



## **CAHA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

### **Green Armband Initiative Policy Effective 2025-2026 Season**

The following provisions apply to participation in youth hockey in CAHA effective August 1, 2025.

#### **Background**

Abuse and harassment of Officials remains an issue within CAHA. While the vast majority of Team Officials and Spectators treat Officials with respect, this is not always the case. To raise awareness of the age of many of our Officials, as well as to clearly identify these minors for all involved in the game, all Officials under the age of 18 will be required to wear a green armband. It is hoped that this action will cause those who abuse and harass officials, particularly minor officials to refrain from doing so.

The Green Arm Band Initiative aims to enhance the safety and development of young ice hockey officials by clearly identifying them on the ice. Effective August 1, 2025, they will be required to wear one green armband during officiating assignments in the 2025-26 season. The Green Arm Band Initiative will serve to enhance respect for, and retention of, young referees within CAHA. By implementing a structured rollout plan with clear education, accountability, and monitoring, CAHA aims to create a more supportive environment for developing officials.

- Increase awareness that certain officials are minors.
- Encourage respect and appropriate behavior from players, coaches, and spectators.
- Reduce verbal abuse and intimidation of young officials.
- Create a safer and more supportive officiating environment to improve retention.
- Provide a visual cue for coaches, players, and spectators to exercise greater patience and understanding.

#### **The Policy**

- The green armband must be worn by any Official under the age of eighteen (18) years of age and the Official may stop wearing the green armband as of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- The green armband is to be worn on the left arm, between the elbow and shoulder.
- If in the role of Referee, the green armband is worn over the orange armband on the left arm.
- The green armband is to be worn regardless of the age of the players involved in the game and of the competition level of the game.