



HOCKEY CANADA

www.hockeycanada.ca

MODULE: *Shared Respect*



Minor Hockey Development Guide

Hockey Canada Officiating Program



“ Shared Respect Initiative “



HOCKEY CANADA SHARED RESPECT INITIATIVE

The Hockey Canada “Shared Respect Initiative” is designed to make the game more fun for all participants. It specifically targets the problem of abuse of officials, but it applies to all participants.

Keeping players playing and officials officiating the game is an important step to improving the game. One of the major concerns of Hockey Canada is the drop out rate of players, coaches and officials who leave the game as a result of “abuse”. Many good young players leave the game at an early age, many good coaches stop volunteering their time and every year, and 30% of active officials quit the game each year.

The loss of a player, official or coach, due to abuse hurts the entire game.

The loss of 10,000 officials in each season, and difficulties in recruiting new ones, puts significant strain on the entire hockey program, because officials that leave the game are replaced by a new official with no experience, and it leaves significant shortages for qualified officials at higher levels of hockey. The main reason for officials leaving the game is the "abuse" factor.

Canada continues to produce some of the best officials in the world, but in order for Canada to retain it's position as a developer of top officials, it is important that the number of officials who leave the game must be reduced significantly, and that recruitment of officials must be made easier. Reducing the level of abuse will go a long way in achieving these goals. Respect for the game, the participants and the officials are key!

The “SHARED RESPECT INITIATIVE” calls upon all parties to respect the other participants in the game.

WHEN RESPECT IS SHARED – WE ALL WIN!



RESPECT

We all want it!

Everything you do says something about you. The Hockey Canada “Shared Respect Initiative” asks you to consider your role in showing “Respect” for the game, and the people involved in making this the great game it is. How much do you RESPECT the game of hockey and all it’s participants? Take this simple test to see how you rate. Check off the statements that apply to you.

- The safety of the participants in the game is more important than the final score.
- I may not cheer for the opposition team, but I will also not cheer against them or verbally abuse them.
- I value the contribution of the coach in developing the players talents, even though I may not always agree with their methods.
- I understand that officials do not make the hockey rules, they only apply them.
- I understand that children learn from adults, and my behaviour reflects what I want children to learn.
- I understand that officials are responsible to ensure that the game is played in a safe and fair manner for all participants.
- I understand that players, coaches and officials are learning the game, and mistakes will be made in the learning process.
- I understand that the biggest reason for players and officials quitting the game is abuse.

(How did you rate? If you checked off 0 – 2 – Step back and check your motives for being involved in the game; 3 – 4 – on your way; 5 – 6 – almost there; 7 – 8 – outstanding)

When players, coaches, parents and officials recognize the value of each person’s contribution to the game, the game is better for everyone.



LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT A HOCKEY REFEREE

Let's "take a look" at the official who is alleged to be responsible for the inability of players to score goals and teams to win games. He is the living barrier who mysteriously transforms victory to defeat. What are his qualifications and is there anything to be said in his defense?

In the first place, the IDEAL referee must be an apt student, who is letter perfect in the laws of hockey and their interpretation. Unlike judges in our courts, he must see the crime, identify the offence and hand out the sentence - not later in the day, tomorrow or next month, but all within seconds.

Next, the IDEAL referee must be a good skater and physically sound. A player can get frequent relief, but officials must be on the ice for the entire game. Moreover, hockey officials are expected to act as peace officers and prevent crime by restraining angry players who are intent upon "beating up" their opponents.

An IDEAL referee, and there is no such person, should have the speed of a sprinter, the endurance of a marathoner, the tact of a diplomat, the mind of a professor and the unruffled demeanor of a supreme court judge. It would also help if he had 20-20 vision and was stone deaf.

Fans, players, coaches and management alike expect too much of officials. Few players ever think their sentence was deserved; coaches shriek in anguish at a borderline off-side call; and fans view with alarm, every decision that goes against their favorites. Yet contrastingly, a judge has his judgement appealed **and** his decision repealed without loss of prestige. No less than perfection is expected from the versatile hockey official.

It is an old but valid argument that referees don't make the rules; they are merely agents charged with the responsibility of enforcing the laws as provided by the rule book. The fact that players trip, charge, smear or high-stick is not the referee's fault any more than a police officer is responsible for the actions of offenders who break society's laws.



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Few men are so constituted that they can suffer silently while they are publicly criticized. While it is unlikely that hockey's governing bodies will do much to ease the referee's life while the sport is enjoying a prolific boom, it does seem that there should be less official criticism of referees and linesman. For instance, it isn't fair to second guess them with slow motion film. The man on the ice has to call the play instantly; he can't wait for the crowd to tell him and he can't see what goes **on** behind his back. Neither can he ponder over border line incidents in his private chambers or delay a decision momentarily while waiting the instant replay. He just has to do the best he can based on his years of experience. He doesn't expect to be popular; but he has a right to be recognized as the representative of the law makers and to be spared from public humiliation and criticism from those who are themselves involved in the development of the sport.

Certainly, hockey cannot exist without officials; so we had better learn to live with them and, who knows, we might even learn to like them.

**Yelling at the
refs will help
your team win.**

**'Cause they really
like that.**

(Do ya think?)

We lose 10,000 officials every year. Are you the cause?





THE "F" TEST

This exercise is designed to show how two people can be shown the same thing yet see it differently. Conflict can arise when a coach or player perceives an event differently than the officials. An understanding of this phenomena will help parents appreciate where officials are "coming from". This, in turn, will help both parties maintain a positive attitude towards the game and it's participants.

* On an overhead projector show the "F" Test transparency for 30 seconds (use the copy of the "F" test on the next page to produce the transparency)

* Ask everyone in the room if they have seen the sentence before (or a similar exercise). If someone has, ask them to remain silent throughout this exercise for the benefit of others.

* Ask the participants to raise their hand if they can repeat the sentence verbatim. (You may have one or two but most will be unable to do so).

* Turn on the overhead projector again. Working quietly and independently, have the participants write down on a scrap piece of paper the number of "F's" they can find in the sentence. Turn the projector off after 15 seconds.

* By a show of hands, ask how many saw only 2 "F's" in the sentence. Emphasize that they should not be influenced by their neighbors response.

* Repeat previous step for 3 "F's", 4 "F's"... up to more than 7 "F's".

* By now you will probably have a variety of answers. Explain that everyone had the right answer based on how they viewed the situation...until proven right or wrong.

* Give the correct answer - 7 "F's". Show them on the overhead transparency.

* Explain the following reasons for the variety of responses:

- a) We all look at the same things yet see them in different manners.
- b) Some people concentrate better than others. Emphasize the importance of paying attention to detail with respect to officiating.

This explains why coaches, players, officials and spectators can also see things in a different manner. Another reason for the discrepancy in answers is the way our subconscious has been trained to perceive things we see. For example, most of us have learned to read "OF" in its phonetic fashion as "OV". Knowing this it is easy to understand why we see the "F" in "of".

* Emphasize the importance of developing a positive attitude. By doing so, we will be better able to establish a good rapport and gain the respect of the players and coaches.



**THE FINISHED FILES ARE
THE RESULT OF YEARS
OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES
COMBINED WITH THE
EXPERIENCE OF MANY
OF THE YEARS TO COME.**



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Are they drawn by the risk, the excitement or the lack of yelling from the stands?

Listen to yourself next time you're at the rink. Hockey's too important to take too seriously.



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