



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association
2023 Spring Meeting
St. Louis Park Marriot
April 15th, 2022

- Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM by Scott Kuhl, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- Group took a moment of silence to reflect on the service and friendship of Mr. Dave Kemp
- Roll Call was taken by Brian Thul

MHOA Board Members

President-Scott Kuhl Present
North Vice President-Tod Plackner Present
South Vice President-
Secretary-Brian Thul Present
Treasurer-Kurt Hyster Present
District 1 Supervisor-Paul Marshall Present
District 2 Supervisor-Jason Sturm Absent
District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski Present
District 4 Supervisor-Matt Holm Absent
District 5 Supervisor-Ryan Szymanski Present
District 6 Supervisor-Kurt Hyster Present
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen Absent
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford Absent Tom Holtz Designee
District 10 Supervisor-Mike Mannin Present
District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich Present
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present
District 15 Supervisor-Mac Nelson Present
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

MHOA Appointed Positions

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

Guests:

1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda by Kavanaugh and seconded by Hyster. The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

2. Reports

Secretary-Brian Thul

- The minutes from the spring meeting were distributed via electronic distribution. Motion to approve the 2022 Fall Minutes was made by Marshall and seconded by Kavanaugh. Motion passed by voice vote.
- **Evaluations Report-** Bruce Carlson, USA Hockey District Evaluation Coordinator
The launch date for the evaluation system has been pushed back indefinitely. Reports are not accessible for evaluators. Evaluation forms are accessible in the form of PDF. Do not touch the edit or submit button. Passwords are different than the login information used to register.

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

2022-2023 was a busy seminar season. We posted 116 seminars with 39 combined L1 and L2 seminars. We hosted 4 Level 1 only seminars which was very successful. (Lakeville, Andover, Duluth, MN Wild) The first being held in July in Lakeville which drew 51 attendees. Andover drew 56 attendees. Our Minnesota Wild seminar at Wild Headquarters had 90 attendees. We had two hours of ice at Xcel Energy Center. The attendees were visited by the NHL officials for that afternoons game, and we had a visit from Dean Eveson., Head Coach of the Wild. Attendees and staff received tickets to the exhibition game against Colorado that afternoon. All of USA Hockey benefited from having roughly the same material from the previous season, with a few changes. Late signups proved to be a little problematic again this season. We had 208 November signups, and 73 December signups.

In Minnesota, we trained 2638 officials, 168 of those from out of state. In Minnesota, we had 2887 officials register, 19% increase over 2021/2022. Of these, 2516 managed to complete all their requirements, 87.1% completion rate which is Second best best of all USA Hockey Districts. For comparison, 20/21 had 2045 completely registered officials.

Seminars conducted via Zoom were Level 3 and 4. We conducted 17 Level 3 Seminars. Level 1 and first year Level 2 were required to attend an in person seminar where we were able to provide on ice instruction. I want to thank all the instructors who participated.

Some numbers:

Number of officials registered	2887
Number of completed officials	2516
Number of incomplete	371

Level 1:

Number of officials registered	1445
Number of completed officials	1152

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Number of incomplete	308
No Seminar	211
No Open Book	245
Attended Seminar but no test	78, 54 of these are 16yo or under

Level 2:

Number of officials registered	458
Number of completed officials	425
Number of incomplete	33

Level 3:

Number of officials registered	811
Number of completed officials	784
Number of incomplete	27

Level 4:

Number of officials registered	146
Number of completed officials	143
Number of incomplete	3

2022 seminars:

Registration for 2023-2024 season begins June 1, 2022. Level 3 Seminars will be via Zoom just like previous seasons. Level 1 and Level 2 seminars will change a bit from previous seasons. USA Hockey will be conducting Level 1 and Level 2 Seminars via Zoom using a variety of instructors. These will be approximately 3 hours in length. Level 1 will require a 2 ½ to 3 hour session locally. This will include some local instruction and local information along with 1 hour of on ice training. Many of these plans are still being finalized so stay tuned for more info. We will need each local supervisor to schedule multiple 2-3 hour times to accommodate local officials. Level 1 officials we trained this season numbered 1,234 new Level 1. Some logistics are still being worked out with USA Hockey.

This new education plan will bring much more responsibility to the local districts. It will require much more emphasis on Mentoring and evaluation from all of our Minnesota supervisors.

Late season signups may continue to require all of us to be flexible. We all may have to conduct several late season seminars to accommodate. I'll try to keep everyone posted as I learn more

Editorial:

Looking at the numbers above, it is obvious that we need to do more in trying to complete our Level 1 officials. Of the 308 that were incomplete, 211 did not attend a seminar. I did everything I could do to accommodate those, but still had 211 did not make it to seminar. That may change this next season due to the reduced time requirement. That still leaves 245 that did not complete their test, 78 of those had attended a seminar and all they needed was to complete their test. I believe that some local interest in these officials would help here.

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

I have had the opportunity to attend quite a few Mite games this past winter. I continue to be amazed by the MISSED OPPORTUNITIES we have to train our officials. There are mite jamborees, tournaments, scrimmages going on all over the place. Very few had our officials at the game. Instead, most were skated by coaches, or I have seen high school players just standing around on the ice. I think this is mostly a matter of coordination and scheduling. But, I believe that these events just go on without any thought given to all the young new officials ready to get into a game. We need to put some thought into how we can overcome this situation. (off soap box)

Thank you all for your help this past season.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Verplaetse

USA Hockey Officiating Program Seminar Coordinator, Minnesota District

USA Hockey will be running a national level 1 Zoom seminar for every new official. These will be 3 hours in length. Level one officials will also attend a local in-person seminar which will run for 3 hours in length. 1.5 hours of in-class time and then 1 hour of on-ice training.

Treasurer-Kurt Hyster

MHOA Funds	Income	Expense	Balance
<i>Beginning Balance Sept 2022</i>			\$ 8,686
<i>MN Hockey Payments</i>	\$ 111,286.00		
<i>Expenses</i>	\$ -	\$ 130,730.16	
<i>MN Hockey Hotel Check Pending</i>	\$ 10,341.27		
<i>MHOA Dues Check Pending</i>	\$ 11,456.51		
Balance (after Checks are received)			\$ 11,040

Kurt provided context and details for the budget report. State tournament reimbursement and booking went well and the board wants to continue using the Google Doc. and having Kurt book the rooms. The above is the balance as of 4/12/23. There will be some small changes in the coming weeks. Kurt provided a detailed report with all expenditures and income to the board. The board agrees that we must continue to emphasize the importance of registered officials in MN paying their MHOA Dues through the provided link during seminar season.

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

Mentorship Report - Eric Olson

- 356 mentorship events documented within the Google Document.

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

- Steve distributed Gift Cards to Mentors who completed the most mentorship opportunities documented in the Google Document.
- Eric provided the completed Google Document with all the recorded mentorship interactions. New officials that received mentoring completed their registration requirements at a rate of over 90%.

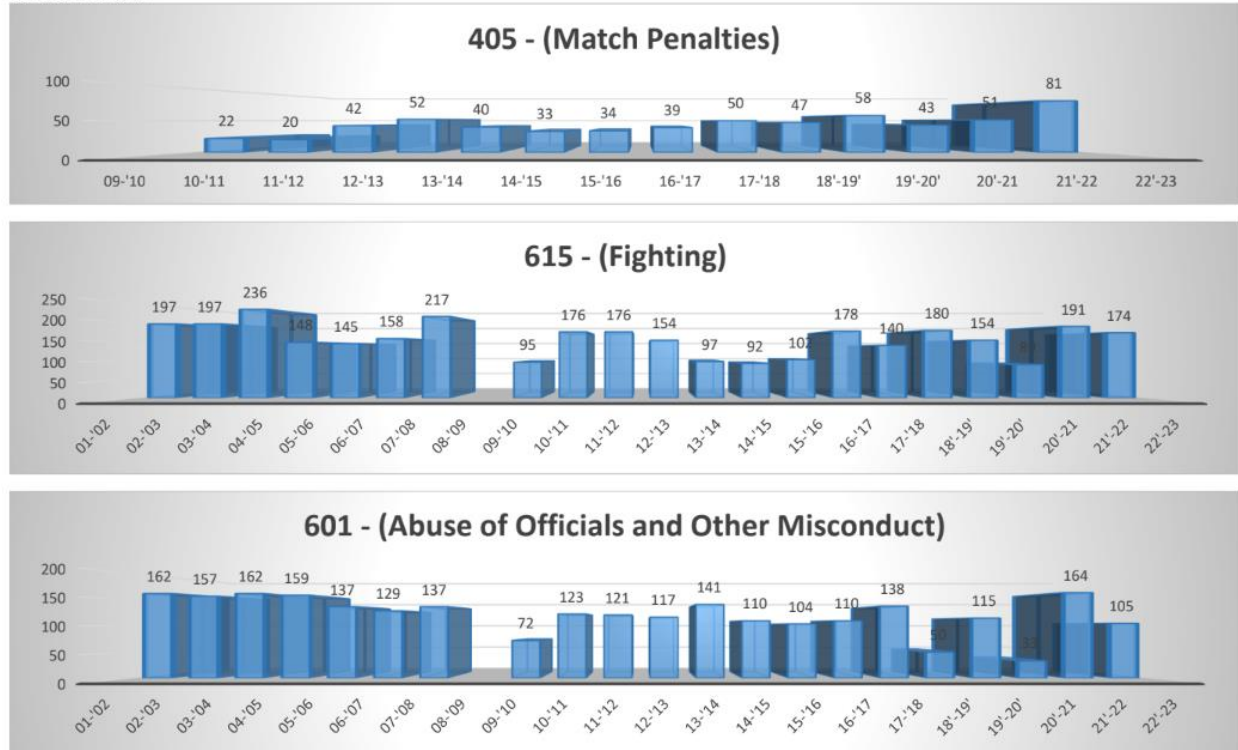
Incident Report – Ryan Swafford

Ryan provided the board with a spreadsheet with all reported incidents and the below charts. The board expresses their gratitude for the countless hours Ryan puts in overseeing the incident reporting system. There was some conversation about requesting compensation for Ryan from MN Hockey. Scott will explore possible options.

MHOA officials reported a total of **1245** incident reports for the **2022-23 Season**. This is an increase from **1135 (+9%)** for last season. While this number is up from last season, there still may be areas of pervasive misreporting and 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 educate on how to use the system.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Incident Report Totals	2821	684	733	855	916	999	1178	636	1135	1245
Match Penalties (Coach)	3	3	5	6	7	7	4	8	8	17
Match Penalties (Player)	37	30	29	33	43	40	54	35	43	64
Totals	40	33	34	39	50	47	58	43	51	
GM (Coach)	85	69	66	60	72	98	73	52	91	86
GM (Player)	694	529	571	688	717	792	722	410	920	953
Totals	779	598	637	748	788	890	795	462	1011	
CFB – GM	193	135	123	127	134	130	304	70	103	105
CFB – Match	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	1
Boarding – GM	105	100	65	79	80	99	135	47	95	84
Boarding – Match	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Penalty Assessed	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
Game Misconduct	174	207	199	222	213	148	377	410		
Major Penalty	46	62	69	56	250	84	-	-		
Major + GM	452	539	590	603	615	315	634	629		
Match Penalty	34	39	50	47	58	44	51	81		
Team 12 Penalties (Game Suspension Coach)	5	8	8	12	9	7	51	72		
Team 3 Major Penalties (Game Suspension Coach)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3		
Other Incident Report							19	41		
Abuse of Officials										
Grand Total	711	855	916	940	1145	598	1135	1236		

Historical Charts



Supervisor Reports-Highlights and areas of concerns

District One-Paul Marshall

Paul had a great year in District one. Very few game reports with incidents. We were able to support D2 and D8 with scrimmages throughout the year.

District Two-Jason Sturm

3340 games assigned

2087 league

134 playoffs

1119 tournament games

We had 150 on our roster, 41 of which were new officials for D2 we could have had more but the MEHOA board was unwilling to work with me. I hosted 3 seminars 2 were in person Level 1&2 and a Virtual Level 3 Seminar.

15 officials worked over 100 games, top gamer was 172 several others in the 75-90 range

I completed 44 evaluations.

124 Incident Reports 9 Match Penalties all of which were on players

State tournaments: U12A and U15A

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

U12A Champ Game D16 3rd Place Game D2 5th Place Game D5 D1 Crew did not work Sunday

U15A Champ Game D12 3rd Place Game D3 – D11 Linesman 5th Place Game D11 – D3 Linesman
D2 Crew did not work Sunday

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Sturm

District Three-Matt Olsonoski

3737 Total games:

- a. League Games: 1766
- b. Scrimmages: 674
- c. Tournaments (includes – Invitational, Playoffs, Regions, and Jr. Gold Playdowns): 1297

Total games by level:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Sq/10U | 1131 – 31.3% |
| 2. PW/12U | 1248 – 34.5% |
| 3. BC,BB2,15UB | 451 – 12.5% |
| 4. BB1 | 188 – 5.2% |
| 5. BA,15UA | 264 – 7.3% |
| 6. BAA | 50 – 1.4% |
| 7. Jr. Gold, 16U | 278 – 7.7% |
| 8. HP 14/15 | 5 – 0.001% |

Top 5 official(s) game count: 232, 217, 205, 197, 186

We started 26 first year officials, and 9 new officials with some experience for a total of 35.

We completed 101 evaluations, including 41 on-ice mentorships

BHRA survey: Sent out to all members, receiving 83 responses.

- Which best describes why you primarily officiate?

Top response: **Money** - 57 or 68.7% (other highest response: fraternity, players, coaches)

- Which bracket best describes your age? (Getting a little younger than past seasons)

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 18 or younger | 7 or 8.4% |
| 19-29 | 10 or 12% |
| 30-39 | 20 or 24.1% |
| 40-49 | 15 or 18.1% |
| 50-59 | 23 or 27.7% |

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

60 or older 8 or 9.6%

Great year overall, start a good group on new and experienced officials.

Respectfully submitted.

Matt Olsonoski.

District Four-Matt Holm

718 games

142 Officials

A senior in High School Marshall, MN with the highest game count—53

Hosted 2 State Tournament's in New Ulm, PW AA and PW A

PW AA Championship Game-- D11 Crew

3rd Place Game--D9 Crew

Consolation Game—D 12 Crew

PW A Championship Game—D 15 Crew

3rd Place Game—D4 Ref, D9 Linesman

Consolation Game—D 6 Crew

I big shout out to the all the crews that came to New Ulm, didn't have one Coach, Player or Player issue the whole weekend that resulted in me having to get involved. Every official was professional, both on and off the ice. Sending home the D4 crew from the PW AA tourney was the one of the hardest decisions. Not taking away from the D11 crew in any way, because they deserved the Chipper, but it totally worked out that no crew in the AA tourney saw the same team twice all weekend.

The only issue all weekend was Chaska/Chan, PW AA, happened to be the home team in all three of their games and they would only wear their special State Tourney jerseys that happened to be dark. This was reported back to D6 and the association was fined.

District Five-Ryan Szymanski

Games: 2250: increase from last year by close to 200 games Slots: 5140

New Officials: 134, 107 got games Officials Graduated from mentor program: 92

NHL Spotlight (Wild Game) Shane Kramer attended the January 26th game.

Abby Storms and Brady Zieglmeier will attend the game on March 27.

Postseason accomplishments:

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Multiple officials worked MSHSL section games 3 officials worked MSHSL state championships (additionally 1 former did)

2 officials worked 3 place games (additionally 2 formers did) 1 official worked NCAA playoffs (1 former did also)

3 crews to Youth state tournaments They worked the BAA championship, JR Gold A consolation, U12A consolation

4 Officials worked national tournaments (HS and U18) 3 worked the worked championships and some worked semis

Multiple former WSOA officials who moved away worked state and national tournaments

Concerns:

-Weather cancellation policy, minimum time, if schools cancel should we?

-Mouth guard and ear guards

-Fan issues (had a few younger kids turn back lower level playoffs because worried about the pressure/getting yelled at)

Challenges

-Setting up Arbiter

-How and when to fill out incident reports

-Score sheet issues (misconducts/games-maybe different color, 4 penalty/12 penalty pop ups)

D5 was able to get double pay for games that started before 5:00. This was a success. Tournaments were starting later than 10:00

until it was addressed with the D5 board.

District Six-Kurt Hyster

Dave Kemp Passed away on November 30th, 2022, I took over on an interim basis to keep the ship afloat. With help of the District 6 Officials board, I delegated several duties to board members and we had a successful season, despite a high number of incidences.

The current Roster is 221 Officials, we added 90 new officials. We completed ~60 mentor games, with the loss of Dave we only completed 25 or so formal evaluations.

State Tournament Report – (see the attached Bracket Layout of which crews worked which games)
Hosted the Bantam A & AA tournament, a big thank you goes out to Ryan Szymanski for his help along with Sam Farrington & Ben Richter. It was a great tournament, and all the officials did a great job. It was a tough choice on the BAA side as to who to send home, at the end of the day we when with all the younger officials who handled themselves very well on Sunday. We had only one incident with 2 parents. They were brought to a meeting with our district director, and I had a brief discussion with the Chaska Bantam A coach whose team was the most penalized team in the tournament and had been a problem all season.

Game Totals

o Scrimmages – 680

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

o Play-off Games - 393

o Tournaments – 1215

o League – 1907

Hosted the BA, BB1, and PAA region tournaments. We provided goal judges for all league championship games and for the regional and State tournaments.

Due to the shortage of officials, we officiated League & Tournament games at all levels using the 2-official system. Playoffs we used the 3 officials for Bantam A/AA Level

Incident Reports

170 Incident reports received thru District 6

The discipline committee met every two weeks with 105 players & Coaches coming to these meetings, 26 of these were fighting related 10 of those were at levels below Peewee B.

My biggest concern is Player, Coach, and Parent education I asked the question of every player who attended the grievance meeting if during their playing career if any of their coaches had gone through the rulebook with them, not one player answered with yes. We put kids on the ice with knives on their feet and weapons in their hands and no one has taught them the rules or the consequences when they break them.

We are in the process of finding a permanent replacement for Dave, I want to thank the D6 Officials association board for really stepping up to help me out this year.

Kind Regards,

Kurt Hyster

District 8-Paul Moen

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

District 8 again never had to cancel a game or scrimmage during our season. Officials are short on some tournament week-ends, but we manage to get every game covered. We had 4274 games during the season, including 1255 tournament games which we will cut back next year, and 764 scrimmages. This year we had over 60 new officials, mentoring came by hard once the season started, but we did manage to get most completed. Again, we lost some veteran officials that decided to stay with just High School. This will happen more and more each year. With fees going up and the required subjects, it will get worse. We had some problems trying to fill Junior Gold slots, really hard towards the end of the season, our District playoffs started and we still had 53 JG games left. But then we have the most Junior Gold teams in the State.

We as a District did not offer the incentive as we did last season, \$200 if you worked 10 games. A board member just contacted me this week and stated, lets do it anyway, we have the \$. So we might still do it with a requirement of 20 games. Last year we had 34 officials collect the \$200 bonus.

Interesting is the penalty ration. Squirts by far lead all levels in game misconducts. They also lead in fighting penalties. Coaches at the Squirt level also lead our district in game misconducts. I try explaining how important they are to their teams but they would rather sit three games. (District 8's rule) Winning is the most important part of coaching to them. I guess teaching kids how to play the game is behind their goals. NO LOOKING AT VIDEOS ALL SEASON. Wasn't taken very well.

I am sorry to have to miss our meeting, due to the Great 8 Festival. I look forward to watch the officials from D5 and D12 officiate the games. I hope to see all of you in the Fall at Otter Lake. I'm also hoping to get a couple of my officials sent to MHOA camp, they are geared up to go.

Paul Moen

Supervisor Of Officials

District 8

2022-2023 DISTRICT 8 STATE TOURNAMENT REPORT

2023 D8 hosted the 15UB and 19U State Tournaments. Worked all by District 8 officials. It was nice feeling come Saturday evening informing all the crews that no one was going to be sent home. I did notify one crew, that they would only be working Friday and Saturday. But with the addition of the 19U game (we only had one) that crew worked that game. I want to pass on the comments of my crew that was sent to work the BAA Tourney. As a whole, they were positive, but joked that they must have been horse shit, one commented we must have called too many offsides. What ever the reason, I don't think it sets good with the crew going home. Again, why can't we look at this system.

Our officials were very good working the 15UB's, wasn't the best, but the girls were very excited to be where they were. Good games all week end. Crowds were decent.

Our goal for next season is trying to keep as many of our new officials and advancing other officials up to the next level. I have some leaving for school with interest of still officiating and I explained that I would pass their intentions on to the Supervisor in that area.

Thank you Paul Moen

Supervisor of Officials

District 8

District 9-Ryan Swafford

2022-23 District 9 Supervisor of Officials Report (submitted by R. Swafford)

District 9 had another great season. We enjoyed working 3259 Arbiter scheduled games, this is up 8% from 3008 last year. D9HOA assigned around 300 officials to 7721 positions/slots, this is up 9% from 7118 last season. D9 hosted four Regional Tournament (PWA, Ban AA, Ban A, Ban B) and one State Tournament (12UB). We did over 60 formal evaluations, however, only 46 made it through the system and had 66 mentor contacts. The D9/D4 South Seminar Series hosted three virtual seminars and four in-person on seven different dates. We trained over 500 officials, utilizing 16 different helpers/instructors; all went great.

District 10-Mike Manning

3462 games assigned 2200 league 318 scrimmages
256 playoffs 688 tournament games There were 128 controlled scrimmages as well.

We had 120 on our roster, with around 100 active. We were back to normal working 3 and 4 person games this year.

2 officials worked over 250 games, 7 more worked over 150, and 15 more worked over 100

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

We completed 63 evaluations and mentored 37 first year officials.

108 incident reports, 8 match penalties and 2 of them on coaches.

Awards:

Rookie of the year: Abigail Canton 76 games, 0 declines and 3 turnbacks

Official of the year: Steve Moe (70 plus years old) 131 games, 0 declines and 0 turnbacks

Mark Lodge who was a long time official, and SHRA board member passed away this week with ALS.

State tournaments:

Fairly uneventful weekend most were well behaved. We did do something new this year, we hired net tenders. Young officials to remove and set the nets for each game. They hung out with the officials and sat with the evaluators to further their knowledge.

JRG 16 3 D-10 crews

JRG B 3 D-10 crews.

JRG A Crews from 3,5,10,11 D-3 worked the championship

Respectfully,

Mike Mannin

District 11-Nick Biondich

Games scheduled: 2,585 utilizing 124 officials. Of those, 35 officials worked 15 games or less while 7 officials worked more than 100 games. The highest number of games worked was 124.

Unfortunately, 109 games had to be cancelled due to lack of officials. This is up from 50 the previous season. Also, 154 of the 390 three official games had to be decreased to 2 officials; thus reducing those development opportunities.

I have brought forward a proposal to Minnesota Hockey to potentially fund a Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for the district.

State Tournaments:

Junior Gold A: Kevin Kangas, Brent Olson, Matt Caple, Chris Kucera

U15A: Sam Van Loon, Caleb Kleven, Rob Hollenhorst

PWAA: Luke Ortloff, Kyle Cotrell, Jonah Wiggins (This crew was assigned to officiate the State Championship Game!!)

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

We also had a few other NEHOA full and part time officials assigned to state through different districts:

PWAA: Gavin Nichols worked on a D12 Iron Range crew with his brother Troy.

Bantam B: Sam Krollman on a D16 crew out of Bemidji where he attends college.

U15A: Maria Gherardi on a D12 Iron Range crew.

Congrats to all on their strong work. I have received nothing but compliments from the host supervisors as to how our officials represented themselves and our local association!

District 12-Chris Kavanaugh

It was good to get back to near normal. Local recruiting efforts paid off, there were over 200 registered officials in D12 last season! In the community of Ely we went from 1 registered official in 2021-22 to 19 last season. We had full capacity at two of the level 1 seminars! We offered an in-person option for Level 3, unfortunately only four officials registered for it so we cancelled.

Of the 203 officials, 118 were Level 1, hopefully we get a good return rate out of that. We had high rates of completion, seminar attendance, test completion, safe-sport, background checks and MHOA registration. This was accomplished through weekly emails to delinquents beginning in early November until late January. In the Grand Rapids and Greenway areas, Emil Makinen did an outstanding job connecting with new officials. In every community there is at least one experienced official that does a great job with informal mentoring. More effort will be expended next season to get these officials signed up as mentors, perhaps the Mentoring program can be incorporated more fully in the seminar curriculum. Scheduling these new officials in squirt/10U games gets to be a challenge but our local schedulers seem to have figured out a way to get these officials games.

Looking ahead to next year I plan to conduct at least one Level 1 seminar early, real early, as the season seems to start earlier every year and even by mid-October there are prospective officials that have game conflicts with seminar dates.

No state tournaments in D12 this year, looks like we'll more than make up for it next season!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kavanaugh

We had over 200 official register. We had a nice increase in new officials. It was a really good year. Emil did a great job working with the young officials. We find having a local official recruiting is beneficial.

District 15-Mac Nelson

2022-2023 Season Review

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

The Good: Overall, we had a fantastic season with minimal issues...No significant injuries to officials that I was made aware of. D15 hosted 6 in person and 2 virtual officiating seminars this year with solid attendance at all. D15 Hosted 5 Regional Tournaments this year. We had 2 crews work State Tournaments this year. Bantam AA crew worked consolation championship and PeeWee A crew worked the championship game.

The Bad: Numbers continue to be a problem...I don't believe we had any games cancelled due to lack of officials, but there were certainly some instances that were close. With that said, D15 is looking into a standardized pay scale. The thought is this would make it much easier when asking officials to travel to another association to help cover games. I think that we should also consider implementing a recruiting/referral bonus program. (Association Choice)

MHOA Camp Applicants:

Alex Henry, Ryan Henry, Brady Metcalf, Evan Kostohryz, Eric Buersken, Tyler Heinlen, Kyle Weiss, Scott Kostohryz

Looking Ahead:

Our Mentorship Program really fell short this year. Plan moving forward is to find a couple senior officials to help facilitate a strong mentorship program. Ideally, I will have someone to help with boys and a strong female official to help with the girls.

Would like to send 3-4 officials to the next available seminar instructor training course. (Would require some financial commitment from the district to cover expenses)

District 16-Ron Laituri

District 16 had seven level 1/2 seminars and two virtual level 3 seminars. We also hosted three Region tournaments and two State tournaments. Thank you to Tod Plackner and Emil Makinen for their help supervising the PWB tournament in Warroad as I was in Bemidji for the BB tournament. Both tournaments were locally staffed with 18 total L3 officials. The hockey was good, the coaches and fans were positive, and the officiating was spectacular. Formal evaluations were given to all participating officials. There were no issues to report from either tournament. We sent a crew of young officials (Finnian McLaughlin, Will Hardwick, and Murray Marvin-Cordes) to Stillwater for the 12UA State Tournament where they earned the opportunity to work the championship game. They were totally excited! We will be starting seminars for next season in September.

WHAM-Lisa Knutson



2022 – 2023 was the season of learning for us in WHAM. We had a new supervisor, president and scheduler. Unfortunately we had some struggles along the way but over all our officials association and the WHAM association worked well together and had good communication throughout the year. Our biggest struggle throughout the year was getting enough officials to work all

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

of the games (great big thank you to all of you who reached out to your associations to help us out!). This was an issue throughout hockey, but for WHAM the league/board finally realized what was being said in previous years; there are too many solo games all across the twin cities area starting at or around the same time and we just couldn't get everything covered. This really opened the eyes for the league/board and they really bought into working with the teams to get information to them on trying to work with each other and the rink managers to get games scheduled back-to-back as much as possible and if that isn't possible to try to stay away from schedule during the 4pm-8pm block on Sunday evenings.

I feel Carlye Vee (WHAM Officials President), Todd Goetz (WHAM Scheduler) and myself worked and communicated together very effectively to make this season as successful as possible. I know we had a number of officials step up (including myself and Carlye) to cover multiple games a day at multiple arenas. We also had a group of officials from the NAHL league step in to help us out with our A league games and other officials from your districts to help us out on games we just could not get covered.

We had one match penalty this year (at the beginning of the season) that turned into quite the ordeal, but worked itself out in the end. The major learning from this was that we (WHAM) needs to make sure we are being very specific when we are communicating with the affected player and setting very clear standards for their suspension along with clear USA Hockey Rule references.

Held 1 Level 1/Level 2 seminar in September. Would like to hold more next season.

Season by numbers:

- I. Over 40 League
 - a. 52 games
 - b. 29 Officials worked these games
- II. 2022-2023 Season
 - a. Regular Season – 1,042 games
 - i. Canceled Games: 12 due to no Officials – 56 total
 - ii. Major + Game Misconduct Penalties: 4
 - iii. Match Penalty: 1
 - b. Year-end Tournament – 54 games
 - i. 30 Officials worked the year-end tournament
 - c. Officials
 - i. 82 Active Rostered Officials
 - ii. 2 officials who work over 100 games for WHAM
 1. David Gervais – 125
 2. Chad Haraldson – 107

Cancelled 12 games which was new to the league.

Had two officials work over 100 games.

Thanked the other supervisors for their help with covering games during the season.

AHA- Unfilled

North VP- Tod Plackner

Shared his gratitude with everyone stepping up especially Kurt with the passing of Dave.

South VP-

USA RIC- Steve Tatro

April 7, 2023 Annual Report 2022-2023 Minnesota District, Officiating Program

Registration: 2887 people registered with USA Hockey to become officials and 2516 completed the registration process. These numbers are the highest since the 2009-2010 season. Minnesota's completion rate was 87.1% which is 2nd in the nation. This was mainly due to conducting 4 late season seminars and sending weekly e-mails to incomplete officials during December and January urging them to complete unfinished requirements. Our seminar coordinator Mark Verplaetse took the lead in getting both aspects of this accomplished. Even though we are near the top nationally in getting officials completed our entry level officials were only completing at a 79% 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 District 12 was the leader in getting our entry level officials completed. It is my opinion, shared by many other RICs, that a strong mentorship program results in a better completion rate and retention of our new officials. With a new education facilitation program on the horizon and the need to fund the enhanced curriculum, we were required to adjust our registration fees. They are as follows... Affiliated \$45 (up from \$30), Level 1 \$55 (up from \$45) and Level 2-3-4 \$110 (up from \$90). One final note...even though we had a 6% growth in completed officials, a few of the out-state districts still have a shortage and were forced to cancel games and/or tournaments.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 64 (47 In-Person and 17 Virtual), with 2638 attendees. A handful of experienced MN officials got seminar credit from ODP Junior Camps and approximately 170 attended out of state seminars while we hosted about 168 out of district officials. 234 (8%) officials did not attend a seminar despite registering with USA Hockey. 59% of those not attending a seminar were new or under-age officials.

Evaluations: The web-based reporting system has been hit and miss due to "IT" problems at USA Hockey. Usually, about 20% of our completed officials get formally evaluated during the season. I expect we were probably down slightly due to this factor.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program is a great development tool and an even better retention tool. We now have a tracking system through Google Docs. As of this report, we have had 217 mentorship events. District 12 leads the pack with 14% of new officials mentored. No surprise, those new officials completed at a 90.7% rate and the other returning officials completed at a 93.1% rate.

Physical Assaults: There was one "Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials" this year. MN Hockey, the jurisdictional governing body, has rendered a one year suspension to the coach for this infraction.

Injured Officials: We had 5 incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed, down one from last season. No claims were of a serious nature.

Game Reporting: The national game reporting system had very few problems in its ninth year. There were over 1245 entries into the system for MN District this season. Most issues 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.

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

International-College Tournaments: Minnesota officials were well represented in international competition. To date we have approximately 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 64 officials from Minnesota (47 men and 17 women) working National Tournaments. This is above normal due to the fact we hosted two National Tournaments: High School and Tier 2 18U Boys. I was assigned to supervise both of those tournaments. Wayzata and Maple Grove Hockey associations were amazing hosts and set the bar very high. I suspect Minnesota will host more National Tournaments in the future.

Development Camps: There will be no Instructors Camp held this year due to a revitalization of the education curriculum. The Men's Futures Camp and High-Performance Camp, along with the Women's Futures Camp and High-Performance Camp, will also have MN representation. The selection process is still not complete for the 6 women and 10 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 31 st year of this camp. To date there are 14 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 Olaf. To date there are 9 applicants for the 12 slots available.

Officiating Development Program: The 25 th 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 assisted by Kendall Hanley. Minnesota currently has about 33 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.

USA Hockey Officiating Department: Congratulations to Matt Leaf and his 28 year career as the Director of the Officiating Program. He will be greatly missed but will remain as a resource to our guild. Matt's last day will be April 21 st . He will pursue the role as president and owner of the Great Falls Americans of the North American Tier 3Hockey League.

Summary: Minnesota officiating remains strong and stable and I have no doubt we will implement strategies to increase our registration completion and retention rate through our mentorship program. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2023-2024 season.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Tatro, Minnesota District Referee-in-Chief

President Report-Scott Kuhl

The officials task force met several times over the course of the season with many topics covered. Many suggestions have been forwarded to district directors for their input on how to help recruit and retain officials moving forward.

MHOA Membership Dues: In the first year of collecting dues through Minnesota Hockey, we had 1643 out of our 2887 registrants pay. This generated a little over 11,000 in revenue, however, we had budgeted around 16,000. Most of the shortfall was a result of the 16 and under officials not being required to pay dues this year. Going forward, we need to do a better job of monitoring our officials.

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

State Tournaments: I was able to traverse most of the state and attend 7 of the 8 state tournament sites. Thank you to all of the supervisors and officials for their time, commitment and professionalism in making this the premier weekend for Minnesota Hockey.

A Special Thank you to Kurt Hyster for stepping up as the interim supervisor for district 6, he went above and beyond to make sure that the officials world continued along a smooth path for the season.

Special Thank you to Mark Verplatse for his dedication and tireless efforts with our seminars. As we expect changes in the educational program, I would ask the supervisors and seminar staffs to be patient with the fore coming changes.

The Fall MH/MHOA meeting will be held in September in Ottertail, MN. Invites and further information will be sent out when they become available.

MHOA Camps: Session 1 will be led by Tai Thorsheim at St Olaf College in Northfield with Dave Weisjahn heading up session 2 in St. Cloud. The dates have been published.

Many challenges were encountered at each district level this year. However, as always, MHOA supervisors and staff rose to the occasion to overcome each challenge and represent MHOA and Minnesota Hockey in the most professional way possible. THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Kuhl

President MHOA

MHOA Dues reporting: Updates were provided throughout the season. We will be adding the USA Hockey Number to provide easier sorting. Possibly add the district number to the form as well. MN Hockey has been outstanding to work with in regards to handling our dues.

MN Hockey/Wild Recognition (Add Mike's Email) Special thanks to Mike Mooney for organizing and staying on the gas for this program!

New Business:

MHOA Dues:

Fee was raised to cover the credit card fee. On average we collected 10.60 after credit card dues. State Tournament Google Document worked really well.

NAPHL:

We are no longer participating in the NAPHL scheduling. MHOA will no longer be collecting scheduling fees.

MHOA Assigned Games:

HP and Tier 1 games. Officials should be sent to Mike Mooney that are qualified to work that level of hockey.

Metro Districts Standardization:

Game times was a concern from MHOA's perspective. District Directors will continue to work on this concern.

MN Wild / MN Hockey Spotlight on Officiating

It was another fun season for some young officials. We sent 12 officials to a Wild game, one female and one male each month for six months. They receive two tickets for the game plus the young officials are met at gate one and escorted to the NHL Official's room prior to the game. Our officials meet and have a discussion with the on ice officials for that game. Then our officials get dressed in their officiating uniform, they skate out on the ice with the NHL Officials and take some hot laps. They then stand at center ice during the National Anthem. They then go back to their seats and enjoy the game. During the game they are featured on the scoreboard including a picture. They are also featured on the MN Wild and MN Hockey websites. A very fun evening for these officials.

Kalli Funk with the MN Wild does a great job administering this program. She contacts the officials and makes sure they are fully aware of what will happen so our officials are well prepared. Kalli will also help the family of our officials purchase extra tickets if asked. Kalli should be singled out for making this great event a wonderful experience for our officials and their families.

As supervisors if you would like to submit the name of an official you would like to reward with this program please send me their information. I have had two names submitted for next season already. I will send out a reminder in the fall.

Below are the 12 officials that participated in the program this past season.

October 17

Sedona Stumpf
Daniel (DJ) Stumpf

November 3

Jayden Hansen
Connor Borst

December 1

Frannie Marshall
Alex Sadowy

January 26

Tori Bartholomaus
Shane Kramer

February 28

Abigail Foley
Myles Hendley

March 27

Abby Storms
Brady Zieglmeier

Funding for Formal Mentorship Program:

DISTRICT 11 MINNESOTA HOCKEY GRANT REQUEST

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: MN Hockey District 11/North East Hockey Officials Association (NEHOA)

SEASON OF GRANT REQUEST: 2023-24 and 2024-25

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

REASON FOR GRANT REQUEST: To create a position in MN Hockey D11 know as the “District 11 Officials Recruitment and Retention Coordinator” to perform the duties described herein.

RATIONAL FOR GRANT REQUEST: Each season, approximately 50% of first year new Level 1 officials do not return for a second season. On top of that, approximately 30-40% of new officials who express interest actually complete the process and actively officiate games. In simple terms, if 20 officials express interest at the start of a season, 6-8 may finish the process and officiate, and 4-5 of those return for a second season. Many areas of Minnesota, and D11 in particular, are at a breaking point. Our roster of officials is overworked and it has been difficult to fill game slots without the help of officials from outside the district. Last season 50 games were cancelled and this past season we had to cancel 107 games in District 11 due to lack of officials. Due to veteran officials working more games to fill the game slots; mentoring, evaluation, and other educational tasks have not been completed in order to recruit, develop, and retain new officials.

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST: \$2,000 per season/\$4,000 Total

RATIONAL FOR GRANT FUNDING: Funding period would correlate with USA Hockey registration season and begin on June 1st and conclude at the end of March once all youth state tournaments are completed and final post season retention survey/communication is complete. Compensation set at \$2,000 with hours as follows and totaling approximately 120 hours for the season. 30 minutes per day or approximately 15 hours per month for September through January due to heavy recruitment early and other duties as described in proposal. Approximately 10 hours in February due to decreasing game count and approximately 8 hours in June/July/August and March due to little to no games and only early registration season and post season retention duties.

GOAL FOR GRANT FUNDS:

- 1) Establish a 2 year pilot program for new position of “District 11 Officials Recruitment and Retention Coordinator”
- 2) Develop and lead effective recruitment strategies to ensure adequate number of officials to support District 11
- 3) Develop effective retention strategies to decrease the number of officials leaving the game with ultimate goal of retaining 65% of new L1 officials during the first year and 75% of new L1 officials after the second year of the grant

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION COORDINATOR DUTIES:

Develop and implement a sustainable district recruitment plan within the following guidelines:

1. Schedule and coordinate recruiting fairs
 - a. Colleges, High Schools, Youth Hockey Association Events
 - b. Immediately assist interested parties with registration
2. Develop, coordinate and disperse recruitment material
 - a. Flyers for rinks and public places, newspaper ads, local news stories, etc.
3. Meet with each local hockey association to promote officiating
4. Meet with/communicate with each local High School coach to identify interested players; ideally, outgoing seniors who are unaware of the ability to stay active in the game
5. Continue to develop new ideas and means for recruiting officials in D11
6. Attend D11 meetings to work on recruiting and retention ideas with associations

Develop and implement a sustainable district retention plan within the following guidelines:

1. Follow up with all new officials to assure all registration and training requirements are finalized to allow for completed L1 status as soon as possible
2. Assign all new officials with a qualified mentor and develop criteria for a successful mentor program within District 11
3. Act as a liaison between new officials and the D11 Supervisor of Officials and the D11 Evaluation Coordinator
4. Communicate with all new officials on a routine basis
5. Identify officials who are at risk and work to prevent their departure
6. Formally evaluate (or coordinate their evaluation) all new officials at least once during the season. Preferably once during first half and again during the second half of the season
7. Provide feedback and benchmarks to D11 Supervisor of Officials, D11 and MHOA North Evaluation Coordinators, and NEHOA President
8. Organize a mid-season get together of first year officials and facilitate and open discussion on how the season is progressing
9. Conduct annual post season retention survey and gauge return status for following season
10. Continue to develop new ideas and means for retaining officials in D11

MHOA Scholarship:

Golf Tournament: August 20th with a 1:30 Shotgun start. Thanks to the districts who supported the tournament. The tournament raised almost \$7,000 for the MHOA Scholarship.

Scholarship Awardees: Dominic Gutzman (District 2) and Theo Trast (District 12)

Congratulations to both young officials! We wish you the best as you pursue your post-secondary educational goals. We had nine fantastic applicants this season. Their dedication to officiating and commitment to furthering their education provides MHOA with a bright future.

Special Guest:

2023 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Casey Jorgerson, General Counsel for USA Hockey met with the group to discuss Safesport Requirements. Training must be completed on registration date of Safesport. Enforcement will need to start at the local level. USA Hockey will send out 30 day, 15 day, and day of notices. USA Hockey will alert the RIC and the RIC will forward to the District Director.

MHOA Service Award Recipient: Dave Kemp

MHOA Service Award

The Minnesota Hockey Officials Association (MHOA) established this award to honor an individual who has unselfishly made outstanding contributions to the officiating program in Minnesota during many years of service to the hockey community as an official and a volunteer.

Dave Kemp

Dave Kemp officiated his first USA Hockey game in 1980. Over the next 41 years, Dave would officiate at nearly every level, from IDU through NCAA Division III hockey. While being an outstanding and very well respected official on the ice, Dave's long list of accomplishments off the ice are where he will be most remembered.

Dave was one of the founding members of the District 6 Officials Association where he became their first president in 1982 and served in that role for five years. He stayed on the board as Past President until 1999 when he resigned to become the Supervisor of Officials for District 6 and became a member of the MHOA board, which he held until his passing in November of 2022.

During his 23 years as Supervisor, Dave set the gold standard of what a supervisor should be: sharing his knowledge and experience with his peers and being a key member of the District 6 Hockey association. He was not just a liaison to the officials but a leader in guiding them on By-Laws, Rules, Policies and Procedures. Dave established an evaluation program for District 6 before it was a formalized program for USA Hockey.

Dave was considered one of the top officials evaluators in the nation. He was key in establishing a mentorship program for District 6 which has been the model for the state. A seminar instructor in the USA Hockey officiating education program since 2003, Dave's smooth, and humorous style made him an excellent choice to serve as camp director for two western regional camps, one select camp and one advanced camp from 2003 to 2007. Dave's concern about the future of the game was evident in the past few years as he focused his energy on recruiting and retaining youth hockey officials. His dedication and passion to officiating earned him the USA Hockey Chet Stewart award in 2021.

The Minnesota Hockey Officials' Association and Minnesota Hockey would like to thank Dave Kemp and his family for his passion, commitment and years of service to the officiating community!



- **Dave Kemp Memorial Golf Tournament benefitting the Leslie Fund**

Use the below link to sign up.

<https://www.stonebrooke.com/events/event-registration>

Date: Fri 6/9

Time: 12:30 (1:00 shotgun start)

Location: Stonebrooke Golf Club

Cost: \$100/person

Old Business

- **MHOA Camp:** Steve distributed the list of potential attendees. There are currently 24 applicants and the group discussed best fit for each camp.
- **USA Hockey Camp:** Steve distributed a list of potential attendees. The group discussed potential candidates and provided input.
- **MHOA Store is still open.**
- **GET YOUR MHOA GEAR!!**
- <https://stores.inksoft.com/MHOA>

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kavanaugh and seconded by Lituri at 2:38 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 President.

Ryan Swafford

Tod Plackner was nominated by the floor.

Tod Plackner was elected as the next President of MHOA.

Motion to destroy the ballots by Paul Marshal and seconded by Kavanaugh.

Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward for North Vice President. Nick Biondich was nominated as North Vice President. Motion to elect Nick Biondich on a White Ballot.