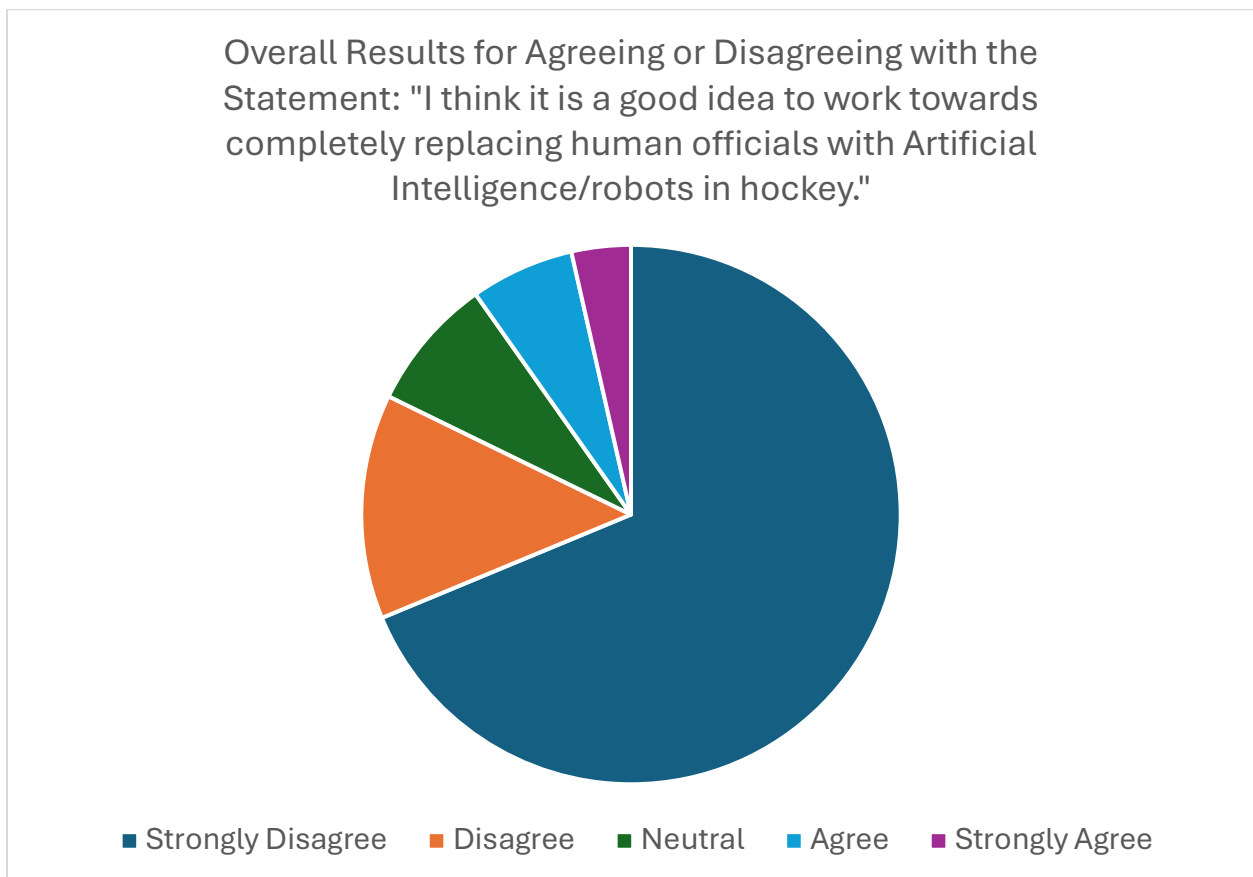


SURVEY RESULTS about A.I. Replacing Officials

Referees and TKs were surveyed about their opinions regarding artificial intelligence in hockey. They were asked to take the perspective as a coach, fan, player, off-ice official, or on-ice official when agreeing or disagreeing with this statement: **“I think it is a good idea to work towards completely replacing human officials with Artificial Intelligence/robots in hockey.”** They were also asked about their perspective of Artificial Intelligence in professional, junior, or minor hockey.

The results were the same regardless of which perspective was taken, or whether the respondent was thinking about professional, junior, or minor hockey. Here is a pie graph showing the percentage of respondents that agreed or disagreed with the bolded statement above.



Percentages:

- 82.22% strongly disagreed or disagreed with the replacement of officials with artificial intelligence or robots.
- 8% were neutral.
- 9.78% agreed or strongly agreed.

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Respondents' Thoughts about A.I. in Sports or Hockey

Respondents were also asked: What other thoughts do you have about Artificial Intelligence used in sports generally or for officiating specifically?

- Removes bias and removes the human error aspect. Hopefully lead towards fans/parents able to accept decisions better.
- I believe hockey is a human sport and an opportunity to work together and build relationships in our communities. The only place I see AI involved in hockey is with rule books, make it easier to search rules like on the ice for example. Other than that we should continue to play hockey together, that's what makes it fun!
- Not in hockey
- This isn't where it needs to be to used
- There are just some things, other than just the rules, that AI simply can't do. So, as of now, I don't think AI is close to replacing officials in sports and hockey.
- I don't see the point or need for AI in Hockey at all.
- I think it makes sense for some sports like baseball, but for hockey there is so much more going on. Our game is about game management and penalty selection and I don't think AI could do that the same
- Use AI in addition to human officiating. Not to replace.
- It could be used along side humans to reinforce the calls the refs make or the timekeeping, but a sport like hockey is an interactive game, it's dynamic and its all about bringing people together as a community. Officials have expertise that shouldn't be replaced by AI.
- Some sports (i.e. tennis) can use AI officiating - sports like hockey, football I do not think could go towards AI officiating altogether...there are too many complexities around plays that I don't think can be interpreted the same way a human can. For reviews, I do understand and would agree that (to an extent) the sport in question could use AI for further clarification.
- Robots cannot negotiate and discuss. There are always other situations. How is a robot going to have a parent removed when they yell in the stands?
- artificial intelligence is good for some things that are always by the book like maybe offsides or icings but it will never be able to replace an official because when you are reffing you are not just going by the book you have to have some common sense. you also have to have some leniency between different leagues based on how you ref it. for example if in u11 they screw up a face off i am not kicking the center out because they are still learning. but in u18 that centre is getting kicked out every time
- Errors in officiating are part of the game. Removing that error reduces the value of the game.
- Humans are too valuable to our sport to replace. The errors made add to the game.

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