

February 28, 2025

TO: All W.O.A.A. Centre Contacts, Referee Assignors and Referee Supervisors.

FROM: Don Shropshall, W.O.A.A. Referee Clinic Coordinator.

RE: 2025 ENTRY LEVEL REFEREE SCHOOL

Good Afternoon to all Hockey Associations inside the W.O.A.A. area. I am sitting in my computer room and wondering if winter will ever end. Here it is the last day of February and what is it doing but snowing. It sure seems like a long winter and spring has to be around the corner. I will enjoy the heat and sun of spring leading into summer.

Most of the centers have finished the regular season and will be into playoffs both for the rep categories as well as the local divisions.

I took over the coordinating of the referee program from Joyce McClure twenty-one (21) years ago. She somehow convinced me to take over the program from her at that time. Two (2) years before doing that I did help her out at attending and assisting her in the Entry Level programs that she was running.

Last year, we did our first Referee School in Clinton over the two day program. I have had lots of feedback and it would appear that everyone really enjoyed the program and the on ice sessions with the meals and snacks that were provided.

The OMHA feel that the school is the better way for the new or returning officials to get the education and the on hands ice sessions required to become a referee.

We will be doing the second Referee School in conjunction with the W.O.A.A. again in Clinton. The Referee School will take place on Saturday, October 18th, 2025 and Sunday, October 19th, 2025. Yes, the school will be a two day event. The program will start each day at 8 a.m. sharp and will run to 5 p.m. each day. The participants will receive a minimum of two hours of ice, one hour each day or maybe a bit more as well as the additional class room instruction. The extra time in the rule book never hurts.

The location of the second school will again take place at the Central Huron Community Complex, 239 Bill Fleming Drive, CLINTON, Ontario NOM 1L0 (519-482-9183). I believe all centers have played hockey in this large facility.

The school will cost approximately \$250.00. In fact, it might be little less than that but presently that is the figure that is being looked at. The school will be paying the rentals for the hall, we will be paying the ice bill for the two days and also provide lunch for both days along with snacks and drinks. Drink will be pop, water and coffee. We will need to know if anybody has food allergies so we can stay clear of those issues and have proper food for that person. They will receive their referee books, cresting and it looks like each participant will also receive a whistle along with a laminated referee card and if under 18 a green arm band to be worn while refereeing. The participants are not being asked to stay overnight in accommodations; so that is

not included in this cost that will be your responsible if you so wish. Participants are to be dropped off each morning and picked up each night.

Participants will need to bring a pair of regular skates (no goalie skates), a helmet minus the full cage and warm clothing when on the ice such as jogging clothes would work the best for them.

The school will be open to people from the age of 14 years to 55 plus. If a person is turning 14 years by December 31st of 2025, they can attend the school but if they are after that date they will have to wait another year.

If they are below 18 years by October 18th of this year, then they do not need a Vulnerable Sector Police Check (VSC) to attend.

Those participants who are 18 years of age before the 18th October will be required to have a VSC police check filed with me before attending. The only exception will be those who have a birthday in September/October of that year must produce a receipt showing in progress and then must get the police check to me as soon as it arrives. **AGAIN IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS BEFORE THAT TIME, THE POLICE CHECK MUST BE FILED WITH ME TO ATTEND.**

All police checks are sent to the OHF who look after all police checks in Ontario. You must obtain a VSC police check from your local police department or most will use the OPP online system. Participants are reminded this is not a volunteer position because you are being paid to referee. To obtain the police check you will need to obtain the OHF letter requesting the police check. To find this letter please go onto the OHF or the OMHA site; once in at the top, you will see referee put cursor on that it will open up and click on forms, open the forms and scroll down to find the letter, fill it out and add it to your form for the OPP or take it to your local Police Department. There is a cost from the police for this so you will have to pay that cost. The police check is good for three years; on the second and third year you will have to fill out a Declaration Form and submit it to the OHF. Then on the fourth years another VSC is required.

Those people who are interested in refereeing will give their names to the Minor Hockey Centre Contact or Referee Assignor who will send those names to me. I will need full name, date of birth, email address for both the participants and if under 18 years the parentss email, phone number for the participant and again the parent as well. Centers, again I want you to think how many officials do you require so that all these new officials will be getting some refereeing.

This will be the only event for Entry Level programs so there will only be the school and no other programs offered. This past year we had 83 participants and I had a closing date the end of April, this year the closing date will be September 1st, 2025. Reason I was sold out in the spring but then people backed out which prevented others to take a spot, so will keep it open till the 01September 2025.

The goal if possible is to have 90 people attending. The people who have everything finished and registered first will get the spot and are completed will be accepted into the school.

The participants will have to do two online programs and again this cost will be the participant's responsibility. They will be required to do Respect In Sport (Officials) and a new program that came out last year from Hockey Canada called the Introduction To Officiating. The cost of these two (2) programs was \$20 and \$21, plus HST.

On September 1st once the programs are completed and those over 18 years have supplied the VSC I will send them the link to register. Once you have registered and you decide to back out you will lose 50 percent of the cost and if you back out at the last minute you will lose it all. If you have done these programs I can look it up, you do not have to do them again.

You may ask, why so late? There will be eight (8) schools in the OMHA and they could not all be done at the same time. I am holding spots for our officials in the W.O.A.A. so they are first to be accepted into the school.

Any questions or lists of participants to be sent to Don Shropshall, W.O.A.A Co-ordinator for Refereeing to donshrop@icloud.com or if you wish to call me 519-525-3092.

Sincerely Don Shropshall