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Tightening the Laces

Atlantic District Officiating Program

December 2012 Newsletter

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One Year Later...A Message from the R-I-C

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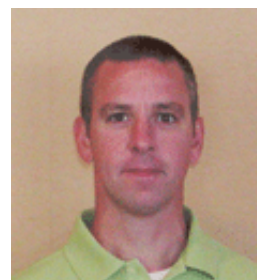
Whether you are a brand new Level 1, or a veteran Level 4 official, being evaluated while working insures continued development after completing your annual seminar!

Dear Dave,

Welcome to the December issue of our district officiating newsletter. We hope you are enjoying a productive and rewarding season so far, and would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!

One Year Later... A Message from the R-I-C

It has been one year since being appointed to this position and I wanted to share a few things about our district. At the start, the district had many programs in place. Most of them were familiar to all but there were also a few that needed more exposure. Seminars and evaluations were rolling along. But that was not all that there is in the Atlantic District.



Leo Boylan

Our decision to change the format

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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of the Level 3 seminar has been met with both acceptance and challenges. Only a limited number of seminars were a concern to some but the presentation that was delivered on that day was accepted by many. Level 1 seminars had very good turnout and we will do everything possible to get them involved working games. I have asked the leagues to use one official for mite half ice as a place for our new officials. Most clubs are working with us and understand our needs as officials. We will continue to establish a relationship with clubs asking for their participation. Special thanks to **Marty Maglio, Joe Franchetti, Dave Zulla, Monty Ferguson, Jim Doyle** and **Dave Aiello** for their overall commitment to make my first seminar season in this position go as smoothly as possible. The time and effort that all of them put in can never be measured but is certainly much appreciated.

Evaluations are active and our focus this year has been on the level 1 officials in an effort to give them feedback and guidance. Our goal is retention of the level 1 official for next year and future years. Please consider to offer help if called upon by an assignor to be a shadow official or a mentor. The future of our district is everyone's responsibility and I am asking for your support. I have learned that while some areas have enough evaluators there is help needed elsewhere. **Bill Maurer** held evaluator workshops at Ice Vault in the spring and the University of Delaware this past summer. Both provided an opportunity for new or current evaluators to meet and have a better understanding of how the program works and what the expectations for success are.

Bob Fyrer and **Joe Franchetti** are working on a survey to send out to level 1 officials with a few questions. We want to take an active role and be proactive with our level 1 officials. This survey will help us understand any difficulties that they may be having in their first year as officials. Retention is very important to us as a district and our role in their success is very important. Please keep your eyes open for this survey as your participation as a new level 1 official will help all of us.

The **Regional Coordinators** have been a positive addition to our district as they provide all officials not only leadership and guidance in their area, but also an avenue for the local official to contact. We have had two conference calls this season focusing on overall activity within the district. However each call also gives us the ability to discuss specific local areas and a range of topics. Please feel free to contact them for any assistance or guidance you may need as the season continues.

Ian Walsh and other district staff ran another very successful district camp at the University of Delaware back in June. The camp which was Thursday through Sunday was run in conjunction with the Atlantic District player development camp. It proved again to be very beneficial to those officials who attended, as well as showcase to the player and coaching side the degree of commitment towards officiating development we have as a district.

Join Our Mailing List!

This is just some of the activity we have had throughout the district during my first year as RIC, with much more to come in the New Year. I hope everyone has a very Happy Holiday season with your family and friends!

Hope to see you at the rink!

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

Why Do I Officiate?

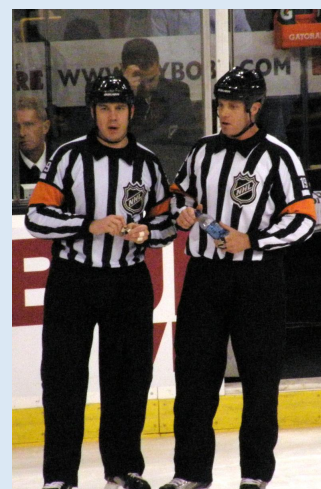
By Leo Boylan

You receive your assignments and the games are a few hours away. As you head to the rink have you ever asked yourself, "Why do I officiate?" Some may answer, "I played for a long time and enjoy being involved in the game." Others may answer that it is a combination of being involved while making a few extra dollars. Whatever your reason is for officiating we must keep in mind our responsibilities.

As we walk into the rink, players, coaches, parents and our partner await our presence. Our attitude, which we can control, must be in check and our focus on the task that is in front of us. If we had a rough day at work, that has to be put behind us for the next hour or hour and a half. The expectations of those around us are that we will give an effort and display a presence of enjoyment while maintaining the safety of the players.

How do we do this every game? By going into the game with the mindset mentioned above and being committed to officiating for the right reason. Skate, call penalties to ensure the safety of the players and display an effort that can be noticed by all. People will recognize effort and hard work - there is no substitute. Support your partner both with positioning and calls that will enhance good teamwork. Take responsibility for your actions and do not make excuses.

So whether you are working the 5:45am Mite In-House game or the 10:30pm Adult game or everything in between, officiate for the right reason. Do your part so at the end you can say, "I did my best and was glad to be a part of the game".



Ian Walsh and Gord Dwyer

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