

The time has passed quickly and we need to think about hockey again.

Check out the NDAHA.org website and go to the "officials" tab. There is all kinds of information for you. Right now, the seminar schedule is located there.

Also, there is NDHOA (North Dakota Hockey Officials Association) clothing available. Look under "Shopping NDHOA". Play around on the site. If you come across an article that other referees may benefit from, send it to me and I will get it posted.

Now some matters from last year that were addressed and the NDHOA Board meeting.

Closed Book Tests - STUDY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! This year the tests will not be reviewed after everybody has finished to make sure everybody passes. SOME OF the calls for game misconducts and match penalties that came across my desk last year were - how should I say it - TERRIBLE. There were players that ended up sitting that shouldn't have been and most of these calls were made by level 3s. These were made on what should have been very basic rule knowledge. Example - There is no such thing as a game misconduct for "intent to injure". I saw about 20 of these. An "intent to injure" it is a Match penalty. EXAMPLE - If there is no injury, a straight old slash is a minor or major penalty. No game misconduct. Lots of these types of calls were made. KNOW THE RULES!

Swearing and talking non-professionally is not going to be tolerated. I know some of you think that F bombing when you are doing Junior Gold makes you feel like you belong and it goes with the level. That would be a wrong assumption. You may think that everything is fine when the game is over and then I hear about it. JUST DON'T.

Do not yell at players or coaches. I have a secret for you, if you are conversing with a coach and he/she is yelling, nothing will drive them crazier than if you just continue to talk in a polite but firm voice. They want to get you to their level and if they do, your supervisor will hear about it. (it is always you, never them that yelled) You should talk to players and coaches, but only to a point. If they continue, don't yell back, you have unsportsman and bench penalties that can be used. Be a professional.

Report all game misconducts to your supervisors within 24 hours. Match penalties, let me know within 24 hours. Then get all paperwork to your supervisor for games and matches to me within 48 hours including score sheet. (get a copy that can be read before you leave the rink.)

I CAN'T EMPHASIZE THIS ENOUGH, CHECK THE SCORE SHEETS AFTER THE GAME AND PAY ATTENTION TO THE GAME MISCONDUCTS AND MATCHES TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE ENTERED CORRECTLY BEFORE YOU SIGN THE SHEET. THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY! DO NOT SIGN SCORE SHEETS OR INITIAL YOUR NAME BEFORE THE GAME. YOU CAN PRINT YOUR NAME BEFORE THE GAME WITH YOUR NUMBER FOR THE SCOREKEEPER. AFTER THE GAME ONCE YOU INITIAL YOUR NAME OR PUT YOUR SIGNATURE ON THE SHEET, YOU ARE TELLING US THE GAME SHEET IS CORRECT. In most cases we are working with parents/people that trying their best, but they do need some help and education. Work with them before the game and find out their level of knowledge. Remind them that each penalty has its own line on the sheet. Example-minor plus misconduct, two different lines

Now, after all this, have fun. Even with some of these comments, 90% of the games go off without a hitch and we do a pretty darn good job, but it is the 5 to 10% that create all the headaches and some don't need to hit the radar. All we can do is try to do better.

Thank you for all you do for hockey in ND and please call your supervisor if you have any questions (guess what, there names on the website) or call me.

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