officials; (2) No Show by both officials.

Our officiating numbers fluctuated throughout the season, starting with 65, going down to 47 in December and finishing the season with **74 active officials**. Thank you to Districts 2 & 10 for their help covering several last-minute games this season! 50% of our officials are female, and they worked approx. 850 spots out of our 950 games (45%). Emphasis has been to ensure each official is rated to work the appropriate level. Combination scheduling has been instrumental for Mentoring and Development.

WHAM hosted 4 USA Hockey Seminars this season. Two virtual and a mid-season push to provide two in-person Level 1 Seminars in January!

WHAM's Year End Tournament at Brooklyn Park with 64 hockey games. 24 officials selected to work.

Shift in the Infrastructure

We had to suddenly replace our scheduler at the start of the season. WHAM Officials hired **Todd Goetze to schedule** "just in time." Todd had been gaining experience in Arbiter & Scheduling officials the previous 2 seasons by scheduling our Over 40 League. Our WHAM **Officials Board** members are appointed to serve, discuss the opportunities, and help execute initiatives throughout the season (**Heidi Larkin, Tom O'Brian**, & new as of March 2022, **Chelsea Ray** joined the ranks). **Mentor Coordinator, Paul Kill**, continues to be a bright spot with leadership, organization, and connectedness with the new officials in his 4th season! Carlye Veer has been our Executive Secretary for the past 3 seasons and will transition into the President role! Lisa Knutson has been appointed as WHAM's Supervisor of Officials and started the transition at the Year End Tournament! We continue to use WHAM's League Treasurer to manage the Arbiter Account and direct pay the officials & oversee our budget.

Mentoring Program

Our Mentor program started off slow as new officials started to sign up in late December! We had 10 brand new level 1 officials. By the time they finished their USA Hockey criteria and received their crests; we could only get 5 of them completed in the Mentor Program.

Recruiting

We are always looking for Officials that are passionate about working Women's Hockey. We continue to engage multiple avenues to recruit new officials for next season (1) one of the best ways to recruit is via word of mouth from officials currently skating in WHAM. (2) We are also recruiting through the Mid-West NCAA Division I and III Women's hockey programs. Not only are we seeking student-athletes that are graduating this season, but if there is any interest in trying to officiate while playing, we will accommodate and train through our Mentor Program.

Goals for 2022-23

Transition roles and responsibilities

Focused recruiting for new officials as well as better policy for bringing in officials that are passionate and committed to work and support women's hockey

Defining the roles and expectations for the Officiating Board, President, backfilling executive secretary, Referee Supervisor (to the league), and future evaluation program.

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Plans to improve our documentation, community, and engaging more volunteers.

Krissy officially introduced Lisa Knutson, new WHAM Supervisor to the board.

AHA- Unfilled

North VP- Tod Plackner

Supervisors continue to do a fantastic job. Great work supporting the Bantam A & AA State Tournaments. I continue to welcome questions and will support to the best of my ability. Thanks for a great season!

South VP-Dave Kemp

Interesting year in the South. Districts worked hard to cover the games with different officiating systems. Supervisors did a fantastic job working with schedulers to provide the needed support to have a successful season. We will be scheduling a mid-winter meeting for the upcoming season.

USA Hockey Female Development-Krissy Langley

Each District needs to have their own Female Development RIC or Coordinator. Aka - MN is behind the times!

We have 24 applicants for Women's Futures Camp: 14 for High Performance

MN had terrific representation at Girls/Women's Nationals –

Alisha Hanrahan Official Coach at Tier I; Krissy at Tier II

Brooke Branson - ACHA & Tier I

Kendall Markovic - ACHA & Tier II

Sarah Buckner - Tier I

Kendall Hanley - Tier I

Keylen Hanson - Tier I

Kelly Lorenz - Tier I

Michaela Bahl - Tier II

Maria Gherardi - Tier II

Carlye Veer - Tier II

IIHF Assignments:

Kendall Hanley at the Olympics & Gold Medal Game

Sarah Buckner going to U18's moved to Madison, WI

Discussion: U15 Leveling discussions continue to happen and WHAM is wondering how this will impact them.

USA RIC- Steve Tatro *Annual Report 2021-2022 Minnesota District, Officiating Program*

Registration: 2365 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official and 2045 completed the registration process. These numbers are at 96.5% and 97.7% respectively of pre-pandemic totals. Minnesota's completion rate was 86.5% which topped the nation. This was due to conducting 10 late season seminars and sending weekly e-mails to incomplete officials during December, January, February, and March urging them to complete unfinished requirements. Our seminar coordinator Mark Verplaetse took the lead in getting both aspects of this endeavor accomplished. Even though we lead the nation in getting officials completed our entry level officials were only completing at a 76.8% rate. These officials are our future. We need to do a better job not only getting them completed but securing game opportunities to help retain them. An interesting fact is that Districts 11, 12, 15, 16 were the leaders in getting our entry level officials completed. It is my opinion that the out-state northern districts are more community based with stronger mentorship capabilities. Another contributing factor seems to be that these districts need to use the newer officials. These districts are still not at the same pandemic recovery rate as the rest of the state. Many games and tournaments have been cancelled in the north.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 64 (40 In-Person and 24 Virtual), with 2210 attendees. A handful of experienced MN officials got seminar credit from ODP Junior Camps and approximately 242 attended out of state seminars while we hosted about 270 out of district officials. 186 officials did not attend a seminar despite registering with USA Hockey. 84% were new or under-age officials.

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Evaluations: The web-based reporting system has been unavailable due to “IT” problems at USA Hockey. Usually, about 20% of our completed officials get formally evaluated during the season. I expect we were down slightly due to our reduced official numbers. The seasoned pool of evaluators we use is reflective of our registration numbers.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program is a great development tool and an even better retention tool. Again, because of the shortage of officials this program has suffered. Eric Olson is our Mentor Coordinator and is working to develop a reporting system that identifies and tracks entry level officials. It is then up to each district to get mentors assigned and get those officials completed and foster opportunities to get them games.

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.

Injured Officials: We had 6 incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed. All claims were not of a serious nature.

Game Reporting: The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems in its eighth 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 were well represented in international competition. Hats off to Andrew Bruggeman of Mankato and Kendall Hanley of Minneapolis who worked the gold medal games at the 2022 Olympics. To date we have 10 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 had 22 officials from Minnesota (13 men and 9 women) working National Tournaments. This is about normal due to the fact we did not host a National Tournament. I was assigned to supervise the Tier 1 U16 & U18 Boys tournament in Rochester, MI.

Development Camps: Eleven officials will be attending the Instructors Camp being held this year in Minneapolis. The Men’s Futures Camp and High-Performance Camp, along with the Women’s Futures Camp and High-Performance Camp, will also have representation. The selection process is still not complete for the 7 women and 13 men that have applied for those camps. As always, we will hold the Session 2 MHOA Camp in conjunction with the MN HP Boy’s festival in St. Cloud. This is the 30th year of this camp. To date there are 11 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 Session 1 MHOA Camp will be held again with Mike Mooney of district 5 coordinating the logistics. It will be run in conjunction with the MN HP15 Girl’s festival in St. Cloud. To date there are 3 applicants for the 12 slots available. Also, all our female officials are encouraged to work games during the Girl’s U18 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 9-14). 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 24th 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, NAHL, and NA3HL. Keith Kaval is at the helm for Tier 2 and 3 North American Leagues. A recent addition to the NAHL is Kendall Hanley as Manager of Officiating for the NAHL and all their properties. She will be working day-to-day with Keith and Scott helping with all the leagues including the NAPHL. Minnesota currently has about 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.

Women’s Officiating: Congratulations to Krissy Langley who was recently appointed as USA Hockey Referee-in-Chief for Female Development. Langley’s position will serve a lead role in developing and implementing strategies to advance efforts related to recruitment, retention and overall support of females currently involved or interested in becoming involved in officiating.

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 2022-2023 season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Tatro, Minnesota District Referee-in-Chief

President Report-Scott Kuhl

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- Officials task force created by Minnesota Hockey to address referee shortages/retention. Kuhl, Mannin, Swafford participating along with MH personnel in weekly meetings with many solutions being suggested to the Minnesota Hockey Directors for consideration. This task force has completed phase 1 of several phases. Results of the district directors' decisions will be sent out to the MHOA Board upon receipt.
- First year of the new Pay rates for State Tournaments is complete. Renegotiation will take place after the 2023-2024 season. Going forward, State tournament assignments will be published using google forms. Any relevant parties will have access to the document to streamline the process.
- Special Thank you to Kurt Hyster for his organization of lodging, and to all the Supervisors for their efforts throughout the season, especially the state tournament weekend. Incredibly good reviews of the officiating were reported at each site.
- Special Thank you to Mark Verplatse for his dedication and tireless efforts with our seminars.
- Fall meeting will be September 16,17,18 at the Hampton Inn, Bemidji. Invites will be sent out in August.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Kuhl

New Business:

- Female Development Position
 - Goals for the position
 - 1. Help Coordinate the Camps
 - 2. Recruiting and Retention 12% of MN officials are female which is double the national average
 - 3. Coordinate Female only officials
 - 4. Work with supervisors to identify and appoint women officials to MN State Tournaments
 - 5. Attend MHOA Meetings

This position will be posted by May 1st and select with selection by June 1st.

*Supervisors will send job description/nominate to 1-3 female officials within their district.

- MHOA Development Camps
 - Dave and Steve presented the camp rosters to the board and reviewed the applicants. Supervisors are encouraged to attend the camps to support the program. Camp #1 June 11th St. Cloud State – 16th, Camp #2 June 18th – 23rd SCSU Mike Mooney will be the camp supervisor for Camp #1 with the goal of on-boarding the new Female Development Coordinator.
- USA Hockey Redistribution of affiliate fees
 - USA Hockey and MN Hockey have discussed this issue. MN Hockey is considering allowing our dues to be placed in their financials. The MHOA Executive Committee voted to bring this to the MHOA Board. The Executive Board believes this would be the best option at the time. USA Hockey will be meeting with MN Hockey and MHOA this weekend to get clarification.
- State Tournament hospitality protocol
 - Minimum Standards for officials for state tournaments. Locker Rooms, Beverages, Food, Dinner Banquet, Area for Evaluators. Scott Kuhl and Mike Mannin will work with MN Hockey to discuss this issue. **Kurt will continue to book rooms for the state tournaments. Supervisors will communicate any unusual circumstances regarding lodging before Kurt secures the rooms for the state tournaments.**
- State Tournament Officials' Information (What do we provide?) Create a Google Form for information that supervisors fill out or have the officials fill out once they are selected to work the tournaments. Kurt Hyster will create the form and distribute to officials.
- iPads: Supervisors are doing a wonderful job transferring ipads. D-10's iPad was given to WHAM. D10 will request an iPad if needed.
- Annual Congress Steve and Mark Verplatse will be attending the annual USA Hockey Congress. Tod and Emil will be attending the congress as MHOA representatives.
- Mike Mannin brought the workload of the treasurer to the board. Discussing the increased responsibility placed on the job over the last several years and the need for continuity in this position. The board agreed that the demands on the treasurer continue to increase.
- Mike Mannin made a motion to increase the treasurer's stipend to \$1500.00 annually and seconded by Erickson. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Game Sheet (Electronic Scoring) There is a need from the official's group and committees to have state-wide data. Supervisors expressed their interest in having access to correct clerical errors on scoresheets. District Supervisors need access to Junior Gold Leagues.
- Roving Evaluator Program
2021-22 was the first year. Evaluators went to Bemidji and Alexandria for this year. A total 20 and 16 evaluations were completed, respectively. Feedback on the program was extremely positive. Supervisors should contact Mike Mannin if interested in utilizing this program.
- MHOA Service Award Recipient: Darrell Gedney is this year's service award recipient. Matt spoke about Darrell's contributions and history. Read Nomination below. **Additionally, Supervisors need to resubmit names annually for consideration of the service award.**

MHOA Service Award Committee:

It is my privilege to nominate Darrell Gedney for the 2022 MHOA Service Award.

Having been an official for over 40 years, Gedney's reputation within the Minnesota Hockey community very much precedes itself. Nonetheless, it is appropriate to put his significant contributions to Minnesota Hockey – and indeed to the broader game – on paper for the purpose of this nomination.

Within BHRA, Gedney has played a large part in the mentorship and training of countless officials over the past three decades he's spent with this association. His ability to teach new officials is uncanny; he is especially good with those still in high school. All those on this committee are well aware of the epidemic of bad behavior driving officials out of this game. When Gedney's on the ice with a young official, we as a board are positive that new official will be cared for and protected during those games.

His support for BHRA's young officials does not stop at the rink's doors. Gedney is also an active participant in BHRA's scholarship fund. For the past several seasons, he has been one of the fund's largest benefactors. Our association disburses these funds, through an application process, to deserving BHRA members for use towards post-secondary education.

Gedney's contributions to BHRA are not limited to his work with our young officials. He continues to work in excess of 200 games per regular season, doubling, tripling, or even quadrupling officials half his age. In fact, Gedney was back on the ice skating three weeks after having hip replacement surgery.

It is plainly evident that Gedney truly cares about the great game of hockey, and about the kids playing it. "Everybody knows Darrell," is a common phrase that is heard from coaches, parents, and other officials alike. I can think of no better person to nominate for this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt Olsonoski
Supervisor, District 3

- Scholarships: MHOA awarded 7 \$500.00 scholarships this season. Congratulations to this year's recipients!
- Scholarships Golf Tournament August 21st Maddens Golf Course 1:00ish tee time
- Leslie Fund Golf Tournament June 17th Stonebrook Golf Course
- MHOA Store Is still open.
- **GET YOUR MHOA GEAR!!**

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- <https://stores.inksoft.com/MHOA>
- clothing (sports coats and other inventory) Dave is clearing out the old inventory as his wife did not approve the addition to his garage. Supervisors are encouraged to shop and distribute during seminar season!

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Erickson and seconded by Knutson at 1:34 PM

Once approved these minutes become part of the official record for the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Thul
MHOA Secretary

Elections of officers:

Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward for South VP, David Kemp. Mike Mannin asked for nominations three times. Dave was elected South VP on white ballot.

Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward for treasurer, Kurt Hyster. Mike Mannin asked for nominations three times. Kurt Hyster was elected Treasurer on a white board.

Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward for secretary, Brian Thul. Mike Mannin asked for nominations three times. Brian Thu was elected Secretary on a white board.