

# OWBHL

## Referee Shadow Program

The OWBHL Referee Shadow Program has been established since the 2014 Ball Hockey season in Ottawa.

### **The goals of the Shadow Program are:**

Target 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year officials so as to retain them in the officiating program;  
Bestow confidence to those officials being shadowed;  
Offer guidance in regards to proper positioning on the floor and proper procedures (i.e. penalties, offside's, flooring, etc);  
Convey to the players, coaches, and parents that these young officials are in a learning environment and that efforts are being made to provide them with quality officiating at all levels; and  
Provide an avenue for senior officials to pass on their experience to younger officials.

**The definition of the Shadow Program is:** *"The on-floor, game situation mentoring by a senior level official who participates with officials in their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of officiating. The participation of the senior official is generally limited to giving guidance on all aspects of the game and providing support and confidence to the new official."*

### **How the Shadow Program Works**

#### ***Who will Co-Ordinate the Shadow Program?***

Under the direction of the OWBHL President and VP Operations, the Referee in Chief will be responsible to arrange a Shadow for selected games in which one or both officials are in their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years.

#### ***Who will be performing the shadow?***

The minimum qualifications will be 3 years of experience and the official must be working Bantam and higher Levels. Each shadow will also be evaluated for his abilities to instruct and work with our young officials. In addition, the shadow is a registered official and thus has the same standing as any other on or off the floor official taking part in the game. Remember, sometimes the most experienced official does not make the best Shadow/Mentor.

#### ***Who will be shadowed?***

The program will specifically target officials entering their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of officiating. Thus, the program will be targeted to Novice and Atom Ball hockey divisions, as this is the level in which those officials begin. In addition, at this level, the players, parents, and coaches are beginning to have certain expectations of the officials and, consequently when those officials fail to meet those expectations, problems arise in terms of abuse and shattered confidence, leading to our high percentages of lost officials every year.

#### ***What will the shadow do?***

The shadow will work with each official providing tips and suggestions on the proper positioning and procedures. They will however allow the young official to make mistakes and will not be calling penalties. If absolutely necessary the shadow does have the power to assess any penalty as covered in the current OBHA rulebook. The shadow will not engage in discussions with the coaches regarding the game except at the games conclusion.

#### ***What supplies are required by the shadow?***

To give the program some credibility and professionalism, the senior referees performing the shadowing should wear a standard uniform. To facilitate this and to keep costs down, we propose a dark coloured shorts or long pants and shirt.

***What are the benefits of the Shadow Program?***

The primary benefits to the associations would be:

- Identify the shadows as representatives of the referees and the association;
- Promote the program as a joint effort between referees and the Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA); and
- Be a visible organized program that shows to the players, coaches, and parents that the OWBHL and the referees are taking an active approach to training young officials to the benefit of all those involved in Minor Ball Hockey.

**The basic requirements of the Shadow Program are as follows:**

1. Program is for first and second year officials working the 2 man system.
2. A senior official at least 16 years old with 3 years or more of experience.
3. First period is spent shadowing one official and second period the other official. For the third period, to shadow both officials and the game overall.
4. Shadows will wear black shorts or long pants and a black shirt identifying them as a Shadow.
5. No whistle is to be worn and no calls are to be made by the Shadow, they will allow the officials to make mistakes. Every effort will be made to coach them through those moments of indecision.
6. In the event of a highly controversial play or injury the Shadow will actively support the officials as required.
7. Every effort will be made to not slow the pace of the game.