



Tim Richter
Referee-in-Chief
Wisconsin Hockey Officials Association Inc.
ric@wihoa.org
www.wihoa.org

2019-2020 WHOA Annual Report

Introduction

The 2019-20 season was filled with much success and productivity. Because of the hard work of the WHOA Directors, the WHOA continues to meet the variety of challenges facing amateur hockey in Wisconsin. The WHOA continues to be recognized as a national leader in the development of officials and for the contributions made to the USA Hockey District and National officiating programs. Several of our members are key volunteer appointees by District and National officiating administrators and serve the many USA Hockey Officiating Programs.

Our website continues to be a tremendous asset to the WHOA, its members and to WAHA. All Major penalties under Rule 411, Game Misconduct and Match penalties are filed electronically through our website and are automatically transmitted directly to the WAHA Disciplinary Committee Chairman for review and follow-up. All serious penalties that are assessed to WAHA players and coaches anywhere in the Central District states are quickly and accurately expedited to WAHA for disposition. The WHOA website is: www.wihoa.org. In addition to the WHOA website, our Facebook presence helps us communicate with a wide audience quickly and easily.

The WHOA utilizes an online seminar registration package by Officiating Services where officials can register for a seminar in addition to paying their WHOA dues via a credit card or using a mail-in option. Online registration continues to be a success, as almost 98% of our members registered online this season. This online registration process significantly decreases the amount of paperwork and time necessary to process registrations and makes the registration process much more convenient for officials. The website is maintained with the most current USA Hockey and WHOA registration data, which is available 24/7 to Wisconsin supervisors, local administrators, referee schedulers and WAHA state tournament directors through the Wisconsin portion of the Central District website.

Registrations

Wisconsin's USA Hockey official registrations increased from 1,414 officials in the 2018-19 season to 1,486 officials for the 2019-20 season. When comparing the two seasons, this is a gain of 72 officials. Conversely, from a WHOA membership perspective, WHOA increased 68 officials to a total of 1,522 up from 1,454. Out of state USA Hockey registrations create a disparity between national and state registrations because an official will first register in their domiciled state then register with WHOA. It should be noted, 66% of our officials are age 20 and under. Going forward, the WHOA will be emphasizing how critical retaining veteran officials who offer mentoring supervision opportunities for our younger officials. Moreover, focused efforts targeting in adult official recruitment and as WAHA's continued growth warrants.

For the 2019-20 season, USA Hockey registered 439 additional officials than the previous year, resulting in a national officials' registration of 25,863.

During the season, 1,323 officials satisfactorily completed the certification process out of 1,486 officials registered with the WHOA and USA Hockey, which equates to an 89% completion rate. Nationally, the completion rate hovers between 80-84%.

Background Screening

USA Hockey SafeSport policies adhere to Congressional mandates requiring all officials who have reached the age of 18 as of June 1 to complete a background screen. Beginning in April 2020, the background screening process will be completed by NCSI through the USA registration process. SafeSport is now required to be completed annually for all officials over the age of 17.

Officiating Seminars

The WHOA Seminar Education Program had another successful season. 1,397 officials attended the 79 seminar sessions conducted throughout Wisconsin by the WHOA in 2019. The “super seminar” concept, which has been extremely successful in the past, was again utilized in Wisconsin. Seminar attendees experienced improved facilities, weeknight seminars, a lower participant/instructor ratio and a greater number of seminar instructors and a better distribution of seminar materials. WHOA piloted an online Level 4 seminar using Google Classroom where the participants completed their coursework prior to the on-ground classroom rules and skating testing. After receiving positive several positive comments from officials about the overall experience, WHOA expanding its testing and offered three sites in 2019.

The WHOA extends their gratitude to those associations that hosted a seminar this past season and continue to do so in 2020. Their help is instrumental in keeping the Association’s expenses low.

WHOA’s 38 volunteer certified instructors serve the WHOA in teaching capacities statewide. Their efforts go unnoticed as many of them are coaches and administrators in their local associations.

State Tournaments

801 officials were state tournament eligible during the 2019-20 season, which is an increase of 64 officials from 734 officials for the previous season. WHOA supervisors were on hand statewide at state tournament venues providing officiating support, evaluation and feedback.

Opportunities for New Officials

The WHOA is seeking new officials in all areas of the state. Officiating is a fun and rewarding experience which allows anyone twelve (12) years of age or older a unique opportunity to be a special part of the game of ice hockey. If you know anyone who might be interested in officiating amateur hockey games in Wisconsin, please have them visit the WHOA website for complete information at www.wiho.org. Registration for the 2020-21 season begins on July 21.

Officials Development Camp and Development Opportunities

COVID-19 prevented the WHOA from conducting an officials development camp in conjunction with the WAHA Midget and Bantam development camps. For the upcoming season, the WHOA is experimenting with other developmental options using in-season tournaments to offer officiating evaluation and supervision. Officials interested in attending a future evaluation opportunity should contact Tim Richter, WHOA Referee-in-Chief.

Involvement in District, National Competition and Camps

Due to COVID-19, all District, USA Hockey National Tournaments and Development Camps were canceled.

Scholarship

WHOA implemented a scholarship program for any official who pursues post-secondary education and intends on continuing their officiating. As of this writing, a 2020 scholarship recipient has not been selected.

WHOA's Future

An area of continued focus for the WHOA Board of Directors has been recruiting and mentoring new officials. However, we must remain vigilant on retaining our officials so that our games are served with trained, certified officials. A key component in retention is whether or not the official enjoys contributing to our game. However, targeted abuse and abhorrent behavior expressed towards game officials has become a growing concern nationwide. At the USA Hockey Annual Congress in June, Affiliate Presidents and District Referees-in-Chief expressed their frustration with this increasing trend, which is partially resultant of a "win at all cost" society. During the June meetings, several productive conversations occurred and we may see traction in this area where USA Hockey mandates each Affiliate to develop a comprehensive plan on how they will handle abusive situations in the future. WHOA is certainly encouraged by the dialogue and are prepared to assist WAHA in this endeavor.

Overall, the Association is strong and financially stable. We continue to serve the approximately 1,525 members as operationally efficiently and cost-effective as possible with the dedicated volunteers we are able to retain. WHOA's registration fee remains one of the lowest in the country, serving as a testament to the many board members, seminar instructors and others in support roles who devote countless hours in the Association's mission.

WHOA's future remains bright and it is paramount that the Board of Directors continue to focus on recruitment, retention, abusive behavior and player safety-all areas which affect our game's shareholders. As the Association continues to evolve and grow, a strategic plan outlining where we want to be in three to five years will be developed to ensure superior service to our membership in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Richter

Referee-in-Chief

Wisconsin Hockey Officials Association

2020 USA Hockey/WHOA Officiating Seminars

Level 1 Virtual Seminars

DATE	DAY	TIME	LEVEL	NAME	COMMENTS
08/29 08/31	Sat Mon	9 AM - 12 Noon 6 PM - 9 PM	1	WHOA01_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
09/12 09/12	Sat Sat	9 AM - 12 Noon 1 PM - 4 PM	1	WHOA02_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
09/19 09/21	Sat Mon	9 AM - 12 Noon 6 PM - 9 PM	1	WHOA03_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
09/20 09/20	Sun Sun	9 AM - 12 Noon 1 PM - 4 PM	1	WHOA04_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
09/26 09/28	Sat Mon	9 AM - 12 Noon 6 PM - 9 PM	1	WHOA05_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
10/03 10/05	Sat Mon	9 AM - 12 Noon 6 PM - 9 PM	1	WHOA06_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
10/04 10/04	Sun Sun	9 AM - 12 Noon 1 PM - 4 PM	1	WHOA07_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
10/11 10/11	Sun Sun	9 AM - 12 Noon 1 PM - 4 PM	1	WHOA08_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.
10/17 10/19	Sat Mon	9 AM - 12 Noon 6 PM - 9 PM	1	WHOA26_L1	You must attend both sessions to receive credit for this seminar.

Level 2 Virtual Seminars

DATE	DAY	TIME	LEVEL	NAME	COMMENT
08/29	Sat	1 PM - 4 PM	2	WHOA09_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/08	Tue	6 PM - 9 PM	2	WHOA10_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/19	Sat	1 PM - 4 PM	2	WHOA11_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/20	Sun	1 PM - 4 PM	2	WHOA12_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/26	Sat	1 PM - 4 PM	2	WHOA13_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
10/03	Sat	1 PM - 4 PM	2	WHOA14_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.

10/04	Sun	1 PM - 4 PM	2	WHOA15_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
10/11	Sun	9 AM - 12 PM	2	WHOA27_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
10/17	Sat	1 PM - 4 PM	2	WHOA16_L2	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.

Level 3 Virtual Seminars

DATE	DAY	TIME	LEVEL	NAME	COMMENT
08/18	Wed	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA17_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/02	Wed	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA18_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/23	Wed	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA19_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/29	Tue	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA20_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
09/30	Wed	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA21_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
10/07	Wed	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA22_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
10/14	Wed	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA23_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.
10/21	Wed	6 PM - 9 PM	3	WHOA24_L3	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar.

Level 4 Virtual Seminars

DATE	DAY	TIME	LEVEL	NAME	COMMENT
09/27	Sun	8 AM - 11 AM	4	WHOA25_L4	Modified closed book exam must be completed within seven days of completing this seminar. Participants do NOT take a skating exam in 2020.

On Ground Seminars

Please read the following information about on ground seminars:

- ALL on ground seminars begin at 10:00 AM. Level 1 concludes at 4:15 PM while Levels 2 and 3 conclude at 3:00 PM.
- ALL on ground participants must participate in the ice session - no exceptions. Level 1 officials must have skates, helmet with half-shield and whistle. Level 2 and 3 participants must wear full officiating gear.
- Level 2 and 3 participants must complete the modified closed book exam online with seven days of seminar completion.
- ALL participants must following social distancing rules, wear a face mask at all time unless otherwise directed, supply their own hand sanitizer, and comply with any other directives.
- If dictated by Covid-19 response, on ground seminars will convert to virtual seminars and participant will be notified.

DATE	DAY	LEVEL	CITY	CLASSROOM (NAME)	RINK
10/17	Sat	1, 2, 3	Sparta	Boys & Girls Club	Sparta Ice Rink
10/24	Sat	1, 2, 3	Hayward	Hayward Middle School	Hayward Sports Center
11/01	Sun	1	Madison	TBD	Hartmeyer
11/15	Sun	1, 2	Sparta	Boys & Girls Club	Sparta Ice Rink