



December 2-4, 2022

To: APSJ Admin, Officials & Mentors

From: Mitchell Jeffrey, Vice President of Officials for APHA & SJAMHA

Hello all,

This is the fifth season of #thankthestripes. And...well...after a cancelled 2020-2021 season and an out-of-the ordinary 2021-2022 we have what is very close to being a normal 2022-2023...and I am **THANKFUL** for some normalcy.

There have been challenges these first few months. It feels like there is an official shortage...we have way too much circulating respiratory viruses resulting in many sick calls and assignors needing to re-fill games at the last minute. But you have been exceptional—you have lived up to the task. During the first two weeks of November we had about 6% of assigned positions unassigned, meaning that we were missing at least one TK or on-ice official in 6% of the time; pre-pandemic, this was about 3%. Yes, that number is double what it is historically, but it would have higher if not for you picking up last minute games or more games than you really wanted. **THANK YOU** officials.

APSJ also said goodbye to long-time assignor Lou Mulvenna this season. Nick Noonan-Robinson, who organized first year mentorships in 2021-2022, also left for a new career outside of Winnipeg. We welcomed Jorie Garchinski and Josh Miko to new roles assigning timekeepers and U9-U11 referees. Joel Friesen took on the role of organizing U11 mentorships. To the admin—Joel, Josh, Jorie, Bryce, Mike, and Ted—The success of our officiating community needs leaders and organizers. You put the time in to make the experience of the officials exceptional. You put in the time to do your job but also help each other. **THANK YOU** admin.

Finally, I chose the theme of “goals” for this year’s #thankthestripes. To achieve goals you need to learn to do your job to get to where you want to be. These are skills...you can’t just show and do them. You need to commit to learning. So, **THANK YOU**, for putting in the time to learn your job as a mentor, on-ice official, admin or timekeeper.

#thankthestripes #oncommunity #together #onwards #upwards

Mitchell Jeffrey
Vice President of Officials
APHA & SJAMHA