



HNL/HCOP PROGRAM Attaining and Maintaining Levels

Membership into the HNL Referees Organization would be open to any person who has reached their fourteenth (14th) birthday or before December 31st in the year of application.

Level I

- a new official in non-competitive Minor Hockey
- must attend and complete a Level I clinic of eight (8) hours duration
- must complete and return Level I Workbook

Level II

- official must be fully certified at Level I
- official must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age by December 31st of the year in question in order to obtain Level II status
- must attend a Level II clinic of eight (8) hours duration
- must obtain a minimum of 70% on a written national exam and attend all clinic sessions
- must receive one practical on-ice evaluation
- male/female adult with previous hockey experience may enter the program at this level
- official can work games at the house league minor hockey level. Official can work as a linesman in High School, competitive minor hockey, and recreational hockey along other assignments which are approved by the Referee-in-Chief
- a novice official, seventeen (17) years of age or older, may obtain Level I and II certification in one year based on ability. This is the only opportunity within the Hockey Canada Officiating Program to accomplish two levels in one year. This is designed to encourage persons with playing or coaching experience to consider officiating.

Level III

- must be fully certified as a Level II official and officiate one year at that level
- must attend a Level III (Senior) clinic of eight (8) hours duration
- must obtain a minimum of 80% on a written national exam and attend all clinic sessions
- must receive at least two (2) successful practical on-ice evaluations completed
- official can referee High School, competitive minor hockey, including Provincial Minor Hockey championships and recreational hockey. As well, they can work as a linesman at all levels of hockey and any other assignments approved by the Referee-in-Chief.

Level IV

- must be fully certified as a Level III official and officiate one year at that level
- must attend a Level IV clinic (Provincial) and complete all sessions
- must obtain a minimum of a 80% on a written national exam
- must have at least two (2) successful practical on-ice evaluations completed
- must complete 10 evaluations on officials
- official can referee all categories of hockey on a local/provincial level

- can officiate as a linesman in all categories of hockey on a provincial basis and in inter branch competition
- official must have at least two (2) years experience at this level before advancing

Level V

- must be fully certified as a Level IV official and officiate one year at that level
- must attend a Level V clinic (Provincial/Regional) and complete all sessions
- must obtain a minimum of 90% on a written national exam
- must complete at least two (2) successful practical on-ice evaluations completed
- must complete 10 formal evaluations on official
- official must complete any requirements as per instructions of Hockey Canada Referees Division
- must officiate at least two (2) years at this level before advancing
- official can officiate all categories of hockey on a provincial basis as well as Hockey Canada assignments

Level VI

- must be fully certified as a Level V official and officiate one year at that level
- must attend a Level VI (National) and complete all sessions
- must obtain a minimum of 90% on a written national exam
- must complete all assignments and requirements as administered through HNL and HC
- official must pass a practical on-ice evaluation by a national supervisor assigned by the Referee-in Chief of HC
- official can officiate all categories of hockey on a provincial basis, as well as HC assignments pertaining to National and IIHF competitions

Maintaining Levels

Each official within this branch must attend a Registration Clinic at the beginning of each hockey season. At this clinic, all officials must write a national examination for the theory of full certification that they have previously obtained.

Level II officials who fail the examination at their Registration Clinic shall not be permitted to write the level III the following year.

Level III officials and above who are not successful in passing their examination at the Registration Clinic shall be permitted the opportunity to complete a re-write examination. Officials will not be permitted to officiate at their current level until they pass their examination for the year in question. Level V and VI officials shall retain their certification through the submission of all information and exam results being forwarded to HC Referees Division and the recommendation of HC as to their present and continuing status year to year.

Any senior official who has attained a Level III theory designation or higher and who fails to achieve the required examination mark at their present level will be given an opportunity to do a re-write examination. If the official so affected in turn fails the re-write examination, that official will promptly lose their current designation within the HCOP and revert back to the next lower level.

For example: should a Level V official attain a mark of 83% on their re-write examination then that official will revert back to Level IV.