

#thankthestripes



December 3-5, 2021

December 3, 4, 5, 2021

To: Officials & Mentors in APSJ

From: The APSJ Officiating Administration Team

Hello Officials,

Well, we have made it to December in what has been a weird and busy 2021-2022 season. We are persevering through no-handshakes, vaxx card entry, the spectre of cancelled games, and an officials shortage.

Thank you to the officials who are working games to make sure players can play, coaches coach, and fans cheer. Thank you to the mentors who are ensuring that first-year officials can develop their basic skills to have success. Much appreciation also goes out to the mentors working with the officials not in their first year. Those officials have needed to develop their skills quickly as some have been asked to move up to higher levels to fill in the holes caused by retirements, promotions, and a lost 2020-2021 development year.

Yes, it has been a challenging season. There is an adventure to be had between now and the end of playoffs, but we can do this! Onwards and upwards.

Now, here are some words of thanks passed on from parents, coaches and non-officials.

One of my daughter's games was cancelled because there were not refs. The kids get ready to play, are dressed, then are told "no game". This reminds everyone that there is no game without officials. Thank you for what you do.

Thank you for allowing our kids to experience the great game of hockey.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the sport.

I really like that the refs are there for all the players and to promote the game of hockey.

I appreciated the officials for helping our kids learn to play hockey the right way.

Thank you for ensuring our kids have a safe and fun environment to enjoy the game of hockey.

Appreciate them teaching you kids about the game and sportsmanship

Without officials, there would be no games - just "parent refs"...which wouldn't be good!

I appreciate the officials because I looked at the rule book and there was a lot there. Just amazing what officials need to know.

I don't want to say thank you for being yelled at...that seems weird. Thank you for working through all the tough stuff like getting yelled at and second guessed to learn how ref.

Reasons Non-Officials Gave for not Officiating

- Skating forwards I can do, not backwards.
- The time it takes to know the rules is too much.
- The idea of being yelled at discourages me.
- It is a hard job. Does not matter if one refs, lines, or timekeepers...lots of responsibility.
- It is just an overwhelming feeling to think about be responsible for the safety of two teams...
- I am not in great shape and refs (unlike players) never leave the ice.
- I am too old...lol...not really...but I just don't have the time to learn the rules like you guys need to.
- Just take it from me, a parent of a ref, it takes a special person to put up with the things you do. I am not that person.
- There is nothing you could do to get me to ref. Period.

I once filled in for a game as a time keeper. You think that job is easy until you have to stop the clock, know when to let players out of the box, put penalties on the clock, and fill out a game sheet. It took 2 parents to do a job done by one teenager. Thanks for what you do timekeepers.

It is easy to say "the refs get paid and that's enough". It is not enough. Thank you for making the game possible.

Thank you to officials for giving your time and working hard to keep our kids safe while they have fun playing hockey.

I am thankful for...teaching my children the rules and how important sportsmanship is in the game of hockey

I appreciate the professionalism, wanting to do their best, and their enjoyment of their job.