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Tightening the Laces

Atlantic District Officiating Program

November 2012 Newsletter

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Whether you are a brand new Level 1, or a veteran Level 4 official, being evaluated while working insures continued

Dear Dave,

Welcome to the November issue of our district officiating newsletter. By now most of you have attended a district officiating seminar with only one remaining for the season. We are also closing in on the midway point of the season, with some leagues preparing to host their Midget U16AA and U18AA playoffs in advance of the High School season beginning. Also, all officials who turned 18 prior to August 1st should have submitted a background screening prior to the September 30th deadline. If you have yet to submit a screening, you will need to do so before receiving future game assignments.

Keep working hard and best of luck on the rest of your season!

A Message from the R-I-C

I want to take a moment to remind everyone that if you were 18 years or older on August 1, 2012, you must submit a background screening in order to be eligible to

development after completing your annual seminar!

We're here to help you become better officials by providing positive, constructive feedback that will help you improve both on and off the ice.

Have questions? Want to obtain an evaluation?

Contact Bill Maurer, District Evaluation Coordinator at bmaurer@aaharefs.org to schedule an evaluation or access www.aaharefs.org/staff.html to contact a local evaluation program liaison.

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officiate in the Atlantic District. Assignors have been notified of those individuals who have not yet submitted a screening. If you are an official who has yet to submit a screening please go to [Atlantic District Background Screening](#) for instructions on how to submit a screening. Once you have submitted the screening, please send an e-mail directly to me, (lboylan@aaharefs.org) not the assignor(s), with the confirmation of from our vendor AISS of the submittal. The district will automatically receive a copy of your screening submission. Once I receive your e-mail with confirmation from AISS, I will then notify the assignors of your eligibility.



Leo Boylan

The Regional Coordinators are in place and have been introduced at the seminars. I am looking forward to their leadership and involvement in improving the officiating in our district. The coordinators contact information will be listed on the website. I encourage all officials to support these coordinators. Details on the Region Coordinators is available in this presentation [Atlantic District Regional Coordinators](#).

As we continue to work our games, our focus needs to be on details, player safety, enforcing the rules, rule knowledge and displaying a positive attitude. Please take the time to review the video on Body Checking vs. Body Contact, which is available in the USA Hockey Video library found [Here](#). It is important that we administer this properly for the teams and players.

I ask that every official be ready for the challenges that are ahead and work to keep our emotions in check. Focus on the things that we can control. Communicate with coaches as needed. Show effort and maintain a professional approach every time you step foot on the ice. Officiate with pride, consistency and effort from your first game to your last.

Have a great season!

Leo Boylan
Atlantic District Referee-in-Chief lboylan@aaharefs.org

Dress Like a Professional

By Luke Murray

Ask anyone I work with and they'll be quick to tell you when it's game day - the signs are readily apparent.

My pants are pressed a little bit

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better. My shirt a little more starched. The shave is a little closer.

It has me walking a little taller, a little prouder as soon as I walk in the door to my day job and carries through until I swipe my suit for my stripes.



Photo Credit - Slap Shot (1977 Kings Road Entertainment & Universal)

That's the same feeling you should have when you walk in the door of any arena you skate in.

The fact of the matter is that whether you know it or not, the people you encounter at the rink know exactly who you are from the moment you step out of the car.

Why not let them know you mean business right away?

Everyone has their own version of pregame preparation. For some it starts the night before, getting a good night's rest, fueling up with the proper foods and hydrating as much as possible.

It just so happens that mine is all of that and usually involves a trip to the dry cleaners or a date with the ironing board.

Now I'm not suggesting you go out and spend your hard-earned game fees on a designer label. Save the Hugo Boss for the NHL guys.

Take some of that money and make an investment in yourself and buy a nice shirt or sweater and a proper pair of pants. When it comes down to it, we're being paid good money and believe it or not, that makes us professionals whether we're working Mite A or the AHL.

Ladies and gentlemen, the team tracksuits simply don't cut it. Gym shorts and ratty sneakers simply aren't acceptable, either. Lose the ball caps as well.

Team jackets should be kept in the closet when going to the rink. Often times referees still play, coach or have kids in youth organizations.

Think about it, how would you feel you as a player feel if you had an away game and saw a referee walking in wearing the colors of the team you're about to play?

As small as it seems, the simple act of not wearing the colors of the teams involved takes away yet another level of perceived impropriety.

I've never seen a referee work a Flyers game wear an orange tie or shirt before working a game.

The parade of players into NHL arenas mimics a fashion show

and rarely do they wear clothes that match their uniforms.

At the youth level more and more youth teams are requiring shirts and ties worn to their games. Coaches are teaching players to respect themselves. We as officials, as arbiters of what is right and wrong, should too respect ourselves.

Part of that is presenting ourselves in a professional manner.

Think classy and you'll be classy.

Atlantic District Officiating Seminars

As of this newsletter the Atlantic District seminar season is nearly completed with only one Level 1 and Level 2 session remaining. This seminar was originally scheduled to take place on Sunday, November 4th at the Lawrenceville School, however power and other infrastructure damages as a result of Hurricane Sandy has forced us to reschedule for this coming Sunday, November 11th.



As announced to the district at the summer meeting, we implemented a number of changes to the program and like any process improvement we are experiencing some growing pains. However we are also seeing positive results from the many hours that our seminar staff put in to improve the seminar program.

If I had to sum up the improvements to the Atlantic District Seminar Program I would have to label it "Standardization" which has improved all aspects of our program. Within the Level 1 and 2 programs the ice sessions have been implemented and the feedback so far has been very positive. Many participants stated that they felt the sessions were much more productive and a better use of the ice time. We have also seen the same improvement in the ice sessions at our Level 3 seminars.

The standardization of the classroom criteria has also improved the subjects covered for our level 3 officials. We have experienced a higher passing rate from the Level 3 seminar participants than we have in years past.

One commitment we have made is to always try and improve the program going forward. This will ensure that we meet the needs of the Atlantic District Officials. During the off season we will continue to evaluate and seek to improve on our future seminars. We will also be running a number of skating clinics in the spring to provide officials with the skills to elevate their

skills to move to the next level.

Thank you for your focused attention and attendance to our seminars and have a great season, stay sharp and take pride in the games you do!!

Marty Maglio
Atlantic District Seminar Coordinator

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