



Welcome to the 2022/2023 Season!

If you are getting this letter, it's because you are a coach or manager in the AA or AAA league which is covered by the Centrally Assigned Officials Group. We are so excited to get things rolling in what we are hoping is the first "normal" season in a few years. The regular season is here, and our referee Executive has been working hard to get things rolling! We are excited, and hope you are too!

The items below are just a few things that we discussed at the coaches meeting. We just wanted to remind you about them, and also let you know if there are attached documents to help.

Here are some of these talking points we brought up:

Working together - As mentioned, we are all trying to develop in the AA and AAA Leagues. Coaches, players, and officials are trying to improve and get to the next level of their hockey journey. Similar to players, we are creating a development program in our group to help develop everyone involved. Including in that is working together with Leagues and Coaches. Our offer to you is that if there is anything we can do to help your team, association or league, let us know and we can build something together. Want to have an official or two out to a practice to explain rules? We can do that. Want to do a virtual call with your parents to discuss our perspective of things? Let's line it up. Want a document to show some key pieces of the game? We got you! Let's work together to make this a great experience for everyone involved in hockey.

Communication - One point of emphasis we are taking on with our officials this year is communication. A lot of times frustration from both officials and coaches stem from poor communication both ways. Coaches may get frustrated instantly when a call doesn't go their way, and officials may get frustrated with words being said from coaches, players and parents. While we can't remove this from the game as we understand emotions run high, we do want to explore how we can help diffuse these situations once they occur. Since all our games do have curfews, we encourage our officials to only speak to coaches at the intermission or end of game. The only times officials should come over during a period are during an injury or delay, a disputed goal, multiple penalties in one stoppage/major penalties or something out of the ordinary. Everything else should wait until the intermission so we can avoid having the curfew come into play.

New Rules 2022 Season - Attached to this email is a slide deck for the new rules in the 2022 season approved by Hockey Canada. This deck has been edited to remove any rules or slides



that are not applicable to you at the level you are coaching. Please take a look and let us know if you need any clarification.

Feedback Form - We are also launching [THIS](#) new feedback form for both coaches and officials to use as they please. This form is not replacing the official complaints process, but allows another avenue of communication between officials and coaches. This form will give coaches or officials the opportunity to provide positive or constructive feedback on a game that has happened. The hope is that we can use real life situations to develop or praise each other as needed. As we continue to push effective communication within our group, the thought was we needed to add another platform as we only really took complaints before. Something else we will try and see how it goes!

Other Docs - Also attached you will find two other documents at this time. One is the complaint and review process for officials or calls made. This form will explain the difference between complaints and feedback, and the steps to appeal a call made. The second form is about payment for officials and the process to rebook games.

Drop In Coffee Chats - Another thing we want to try now that we are in a digital world is drop in coffee chats for coaches and managers every 6-8 weeks. This would give a non-pressure chance for team reps to drop in and ask those in attendance from the referee world any hockey questions they may have. We won't discuss specific incidents, but could clarify rules or procedures, or talk about improvements or things going well! Each chat will have different exec members present as well as an official or two!

Let us know how else we can help! We are here to help everyone.

Hope you are all excited for this season just like we are!

- The Centrally Assigned Officials Executive