



CAROLINA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Green Armband Initiative Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) As of May 2025

For the purposes of this document, "minor Officials" refers to Officials who are under the age of 18.

What is the Green Armband initiative?

The green armband initiative was introduced in Montreal in January 2020 and subsequently by Hockey Eastern Ontario during the 2021/2022 season and was implemented by the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association (SDAHA) for the 2022/2023 season. All Officials below the age of 18 years old are required to wear a green armband to identify them as a minor. The wearing of the armband is to highlight the age of the Official regardless of the level of hockey that they are working.

Why are we implementing the green armband initiative in the CAHA?

Abuse and harassment of Officials continues to be an issue for Officials. While most team officials and spectators treat officials with respect, there are still issues that need to be addressed. It is anticipated that introducing the green armband to minor Officials will highlight for participants that abuse, and harassment of Officials continues to be a problem in our games, especially for minor Officials.

Approximately 40% of all USA Hockey Officials are under the age of 18. 60% of all Officials have less than 3 years' experience. They represent the lifeblood of our hockey officiating program. It is important that the hockey community works together to protect the physical and psychological well-being of these minors. Requiring minor Officials to wear a green armband will identify to all participants that the Official working the game is under the age of 18.

It is important that individuals who wish to harass and abuse Officials know that some Officials are minors under the law and be reminded that this behavior is unacceptable. It needs to be highlighted that the wearing of a green armband reflects the Official's age and NOT of their skill level as an Official. ALL Officials under the age of 18 will be required to wear the green armband regardless of their skill level or level of hockey that they are working.

When does the green armband initiative officially take effect?

The initiative will officially begin at the start of the 2025/2026 hockey season with all impacted Officials required to wear the green armband no later than August 1, 2025, or whenever they receive their green armband, whichever comes first.

Will Officials wear green armbands on both arms?

No. Officials will only wear one green armband on the left arm above the elbow in the same place as red armbands for Referees are normally worn.

Do Officials have to pay for the green armband?

No. The green armbands will be paid for by CAHA and will be distributed to the Officials Associations and Assignors.

Is it only the Referee who wears the green armband?

All Officials on the ice who are under the age of 18 will wear the green armband regardless of whether they are working as the Referee or Linesperson.

Do Officials still wear the orange armband if they are working a game as a Referee?

Yes, the Official working as a Referee will wear the orange armbands for games. The green armband will then be placed over the orange armband on the left arm only. The orange armband will be worn normally on the right arm.

Do only new Officials have to wear green armbands?

No, all Officials under the age of 18 must wear a green armband beginning from the 2025-2026 season. This includes brand new Officials (under the age of 18) as well as Officials who are returning from officiating in a previous season. There is no grandfather clause for Officials who have already started officiating before the initiative was introduced. New Officials are over the age of 18 are not required to wear a green armband.

What if an Official refuses to wear the green armband?

For the initiative to be successful and have the desired impact, all Officials under the age of 18 need to do their part and wear the green armband. The green armband is part of the required uniform for under 18 Officials working in CAHA. If an Official has concerns about wearing the green armband, they should contact the State Referee-in-Chief. We welcome and encourage your feedback, both positive and critical of this initiative.

When does an Official stop wearing the green armband?

Officials who are required to wear the green armband may stop doing so on the date of their 18th birthday. This means that even if they are in their 18th year, they must still wear the armband until their birthday even if that falls in the middle of a season. For example, if an Official starts the season at 17 years old and their birthday is on February 12th, they must continue to wear the armband until February 11th. The goal of this objective is to identify minor Officials to game participants. An Official is still considered a minor until such time as they reach the age of majority (their 18th birthday).

How will the CAHA promote this initiative?

Presentations will be offered for Association/Single Entry Team representatives, team officials, parents, and Officials. CAHA is also in the process of producing posters, rack cards, and other promotional materials which will be displayed in arenas. Frequent promotion of the initiative will take place via the CAHA website and social media.

Which penalties will result in increased sanctions?

In any game that an Under 18 Official is officiating, the fines and suspensions will be doubled for violations of Rule 601 – Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct. This also includes all fines and suspensions that fall under the Spectator policy.

What must occur for increased discipline to be imposed against a team official, player, or spectator?

Regardless of whether the actions are directed at a minor official or not, any of the penalties previously identified assessed in a game involving an official with a green armband will result in supplemental discipline.

Will this initiative eliminate all forms of abuse and harassment of Officials?

We know that many Officials leave the game due to abuse and harassment from team officials and spectators. We also know that the number of Officials in the USA Hockey has decreased significantly over the last 5 years. This is one more step that we are taking to help reduce this negative behavior toward Officials. CAHA will require all stakeholders to play a role in reducing abuse and harassment of Officials.