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Tightening the Laces

Atlantic District Officiating Program
Newsletter

February 2012

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Request an Evaluation



Dear Dave,

Welcome to the February edition of our district newsletter. With league, district and national playoffs fast approaching, everyone should be performing at their peak in anticipation of the upcoming playoff assignments. Continue working hard and striving to improve with each and every shift.

Hockey Weekend Across America

As part of the Hockey Weekend Across America, I would like to congratulate **Chris Carlucci** from Brick, NJ and **Mickey Avenoso** from Bridgewater, NJ who will be recognized as USA Hockey officials and taking part in ceremonies prior to the New Devils game on Friday, February 17, 2012. **Eric Michaels** from Philadelphia, PA and **Pat Hanrahan** from Hatfield, PA will be recognized and taking part in ceremonies prior to the Philadelphia Flyers game on February 18, 2012. All four officials will meet and spend time with the NHL on ice officials prior to each game.



Have fun and enjoy the experience!

Leo Boylan
Atlantic District Referee-in-Chief

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

Quick Links

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A Message from the R-I-C

It has been a very productive 2 1/2 months since my appointment of RIC and I would like to take this opportunity to fill everyone in as to what has been accomplished and what is currently "in the works".



Leo Boylan

The Evaluation Program

Currently, the evaluation program is on-line and we are working toward a large commitment from our staff to use this program for the playoffs and tournaments in March 2012. Tournament locations and game schedules will be sent out shortly.

The Seminar Evaluation Committee

The Seminar Evaluation Committee has been formed. These individuals have already begun to analyze and evaluate the current seminar curriculum. Barring the results of the evaluations of the current curriculum our hope is to implement some minor changes with the spring, 2012 seminar. During the summer of 2012, the committee will finalize all changes and implement them for the fall 2012 seminars.

The Assignors Committee

An assignors committee has been formed and will meet within the next month to begin the process of developing guidelines. The group will work in the best interest of both assignors and officials. The goal of this committee is to have all assignors doing the same thing at the correct time. These guidelines will take some time to develop and implement, but our hope is to have some guidelines in place by the 2012-2013 season. This committee will also be putting more focus on the Shadow Program. Our goal is to implement the shadow program in more rinks in the district by the 2012-2013 season.

Visiting Areas

I have been visiting a few areas of our district -Delaware, West Chester, Wilkes-Barre and North Jersey. It has been a pleasure meeting with everyone and having the opportunity to speak with individuals who give positive input into the success of our district. It is my top priority to continue visiting areas of our district and meet those individuals who are open to change and can see a positive future of our district.

[2011-13 USA Hockey Rule
Change Summary](#)

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Regional Coordinators

Regional coordinators will be appointed later in the summer of 2012. I have broken down the district into 9 areas (Delaware, West Chester, Wilkes-Barre, North Jersey, Central Jersey, South Jersey, Hershey, Allentown and Eastern PA). I will define the coordinators role and expectations by late spring. Once appointed, they will establish a support staff to assist them in their area. Coordinators will be required to work openly with assignors in their area and be asked to complete 4 game evaluations a month. My expectations are to have open communication between these coordinators and myself.

Please support these plans as we look to improve the future of our district.

Thank you,

Leo Boyan
Atlantic District Referee-in-Chief

Scott Perdue Selected as AYHL R-I-C

The Atlantic Youth Hockey League has announced the appointment of Scott Perdue to the position of Referee-in-Chief. Scott assumes the role that has been held by Ryan Honig for the past six (6) seasons as Ryan and his family will be relocating to Southern California.

Ryan has been a tremendous asset to the Atlantic District both on and off the ice and has contributed to the development of all levels of officials. His passion for development at the grass roots level and continuous coaching and support will be greatly missed.



Scott Perdue AYHL RIC

Scott, who currently supervises officials in the Junior Development Program steps into the RIC role with a vast amount of on and off ice experience that includes officiating in the AHL. He knows what it takes for officials to be successful in reaching their goals and will be a terrific addition to the AYHL and the entire district in this capacity.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Ryan for all he has done over the past six (6) years as RIC, and our best wishes for continued success. And congratulations and best of luck to Scott in his new role!

Level 1 Continuing Education Seminars

The Atlantic District Officiating Program has hosted several Level 1 Continuing Education Seminars that are designed to assist new level 1 officials with completing their registration; provide additional classroom instruction and see how their initial season as an on-ice official has progressed since completing their registration and obtaining their certification card and crest.



The refresher seminars were an important part of our 2010-11 seminar program and we anticipate that the attendees will benefit in receiving the additional support as they work into their first season and beyond. We would like to thank all of those who have registered and attended one of these programs as well as the numerous instructors who have volunteered their time to assist our newest officials.

Spring Officiating Seminars Planned for March, April 2012

The Atlantic District is planning to hold two Level 1 & 2 Officiating Seminars during the last weekend in March and/or the First Weekend in April 2012. New and returning participants may attend one of these seminars as part of the process to become USA Hockey-registered officials for the current (2011-2012) season.



If you or anyone you may know are interested, please monitor <http://www.aaharefs.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/aaharefs> for further information about these events.

Atlantic District Officiating Program Winter Meeting

On January 18, 2012, the AAHA Officiating Program held a winter meeting in Trenton, NJ. The



meeting was attended by approximately 65 people, including Tom Koester (Atlantic District President), Colleen Marinari (Atlantic District Executive) and Mike Lichtenberger (Atlantic District Coach in Chief). Leo Boylan, our District Referee-in-Chief, chaired the meeting, which lasted about 2 hours. Other attendees that were invited were any evaluators, instructors and assignors in the District as well as various other leaders from the Atlantic District. Below is a summary of each speaker and their comments.

Leo Boylan opened and closed the meeting with a constant message that this is "your" District and he wants input and help from everyone who is interested. He will certainly guide programs, but wants ideas and will willingly accept help from all of us. Leo outlined his plans for structure in the future and told everyone that he hoped to have this laid out at the beginning of the summer. In the meantime, a re-cap from the USAH winter meetings included:

- Registration numbers are down in the district and nationally.
- 2013-2014 will be a rule change year and after that, rule changes will be every 4 years

Tom Koester and **Colleen Marinari** spoke about the appointment of Leo and welcomed him then moved into a discussion on the fee structure for next year. USA Hockey will increase the fees by \$10. The Atlantic District will charge \$10 next year, as opposed to the \$25 in the past, however each official will have to do their own online screening, which will cost \$28. The District decreased their fee to offset the majority of this cost. These screenings will be mandatory and if an official does not have one done (date to be determined) they will lose their ability to work in the District.

Mike Lichtenberger spoke briefly to welcome Leo and talked about making the coaching and officiating programs work closer to create a better relationship between coaches and officials.

Marty Maglio spoke about the Seminar Program and Instructors. He thanked all the officials in the District and the Instructors for their patience in moving the seminars around Hurricane Irene. The constant contact system seemed to prove very valuable in getting the information out in a timely manner. Marty emphasized that the seminar program is going to embrace change and wants ideas for how to improve the seminars. We had 15 seminars with about 2300 officials last year and the plan is to be in the same areas this year, but Marty and his staff want to make these seminars even more valuable and want your help and input as to what you like and do not like and what changes they can make. Marty is also going to create a panel to evaluate the seminar process from A to Z - if you are interested in joining this panel, please contact Marty directly.

Bill Maurer then spoke about the enhancements in the evaluation program, most notably the on line evaluation system. This system will allow the evaluations to be more consistent and the content to be analyzed and used in conjunction with the seminar program to develop topics, presentations and videos to better teach our officials. Thus far this season, there have been 152 officials evaluated - a solid number, but we hope to have even more moving forward. Bill is going to lead the efforts to further grow our shadow and mentoring programs to help young and new officials develop their skills and hopefully retain more officials.

Ian Walsh is the leader of the Atlantic District Summer camp program which provides the recommendations to the District and USA Hockey for our candidates for the Regional, National and other camps. Ian is also the Director of the Atlantic District Summer camp that is intended to provide those going to USA Hockey camps with e pre-camp experience that will help them when the get to their camps. If you know someone who should be considered for summer camps, please forward their name to Ian or Leo for further consideration.

Mike McDevitt and **Jim Doyle** spoke about the assignors in the District. They are going to be leading an effort to take these important people and look at the process and how it works around the District and look for improvements and modifications that can be made. One of the important links that will be looked at it the link between assignors and evaluators to make sure that we can get more officials evaluated each year moving forward. They will be working with Leo to put together a loose list of guidelines, understanding that each area is different and poses challenges of its own.

Ken Haas spoke on behalf of the Atlantic District as the Risk Manager. The main point that Ken wanted to make was that we need to be cognizant of when we are working under the guidelines of USA Hockey and when we are not. All it takes is one person not being covered under USA Hockey to cause issues with insurance coverage should something happen. If there are questions on this, Leo or Ken should be contacted.

The main focus of the meeting is that there are going to be opportunities to get involved moving forward. If you have ideas or are interested, please let someone know! If you like something, please let everyone know, but if there is something that bothers you, please do not spread it as gossip, please contact Leo to talk about it and you will not only be heard, but your feedback will be appreciated!

**A Message from Tom Koester,
President of AAHA**

I misspoke at the recent officials meeting in Trenton regarding the new USA Hockey fee.



I was under the impression that officials were included in the new \$10.00 increase approved at the USA Hockey mid-winter meeting held in Orlando, FL on January 13-15, 2012.

Officials are NOT included in this increase. The reason is that their fees have increased three times over the past seven years, whereas the players and coaches fee did not increase over the same period of time.

Thanks and sorry for the error.

Tom Koester
Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association President

2012-13 Officiating Background Screening Process

SCREENING & DISTRICT FEE



The official's district fee will be reduced from \$25.00 to \$10.00 beginning for the 2012-13 season.

The \$10.00 AAHA fee is the same as paid by all coaches and players. In the past, the remaining \$15.00 was put towards the screening of officials.

The coaches each paid an additional fee of \$35.00 to be screened.

Screenings will now be done online by officials and coaches and the new screening fee will be \$28.00.

All new officials over the age of 18 and all Level 3 and 4 officials over the age of 18 will be **REQUIRED** to be screened this year. All new Level 1 officials over the age of 18 from the 2011-12 season were screened this past year and assuming they will be returning, they do not need to be screened again this year.

Below is how this procedure will be handled.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Tom Koester
AAHA President

SCREENING PROCEDURE

Applicants will register online directly with Sterling Infosystems, Inc., the company that processes the Atlantic District screening.

When registering, you will pay the \$28.00 fee directly to Sterling Infosystems via credit card. This will generate your request electronically and will enable you to receive a copy of your screening, proof that you have been screened, and approved or denied by return email directly to you.

If questions arise concerning your screening results, you will be contacted by an Atlantic District official.

You will be able to print off a copy of your screening results, so if needed, you can provide proof to other organizations.

USA Hockey does not accept screenings from other companies.

Registration information on how and when this new screening process will be available will be distributed shortly.

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