



**Colorado Ice Hockey
Referee Association**

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Season

With the conclusion of CIHRA seminars just a couple of weeks ago, our membership numbers are on the order of 400+ and continue to grow each year. On behalf of the entire CIHRA Board, I would like to provide you with the following information to assist you throughout the season.

New CIHRA Website

Please be sure to visit our new CIHRA website, www.cihra.org, as designed and managed by Steve Silknitter. If you have any comments, suggestions, etc., please forward them onto Steve so that we may continually strive to enhance the website to meet our Association needs.

Completion of USA Hockey Certification

As discussed with everyone at the seminars, all officials must be fully registered with USA Hockey in order to work. If you are new to officiating, this registration must be complete in order to work your first game. If you are a returning official, your 2010-2011 registration expires on November 30, 2011. If you need any assistance completing your registration, please contact any CIHRA Board member or the Colorado State Supervisor of Officials, Ron Groothedde.

CIHRA Schedulers

With the unforeseen accident last spring to CIHRA scheduler, Dan Hohenstein (who thankfully is on the road to an anticipated full recovery and return to the ice), all CIHRA schedulers now have a designated back-up. The CIHRA scheduler roster may be found in the Documents section of your Horizon home page. The listing includes all primary and back-up schedulers and respective contact information.

New CIHRA Registrar and Horizon Tech Support

Please join us in welcoming Bryan Hamilton, who has been appointed by the Board as our new Registrar. The position of Registrar is a non-voting volunteer position which reports to the Board and has been brought on to assist with the registration and Horizon membership database management needs of the Association. Bryan also serves as CIHRA's technical support representative for Horizon Web Ref. If you have any questions or problems with Horizon, please contact Bryan.

CIHRA Big Brother/Big Sister Program

New to CIHRA this season is the Big Brother/Big Sister Program designed to assist newer officials achieve a more enriching experience in their first years of officiating. Program coordinators, Nick Bergman and Chase McGee, have recently distributed information applicable to all levels of officials in CIHRA. If you have not had a chance to read their correspondence, please take a few minutes to do so and find out how you can become involved in this new program.

Scheduling Games with Horizon Web Ref

Horizon Web Ref has been our scheduling system for the past two and a half years. While the system provides many conveniences, it doesn't eliminate the need for officials to establish more personal working relationships with the schedulers and fellow officials. Please make a point to regularly contact your schedulers, by phone or email, and inform them of your desire to work games.

2075 South University Blvd., # 202 Denver Colorado 80210

John Eddy, President / Greg "Red" Hidden, Vice President / Richard Cohen, Secretary / Ron Groothedde, Treasurer
Timm Walsh, Member-at-Large / Dan Hohenstein, Member-at-Large / Shayne Cumine, Member-at-Large



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Mouth Guard Enforcement Message from Colorado Officiating Liaison, Timm Walsh

With all the recent focus and points of emphasis that USAH has placed on head contact this year, along with the supporting data being collected around the increase of head injuries in youth sports, we need to make sure to do our part with the enforcement of all applicable rules. One such area which often goes under-valued is the enforcement of the mouthpiece rule (Youth-12/Under-18/Under, Girls 12/Under-19/Under). Let's make sure we are all doing our part to ensure all players are properly wearing mouthpieces to further reduce the risk of head injuries.

There is no reason we should be turning a blind eye when it comes to enforcing the mouthpiece rule. This is not a new rule so the players have no excuse not to have it in their mouth and worn properly in the fashion which it was designed for. Please make this an important part of your pre-game discussion as an officiating crew in the locker room, as well as a part of your pre game discussion with the coaches to ensure all players have a mouthpiece and wear it. It's not good enough to have it hanging out of their mouth or dangling from their mask, or as some players have been found, to have their mouth guards in their glove. Once this pre game discussion is held and the mouth guard requirements clearly communicated, there shouldn't be any complaints from the players and or coaches when it's enforced during the game.

You are not expected to go out of your way looking for violations during games. There are plenty of other areas to focus on. However, everyone is expected to understand that it is our responsibility to enforce rules that are there to prevent injuries. As with any rule application, if we use a good dose of common sense and preventative maintenance, we will not be perceived as the bad guys, but just doing our part in the game.

This communication has been distributed to CAHA, CCYHL and CDYHL, as well as Hockey Directors, Coaches, Parents and Players so they fully understand the entire responsibility doesn't just fall on the officials. It's critical for our youth to be reminded from all angles so they fully understand the importance of properly wearing a mouthpiece to prevent head injuries.

Thanks in advance for communicating this around our various circles to keep our kids safe from potential head injuries. ***Let's remember, it's EVERYONE's responsibility.***

CIHRA Special Events

As experienced this past summer, nearly 100 CIHRA members, family members and guests enjoyed an evening out at Coors Field watching the Colorado Rockies. CIHRA Special Events Coordinator, Eric Barske, is currently working with representatives at the Colorado Avalanche to host a similar event for CIHRA members and their families this late fall or early winter. More information will be communicated at a later date.

Game Suspension Reports

All game suspension reports are due within 24 hours of the game (Match Penalties require a phone call to Colorado State Supervisor, Ron Groothedde) in which the incident occurred. Please go to www.cihra.org and proceed to the link "File Game Report" in the News and Features section of the homepage.

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Board Meetings

The CIHRA Board meets on the second Tuesday (7pm-9pm) of every month at the centrally located El Señor Sol restaurant (across the street from the Denver Aquarium, 23rd Street and I-25). All members are encouraged and welcome to attend. Agendas and meeting minutes are available on the CIHRA website.

Opportunities

CIHRA would not run without the nearly 45-50 members who work in various roles. There are numerous opportunities for everyone to get involved and contribute. Please feel free to view the listing of committees on our website to see where opportunities exist or contact any Board member if you would like to assist in any other way.

On behalf of the entire CIHRA Board, we wish everyone a safe 2011-2012 season.

John Eddy
President

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