



**OTTAWA DISTRICT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
OTTAWA DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
OFFICIATING PROGRAM**

1900 Merivale Road - Suite 204  
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**1998-1999  
ODMHA REFEREE-IN-CHIEF  
OFFICIATING REPORT**

With this being my first year as the ODMHA Referee-In-Chief, the 1998-1999 season presented me with an opportunity to continue with the development and improvement of the minor officiating program that began last season under Jack Goddard (and myself as the Director of Supervision)

With close to 1300 officials (under the direction of 13 Districts in the ODMHA), presenting a consistent and progressive officiating program was, and is, quite a challenge! With the assistance of the ODMHA Officiating Program Executive and the District Referee-In-Chiefs, improvements and progress is being made.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some particular people who made outstanding contributions with their time and effort to the ODMHA Officiating Program and made my job easier through the course of the season...

**Dave Schilling – Director of Supervision**

Dave put in place and administered the minor supervision program, including supervisor seminars for many Districts.

**Natalie Munro – ODMHA A/AA Assignor**

Natalie's first year taking over as the A/AA Assignor had some glitches, but she did an excellent job and is looking forward to coming back next year.

**Pierre Loyer – ODMHA D&A Hearing Representative**

Pierre represented the officials at all D&A Hearings held this season. He took on the job with enthusiasm and dedication.

**John Moulton – A/AA Representative**

John attended most A and some AA meetings on my behalf and represented officials and their concerns at those meetings.

**Andre Blain – ODMHA Discipline Committee**

Andre looked after and administered all internal fines and discipline with the A/AA officiating staff.

**Cindy Burton – ODMHA Secretary**

Without Cindy, I do not think there would be any minor hockey programs heading on the right track... Cindy was very helpful to myself, and, any official who had a concern could count on Cindy for assistance!

**ODMHA Executive**

Special thanks to all of the executive who assisted me in the learning process with regards to administrative duties and responsibilities. Also for their support on officiating issues in the boardroom.

## 1998/1999 ODMHA REFEREE ASSIGNMENTS AND AWARDS

The 1998/1999 season was very successful and included many highlights which featured and benefited officials from across the branch, including:

### CHA MOST DESERVING OFFICIAL

Dave Schilling - Level V District 5

### CHA MOST PROMISING OFFICIAL

Alex Benay - Level IV District 9

### CHA MOST IMPROVED OFFICIAL

Todd Ogilby - Level IV District 9

### ROYAL BANK VOLUNTEER AWARD

Pierre Loyer - District 6 RIC District 6

### NHL ROYAL BANK HOCKEY WEEK PARTICIPANTS (Buffalo vs. Ottawa NHL Game)

Mathieu Loyer - Level I District 6

Stephanie Desousa (female) - Level II District 7

Steven Meagher - Level II District 8

### TEAM CANADA vs. CZECHOSLOVAKIA PARTICIPANTS – Mens National Team Game at Civic Center

Mark Gallant (Referee) - Level VI District 10

Adam Brown (Linesman) - Level V District 5

Derek Nansen (Linesman) - Level V District 11

Jodi Hoyt - Level I District 10

Justin Vezina - Level I District 12

### TEAM CANADA vs. FINLAND PARTICIPANTS – Womens National Team Game – Renfrew, Ontario

Marina Zenk (Referee) - Level IV District 9

Chantal Champagne (Lines) - Level III District 6

Julie Bissonnette (Lines) - Level III District 2

### CANADIAN SENIOR WOMENS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – Mississauga, Ontario

Patty Peebles (Lines) - Level III District K

### CANADA WINTER GAMES – CornerBrook, Newfoundland

Pat Lafontaine (Mens – Linesman) - Level IV District 3

Chantal Champagne (Womens – Referee) - Level III District 6

Julie Bissonnette (Womens – Lines) - Level III District 2

### WOMENS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Finland

Marina Zenk (Referee) - Level IV District 9

### WOMENS WORLD B POOL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT – Hungary

Marina Zenk (Referee) - Level IV District 9

### KOBE CUP ONTARIO BANTAM CHAMPIONSHIPS – Arnprior, Ontario

#### REFEREES

Kevin Labelle (K) Nygel Pelletier (2) Kevin Graham (8)

Derek Nansen (11) Mat Stevenson (11) Sean O’Keeffe (12)

#### LINESMEN

Kevin Labelle (K), Dan Desforges (3), Scott MacDonald (4), Brian St.John (5), Erin Anderson (8), Jim McEvoy (8), Sean Reid (9), Alex Benay (9), Jason Hodgins (10), Craig St.Germain (10), Todd Ogilby (12)

## 1999 LEVEL IV/V SEMINAR

The ODHA hosted a CHA Level IV/V Seminar the weekend of February 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 1999 at the Canadian Forces Base in Kingston, Ontario. It was attended by 41 officials (33 Level IV and 8 Level V candidates) who were selected based on their potential and ability to attain these higher CHA officiating levels. The participants represented 12 of the ODHA Districts as well as the OHF and TBAHA Officiating Programs. The weekend was a tremendous success and was noted from participant feedback as being a highlight in many of their officiating "careers".

## 1999 KOBE CUP TRYOUT CAMP AND KOBE CUP TOURNAMENT

Once again the ODMHA hosted a development/tryout camp for officials from across the branch to select the referees to work this years Kobe Cup Ontario Bantam Championships in Arnprior. All Districts had the opportunity to send 2 referees and 3 Linesmen to the tryout camp held in Gloucester in conjunction with their Bantam Tournament. All officials were evaluated based on their game supervisions, exam marks and fitness testing results. The final selections did an excellent job at the KOBE CUP Tournament!

Other points of interest for the 1998/1999 season included obtaining a rate increase for the A/AA Officials, hosting a Referee-In-Chief Supervision and Planning Seminar in conjunction with the KOBE Cup, and initiating steps to revise the ODMHA Officiating Code of Discipline and Level II and III certification process scheduled to take effect next season.

While there were many highlights, many areas require improvement as well... Some of these areas are being looked at to prioritize in the plan of action for next season, including:

- Improved reporting of invoices and billing to the A/AA Leagues  
With a new Referee-In-Chief and Assignor, we had some glitches invoicing the A/AA Leagues and as a result on occasion not being able to pay officials on time this season. We hope to discuss this with the leagues and resolve for next season.
- Improved response to correspondence.  
Admittedly, I was not prepared for the amount of correspondence that I receive as Referee-In-Chief regarding complaints about officials (I also did receive 2 or 3 complimentary letters!). All correspondence deserves to get a reply and a system will be established for next season to ensure officiating concerns are addressed.
- Improved Referee-In-Chief Meeting attendance and representation  
Although this is not a concern for all Districts, it is critical that District Chairs ensure they have a dedicated and committed Referee-In-Chief representative attend and participate at RIC meetings and take seriously the duties and responsibilities required for that position. It is the officials in their Districts that will not get the opportunities, training and information if they do not have a committed District Referee-In-Chief representing them!
- Improved Supervision Program  
We made great strides in the Supervision Program this year, but there is still room for improvement. We hope to increase the amount of supervisions in the outlying Districts by offering better incentives for supervisors to get out to these areas more often.
- Improved Awareness regarding Abuse of Officials.  
It is important for all participants (players, coaches, fans, parents and officials) in the game of hockey to be aware of the problems that make our game not so fun to play. Abuse of Officials is one area that is causing officials (and others!) to leave the game. With continued communication addressing this issue, between players, coaches, parents and fans, inroads can be made to improve awareness and make this great game a better one for all involved.

## 1999/2000 PLAN

Next year is a rule change year in the CHA. Consequently, it will be busy upcoming season with a revised Clinic Agenda and format to address the Rule changes and Rule emphasis for 1999/2000.

The ODHGA Clinic Coordinator Position is currently vacant with the retirement of Derek Smith. A new coordinator will be selected by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999 and will be attending the CHA National Course Conductor Seminar in Fort Erie, Ontario July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 1999 with 3 other Instructors. They will be asked to put together a revised and new Referee Clinic program for the 1999/2000 season that will address and improve upon many of the concerns over the last few years.

A RuleBook/CaseBook Binder is currently being put together to be distributed to ALL officials at the 1999/2000 Clinics. This binder will include a RuleBook (Level I & II) or RuleBook/CaseBook combination (Level III and above) as well as pertinent ODHA/ODMHA Officiating Program Information (Supervision program, Game Sheet Procedures, Level II and III Certification procedures, Officials Code of Discipline and contact information to name a few areas which will be included). This will be an excellent reference book, which should greatly benefit the ODMHA Officiating Program.

The **1999 ODHA/ODMHA Referee School** is booked for **August 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **Carleton University** in Ottawa. We are promoting a FEMALE DIVISION at this years school which we eventually would like to expand to a National and International Level in the near future. This will be a tremendous opportunity for all female officials in our branch to obtain instruction geared specifically to female officiating opportunities from one of the best female officials in the world (Marina Zenk – 1998 Olympic Gold Medal Game Referee). We are hoping for an increase in support and participation from all ODMHA officials for this year's school!

The ODHA Development Program has committed to have a new Referee Database system in place for the start of the 1999/2000 season. This will address many concerns and issues involving contacting officials, District evaluation of officials, and provide an excellent source of information and statistics relating to all officiating areas (i.e.: CHA Levels, supervisions done, age information, etc.) that is long overdue in the officiating program.

We will continue to hold the **ODMHA Referee Development Camp** next year (even though the ODHA is not hosting any Minor Championship Tournaments next season). We are currently looking for a District to host the event in conjunction with one of their Bantam AA level or higher tournaments. Evaluations will be used to staff Senior Body positions and give opportunities for officials from across the branch to be seen and learn amongst the top minor hockey officials in the ODMHA.

There will be a **National CHA Level VI Seminar** held in **Montreal, Quebec** in November this year. 3 candidates from the ODHA have applied and they will be competing for the 1 or 2 spots allotted to our branch.

I am looking forward to continuing my duties as the ODMHA Referee-In-Chief for next season. I plan to continue working closely with Steve Sleight (ODHA Referee-In-Chief) to further advance the officials development program (which will work two ways with increased participation of Senior Officials putting back into Minor Hockey). I believe the program is on the right track and with continued support and communication with ODMHA Minor Council, executive, the District Referee-In-Chiefs, and of course all of the officials in the ODMHA, it can only improve.

Sincerely,

**Mark Gallant**  
*ODMHA Referee-In-Chief*

