

AGM Report: Referee In Chief

Hamilton had 17 registered & active officials, including a number of younger officials picking it up for the first time.

Things were a tad slow getting up & running with new officials and timekeepers, which is primarily attributed to the return after COVID and replenishing with new individuals. However, by the end of the season a good group of TKs & officials were carrying the load and did a great job. We had a good mix of new & returning officials to handle the house league program.

The scheduling of single games during house league nights did pose a problem at times in assigning, as 1 game is more difficult to assign than multi-game evenings.

Some individual success of officials from Hamilton:

- Tyler Flake reffed Bantam 'A' Final (formerly from Fort Erie but residing in Hamilton)
- Mack Abbott reffed Meredith Cup (Jr C) Final & Canada Summer Games Gold Medal Game
- Joel Firmin reffed the Presidents Cup (Sr B) National Championship Gold Medal Game

Looking ahead - continued growth in new officials will be significant to creating a sustainable system. Recruitment is a challenging piece, and one challenge of our sport is limited opportunities to get level appropriate experience. Working with Zone partners to provide on-floor officials coaching opportunities early in the season would be beneficial, and something that can be picked up based on what was planned in 2020.

Establishing a supervision program to assist the younger/developing officials with structured learning opportunities would be ideal. This is subject to officials availability as senior officials are stretched extremely thin but could be done in a limited capacity.