

HOCKEY CANADA OFFICIATING PATHWAY – from BC HOCKEY POLICY MANUAL 2022

LEVEL 1

Level 1 is the entry point for officials as they begin their officiating career at the Introductory and Recreational levels. To ensure opportunities are created to enter officiating early, yet help support younger officials, the HCOP has implemented a number of guidelines.

Prerequisites

Officials are encouraged to check with their local hockey association prior to registration to ensure space availability within the local program.

Officials must be a minimum of 12 years of age as of December 31 of the current season (calendar year).

NOTE: Local Hockey Associations may permit individuals wishing to start at 11 years of age (at their discretion) but these officials will be limited to U9 (cross-ice / half-ice) until they are 12 years old and will only receive 'trained' not 'certified status'.

Level 1 officials must complete the Hockey University - Officiating 1/2 eHockey online modules, prior to registering for their first certification clinic.

Level 1 officials will be required to have the basic officiating equipment as outlined within the Hockey University – Officiating 1/2 eHockey online course.

Qualification

Level 1 Officials are eligible to officiate at levels of play that are one (1) age category below their current personal age category (e.g. 12-year old official may officiate at the U11 category and below).

NOTE: Local Hockey Associations may advance an official to a higher age group if they have shown a high level of skill, proficiency and maturity, upon recommendation to and approval from a BC Hockey Officiating Minor Delivery Group Member.

Officials at Level 1 should begin in the U9 category using the 1-official system and at Recreational categories using the 2-official system. If a local association utilizes the 3-official system at these early categories of play, it is recommended that Level 1 officials be assigned the role of a Linesperson and progress into the Referee role as determined by the local officiating development program.

Certification

Officials must register / re-certify annually with Hockey Canada via BC Hockey.

As part of the re-certification process, officials are required to attend a BC Hockey hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session as determined by BC hockey and complete or participate in a Hockey Canada curriculum assessment exercise.

Role of the Level 1 Official

Level 1 Officials and their on-ice partners will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair, safe and fun manner for all participants at the Introductory and early Recreational categories of hockey.

Rule knowledge and proper execution of basic in-game procedures and duties are vital to the success of a Level 1 official.

In the 2-official system, a Level 1 official will share equal responsibilities and duties with their partner in administering the rules of the game.

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In the 3-official system a Level 1 official will primarily focus on Linesperson duties and responsibilities, while learning about the duties of a Referee. At lower categories of Introductory hockey, a Level 1 may perform the duties of a Referee in the 3-official system at the discretion of their Local Hockey Association officiating program.

LEVEL 2

Level 2 enhances the development of officials in areas of core procedures and rule knowledge at all categories of Recreational and early categories of Competitive hockey.

Prerequisites

Officials may begin officiating at Level 2 provided they are a minimum 15 years of age as of December 31 of the current season (calendar year). Officials that have successfully officiated for a minimum of two (2) years at Level 1 and shown to have the skills and maturity to advance to Level 2 may do so with the approval of a BC Hockey Minor Officiating Delivery Group Member.

NOTE: Local Hockey Associations may advance an official to a higher age group if the official has shown a high level of skill, proficiency and maturity and the advancement is approved by a BC Hockey Minor Officiating Delivery Group Member.

Level 2 officials must complete Hockey University – Officiating 1/2 if they do not have previous Hockey Canada officiating experience.

Qualification

Officials will be eligible to officiate at levels of play that are at minimum one age group below their current age (e.g. 15 year old may officiate U15 and below)

NOTE: Local Hockey Associations may advance an official to a higher age group if they have shown a high level of skill, proficiency and maturity, upon recommendation to and approval from a BC Hockey Officiating Minor Delivery Group Member.

New Level 2 officials who are a minimum of 18 years old may be assigned at any hockey category they are considered capable of within the recreational categories of BC Hockey at the discretion of the officiating development program.

Certification

Officials must register and re-certify annually with Hockey Canada via BC Hockey.

As part of the re-certification process, officials are required to attend a BC Hockey hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session as determined by BC hockey and achieve a minimum score of **70%** on the National examination.

Role of the Level 2 Official

Level 2 Officials and their on-ice partners will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair, safe and fun manner for all participants at Recreational and some early levels of Competitive hockey.

Rule knowledge and proper execution of in-game procedures and duties are vital to the success of a Level 2 official.

In the 2-official system, a Level 2 official will share equal responsibilities and duties with their partner in administering the rules of the game.

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In the 3-official system (and 4-official system, where applicable) a Level 2 official may focus developing their skills as a Referee at Recreational categories of hockey, while preparing to advance to more Competitive categories of play.

Level 2 officials may focus on the duties and responsibilities of a Linesperson at all Recreational categories and at the discretion of the Local Hockey Association progress to early Competitive categories, based upon their age and / or ability prior to receiving Level 3 approval.

LEVEL 3

Level 3 is designated for officials who have been recognized as being ready to move into the higher categories of Competitive and early categories of High-Performance hockey. The goal for Level 3 is to further develop officials in the areas of core procedures, rule knowledge and game management.

Prerequisites

Advancement to Level 3 is achieved through approval by a BC Hockey Officiating Delivery Group Member.

Local Hockey Associations are encouraged to provide recommendations to BC Hockey Officiating Delivery Group Members for Level 3 approval when they have been evaluated as ready.

Officials who feel they are ready may also request a Level 3 approval through their Local Hockey Association Referee in Chief and or BC Hockey Officiating Delivery Group Member.

Officials advancing or maintaining Level 3 certification will have very good skating and communication skills, be able to execute advanced procedures, positioning, penalty standards and game management.

Qualification

Ideally, officials should spend two (2) seasons developing at Level 2 before advancing to Level 3. However, regardless of the length of time an official has been a Level 2, they may receive approval to advance to Level 3 if their performance is exceeding the expectations of Level 2 and meeting the expectations of Level 3.

An official may advance to Level 3 upon the start of a new season or during an active season, upon approval from a BC Hockey Officiating Delivery Group Member.

Should an official advance from Level 2 to Level 3 during a season (this means currently registered as a Level 2), they will be required to achieve the minimum required score on the Level 3 exam prior to their advancement being finalized.

Certification

Officials must register and re-certify annually with Hockey Canada via BC Hockey.

As part of the re-certification process, officials are required to attend a BC Hockey hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session as determined by BC hockey and achieve a minimum score of **80%** on the Hockey Canada National examination.

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Role of the Level 3 Official

Level 3 officials may be asked to assist in mentoring younger or less experienced officials as they progress through their own officiating careers.

Rule knowledge and proper execution of all in-game procedures and duties should be well understood at this level. Level 3 officials should be focusing on building their in-depth knowledge of the Hockey Canada Playing Rules, in particular the Casebook content.

Level 3 officials should be developing their skills at Competitive categories of hockey, while preparing to advance to early High-Performance categories of play.

MEMBER HIGH-PERFORMANCE

The Member High Performance (MHP) official is the top tier within the Member (BC Hockey) administered portion of the Hockey Canada Officiating Pathway. Entrance into this level is by invitation by the BC Hockey High-Performance Officiating Development Program and is reserved for officials who have successfully moved through the development levels of the pathway and are ready to move into the elite levels of High-Performance play.

Prerequisites and Initial Advancement / Certification

11.04.4.1 Advancement to MHP is achieved through invitation by the BC Hockey High-Performance Officiating Program.

11.04.4.2 Officials invited to the MGP group require great skating, communication and game management skills.

11.04.4.3 To initially advance to the MHP group requires completion of 15-20 hours of instruction at a BC Hockey MHP group development camp in accordance with Hockey Canada standards, which includes:

11.04.4.4.1 Classroom instruction

11.04.4.4.2 Workgroup study and development sessions

11.04.4.4.3 On-ice skating assessment

11.04.4.4.4 Off-ice skating assessment

11.04.4.4.5 Written Officiating examination (**85%**)

11.04.4.4.6 In-game evaluation (by a High-Performance Officiating Program)

Qualification

11.04.4.4 A current Level 3 official who demonstrates the ability to perform as a top-level official within competitive Minor categories may be advanced to the MHP group regardless of the length of time they have been active as an official within the Hockey Canada Officiating Program.

Re-Certification

11.04.4.5 To achieve MHP re-certification an official must:

11.04.4.5.1 Register annually with Hockey Canada via BC Hockey

11.04.4.5.2 Attend a re-certification clinic bi-annually (rule change years) via classroom or virtual learning sessions, as determined by BC Hockey.

11.04.4.5.3 Achieve a minimum score of **85%** on the National examination

11.04.4.5.4 Complete to standard, High-Performance Officiating program prescribed on and off-ice fitness assessments.

Role of MHP Official

11.04.4.6 MHP officials may be should be assisting in mentoring and development of younger or less experienced Level 1, 2 and 3 officials as they continue to progress through their own officiating careers.

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11.04.4.7 MHP Officials should possess extensive rule knowledge and elite execution of all in-game officiating procedures, principles and duties at all levels of High-Performance competition within the jurisdiction of BC Hockey.

11.04.4.8 MHP Officials will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair and safe manner for all participants, while demonstrating behaviours that exemplify the qualities of leaders and ambassadors of the officiating program.

11.04.5 NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE

The National High-Performance (NHP) group is the assembly of the top officials within the HCOP. Officials selected as members of this group will have excelled within their Member programs and are working at the highest levels of play available. As part of the NHP. Group, officials are eligible for assignments at Hockey Canada National Championships and top-ranked officials may be eligible for International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) licensing and potentially international assignments.

Selection Process

11.04.5.1 Selection to the NHP group begins with a nomination from BC Hockey's Officiating Program to Hockey Canada's Officiating Program.

11.04.5.2 Nominations are reviewed by HCOP leadership to ensure all minimum qualifications and standards are met.

11.04.5.3 Nominated officials are then considered for potential invitation by Hockey Canada to attend the NHP certification seminar.

Qualifications & Considerations

11.04.5.4 Be a leaders within the BC Hockey Officiating Program

11.04.5.5 Be in top physical condition

11.04.5.6 Have above-average skating skills

11.04.5.7 Have strong communications skills on and off the ice

11.04.5.8 Have a proven track record of success in the game

11.04.5.9 Have excellent judgement and feel for the game

11.04.5.10 Have an exemptional knowledge of the Hockey Canada Playing rules.

Re-Certification

11.04.5.11 To achieve NHP re-certification an official must:

11.04.5.12 Register annually with BC Hockey

11.04.5.13 Participate annually in a Hockey Canada National webinar to maintain a continued relationship / connection point with all officials active within the NHP group.

11.04.5.14 Attend a re-certification clinic bi-annually (rule change years) via classroom or virtual learning sessions, as determined by BC Hockey.

11.04.5.15 Achieve a minimum score of **90%** on the National examination

11.04.5.16 Complete High-Performance Officiating program prescribed fitness assessments (on and off-ice).

Role of NHP Official

11.04.5.17 NHP are the top group within the HCOP and are expected to be leadership within the program by supporting officiating development.

11.04.5.18 NHP are expected to take a more senior role within the BC Hockey Officiating Development program.

11.04.5.19 NHP Officials will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair and safe manner for all participants, while demonstrating behaviours that exemplify the qualities of leaders and ambassadors of the officiating program.