



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association  
2025 Spring Meeting  
St. Louis Park Marriot  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM by Tod Plackner, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- Roll Call was taken by Brian Thul

**MHOA Board Members**

President-Tod Plackner Present  
North Vice President-Nic Biondich Present  
South Vice President- Mike Mannin 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 Absent  
District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl Present  
District 5 Supervisor-Ryan Szymanski Absent  
District 6 Supervisor- Michael McCullough Present  
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen Present  
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford Present  
District 10 Supervisor-Mike Mannin Present  
District 11 Supervisor- Anthony Podominick Present  
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present  
District 15 Supervisor-Mac Nelson Present  
District 16 Supervisor-Ron Laituri Present  
WHAM Supervisor-Chelsea Ray Present  
Adult Hockey Association Supervisor (AHA) - Unfilled  
MHOA Past President-Scott Kuhl Present  
USA Hockey RIC-Steve Tatro Present

**MHOA Appointed Positions**

MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (North)-Emil Makinen Present  
MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (South)-Unfilled  
USA Hockey Evaluation Coordinator-Bruce Carlson Absent  
USA Hockey Mentor Coordinator-Eric Olson Absent  
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 Absent  
MHOA Seminar Technical Advisor-Mark Verplaetse Present  
Data Base Coordinator-Glen Toewe Absent  
Game Report Coordinator-Ryan Swafford Present  
Webmaster-Scott Kuhl Present

**Guests:** Andrew Bruggeman, USA Hockey Youth Officiating Development Coordinator

## 2025 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

### 1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda by Kavanaugh and seconded by Kuhl. 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 2024 Fall Minutes was made by Nelson and seconded by Swafford. Motion passed by voice vote.
- **Evaluations Report-**

Bruce is attending the NCAA Frozen Four this weekend in St. Louis. He shared, I will gladly yield my time on the agenda to SteveTatro as there is nothing to report regarding the evaluation program. It is in limbo currently. Any news would have been presented to the RIC's at the USA meeting.

Mr. Tatro shared that the Evaluation System is still on the backburner as USA Hockey launches the new seminar learning platform.

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

Steve shared a breakdown of the number of officials and the communities associated with each District. There was some discussion that the metro area officials may not align correctly with the district the official works as they may live in a different community than the district they work.

MN will be conducting 61 Seminars per USA Hockey guidelines. Every district is being asked to conduct 2 Level 1 Seminars, 1 Level 2 Seminar, and 2 Level 3 Seminars. Supervisors are still encouraged to have checks and balances for how

USA Hockey is allowing MN District to conduct in-person Level 1 Seminar. If you conduct a Level 1 seminar that fulfills the Level 1 Seminar Requirements the official will not need to complete the Zoom Seminar. The official will need to complete the online modules and rules tests.

Training for Seminar Coordinators will be conducted by USA Hockey.

Steve shared a Virtual Seminar planning document for the Supervisors to use as they set up their seminar calendar. All other USA Hockey Districts have a similar planning document to support the demand for seminars nationwide.

MHOA continues to believe that in-person seminars for our new officials is the preferred method. Relationships and connections are critical to the success of our officials and will remain committed to providing those connections. USA Hockey is concerned with the consistency of the messaging.

Supervisors should not set up a Zoom Account for Seminars. USA Hockey will be providing Zoom Access for Seminars.

Steve asked for all the assigners from around the state. This was done so he can present to USA Hockey the uniqueness of MN District. He will not be publishing this list.

Steve is allocated \$150 per seminar with the individual max of \$50. Seminar costs are allocated through Steve's USA Hockey Budget.

USA Hockey is working on training instructors through the Officiating Development Academy which is being launched and has replaced Instructors Trainers.

**MN Hockey Director-Joe Delich** Joe stopped in to thank the group for their service and for all MHOA does to develop our officials. He stated that he is impressed with the group as a whole and how the group is collegial and professionalism. Minnesota Hockey is thankful and wants to make sure that everyone reaches out if they need anything from MN Hockey!

**Treasurer-Kurt Hyster**

MHOA's budget is healthy and the financial and went through each fund individually. We are on track to stay within our budget.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kurt Hyster MHOA Treasurer

Motion to approve the treasurers report by Kuhl and seconded by Kavanaugh. Report approved by voice vote.

**MHOA Female Development Coordinators – Stef Soukop & Melissa Doyle**

109 Female officials were surveyed throughout the state. The survey provided information about retention and opinions on best way to support our female officials. We spent time attending state tournaments and supervising officials. We are ramping up for the MHOA Camp.

**Mentorship Report - Eric Olson**

This year saw a decrease in mentorship sessions this season. There were 468 mentor sessions compared to 562 last season, completed by 89 mentors. There were 302 officials that were mentored this season, compared to 293 last season. 10 Minnesota districts submitted mentorship reports (missing reports from districts 1, 5, and 6). There were 14 mentors that completed 10 or more mentorship events, with one mentor completing 68. We continue to see more participation by local districts in completing mentorship sessions.

We are encouraged by the numbers and participation. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Olson

mhoamentor@gmail.com

MN Mentorship Coordinator

**Incident Report – Ryan Swafford**

Game Reporting: In its 11th year, the national game reporting system encountered challenges, primarily in accurate player/coach identification. This season saw over 950 entries for MN District, representing an 18% decrease from last season's 1149 and a 24% decrease over two seasons. Potential misreporting and underreporting persist. Leveraging the dual record systems (Gamesheets and Incident Reports) effectively could enhance accuracy through cross-referencing. The Bantam age level continues to exhibit the highest incident rate, and there's a notable upward trend in Coaches Game Misconduct (GM) penalties. Accurate penalty reporting by on-ice and off-ice officials remains a concern. Notably, zero player alerts were triggered for exceeding the Rule 411 aggressive infraction threshold.

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Ryan Swafford - Administrator Game Reporting

There was a conversation about making sure we are verifying incident reports with Game Sheet reports.

### Supervisor Reports-Highlights and areas of concerns

**District One-Paul Marshall**  
500 games, 4 reports,

#### District Two-Jason Sturm

56 new officials

Respectfully submitted

Jason Sturm  
Supervisor of Officials

#### District Three-Matt Olsonoski

3707 Total games: (Up 6.5/% from 3486 in 2024)

- a. League Games: 1397
- b. Scrimmages: 877
- c. Tournaments (includes – Invitational, Playoffs, Regions): 1262

Total games by level:

- |                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. Sq/10U             | 1100 – 30% |
| 2. PW/12U             | 1412 – 38% |
| 3. BC, BB2, 15UB      | 503 – 14%  |
| 4. BB1, BA, BAA, 15UA | 498 – 13%  |
| 5. Jr. Gold, 16U      | 194 – 5%   |

Top 5 official(s) game count: 195, 184, 176, 175, 174

We started 27 first year officials, 11 of which had previous experience.

We completed 50 evaluations, including 20 on-ice mentorships – many started in MASH Hockey.

BHRA annual survey: Sent out to all members, receiving 73 responses.

- Which best describes why you primarily officiate?

Top response: **Money** – 51 or 69% (other highest response: fraternity, players, coaches)

Great year overall, with the support of our veteran officials supporting the new officials

Respectfully submitted.

Matt Olsonoski

#### District Four-Scott Kuhl

2024-2025 District 4 Season Summary

- Approximately 1200 games played

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- 157 Officials used
- 2027 Slots filled
- 4 officials did not skate a single game
- Hosted Regional Tournaments: 12b, PWb, BB
- Hosted State Tournaments: Bantam A and Bantam AA

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Kuhl  
Supervisor District 4

**District Five-Ryan Szymanski**

**District Six- Michael McCullough**

**District 8-Paul Moen**

### **2024-2025 District "8" Supervisor of Officials Report**

D8 can proudly say, we never had to cancel a single game this past season. We had a total of 4200 games during the season, plus 5 regional playoffs. 1400 tournament games and 850 scrimmages. I have to work with the Junior Gold League to see about not scheduling so many league games during our District Playoffs.

Our Mentor program went well. Especially early in the season. Once the season starts, our mentors are busy working high school/College games. We had 50 new officials. Ofcourse parents have been the number one problem in our district, not just males, females are just as bad.

I want to take the time to speak on our officials for this years Great 8, District 2 and District 9, both sent officials to work the event. Did a great job, in fact D6 sent 4 members in their crew. The teams were very satisfied with their work. Also want to speak out on Kurt Hyster, got@the checks out in a timely matter, Thank you Kurt.

**Paul Moen**  
**Supervisor of Officials**  
**District 8**

## STATE TOURNAMENT 15UA REPORT 2025

GAMES, OFFICIALS AND TEAMS WENT VERY WELL. HAD SEVERAL OVER TIME GAMES. ALL OFFICIALS REPRESENTED THEIR DISTRICTS EXTREMELY WELL. OF COURSE IT WAS HARD TO EXPLAIN TO A GROUP, WHY THEY WERE NOT COMING BACK TO WORK ON SUNDAY, ALWAYS IS. I JUST CAN NOT SEE HOW OTHER SUPERVISORS HAVE NO PROBLEM TELLING OFFICIALS THIS. WHAT I DID DO, WAS RATE THE REFEREES AND LINESMEN AND ENDED UP WITH ALL DISTRICTS HAVING A PERSON ON SUNDAY. IT WAS A FEMALE TOURNAMENT, SO I KEPT ALL FEMALE OFFICIALS. THERE WAS REALLY NO COMPLAINTS ON THE OFFICIALS FROM COACHES, HEAD COACHES ANYWAY. EVERYONE OF THE OFFICIALS SENT TO ME CAN COME BACK AND WORK FOR ME AGAIN. WE HAD A COUPLE ON THE BORDER LINE ON MILES THEY HAD TO DRIVE., 45 MILES, CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR. THAT IS 90 MILES ROUND TRIP THREE DAYS IN A ROW. YES, I KNOW THE RULE.

PAUL MOEN

SUPERVISOR OF OFFICIALS

D8

**Stephanie supported the state tournament, and Paul thanked her for all her support.**

### **District 9-Ryan Swafford**

The District 9 Hockey Officials Association (D9HOA) reports a successful 2024-25 season, marked by significant growth in Arbiter scheduled games and continued leadership in official registration. Maintaining its position as the state leader, the District 9 Hockey Officials Association (D9HOA) boasts over 440 registered officials. A significant achievement this season was an 8% increase in Arbiter scheduled games, rising to 3,513 from 3,259 in the previous year. However, a notable divergence occurred in local scheduling, with filled official positions decreasing by 8% to 8,166, compared to 8,790 last season even though we had more games scheduled. This decrease appears to be linked to schedulers increasingly favoring the 2-person officiating system over 3 or 4-person crews. This trend is particularly concerning when considering our demographic breakdown, which shows that only 97 of our 441 registered officials (22%) are adult officials, which are largely responsible for handling all Bantam and higher-level games. This highlights that the shortage of officials is not in our lower or youth age groups, but specifically at the levels where 3 and 4-person systems are most beneficial and necessary. The increased use of 2-person systems further strains this limited pool of experienced adult officials and reduces opportunities for development and mentorship of younger officials.

D9HOA successfully hosted three well-received Regional Tournaments: JrGB, 12UA, and 12UB. While these events highlight our commitment to the sport, there were notable decreases in key development areas. Formal evaluations saw a significant drop to 5 from 37 in the previous year, and mentor contact engagements also decreased to 58 from 76. Conversely, the D9/D4 South Seminar Series proved highly effective, delivering 10 valuable virtual training sessions that contributed to the development of over 500 officials.

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In conclusion, the 2024-25 season for D9HOA demonstrates successes in official registration and scheduled games, alongside significant challenges in local scheduling practices and engagement in formal evaluations and mentorship. The critical shortage of adult officials available for higher-level games, exacerbated by the shift towards 2-person systems, demands immediate attention. Moving forward, it will be crucial to address scheduling practices and revitalize evaluation and mentorship programs, with a focused effort on recruiting and retaining adult officials to ensure the continued growth and competitive integrity of District 9 hockey.

### **District 10-Mike Manning**

#### **District 11-Anthony Podominick**

- Strong recruitment and retention efforts over the past 3 years have brought our numbers back up to Pre-COVID
- This past year we utilized 158 officials, 164 fully registered, to cover 2669 games/5771 possible slots
- 4 fully registered officials did not work games this season.
- We continue to struggle to fill the excessive amount of Friday and Saturday games. Our assignor and local association are actively working with the district to spread tournaments around and to limit the number of tournaments on a single weekend. Will be addressed, again, at district meeting.
- 35 Level 1 or 2 officials were mentored by 22 different on-ice veteran officials. Total of 66 mentor sessions reported. Short of our goal of 100. Asked District 11 for funds to help pay mentors, \$1000 was given to NEHOA for this. Goal for 25-26 will be 100 mentor sessions completed, with all new Level 1s being mentored at least once.
- D11 sent a crew to the Bantam AA State Tournament. Congratulations to Jonah Wiggins, Kevin Kangas, Peyton Taylor, and Tyler Schramm. D11 also sent a crew to the Junior Gold A State Tournament. Chris Kucera, Brent Kubis Sam Van Loon, BobSiedlecki.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Podominick

### **District 12-Chris Kavanaugh**

All in all, a pretty good year. Again we had over 200 registered officials which included about 60 at Level 3 or 4. Of course, the bulk of the numbers were Level 1, over 100, which included about 40 returning officials that opted to stay at Level 1. With the high number of young officials, accolades go out to our local schedulers for their work to find these kids games. Without in-person training and no formal on-ice session several communities stepped up and put together valuable sessions for the new officials. It was a challenge since by the time people had registered and attended a seminar, the season had begun and finding ice time becomes difficult.

A disturbing trend emerged this season with poor behavior by coaches (and parents) at the lower levels. These levels often have our newest, most inexperienced officials working their games. These same officials are not aware of the procedure for holding these coaches (and parents) accountable so the behavior is not addressed. I rarely get a call from a coach reporting what they perceive as poor officiating at this level. When I do it is often with a request they want more experienced officials working their 10U/Squirt PW B/B2 games. I explain that we'd like that too but all the NHL guys were busy, Even the NCAA and High School refs were booked tonight. I suggest they go to USA Hockey.com/officials and register to become an official. They never do. It would be great if MN Hockey could somehow require local associations to do a better job policing this, it's simply not reasonable to ask a 14-15 year old kid to discipline an adult!

We were swamped with Five regional tournaments, coupled with multiple Squirt tournaments that weekend. Hats off to all the officials that stepped up to make the weekend successful. D12 hosted no

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State Tournaments this year. Crews were sent to PW AA, PW A, and 12UA. We were able to send some long time officials who had not had the opportunity to work state tournament games.

I helped supervise the Bantam AA State Tournament in New Ulm with Mike Mooney. Thanks to D4 for their hospitality and referee's dinner Saturday night. Crews working from D4, 10, 11 and 15 made for an always difficult decision on who doesn't work on Sunday. Any of the four crews could have worked any of the Sunday games and been successful. D10 worked the championship, D4 – Third place and D11 – Consolation. The biggest issue of the weekend was a poor live feed on the MN Hockey network and somehow some people thought we could fix it, we could not.

Goals for the upcoming year are to continue to promote the mentoring system, we have many experienced officials providing mentoring but it is not always recorded on the form. I would also like to further develop an observation/evaluation program and have had success with the District providing some funds. Finally, I hope to work closely with someone who has expressed interest in stepping into the supervisor role. After 15 years, I am ready to step aside but I want to make sure the right person is ready to step in and be successful.

Respectfully,  
Chris Kavanaugh

### **District 15-Mac Nelson**

Overall, we had a pretty good year in District 15. We hosted 4 Regional and 2 State Tournaments this season. We were able to send 3 crews to work State Tournaments this season and they all represented very well. Numbers seem to be pretty good within D15, with all associations able to cover most of their games with their own officials. Our mentorship program improved quite a bit from last season, with each association having a designated person to work with the newer officials. The next step will be to get them to actually log their mentorship sessions. Major Penalties were down significantly within D15 over last years numbers, with the bulk of major penalties being a result of Rule 401(b) (4 Penalties To Same Player In Game). There were fewer reports generated due to "Other Incidents" mostly involving spectator behaviors. Hopefully this means that players, coaches, and spectators are evolving and learning how to behave.

### **District 16-Ron Laituri**

D16 had a good season this year. We started the season by hosting 6 Seminars, all of them being virtual. When the early deadline of October 31 passed, we saw improvements in three main categories.

- \*Completed registration increased from 248 to 268 (+20)
- \*Completion percentage increased from 85% to 91.5% (+6.5%)
- \*Incomplete officials decreased from 43 to 25 (-18)

The improvements in these data points are a tribute to the recruiting efforts of the local associations and their ability to retain the officials they have already trained.

D16 had the 15UB Regional tournament, hosted by Bemidji. The tournament staff did an excellent job of hosting this event and the games were played without any issues. I had the opportunity to supervise the Pee Wee A and AA State Tournaments in Moorhead. Hosted by D15, Mac Nelson and the staff at the Cullen Center put on a fantastic tournament. The coaches and players were well-behaved, and the hockey was great all weekend. Congratulations to the Championship crews.

D2 AA Championship

Michael Spooner, Niko Castro, and Eric Anderson

D15 A Championship

Evan Kostohryz, Scott Kostohryz, and Brady Metcalf

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### **WHAM-Chelsea Ray**

1000 games, 2 game reports, 10 new officials, New three person system program to develop officials. New assigner who did a nice job.

### **AHA-Unfilled**

#### **North VP- Nick Biondich**

**Nick took over as the mentoring coordinator. He offered to help and expand the mentoring program throughout the northern districts.**

#### **South VP- Mike Mannin**

State tournament and HP/Tier rates were accepted

Hockey Expo: Thanks to Kurt Hyster, Mike McCullough, Mike Mooney, and Kent Madsen.

MHOA Scholarship golf tournament will be held Aug 17<sup>th</sup>. Need Association Hole sponsors.

World Showdown Tournament 18 levels with 16 teams each Rinks so far: Fogerty, Super Rink, Forest Lake, Vadnais Heights, Stillwater, Lakeville, Woodbury, St. Louis Park/Hopkins,

Cottage Grove. Challenge coin for IIHF officials to share with other officials from around the World.

Fall meeting is at Madden's and we'll be golfing on Friday Sept.12th

#### **USA RIC- Steve Tatro**

**Steve submitted a joint officiating report with additions from Tod Plackner, Mark Verplatse, Eric Olson, and Ryan Swafford.**

(92%). This was an all-time completion record since tracking registrations. However, the completion process had no rules examinations, on-line education modules, in-person training, or on-ice training. USA Hockey's IT department could not support the needs of the officiating department. Future technology enhancements in the IT department should alleviate the problems we experienced this past season. 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 of only conducting virtual seminars (no on-ice training), our mentorship program will play an even bigger role in getting the new adolescent official game-ready. To date there is no direction from USA Hockey as to how a required in-person training for level 1 officials will be facilitated. We had 453 female officials (13.5%), the national count is 8%.

Seminars: Seminars numbered 57 (2 In-Person and 55 Virtual), with 3019 attendees. A handful of experienced MN officials got seminar credit from ODP Camps and approximately 1490 attended out of state seminars while we hosted about 1008 out of district officials. We offered 3311 seats for potential seminar attendees. 242 (7.4%) officials did not attend a seminar despite registering with USA Hockey. 80% of those not attending a seminar were new or under-age officials. Mark Verplaetse is the Minnesota District Seminar Coordinator. Both Mark and myself were part of 44 of the 57 seminars. (77%).

Evaluations: Again, the web-based reporting system has been disabled due to "IT" problems at USA Hockey. Usually, about 20% of our completed officials get evaluated during the season. I expect we were probably at this level but have no way of pulling that information.

Mentoring: This year saw a decrease in mentorship sessions this season. There were 468 mentor sessions compared to 562 last season, completed by 89 mentors. There were 302 officials that were mentored this season, compared to 293 last season. 11 Minnesota districts submitted mentorship reports (missing reports from districts 1, 5, and 6). There were 14 mentors that completed 10 or more mentorship events, with one mentor completing 68. We continue to see more participation by local districts in completing mentorship sessions. We are encouraged by the numbers and participation. Eric Olson-Mentorship Coordinator.

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**Physical Assaults:** There were no “Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials” this year. There were a few incidents involving spectator abuse including the Woodbury grandfather who attempted to assault an official with his handicap scooter. District 8 handled the discipline for this incident.

**Game Reporting:** In its 11th year, the national game reporting system encountered challenges, primarily in accurate player/coach identification. This season saw over 950 entries for MN District, representing an 18% decrease from last season’s 1149 and a 24% decrease over two seasons. Potential misreporting and underreporting persist. Leveraging the dual record systems (Gamesheets and Incident Reports) effectively could enhance accuracy through cross-referencing. The Bantam age level continues to exhibit the highest incident rate, and there is a notable upward trend in Coaches Game Misconduct (GM) penalties. Accurate penalty reporting by on-ice and off-ice officials remains a concern. Notably, zero player alerts were triggered for exceeding the Rule 411 aggressive infraction threshold. Ryan Swafford-Administrator Game Reporting

**Injured Officials:** We had 7 incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed, up three from last season. No claims were of a serious nature.

**International-College Tournaments:** Minnesota officials were well represented in international competition. To date we have approximately 10 officials licensed to work international competition. 6 officials worked IIHF tournaments this past season, 5 were female. We are also well represented at the Men’s and Women’s D1 and D3 Collegiate levels.

**National Tournaments:** This year we had 21 officials from Minnesota (8 men and 13 women) working National Tournaments. This was down from past opportunities given to MN. The main reason we had reduced opportunities is USA Hockey worked to reduce costs through travel and officiating systems. Local officials from hosting districts were given these opportunities because they could drive and not be lodged. I was assigned to supervise the Tier 1 13 & 14 Boys tournaments in Plymouth, MI.

**Development Camps:** Instructors Camp has now been reintroduced as the “Officiating Developer Academy”. This program will help instructors facilitate the virtual portion of educating officials. Mark Verplaetse will coordinate potential candidates to attend.

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 women and 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 33rd year of this camp. This camp, run by Dave Weisjahn, is the most popular development program and continues to be the “Gold Standard” for officials to reach the next level of their officiating career. 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 at St Olaf. To date we have 33 applicants for both camps. I want to thank MN Hockey for the resources it provides.

**Officiating Development Program:** The 27th season of the Junior Officiating Development Program under the leadership of Scott Zelkin gets stronger every year. It has now added a Female component to the opportunities it offers. 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. I have retired as Administrator of this Program but still continue as an officiating coach for the NAHL USA Hockey Officiating Department:

Scott Zelkin...Director of Advanced Officiating Development BJ Ringrose...Manager of Youth Officiating Development Rob Hearn...Manager Officiating Education William Hancock...Coordinator Youth Officiating Development Andrew Bruggeman...Coordinator Youth Officiating Development Stacey Livingston...Womens Coordinator, Advance Officiating Development Helen Fenlon...Manager Officiating Administration Johnathan Morrison...Coord of Transportation and Logistics Off Dev Program Dan Monacelli...Coordinator of Scheduling Officiating Development Program Pat Dyer...Administrator Advanced Officiating Development Program

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Summary: Minnesota officiating remains strong and stable and I have no doubt we will implement strategies to get our newest officials the tools to succeed. The biggest challenge we will have for the new season is to facilitate the mandated virtual seminars for USA Hockey and the in-person requirement. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2025-2026 season.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Tatro, Mark Verplaetse, Eric Olson, Ryan Swafford, and Tod Plackner

### **President Report-Tod Plackner**

#### **See Steve's Report for MN Officiating Information**

Fall Meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at Maddens.

### **New Business:**

#### **Seminar Dates:**

**Mark is sending a Google Doc. For supervisors to fill in their preferred dates. Remember to follow the guideline document provided by Tatro.**

**State Tournament Milage Rate: Kurt will place this on the fall agenda so we have a year's worth of data.**

#### **USA Hockey Registration (Non-Skating):**

MHOA members should register as non-skater instead of volunteer this fulfils the Bylaw requirement.

Steve will be proposing to add the requirement that allows non-skating registrants to be on-ice mentors.

#### **Non-Skating MHOA Dues Collection**

There are 13 non-skating members that need to pay in order to be in good standing.

#### **NHL/MN Wild Referee Spotlight**

This is a great opportunity for young officials. Mike Mooney will continue to promote this program. Board members spoke of the great experience this is for our officials. MHOA acknowledges the great support the MN Wild provide for our organization.

#### **Scholarship Golf Tournament August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Tod thanked Mike for all his amazing contributions to this event.

#### **MN International Showdown World Junior Tournaments 15 Levels (1000 Games) Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>**

The board believes involving the out-state districts is important. Supervisors are encouraged to let their members know about this opportunity early in the process.

Districts will need to support each other if there are shortages within the districts that are hosting several sites.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>-Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Website for details. [Worldshowdown.com](http://Worldshowdown.com)**

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### **MHOA Service Award Recipient & Process**

There are many worthy candidates and our members service is extraordinary. Kuhl will create a Google Doc. For Supervisors to add names for consideration.

### **MHOA Scholarship Awardees**

**Owen Westberg, Emerson Young, and Lauren Nelson**

### **State Tournament Assignments / Local Crews**

The group discussed whether crews should stay together on Sunday or are supervisors free to mix crews. The board expressed opinions and philosophies for assigning and awarding Sunday games.

Stef and Chelsea talked about the need to include WHAM Officials in the state tournaments. The board expressed support for including WHAM officials for local State Tournaments. The board believes there are opportunities that need to be leverage for increasing female officials. This will be added to the Fall Agenda.

### **MHOA CAMP: Dave Weisjahn**

Dave provided a list of officials to the board. Both camps have enough applicants to fill them completely. Dave asked the board to provide input to help with the selection process.

### **OLD Business:**

Send any website updates to Kuhl.

District Officiating Seminar participation: Any supervisor that wants to host a DOS, let Tatro know as soon as possible.

Group Card: Steve believes that having a group card that the group signs. The board believes this is a great idea. Add to Fall Agenda.

Steve shared some ideas about getting information to potential officials to the appropriate

### **Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kavanaugh and seconded by Nelson at 2:39 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 North Vice President, Nick Biondich.**

**Nominations were requested 3 times.**

**Closed nominations**

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**Nick was elected on a white ballot.**

**Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward for President, Tod Plackner.**

**Three requests for nominations**

**Closed nominations**

**Motion to elect Tod Plackner on a White Ballot.**