



Vice President of Officials 2022-2023 Annual Report

Hello APHA and SJAMHA Executives.

And just like that...we had a full hockey season without vaccine cards and limits to arenas. That was a HUGE +++ . The officiating community certainly had its challenges with a shortage of officials, continuing to develop officials to replace ones that “retired” after the cancelled season and the maltreatment that is engrained in hockey.

This season also included the addition of three new admins: Joel Friesen (Mentorship Coordinator-First Years), Jorie Garchinski (Assignor-Timekeepers), and Josh Miko (Assignor U9-U11). I would like to thank all three of these administrators for their learning and commitment to the season.

I also need to thank Mike Fedak for his work as RIC. He is a constant on-ice presence for our officials both young and experienced while also addressing a range of parental and coach emails regarding officiating performance. His professionalism and passion for officiating youth hockey are second to none. We are lucky every year he stays involved.

Bryce Dodd, our senior assignor, took on a larger role this season than in past seasons as he helped Jorie and Josh learn the job and supported them as they battled through the ups and downs that this season was. He also assigned all referees to the U13-U18 games.

Our ability to continue to have success is a testament to officials that commit to learning the job and to the administration that supports those officials.

Thank you for your continued support.

In this report you will find information about:

- Mentorships,
- November New Officials’ Meeting,
- Referee Maltreatment,
- #thankthestripes weekend,
- Assignor’s Report
- *How to Referee Hockey* Manual
- The Plan for 2023-2024

Mitchell Jeffrey, VP Officials
APHA & SJAMHA

Mentorships

- # of Mentorships:
 - Full-Ice First Year¹: 61 (2021-2022 = 83)
 - Full-Ice Second Year+: 152 (2021-2022 = 189)
 - Half-Ice Mentorships: 26 (2021-2022 = 37)
 - Timekeepers: 29 (2021-2022 = 13)²
 - Total = 268 (2021-2022 = 322)
- # of referees with at least 1 mentorship: 108 (2019-2020 = Not tracked)
- # of referees with at least 2 mentorships: 88 (2019-2020 = 75)
- # of referees with more than 4 mentorships: 26 (2019-2020 = 12)
- # of mentors who did at least one mentorship: 31 (2019-2020 = 24)
- # of Mentors that work AAA or above: 20 (2019-2020 = 18)
- % of referee mentorships submitted: 179/239=75% (2021-2022 = 63%)

Novice Half-Ice Mentorships

In 2022-2023, there were two methods used to help first year officials become comfortable with half-ice hockey: posters and mentorships.

Just as in 2021-2022, posters were created that gave 4 tips³ on how to “officiate half-ice hockey properly” and posted at River Heights, Allard, and Varsity View Sportsplex (VVSP)—the arenas that host half-ice games—as well as [apsjmentorships.com](https://www.apsjmentorships.com).

At Christmas 2019, during a year with no half-ice mentorship, a half-ice audit was completed to assess the effectiveness of the posters. The result of this audit was; posters without mentorship was not sufficient to ensure officials knew how to referee half-ice hockey.

Therefore, first in 2021-2022, for the first time in the history of the APSJ program, first year officials received a mentorship in a half-ice game in addition to the two full-ice mentorships first years have received for many years. The success of half-ice mentorships in both 2021-22 and 2022-23, did not reach our goal of 100% but we did ensure that 50-75% of all first years received half-ice mentorships.

November New Officials’ Meetings

The fall of 2022 was very busy with many exhibition games and a frenetic pace that continued through the entire season. As such, APSJ did not host a season kick-off

¹ There were 50 first year officials in both 21-22 and 22-23. In a normal year, we would have 35 first year officials. I (Mitchell) theorized at the end of 21-22 that this could be due to a cancelled season or that 2021-2022 was also the first year that a 12-year-old could officiate hockey. Given that registration stayed around 50 for 22-23, we should plan for 50 new officials in 23-24.

² In 21-22, Lou paused TK mentorships as COVID #s increased. In 22-23, with Mitchell organizing and with no mid-season spike in COVID there were 30 TK mentorships as expected.

³ See Appendix A for the posters.

meeting in November as we have other seasons. Traditionally, the season kick-off meeting is designed to help first- and second-year officials understand how to use assignall.com, engage in the mentorship system, digest the expectations of officials, and receive support in understanding how they can deal with referee harassment. Rather than a meeting, this information was disseminated through email using Mailchimp. Whether we host a meeting in 2023-24 will depend on the busy-ness of fall 2023.

Referee Maltreatment & Kudos System

In 2022-2023, the maltreatment and kudos system provided the following outcomes:

- 1) Kudos report system resulted in 13 Kudos (2021-22 = 5 kudos).
 - a. Submissions were between October 19, 2022 and February 11, 2023.
 - b. Five (5) were from officials, 4 were anonymous, and 4 were from fans.
 - c. Five (5) were directed towards officials, 7 were directed towards coaches, and 1 was towards a fan.
 - d. In all cases, the kudos were passed on to the appropriate people.
- 2) Maltreatment report was used 15 times (2021-22 = 19). 10 of these reports (2021-22 = 11) were completed by an administrator after speaking to an official or receiving an email about an incident. Five (5) reports (2021-22 = 7) were from officials reporting an incident. In all cases, the reports were passed on to the appropriate president or conduct and leadership person of the offending team's home area.

Overall, the harassment and kudos reporting system continues to be useful because:

- 1) Track statistics: APSJ can better understand referee harassment by using statistics to understand occurrence of harassment.
- 2) Create conversations: reporting incidents provides opportunity to have a discussion with the APSJ executives as well as other minor hockey area associations, which creates awareness of individuals with multiple reports and discussion about what needs to come to deal with harassment.
- 3) Provides opportunities to support or educate officials in maltreatment strategies.
- 4) Passes on positive comments between different parts of the hockey community.

#thankthestripes Weekend

#thankthestripes took place on December 2-4, 2022. We had two separate "gift give-aways".

Gift Give Away #1 → APSJ #thankthestripes Questionnaire and Prize Draw

First, I continued to use a draw to give away gifts. On-ice and off-ice officials were to complete a questionnaire⁴ that asked questions about their officiating experiences with

⁴ There were 38 respondents in 2021-2022 and 36 in 2022-2023.

their responses being used to create posters put in dressing rooms to #thankthestripes⁵. Those that completed the questionnaire were entered into a draw for a variety of prizes including: a riot pad, skate mat, shin tights, How to Referee Hockey paperback, or a Tim Hortons' gift card.

Gift Give Away #2→Hockey Winnipeg & Hockey Manitoba Gifts

Second, a new and unexpected, development was Hockey Winnipeg's efforts to #thankthestripes by providing \$10 gift cards to all timekeepers and on-ice officials. Hockey Manitoba also provided "officiating toques" to all on-ice officials. We had enough gifts for 168 officials at Corydon Community Center. When the gifts were picked up in mid-April, there were 120 gift cards remaining and a similar number of toques. Therefore, about 29% of officials picked up their HW/HMb gift.

The Big #thankthestripes Plastic Signs at Arenas

Finally, the signs (purchased in Fall 2019 and pictured to the right) were used again. They were posted at VVSP, Eric Coy, IcePlex, Allard, Civic Center, Corydon Community Center and Keith Bodley. I have 17 out of 20 signs remaining from the original purchase in 2019. Interestingly, I lost three signs in December 2019 but have not lost any in December 2020, 2021, or 2022.

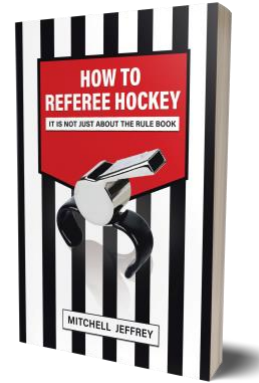
Challenges and Conclusions about #thankthestripes

- I continue to find it an odd decision for Hockey Manitoba to acknowledge on-ice but not off-ice officials as demonstrated by their decision to provide toques for on-ice officials only. This does not fit with the team mentality of timekeepers being part of the officiating team. APSJ will continue to include timekeepers in all #thankthestripes activities.
- Regarding the distribution of Hockey Manitoba Toques and Hockey Winnipeg's Gift Cards, we did so through Corydon Community Club. Thanks to Abbey and staff for taking on that responsibility as well as Brett Lough and Kerry Ross for organizing the gift cards and toques.
- There are two challenges with having the Hockey Winnipeg/Hockey Manitoba gifts at Corydon Community Center as demonstrated by only 29% of gifts being picked up.
 - First, Corydon is a long distance from St. James and West Charleswood so it was difficult for some officials to find time to go there.
 - Second, the gifts can be picked up during office hours of 830 to 430 Monday to Friday which makes it hard for officials to go to Corydon Community Center during a time when most are at school or work.
- Any leftover gift cards or toques will be stored at Mitchell's home over the summer and used as APSJ prizes for #thankthestripes in December 2023.

⁵ These posters can be found on www.apsjmentorships.com/thankthestripes

How to Referee Hockey: it is not just about the Rule Book

This first-of-its-kind book is designed for grass roots officials learning how to work the Two-, Three-, and Four-Official systems from a book that they will have at home to learn positioning to stay out of the way and to see the play, procedures to work with their colleagues and manage stoppages, and game management to reduce the risk of incidents and respond when they do occur. For more information on thehockeyrefbook.com



In 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the most inexperienced first year referees were given access to the book to help them learn their jobs. This book will be provided to the first-year referees again in 2023-2024.

Summary of Plan for 2023-2024


Continuing Programs

- 1) Continue providing referee, liner, two-official full-ice, two-official official half-ice and timekeeper mentorships,
- 2) Continue reporting and teaching, kudos reporting, emails using mailchimp and #thankthestripes will continue on December 2-4, 2023.

Administration Personnel

- 3) Mike Fedak (RIC), Bryce Dodd (Assignor U13+), Josh Miko (U9-U11), Jorie Garchinski (Timekeepers) & Mitchell Jeffrey (VPO, TKIC, Mentorship Coordinator) are allowing their names to stand for the 2023-2024 season.
- 4) Joel Friesen (First Year Mentorship Coordinator) is not returning due to the requirements of his new career.
- 5) Mitchell will work on replacing Joel Friesen as First Year Mentorship Coordinator.

Appendix: Novice Half-Ice Posters



Officiating Novice Half-Ice: You Need Sense of Urgency

Problem: Minor Hockey Associations in various parts of the province have expressed concern that officials are not putting in enough effort during 1/2-ice games. The main complaint: officials spend most games in one end of the ice and do not move.

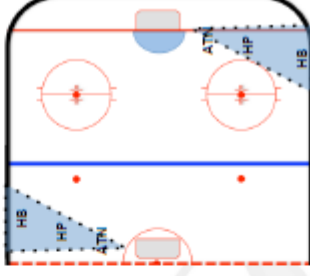
Reminder: This is "someone's NHL" and it is not uncommon for an area to have a volunteer VP-Novice or paid employees at Novice games. You never know who is watching at any level...but this is especially true of Novice 1/2-ice.

Potential Consequences: There are two possible consequences being discussed by executives. First, only use one official (problem: less games for you and reffing by yourself). Second, paying officials less than 9 year-old hockey (problem: you get paid less).

Solution: Your goal in the Novice Half-Ice is to work on three skills with urgency: Endzone positioning, coming to the "blue-line", and creating presence with good signals and management of "backing-off."

→Strategy 1: Endzone Positioning for 1/2-ice.

- Home Base (HB): If the puck is on your side of the ice then you are against the boards
- Half-Piston (HP): Puck is on the other side of the ice then you should be at here.
- At-The-Net (ATN): If the puck is At-The-Net then you should be At-The-Net



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→Strategy 2: Coming back to the "Blue Line": just like the full-ice game

- When the puck is in the center-line end of the ice, one official (R2) is at the blue-line and the other is doing endzone positioning (R1).
- When the puck is in the goal-line end, one official is doing endzone positioning (R2) and the other is at the top of the circles (R1).

→Strategy 3: Using proper procedure for "Backing-Off"

- Recall: Review the 1/2-ice rules about backing-off behind ringette line after goalie-cover, goal, puck-out-of-play, or penalty.
- Referee Procedure:
 - Referee closest to puck when play is stopped will ensure the appropriate team has possession of the puck.
 - Referee who is further from puck will ensure the other team backs-off to ringette line.
 - Once team has backed-off to ringette line, play resumes.
 - Note: If the non-puck team does not back-off to ringette line then blow whistle and restart the back-off process.

→Strategy 4: Showing Presence and Urgency

- Take full strides, but do not dig into the ice...this makes you look professional but adjusts your speed.
- Apply straight arms for signals, blow you whistle loud, use your voice.
- Use Correct Endzone Positioning for good presence (Strategy 1).
- Come down to the blue line/top of circles; this creates good presence on the ice (Strategy 2).
- Use proper procedure of "backing-off" (Strategy 3)

