



April 6, 2016

Annual Report 2015-2016

Minnesota District, Officiating Program

The National Governing Body

for the sport of ice hockey

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USA Hockey is a member

of the International

Ice Hockey Federation

and the United States

Olympic Committee



Registration: 2377 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 1968 completed the registration process. The completion rate increased from 78% last year to 83% this season. The marginal completion rate, mostly level 1 officials, can be attributed to on-line requirements (Safe sport, On-line seminar modules, and Open Book Exam). Minnesota was about 3% better than the national average and this issue is being addressed at a national level. Overall registrants are up 4.3% percent from last season. Nationally the registration rate was up by 2.4%. While the increase is a good trend, we are still experiencing shortages in out-state areas.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 76 with 2232 attendees. The number is about the same as last year. On-line seminar modules have reduced the time each official must spend at an on-site seminar. However, the total training time remains the same as in past years. Because of the on-line seminar modules, we were able to reduce the number of instructors needed to facilitate on line seminars.

Evaluations: With the new web based reporting, we are at about 15% (293) of our completed officials having been formally evaluated this season. This is an increase from last season's 12%. A total of 427 evaluations have been performed.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program remains a great teaching tool. This program puts a seasoned official on the ice to guide new officials, not to call the game for them but to instruct them in positioning and in some cases, advise them of the penalty situations. At the end of the game, the mentor spends time with the officials on how to improve.

Physical Assaults: There were no "Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials" this year. This issue seems to be cyclical in nature from season to season, never exceeding a high of five.

Injured Officials: We had 6 incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed. These claims were not of a serious nature. This is up from a total of 4 last season.

Game Reporting: The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems in its second year. Most issues with the system were user generated and resolved very fast. The game reporting system sends alerts to administrators when a player has reached the threshold for 411 rule of aggressive infractions. Ryan Swafford of district 9 is the Minnesota administrator and continues to do a fantastic job..

International-College Tournaments: Minnesota officials are well represented in International competition. To date we have 10 officials licensed to work International competition. Todd Anderson and Johnathan Morrison worked the NCAA D1 final four this year. Congratulations to all these officials.

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National Tournaments: This year we had 56 officials from Minnesota working National Tournaments. This is 36 more than last year, which is a direct result of being a National's host. I was assigned to supervise the Girls Tier 1 Tournament in Blaine, MN.

Development Camps: Three officials will be attending the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado. Both the Men's Futures camp and High Performance camp have 8 applicants. During the NIT HS tournament, MHOA will again offer a development experience to 6 officials. Game supervision and personalized development programs will be given to these officials. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. This is the Silver anniversary of this camp. To date 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 and Dave Weisjahn for the resources they provides. The MHOA Women's camp will be held again with Mike Mooney of district 5 coordinating the logistics. It will be held in conjunction with the MN HP15 Girl's festival in St Cloud. Also, all of our female officials are encouraged to work games during the Girls 16-17 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 9-15). 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 eighteenth season of the Junior Officiating Development Program under the leadership of Scott Zelkin gets stronger every season. This program continues to oversee officiating assignments in the USHL and works closely with Mark Faucette (SPHL) and Chris Allman (NAHL) in coordinating development and identification of prospect officials at the Junior, Collegiate, and Minor pro levels of play. Minnesota currently has 59 officials working in this program, an all time high. Our relationship has never been stronger and it creates the crowning step in the development process for our officials. 27 Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at NAPHL showcase events around the country. This complements the existing development camps or programs that may not be a good fit for the grass root official who serves as the foundation of our officiating ranks.

Education and Project RODEO: Project RODEO (Rebuilding Officiating Development Education Opportunities) continues to evolve. We are adding more on-line course topics that will utilize all of our current educational materials in an electronic format that is easier to access and maximizes the educational benefits of advanced technology.

Screening: To date there is still no resource available to Eric Olson or myself to verify that a Minnesota official has passed screening through MN Hockey. Because of my capacity with USA Hockey's Officiating Development Program, I do have access electronically to verify officials passing a screen through about 66% of the rest of the country either using the USA Hockey vendor or an affiliate vendor.

Summary: Minnesota officiating has some retention challenges this coming season. Our leadership remains strong and I have no doubt we will implement strategies to meet that challenge. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2016-2017 season.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Tatro". The signature is stylized with a large "S" and a cursive "Tatro".

Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief