**TO**: Oceanside Minor Hockey Association Members

**FROM**: John Sloan - Referee – in – Chief

 Oceanside Minor Hockey Association

**RE:** ***2021 – 2022 Officiating Program***

I would like to welcome everyone back, as we move forward from the COVID scenario we faced last season. It has had a very significant impact on our officiating program, with reduced numbers of officials who will be returning. We are looking for both new officials and those who have officiated in the past who may be able to return and help us out. According to BC Hockey and VIAHA we will be going forward this season at full speed, maintaining the restrictions that are in place or could be placed on us due to Public Health Orders.

**NEW OFFICIALS**

1. BC Hockey has created a new category of official called NEW Entry Level. This category will be for those 11 – 13 years of age and they will be working up to U9 for at least their first season.
2. Level 1 New officials are 12 – 15 years old, and they are moved up as they master the skills of a lower category.
3. All NEW officials will have a mentor with them for every game, to ensure they are getting immediate feedback and direction.
4. Those officials who are 16 or older will register as Level 2 NEW. They will be placed in games at a higher level to try and expedite their development. Those that have previous officiating experience will be assessed to see where they can comfortably fit in, and development will continue as needed.

For more information on getting started. Go to the BC Hockey website, and click Programs, then click Officiating, then click Getting Started. This will guide you through the full registration process and requirements. All NEW officials will attend an in-person clinic this season to be hosted by this association. If the numbers are low, we may have our officials attend a clinic in Nanaimo or Port Alberni.

As an Association we refund the registration fees later in the season, as we see the individual is actually doing games. We also have a jersey program where we supply the jersey and the official gives us a post-dated cheque for $50.00 dated 31 March 2022. We supply all new officials with their first whistle. Pay days are at the end of each month by cheque.

We have a very hands-on program for our officials. Our Mentor group is led by Shayna Twamley who has spent all 14 years of her career in Oceanside. She is assisted by Holly Henderson, who is part of the BC Hockey High Performance Program. Both of these officials are highly skilled and very effective communicators, and they do a great job at putting the new officials at ease as they go through the learning process.

If you have a child, male or female, who may want to try officiating, or if you want to give it try or want to return to the game, please contact me at johnasloan@shaw.ca. Please give me the officials name, email address and cell phone number (if texting is needed). For those parents who are unsure, we protect our officials at all times, and inappropriate behaviour and actions are not tolerated.

Thank you