

January 30, 2024;

TO: All W.O.A.A. Centre Contacts, Assignors and Supervisors.  
FROM: Don Shropshall, W.O.A.A. Co-ordinator for Refereeing.

RE: 2024 ENTRY LEVEL REFEREE SCHOOL

Good Morning to all Hockey Associations inside the W.O.A.A. area. I am sitting here looking outside enjoying the sun and thinking that things are starting to look like an earlier spring. Most of the centres will be finishing their regular season and thinking about the play-offs soon to start. Hard to believe that middle of this week, it's February.

I have been coordinating the Referee Program for twenty (20) years and how the time flies by. This year we will be doing our first Referee School. This will be a change from the Entry Level programs (clinics) we have done for years all over the W.O.A.A. area. The OMHA have been suggesting this for the last five years.

The first Referee School will take place on **Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024** and **Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Yes, the school will be a two day event. The program will start each day at 8 a.m. sharp and will run to 5 p.m. each day. The participants will receive two hours of ice time, one hour each day as well as the additional class room instruction.

The location of our first school will take place at the **Central Huron Community Complex, 239 Bill Fleming Drive, CLINTON, Ontario N0M 1L0 (519-482-9183)**. I believe most centres have played hockey in this large facility.

The school will cost a maximum fee of \$250.00. In fact it might be a little less than that but presently I am looking at that figure. The school will be paying the rentals for the hall, ice bill and also providing lunch for both days along with snacks and drinks. Drinks will be pop, water and coffee. We will need to know if anybody has food allergies so we can stay clear of those issues. They will receive their referee books, cresting and it looks like each participant will also receive a whistle along with their referee card. The participants are not being asked to stay overnight in accommodations; so that is not included in this cost. Participants are to be dropped off each morning and picked up each night.

Participants will need to bring regular skates (no goalie skates), a helmet minus the full cage and warm clothing when on the ice, jogging clothing would work for them. The school will be open to people from the age of 14-45. If a person is turning 14 by December 31st of this year they can attend the school.

If they are below 18 years by October 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, then they do not need a Vuneral Sector Police Check (VSC) to attend. Those people who are 18 years of age will require the police check to attend this school and can not attend unless that police check has been filed with me so

it can be sent to the OHF who handle all police checks for Ontario. You must obtain a VSC police check from your local police department, most in the area will use the OPP online system.

Participants who need the VSC will require a letter from the OHF. This form letter can be obtained by going to the OMHA home page then at the top is referee, click on it, a sub box will open, click on resources then go to procedures, scroll down to OHF letter request to police services for VSC. Fill out the form and include it in your submission to the OPP online form.

The cost of this police check is \$41.00 and is good for three years.

Those people who are interested in refereeing will give their names to the Centre Contact or Referee Assignor who will send those names to me. What will need to be included when they give it to the local Centre Contact or Referee Assignor is their name, Date of Birth, email address and the phone number, which will be sent to me. Because this is a change in format and we are having the Referee School (there will be no 2024 individual clinics held at centres within the W.O.A.A. as in the past); this has to be done this spring and not in the fall. I am looking for all those names of people interested with the required information being sent to me by **Monday April 21st, 2024.**

We are hoping that we get three (3) people from each association for a total of 66 but if there is more we will take up to 80, give or take a few around that number.

Once we have the number of people required I will have more things for them to do. They will be required to do the two online courses like others in the past have done. HU-1/2 officiating and Respect In Sport -Officials but I have to wait till May 1st to see what changes are being made to the programs before giving them the links to complete those courses. Those courses will have to be done first before I can give them the link to register for the school. The cost of these two programs will be \$20 dollars and \$21 dollars plus the HST, they have to pay those on line. Once they are completed, I will then send them the link to register for the school. Cancellations once they are booked, they have till September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to cancel; in which case they will get 50% of their money back, anybody after that date will forfeit all monies paid to attend the school.

Centre Contacts and Referee Assignors on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, please send your lists to Don Shropshall, W.O.A.A. Co-Ordinator for Refereeing to [donshrop@icloud.com](mailto:donshrop@icloud.com) If you need to speak with me, I can be contacted at 519-525-3092.

Thank-You.

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