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Tightening The Laces

Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association

December 2011

Leo Boylan Appointed Atlantic District Referee in Chief

Recently, USA Hockey announced that Leo Boylan of Chalfont, PA has been appointed the new Referee-in-Chief of the Atlantic District.

Leo brings a wealth of on and off-ice officiating knowledge and experience to the position which will help continue to strengthen and develop the district and USA Hockey. A veteran on-ice official in the American Hockey League and NCAA D-1 ECAC Hockey, Leo also works with the off-ice officiating staff for the Philadelphia Flyers on behalf of the National Hockey League. Leo has also worked international assignments as an IIHF-licensed official.

Leo received the Mike Condon Award for Outstanding Service to the American Hockey League in 2007.

The Atlantic District and the District Officiating Staff would like to congratulate Leo as he takes office.



Leo Boylan

From the Desk of the Referee-in-Chief A Message from Leo Boylan

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the officials of the Atlantic District. On November 30th Dave Ogrea, President of USA Hockey, appointed me Atlantic District RIC. After two interviews, one with a committee led by Tom Koester, President of the



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REQUEST AN EVALUATION

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!

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

Atlantic District and one with Matt Leaf and Dave LaBuda, the phone call I was hoping for arrived.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to personally acknowledge Tony Mariconda for his devotion, and commitment to USA Hockey and the Atlantic District. His passion and dedication to the program will not be forgotten.

Wheels have been put into motion already since that phone call three weeks ago. I have met with Tom and Ron Goodman where we openly discussed what "our" intentions are for the district. I am happy to report we are all on the same page.

My first priority is to expand the Shadow Program to more rinks in order to help develop Level 1 officials. I've contacted League Presidents and RIC's to establish a working relationship as the playoffs near. By year-end, the Incident Report will be made available on-line. There are many other things that I am currently working on, however they are in the infancy stage, and will take some time to accomplish.

On a district staff note, I am happy to report that Marty Maglio, Bill Maurer and Dave Aiello will continue in their current roles. I thank all of them and welcome their support. I would like to encourage all of you to be involved in your district. There will be many opportunities for you to do so. By the middle of next year, I will be putting into place, Geographic Regional Coordinators, who will be supported by local supervisors. This structure will allow officials the opportunity to communicate at the local level. The Regional Coordinators will be in constant contact with me, for I want to hear what you, the officials have to say. A Seminar Evaluation committee will also be put into place. This committee will evaluate all aspects of our seminars and formulate a plan for improvement using the feedback from all attendees.

My plan is to visit areas in an attempt to get to know more of you and be made available to discuss ways in which we can make the officials of the Atlantic district successful.

In closing I would like to leave you with three words: PRIDE - take pride in yourself and the games you officiate. CONSISTENCY - maintain this in all areas of your skills/ability and lastly EFFORT - give every game your best.

I am looking forward to the future of our district and cannot accomplish this without your help. I welcome your input and support.

Happy Holidays and a safe and Happy New Year!

Leo Boylan

Atlantic District Referee-in-Chief

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Ian Walsh Named Officiating Development Coordinator

12 Year Veteran of the NHL Continues to Develop Officials Throughout the Atlantic District

As Officiating Development Coordinator Ian will be handling the application process for all USA

Coordinator at bmaurer@aaharefs.org to schedule an evaluation or access www.aaharefs.org/staff.html to contact a local evaluation program liaison.

District Links

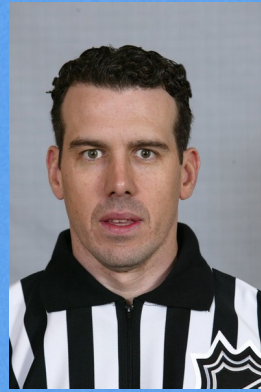
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Hockey summer development camps. Ian's role will be to help identify potential officials for these camps, as well as make recommendations to Leo Boylan, District Referee-in-Chief, for selections to the camps. Ian will also work to help identify veteran officials who desire to work at higher levels of hockey. In coordination with the Atlantic District evaluation program, Ian will help all officials reach the highest level of officiating possible.

The Atlantic District Officiating Program welcomes and congratulates Ian and thanks Ralph Guarrieri for his hard work over the years performing this role. Ralph will continue to support the Atlantic District as Coordinator, Officiating Program Suspensions and Appeals while also supporting the Shadow Program.



Ian Walsh

Kate Connolly Selected to 2012 IIHF World Championships

Meghan Hishmeh, Atlantic District Women's Officiating Coordinator Shares Kate Connolly's Newest Achievement

Atlantic District Official Kate Connolly has been selected as a Linesman to work the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship in Zlin & Prerov Czech Republic. This will be Kate's 3rd International Ice Hockey Federation tournament not including the 2008 Four Nations Cup held in Lake Placid, NY.

The tournament begins on 12/31 and ends on 1/7. Countries participating include USA, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Russia, Germany, and Switzerland.

You can follow Kate's games via the following links:

<http://www.iihf.com/channels1112/ww18/statistics.html>
<http://www.u18wwc2012.com/eng/index.asp>

We are so excited to hear all about her experiences and wish her all the best!



Kate Connolly



Kate working the Women's Worlds in Caen, France in 2011

Confessions of a Big Shooter

Luke Murray Writes About Humility Both On and Off the Ice

If you've worked enough hockey, chances are you've come in contact with "That Guy."

He's the one with the monogrammed bag, complete with the logos of all the leagues he works. The one with the giant box full of all his officiating crests and gadgetry - all those gleaming whistles engraved with "National Championship" on them.

He's the one that has all his sweaters tricked out with a nameplate, smiling proudly at the ones with the sewed-on orange armbands as they hang ready for a Mite game.

That's him, all right.

He's the "Big Shooter."

To be honest with you, I've been that guy.

The fact of the matter is that although my shin pads and skates may be larger than yours, based solely thanks to genetics, my whistle is just as big as yours.

A few years back my size, my location and willingness to drive hours on end to referee junior and college hockey for a couple of bucks and a puck or two caught the eye of some folks in the USA Hockey system.



Luke Murray

It's a system that has been very good to me over the years.

Never did it cross my mind that the NHL would come knocking at my door, contract in hand, but still my head became a little too big for my helmet.

All I ever wanted out of the deal was a chance to ref some decent hockey. I got that, along with a big box of crests, pucks from all across the country and some very good friends and stories both on and off the ice.

So what, you ask?

Well, the point is, that as large as the game is, the hockey community is a small one. The officiating side is even smaller and now more than ever, integrity is crucial to what we do every time we step on the ice.

Lately I've been hearing about and seeing more "Big Shooters" in rinks and frankly, it's gut check time.

You want to be prepared for every game. However, leave the sweater with your junior league crest in the car if you're working a Pee Wee game.

There's no need to shuffle your crests around like a deck of cards while sitting in the room before you skate.

Like I said before, the referee community is a small one - chances are you know the person you're skating with anyway.

They likely know where you've been and where you're going.

Or not.

They also know if you can cut it out there once the puck drops.

On the odd chance you don't know the person you're working with, be honest about who you are, where you've been and your limitations as an official. There's a good chance that official can sniff out what's true and what's false.

A few years back a buddy of mine ran into an official who claimed to work a wide assortment of junior, college and professional leagues. Keep in mind these were all leagues my friend worked in regularly.

The official in question did a fine job name dropping - former NHL guys and prominent local officials allegedly loved the way he worked and were clamoring for his services.

A quick call to those names disproved his stories. In fact, he hadn't worked as much as a Junior B game up until that point.

To this day, I can't help but wonder if his deception lead to his advancement. Thanks to smart phones, text messaging and the Internet, word spreads as quickly as one can hit the send button.

Nowadays, anyone can go online and find a box score to corroborate a claim.

I may have been one of the biggest shooters out there, but lying about where I skate was never in my arsenal.

A reputation is one of the toughest things to build and building a positive one is something that takes time. However things like what I've mentioned above can ruin all your hard work in no time.

Out of all the character traits a good official possesses that are engrained in us before we even put on a striped shirt (honesty and integrity among them) we often fail to apply those principles to how we interact with each other.

If anything, the word "humility" needs to be a word added to our officiating vocabulary. There's a distinction between the confidence we need to have on the ice and the cockiness that has manifest itself lately.

If it's your first Midget AA game, don't hide it from your partner. We all start somewhere. Maybe it's their first game as well.

Then again, it could have been one of hundreds he or she has reffed over the years.

In the past year, Atlantic District referees have had the chance to skate with two Olympians during a youth or beer league game. Many have been supervised by another Olympian on the District Staff.

They won't tell you that, though. They don't have to.

The concept of just being a small part of a bigger picture leads me to our new Referee in Chief.

Leo Boylan brings with him an officiating resume at the collegiate, professional and international levels that any of us would love to call our own. He has instructed at each of USA Hockey's summer camps and worked national championships.

If you haven't heard of Leo, it's because his quiet excellence and dedication to the sport and officiating community often go unnoticed.

None of us are bigger than the game and Leo exemplifies that whether he is skating a professional game or a bantam game.

He's the model for us all, so take note.

Now put down your guns, Shooter.

Join the Conversation with the AAHA Officiating Program on Facebook

Stay connected via AAHA Officiating Program Facebook page.

The page, which is located at <http://facebook.com/aaharefs>, provides news and information about USA Hockey officiating in the Atlantic District.



[Click here to access the AAHA Officiating Facebook page](http://facebook.com/aaharefs).

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