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The Official Report

The newsletter of the Missouri Ice Hockey Officials Association

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The Official Report

Newsletter of the Missouri Ice Hockey Officials Association

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2008

Welcome to the New MIHOA Newsletter

By Mark Pecoraro, MIHOA President

Welcome to the first edition of the new MIHOA newsletter. When Andy Hudson sent me the initial mock up of this newsletter, I was simply blown away. I think it looks great and should be a fun and informative way to keep you in touch with what is happening in your officiating fraternity. With contributions from the Board and you, the membership, this should be a good source of information that you will look forward to seeing throughout the season. If you attended the first seminar you heard me say that this association is only as strong as you, the membership, want it to be. What you put in, is what you get back. Mark Heisohn is a great example of this with his contribution in this month's issue. Thanks Mark.

At the risk of repeating myself, I think it is important to remember that you hold the future to this association. Our recruitment efforts must be a priority for us all. The frustrating part of this effort is that many future officials that we recruit want to skip steps in the certification process required by USA Hockey. That process is there for a reason and your patience is required to observe and learn through experience to get to the next level. There is sometimes a feeling of entitlement amongst our ranks, which is disappointing. Work hard, know the rulebook, and prepare yourself for the game, and you will get noticed. Scott Bokal is formulating his evaluation staff and it will be announced soon. Jon Wells has

done a great job of getting a good look at officials this spring/summer to see if their skills have improved to get onto the high school and college staff for 08-09. There are a few changes for high school and college this season that might open a few more doors of opportunity, but Jon will cover this in the next newsletter.

We have posted the membership meetings on the scheduling website and they are also listed in this newsletter. It has always been difficult to get you involved in those meetings other than to pick up your paycheck or if one of the VPs makes it a mandatory meeting. The Board has talked about making the meetings more informative and Scott Bokal has expressed interest in creating a continuing education program for officials who would like to improve their game. Membership meetings are also important to see what is going on within your association. And, should you desire to become an officer or board member, you need to attend a required number of meetings to be eligible for nomination. I encourage you to help us with ideas to make the meetings more valuable to our membership.

At our last seminar we had a number of officials who were working on their laptops and PDAs and texting on cell phones. It is very distracting to the volunteers who give up four weekend days of their time so you can officiate this season, not

to mention pretty rude. For those of you who have not attended a seminar I ask you to leave all phones and computers off and leave the room should you need to make a call.

I thought you might want to know what agenda items your Board members are working on for the coming year. Feel free to contribute any and all ideas. Remember this is YOUR association.

Policy & Procedures - Jon Wells

Bylaws - Dave Sivcovich

Membership Recruitment - Terry Farrar & Dave Sivcovich

Big Brother Program - Wayne Kidd

Annual Awards, Seniority Awards - Derek Winters

Website - Tom Woolf

In this newsletter we recognized a few of our officials that have advanced to the professional levels and we are proud that they came up through the ranks of our association. The stage is set for the next group of officials to be noticed. What better stage than the Regional and National tournaments that are being held in St. Louis in the spring of 09. I hope that you have it on your agenda to work hard and to be considered by the USA Hockey staff to work these elite games at year end. What a super opportunity that will only happen once in while. Good luck in the season ahead!

Pec

Get Ready for the Season Ahead

By Mark Heisohn, Level 4 Official

With the seminar schedule underway and youth games coming at month's end, our officiating season will be upon us very soon. Most teams in the area have been chosen and are practicing hard to get themselves physically prepared. The question is-what am I as an official doing to get myself mentally and physically ready for the rigors of another season?

Attending and participating in a USA Hockey seminar is a great way to get jump started and thinking about hockey. But that should be just the start. Hopefully, the open and closed book exams that we take motivate us to dust off that rulebook and re-familiarize ourselves with its contents. Use the open book exam as a primer to walk yourself through the individual rules and the casebook applications. For those working a number of different leagues, each with its own set of specific rules, it's also important to look those over as well. Larry Jones has a clever way of dealing with the differences we run into going from game to game and league to league. He actually prints out the various rules of those different associations, laminates them, and keeps them in his referee's bag for ready access. By highlighting the differences and having them

handy, Larry can quickly and easily remind himself of the unique rules that apply to his upcoming game just before stepping on the ice. Most of the rules are linked via our MIHOA website, while others are easy enough to find by going to that particular league's site. Take the time to find out now so you're not scrambling on game-day or, worse, asking or guessing during the game itself.

Rule knowledge aside, it is equally important that we, too, get ourselves physically ready for the hard skates ahead. All the rule knowledge won't matter if we're unable to keep up with play or are too tired to think and apply the rules correctly and confidently. If you're like me at this time of year and in great barbecue or gardening shape, it's important to start to get those legs and wind back where they need to be. As we get more "veteran" in status, the kids seem to get faster and our conditioning becomes even more critical. As the players are working hard to get ready for their season, so should we.

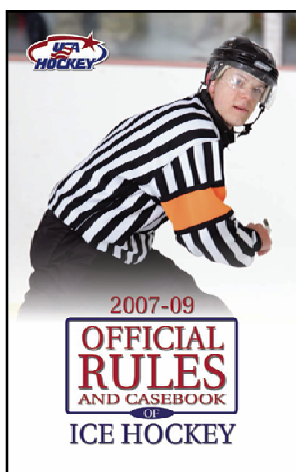
Finally, don't forget to check your gear. Maybe it means re-taping those whistles or replacing your



laces with some new, white ones. Or how about repairing the hem in your trousers or sewing up those little nicks and skate cuts. Maybe it's time to throw out those years-old rulebooks or whatever it is that has buried itself in your bag. Perhaps it's

time to treat yourself to a new helmet, under armor, or pair of shin guards. At the least, get it all out and give everything a good cleaning and check for whatever minor repairs need your attention.

Remember that "look good, feel good," work well thing? It's so true with officials and now is the perfect time to get your season off to the good start that can be so critical to a successful season. The great teams get off to a fast start and stay out in front, while the others start slow and seem to lag behind all season long. Keep in mind that we're the third team at work in every game, and our performance is critical to the overall success of each game we work. The players, coaches, fans, and our partners deserve the best effort we can put forth each and every game, starting with the season's first game. Make yours a great season.



Senior Men's News

By Jerry Burt, VP Seniors



We will have a new league to work, starting in September. The Mills will again be under MIHOA's fold. Benton Kooman will be managing the rink and says playing rules will be the same as Hardee's Iceplex. Look for a ten team league.

East Alton started back with a league in the spring and continued with another through early fall. Larry Thatcher wants the standard called tight, with no trash talking. Players are allowed only three penalties in a game. A copy of the East

Alton rules is on mihoa.org.

Hardee's Iceplex is finishing up the summer season and will be back in mid September.

Hockey North America's summer season playoffs started August 17. The Fall/Winter season will be picking up around the middle of September.

Please do not wear your USA Hockey crest during all Hockey North America games. Remember, hand passes are prohibited in any

zone in HNA.

Please make sure to check the score sheet after each game. If you called a penalty and it does not show up on the score sheet after the game, it's the same as you NEVER having called it. It is very hard to report a foul to the league administrators without anything written about the issue on the score sheet.

The senior leagues have had a great 2008 (with a little dip in the standards late in the summer), so let's try to keep it strong and finish well.

USA Hockey News

By Tom Woolf, Local Supervisor of Officials

2009 Districts & Nationals

The Hardee's Iceplex in Chesterfield will host both the Tier II Youth and Women's District tournaments.

Both District tournaments will be held March 19-22, 2009.

The Hardee's Iceplex will also host the Tier I and II Under-16 National Championships

April 1-5, 2009.

USA Hockey and the Central District will staff these tournaments.

All of these games will use the 1 referee, 2 linesman system

More information will be available in the coming months.



Rule Change Submissions

Members of USA Hockey who wish to submit a playing rule change proposal for consideration by the USA Hockey Board of Directors at the 2009 Annual Congress must do so prior to November 1, 2008. All proposals must be submitted in writing to the USA Hockey national office and must include the specific wording of the proposed change, addition or deletion. Playing rule change proposal forms can be obtained by [clicking here](#), through your District Director, Affiliate President or other USA Hockey appointed district personnel. You may also submit your proposal via e-mail by forwarding your proposal, on the proper form, to: MattL@usahockey.org

After preliminary review of each proposal by the Playing Rules Committee, the proposals will be sent to the appropriate committee or council for their recommendations. The Playing Rules Committee will meet on Friday afternoon of the USA Hockey Annual Congress in an open forum where USA Hockey members have a chance to voice their opinion on each proposal. At this time, the Playing Rules Committee will also make their final recommendations to the USA Hockey Board of Directors for their approval during their annual meeting. Those proposals that are accepted will be incorporated in the Official Playing Rules and will be in effect for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons.

Upcoming USA Hockey Seminars

MIHOA will be offering several USA Hockey officiating seminars in September and October. Here is a schedule:

Sunday, Sept 14, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Chesterfield, MO

Maryville University (classroom)

Hardee's Iceplex (skating)

Levels 1, 2, 3, 4

Sunday, Sept 21, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Springfield, MO

Levels 1, 2, 3

Saturday, Sept 27, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Springfield, IL

Levels 1, 2, 3

Saturday, Oct 11, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Chesterfield, MO

Maryville University (classroom)

Hardee's Iceplex (skating)

Levels 1, 2, 3

For additional details and registration information, go to www.mihoa.org.



All officials are also required to register with USA Hockey. For information on USA Hockey registration, go to www.USAHockey.com and click on the "Officials" tab.

2008-09 MIHOA Membership Meetings

Wed, October 8, 2008
Location TBA

Tue, November 4, 2008
Location TBA

Tue, December 2, 2008
Location TBA

Tue, January 6, 2009
Location TBA

Tue, February 3, 2009
Location TBA

Sun, April 26, 2009
Annual Meeting
Location TBA

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Locations will be posted on www.mihoa.org once confirmed.

Local Officials Succeed at Top Levels

Several St. Louis-area officials have been selected to work the 2008-09 season at various levels of top professional and amateur hockey.

Joe Sullivan has signed a full-time contract to referee in the ECHL. Sullivan spent the last three years as a full-time member the USA Hockey Officiating Development program, working games in the USHL, NAHL and various minor



Joe Sullivan will referee full-time for the ECHL.

pro leagues. During this time, he was selected to referee two NAHL Robertson Cup finals, three USHL Clark Cup finals and two USHL All-star games.

Scott Bokal will be skating a full schedule of collegiate hockey as a referee in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (NCAA). Bokal also plans to work games in the American Hockey League and Juniors.

Craig "Llama" Kneale will again be working a full-time schedule as a linesman in the American Hockey League.

Andy Bethmann, Bryan Bextermueller, Shaun Morgan and Matt Spaeth will be skating games in USA Hockey's Officiating Development program.

Congratulations to all of these officials who got their start with the Missouri Ice Hockey Officials Association!

MIHOA Apparel Available

MIHOA apparel is available through Jim Galligan. A variety of shirts, sweatshirts, hats, warm-ups and more can be purchased at the upcoming September and October officiating seminars. Pictures of all items are available in the "Members" sec-



tion of www.mihoa.org.

Pre season discounts and specials run through October. An order form will be available soon on www.mihoa.org. Purchases can be deducted from your monthly paychecks.



Proceeds from sales of MIHOA apparel benefit the Bill McKenna Memorial Scholarship Fund.

For more information, contact Jim Galligan at (314) 640-4011 or jimmygesp@aol.com.

