

Stantec **SPRUNG** ARENAS **CANA**



**HOCKEY ALBERTA  
SUMMIT**  
COMMUNITY · COLLABORATION · INNOVATION

# Building an Officiating Program

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**ALBERTA  
OFFICIALS**

# 1. Finding an Officials Coordinator(s) or Referee In Chief(s)(RIC)

- familiarity with the vision, mission, values and behaviours of Hockey Alberta
- a positive attitude, passionate about hockey, the ability to collaborate with coaches, board members, players and the stakeholders in your community in general
- willingness to be a community leader and role model, and a coach for officials
- you don't need to be an official, past or present, but it can be an asset
- ability to organize and set schedules, a good understanding of the rules is also an asset but not necessary



## 2. Recruit Officials

-anyway, anyhow...current players, former players, board members, zamboni drivers, officials from other sports, players from other sports, get as many as you possibly can

-a good start would be to have 4 officials for every team you have in your association, more will always be better

-work with your regional coordinator to set up an officials clinic in the fall, we currently run 300 a season, if you have the officials coming we will set up a clinic for you



# HA Ideas – 2 more specific ideas (recruitment)

**U18 & U21 Zoom Initiative**, getting a team together, as a team including coaches on a zoom call for a minimal cost and running them through the rules, procedures etc of a shortened clinic and then they can register to be an official, if nothing else it's a team builder and everyone has a better understanding of the rules

**Assistant Coaches**, *there are many fabulous educational requirements to become a head coach and different levels, might I suggest that as an MHA you can stipulate to become an assistant that you must take an Officials Clinic\*\* suggestion*



## 3. Book a Clinic

- book an officials clinic or two if you have the officials, we won't turn you away if you have the officials to train
- Hockey Alberta will send out a certified Officials Instructor or two to instruct your prospective officials
- try to book in a place relatively close to the arena as there are often ice sessions for officials who will need a ride as they are under 16
- make it the place to be, coffee, muffins etc - - be in attendance yourself if you can so you know some of the prospective officials



## 4. Assign & See the officials officiate

- assign officials that you need to see according to your schedule if you can and then get out and see them
- assess the ability of the officials and get them officiating the correct level, setting them up for success the same way a coach would
- recruit some of your more experienced officials to help evaluate your beginners



# HA Ideas – 2 more specific ideas (retention)

- **Grassroots Program**, get in touch with Dennis Arski our provincial Grassroots Coordinator and let him know when your U11 or U13 tournaments are and he can assign a officials coach to coach some of your officials

- **Mini Clinic**, mid way through the season run a mini clinic, get in touch with your regional coordinator to organize, many MHA's run their own, usually in January. This works great to re-light your officials in a long hockey season.



## 5. Select the proper officials

-if you accomplish these steps enjoy the fruits of your labor come March, you'll be able to make tough decisions between really qualified officials rather than only having one available official for that big playoff game!

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