

Basic & Advance Priorities for Mentorship

As mentors you will be helping officials that are of a variety of ages and skill levels. Therefore, this section outlines (in prioritized order) what you should focus on depending on the apparent skill of the official.

When you arrive at the rink you will already know the approximate age and level of the official. If you are working with a second year referee then you will likely be working on basic priority 1A and 1B (see below). However, an official with more experience may require that you work on advanced priority 2 skills. Deciding on which priority you are focusing on will occur partly before you arrive at the rink and partly in the first couple minutes of the game when you first see the official (i.e. an official with 5 years of experience, but never leaves home-base, is going to be in the basic priority 1A or B)

Basic Priority 1A: Positioning. This priority includes three components; end zone positioning, pursuit of the play, and being at the blue line. As the supervisor, you may focus on the area that an official needs the most work on or on all three.

Basic Priority 1B: Procedures. This priority includes what the referee does on the ice with regards to communication, after goals, for penalties, for off-sides and icings, during stoppage of plays, line change, and many other facets of being a referee. You may cover some of these simultaneously to 1A but generally you should ensure the referees understand positioning at the very basic level before going to higher level skills.

Advance Priority 2: Game Management. This priority includes what penalties to call, how to talk to players, when to talk to coaches, and how to establish presence on the ice. These are more advanced skills that develop over years but cannot be truly established until 1A and 1B have been addressed.

A note about the priorities: The goal of these priorities is to act as a guideline and not cancel out your reasoning of what you need to tell the person you are teaching.

"It's about making the game better by making officials better..."