

Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association Officials Guide

2025/2026



Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association



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Equipment

Basic Equipment

- CSA Approved Helmet (Black)
- CSA Approved Visor
- Black pants, which can go over shin guards
- Jock/Jill
- Shin guards
- elbow pads
- Whistle with a cork pea in it (Acme Thunder, Fox 40)
- Official Jersey
- Skates (No goalie skates)

Bonus Equipment

- Padded undershirt
- Padded girdle
- Shin Tights
- Pure white laces
- Riot pad

We want to see the officials with all the gear they need to be safe on the ice. The basic gear will get them going. You will look at purchasing the Bonus equipment as you start skating with the older age groups. All officials who are starting out will can buy the basic officials jersey. There are no 'red' stripes on these. All of the jerseys will have snaps so you can purchase snap on red bands later.

Basic Equipment – You must have a black CSA approved helmet. Most of the officials working play the game as well, but it does become a chore changing the visor and cage back and forth, so a second helmet is recommended. For the 1st year officials, black track pants are acceptable. They should be all black with little markings on them. Bauer pants for example are a great example of these. You can use your shin/elbow pads from hockey. They will give you the best protection.

Getting the proper whistle is essential. The whistle we need must have the cork pea in it. Anything else is not designed for hockey.



Acme Thunder



Fox 40

Equipment

When you start getting into higher levels of hockey, you will need to grab the bonus equipment.

This will help keep you safe on the ice. Below are some examples:

- The padded shirt protects your upper body.



- The girdle fits underneath your referee pants.

The Shin Tights go over your shin guards and tuck your laces in. This gives the official the 'professional' look.



Officials are encouraged to not have colored laces. Having white laces shows professionalism in your uniform.

When you are getting into more competitive hockey, you will need to look at the 'bonus' referee items.

How many games should I expect?

How many games you wind up officiating depends on quite a few factors.

- availability
- age
- skill level

Availability

We understand that some officials work other jobs, play hockey, and are trying to balance their school/personal lives outside of the rink. Officials that are available more tend to skate more games. The assignors spend a lot of time putting the right officials in the right spots. We do not just 'fill spots'

Age

Officials normally will officiate levels below their age group. For example, if you are 15 years old, you could officiate U13, U11 and U9. Officials rarely will officiate their own age group. It can be difficult to be on the ice with kids you are going to school with and such.

Skill Level

This factor is the most important. Some officials will develop faster than others. When this occurs, they will most likely skate more games as they are needed. Reading and understanding the rulebook is essential to your development as an official. You will at times during the season be supervised by an officiating coach as well. Listening and learning from these evaluations will help your development as an official.

If you find that you are not getting as many games as you would like, please contact your assignor(s). We don't want anyone to get lost in the system. We deal with a lot of officials and want to make sure everyone is skating!

The Majority of the tournaments in the early season are for the older officials. The second half of the season is filled with the tournaments for the younger officials.

Which levels will I be skating?

The levels that you would wind up officiating are dependent on a few things.

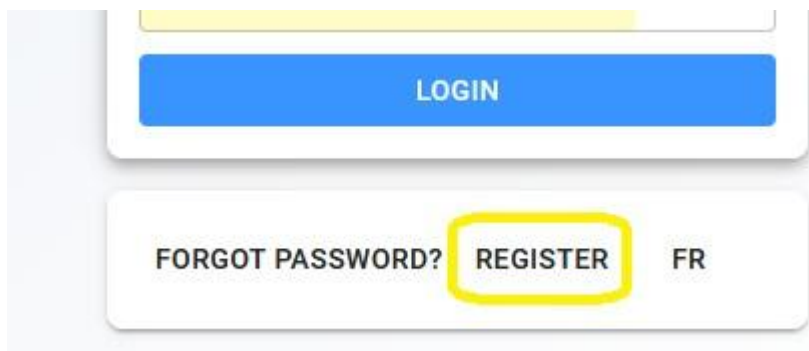
- Your age – you cannot officiate games where the players are the same age or older.
- Your skill level – some officials develop faster than others. If we think you are capable, you will see some higher levels.

Scheduling/Spordle

In Salmon Arm Minor Hockey, we use a program called Spordle to schedule our games and tournaments.

- <https://play.spordle.com/login>

When you log in for the first time, you will need to register. Click on the register button located near the bottom of the page.



Once that is done, you will need your Participant Member ID. This is your Hockey Canada ID Number. Every player or coach has a HC number. Enter your Participant Member ID along with your first and last name, once that is done, you should be registered.

At the start of the season, officials are asked to log into Spordle and set their home association (Salmon Arm) and also which rinks you can officiate at. Assignors will start to see you once these two things are done. If they are not done, you will not show up to the assignors.

Once you log in, you will go to your profile page.

MY PROFILE	OFFICIATING	SCHEDULE
Contact	Emails, phone numbers, and addresses	
Profile	Name, birthdate, and more	
Account	You're logged in as ric@kelmha.com	

- 1) Click on the 'Officiating' tab near the top of the page.
- 2) A calendar will now pop up. Near the bottom right of the calendar, there is a 'settings' button you need to click on.
- 3) You then will need to enter information for two things..
- 4) 'My Assigners' and 'My Arenas'
- 5) For 'My Assigners' search for Salmon Arm Minor Hockey. That will show you to the assignors in SAMHA.
- 6) For 'My Arenas' search for the following:
 - Spectator
 - Hucul Pond
 - Enderby Arena
 - Sicamous Arena
 - Once you have entered these facilities, you will show up for games listed at these locations.
- 7) Click the 'SAVE' button on the bottom right of the page.

Your Assignor is Sean Russell and he is available to be reached by either phone or email.

- assignor@salomonarmminorhockey.com or 250.462.0336.

Officials are required to go in EVERY week and set their availability on Spordle. We recommend doing this on Sunday or Monday night. Some assignors already start handing out assignments then.

For those officials who are playing hockey, once you have your league schedule, we suggest you go in and block off the dates you are playing.

Season Start/End

The season will start at different times depending on the level of the official.

High Performance officials will start skating in early September with try/outs and player evaluations.

Tournaments** begin first weekend of November, there will be tournaments almost every weekend until the end of the season.

The first-year officials will not start skating until after they have attended an in-person clinic with SAMHA. This will normally happen the early October.

The season goes until the early March for most divisions. Provincial Championships take place during spring break and do some of the Recreational Championships.

Pay Scale

SAMHA wants to be competitive with their wages for officiating. They do their best to make sure that the officials are compensated fairly for all their hard work.

These are the current SAMHA rates for 2024/2025:

Recreation	Ref - 2 Persons	3-4 Persons	Line
U7	\$ 18.00		
U9	\$ 25.00		\$ 20.00
U11	\$ 32.00		\$ 20.00
U13	\$ 36.00		\$ 20.00
U15	\$ 50.00		
U18	\$ 57.00		
REP	Ref - 2 Persons	3-4 Persons	Line
U11	\$ 45.00		\$ 25.00
U13	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00
U13 Female	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00
U15 Int/Female	\$ 65.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 47.00
U18 Int/Female	\$ 80.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 55.00
Early / Late Games	Extra		
Before or starting at 8:30 am	\$ 10.00		
Friday before 5:00 pm	\$ 10.00		
Starting at 8:15 pm or later	\$ 10.00		
Travel			
Salmon Arm to Sicamous	\$ 30.00	per person	
Salmon Arm to Enderby	\$ 30.00	per person	
Salmon Arm to Chase	\$ 65.00		

Officials who skate games that start at or before 8:30 am, will also have an additional \$10 bonus added to their game fee (in tournament).

When do we get paid?

Officials from SAMHA are paid on a monthly basis. Payroll is submitted to SAMHA on the 1st of every month. SAMHA hands out cheque, in the first week of the month.

Officials are encouraged to keep track of their games work. From time to time, there can be mistakes made on payroll. We strive be 100% accurate on payroll, but sometimes mistakes are made.

Officials are NOT taxed on their income from SAMHA. They are considered 'casual labor' This is why we do not need officials Social Insurance Numbers.

It is the official's decision whether they claim this income on their income tax. It is recommended that you do.

How do we get paid?

Officials are paid from SAMHA via cheque. There will be an email sent out when everyone cheque is ready for pick up at minor hockey office

This currently is the only way we can pay our officials.

Trading Games

Trading games can only be done if the assignor/RIC has given permission to do so.

Officials are slotted into games based on skill level, availability and game level.

This is not a regular occurrence, but we do swap games from time to time.

Calling in Sick

We understand that officials get sick from time to time. Should an official be to sick to complete their scheduled assignment, they should be contacting their assignor right away. We will do our best to get another official out on the ice.

Games can be protested by teams if there is not enough scheduled officials to complete the game. It is not fair to the players/coaches and parents who potentially travel to play in Vernon.

We aspire to have 100% attendance every year, but we understand that things do happen.

No Shows

No shows are not tolerated in SAMHA. Officials that do this risk the chance of not being selected for future assignments. Again, we risk player safety if we do not have the proper number of officials working each game. Officials are not permitted to work games solo (Insurance purposes)

Spordle (Assigning Program) emails you a reminder when and where your games are.

Problems during your games

What do you do if you occur problems during your games?

- You contact the RIC (Matt) right away.
 - ric@salmonarmminorhockey.com
 - 250-833-8670

There will be times when senior members of the officiating staff are at the rink as well and can assist you. Please be sure to let the RIC know as soon as possible.

Problems could include:

- you kicked a player/coach out, how do I do the write up?
- coach was constantly verbally abusive.
- had a player injury and my game ran over. What do I do?
- there was a major issue with the ice, so we couldn't play.
- you have a disagreement with another official

These are just some examples of some issues we have had in the past. We cannot help you if we do not know about an issue. If you ask the questions, we will give you the answers. Don't be afraid to ask, there are no dumb questions at all!

Supervision/Officiating Coaches

When you are supervised:

1. BE OPEN MINDED AND OPEN IN YOUR COMMUNICATION.
 - a. Improvement is a result of supervision depends on good communication.
 - b. "What did you see" means us what you saw, not why you did something. If the Supervisor asks this question, it likely means s/he did not see the play they s/he wants to know why you handled it a certain way.
 - c. Don't be afraid to present your opinion and reason if you disagree.
2. PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT IS BEING SAID.
 - a. Not everything s/he says will be relevant but evaluate it and how it applies to you. In order to do this, you need to listen attentively.
 - b. Don't be changing during the discussion, this could pre-occupy you and you could lose your concentration.
3. ACCEPT MISTAKES.
 - a. If there are points to be corrected, accept it. Don't try to make excuses or blame others. No official is perfect on or off the ice.
4. DEALING WITH CONFLICTING MESSAGES.
 - a. If there is a different message from different Officiating Coaches point that out and discuss it. Expect to get a clarification call from one of the Coaches.
5. DON'T INTERRUPT WHEN THE OFFICIATING COACH IS TALKING TO ANOTHER OFFICIAL.
 - a. You will get your turn to talk to the Officiating Coach.
 - b. The Officiating Coach will include you if s/he needs your input in the conversation.
6. AVOID MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES YOU WERE TALKED ABOUT PREVIOUSLY.
 - a. It is frustrating for an Officiating Coach to be repeating the same things with no sign of improvement. This tells the Officiating Coach the s/he is not getting the message across. The Officiating Coach could judge this as a negative attitude.

At the end of the day, we are ALL on the same team and we want all of us to succeed. Officiating coaches are there to help give back to the program. .



Dressing Room Etiquette



Officials Dressing Room Policy

a) In all cases where members of an officiating group include both male and female officials, the following dress code will apply in the team dressing room:

- i. Male officials will not undress to less than a minimum of shorts while females are present.
- ii. Female officials will not undress to less than a minimum of shorts and a tee-shirt while males are present.

b) When separate facilities exist for both male and female participants, males and females shall make use of these separate facilities in order to change to the point that they can adhere to the co-ed dress code noted above.

NOTE: Once dressed in accordance with the minimum requirements above, all officials may return to the team [co-ed] dressing room.

c) When separate facilities do not exist for both male and female participants:

- i. Officials shall dress, undress and shower in shifts while maintaining the minimum dress code noted above.
- ii. Officials of the under-represented gender shall be granted access to the shower facilities after the balance of the team.

d) It is the responsibility of the Officials to ensure that these guidelines are followed.

Relatives – Playing/Coaching

We do run into situations where you will be asked to officiate a game where you have a parent/brother/sister playing.

We need to do our best to avoid these situations. If you are scheduled for a game with a relative that is playing, let your assignor know and they can switch to another game.

As unlikely as it would be, there can be issues raised if siblings are officiating each other.

We want to avoid this situation if we can. In SAMHA, we have so many games to cover, that will always be another you can skate.

It is important that you let your assignors know at the start of the season if this is an issue for you.



Promotion

There are several reasons why people get involved in officiating...

- great way to exercise
- extra spending money
- love of the game
- great way to meet new people
- career path

Whatever the reason that you choose to officiate, we are here to help you attain your goals.

Some officials just want to spend the weekend at the rink, do their games and go home. Nothing wrong with that at all.

Some officials strive to compete at the highest levels. If that is what you are looking for, then we can help you!

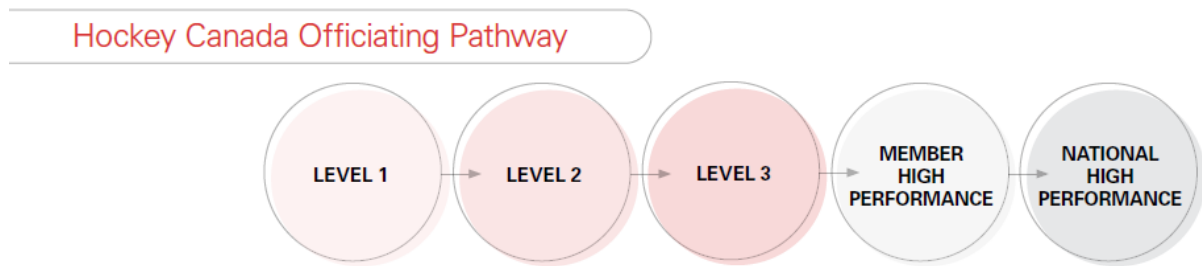
If you want to go up to the next level, let your assignor know. We will make sure that you are prepared for it. We are fortunate that in the Okanagan, we have so many outstanding levels of hockey that can be done.

We have several levels of hockey to officiate:

- SAMHA Rep at every level (U9/U11/U13/U15/U18)
- BC Hockey Zone Program (U15) NOVAS

There are also regional/provincial/national programs available as well. There are a fortunate few who also get to work at the professional level. IT CAN BE DONE!!

The model below shows the current officiating pathway for Hockey Canada.



We get to come to the rink and do what we love to do. It is a great experience that can shape your future on and off the ice. We always want you to enjoy your experience officiating.

Resources are always available to assist you down your officiating path.

<https://www.bchockey.net/officials/officiating-resources>

10 Commitments of Officiating

These commitments below are something EVERY official should strive to uphold, no matter what level of the game you are participating in.

Commitment #1

As guardians of the integrity, fairness, and safety of the game, I commit to upholding the highest standards of officiating. I acknowledge that my duty extends beyond mere enforcement of the rules; it encompasses fostering a culture of respect, sportsmanship, and excellence both on and off the ice. Therefore, I accept the following principles as the foundation of my officiating practice.

Commitment #2

I commit to upholding the integrity of the game by enforcing the rules impartially and without bias. My decisions shall be guided solely by the principles of fairness and justice, irrespective of external pressures or influences.

Commitment #3

I will do the best job I can in each game, no matter what category of hockey.

Commitment #4

I commit to having respect for the authority of the officiating program and for the game itself. I will conduct myself with dignity and refrain from engaging in behavior that undermines the spirit of sportsmanship.

Commitment #5

The safety of the players is paramount. I commit to enforcing rules that promote player safety, such as penalizing dangerous plays, hits from behind, and head contact. I commit to the goal of creating an environment where players can compete fiercely yet safely.

Commitment #6

I recognize that officiating is a lifelong learning process. I commit to continually improving my knowledge, skills, and judgment through training, education, and feedback. I will embrace constructive criticism as a means to grow and excel in my role.

Commitment #7

Consistency in decision-making is essential for maintaining the credibility of officiating. I will strive to apply the rules consistently across all games and communicate my decisions clearly and transparently to my teammates, players, coaches, and spectators.

Commitment #8

I shall always conduct myself with professionalism, demonstrating integrity, respect, and impartiality in my interactions. My demeanor on and off the ice will reflect the values of fairness, accountability, and dedication.

Commitment #9

The game of ice hockey is constantly evolving, and so must my officiating practices. I will embrace new technologies, techniques, and methodologies to enhance the quality of my officiating and ensure that it remains relevant in an ever-changing landscape.

Commitment #10

In conclusion, I commit to upholding these principles with unwavering dedication and integrity. By adhering to these values, I endeavor to preserve the honour and privilege of the game while inspiring future generations of officials and players alike. I will strive to make ice hockey a shining example of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and excellence.



#morethandroppingpucks