



Officiating Pathway

Lead, Develop and Promote Positive Hockey Experiences



Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
LEVEL 1	5
LEVEL 2	8
LEVEL 3	11
MEMBER HIGH PERFORMANCE	14
NATIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE	17
TRANSITION STAGE	20

Introduction



Introduction

The Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) offers participants of all ages an opportunity to be involved in the game beyond playing. By following the levels of development, and with hard work and dedication, officials can find fulfillment in their advancement while making the game safe, fair and fun.

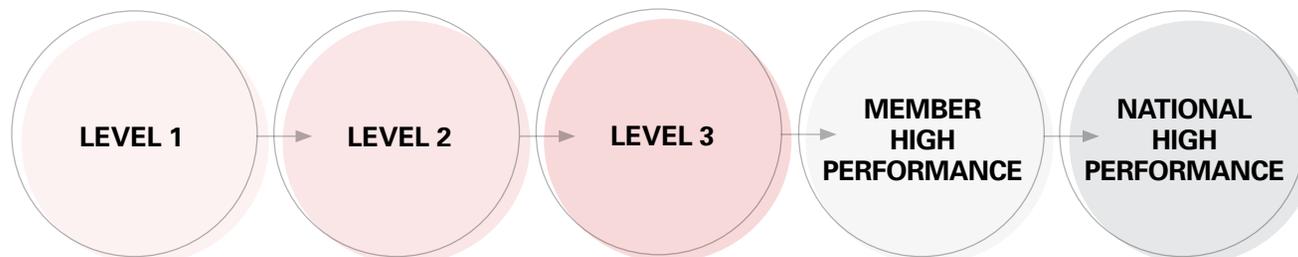
The Hockey Canada Officiating Pathway is the foundation for all officials across the country. Hockey Canada has categorized hockey into five basic streams, each with different priorities. They include:

- Introduction
- Recreational
- Competitive
- High Performance
- Adult Recreational

The pathway has been developed to address the following components of the program at both the Member and national levels:

- Inclusivity and gender neutrality.
- Defining a process to allow individuals to join the system at the appropriate level.
- Providing equal opportunities for officials of the same skill level.
- Developing a national standard that is adhered to by the Members.
- Building flexibility into a linear system.

Hockey Canada Officiating Pathway



Level 1



Level 1

Level 1 is the entry point for officials as they begin their officiating career at the Introduction and Recreational levels. To ensure opportunities are created to enter officiating early, yet help support younger officials, the Hockey Canada Officiating Program has put in a number of guidelines.

Prerequisites

- Officials must be a minimum of 12 years of age as of December 31 of the current season.

Note: Members that have requests by individuals wishing to start at 11 years of age may permit entry at their discretion, but these officials will be limited to cross-ice hockey until they reach the age of 12.

- Officials will be eligible to officiate at levels of play that are one age group below their current age category (i.e. a 12-year old can officiate at the U11 level and below).

Note: A Member may advance an official to a higher age group if they have shown a high level of skill, proficiency and maturity and is recommended by the Member officiating development program for advancement.

- Officials are encouraged to check with their local hockey association and Member officiating development program prior to registering to ensure space availability and confirm any unique registration steps.
- Officials at Level 1 should begin in the cross-ice and/or two-official system. If a Member utilizes the three- or four-official system at these early levels of play, it is recommended that Level 1 officials be assigned the Linesperson role and progressed into the Referee role as determined by the Member officiating development program.
- Officials are required to register with Hockey University (eHockey) and complete the certification requirements.
- Officials will be required to purchase basic officiating equipment as laid out in Hockey University.

Certification

- Officials must register and re-certify annually with Hockey Canada.
- As part of the re-certification process, officials are required to attend a Member-hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session as determined by the Member, and complete or participate in a Hockey Canada curriculum assessment exercise.
- Officials should consult their local hockey association and/or Member for details on how to register, along with clinic dates and formats.
- Education modules will be determined annually by the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and the Members to support the growth and development of officials.

Role of the Official

- Level 1 officials and their on-ice partners will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair and safe manner for all participants.
- Rule knowledge and proper execution of in-game procedures and duties will be vital to the success of officials.

Coaching, Mentoring & Development

- Members and/or local hockey associations may have a program in place where officials are provided coaching and mentoring opportunities to review their in-game performance and offer coaching tips for improvement throughout the year. The Member or local hockey association referee-in-chief can provide support.
- Members and/or local hockey associations may also offer in-season development camps or sessions. Officials are encouraged to participate based on availability.

Obtaining Level 2 Status

- Officials who are 15 years old as of December 31 of the current season are eligible to progress to Level 2 for the following season.
- Officials who have completed a minimum two years at Level 1 and have shown the skills and maturity required for early advancement may do so with approval of their Member officiating development program.
- Where new officials over the age of 15 begin at Level 1, it is acceptable for those progressing well to be moved into Level 2 within the current season. This move will be at the discretion of the Member and/or local hockey association for officials exhibiting outstanding progress in their skills, and will require approval from the Member officiating development program.



Level 2



Level 2

Level 2 enhances the development of officials in areas of core procedures and rule knowledge at the lower levels of Competitive hockey.

Prerequisites

- Officials must be a minimum 15 years of age as of December 31 of the current season OR have successfully officiated for two years at Level 1 and shown to have the skills and maturity to advance to Level 2 with approval of the Member officiating development program.
- Officials may begin at Level 2 provided they are a minimum 15 years of age as of December 31 of the current season.

Note: Members should consider the official's age and playing/coaching background to apply such exceptions.

- Officials will be eligible to officiate at levels of play that are at minimum one age group below their current age (i.e. a 15-year-old can officiate at the U13 level and below).
- New Level 2 officials who are a minimum 18 years old may be assigned any hockey for which they are considered capable in the recreational category, or at lower levels of competitive, at the discretion of the Member officiating development program.

Note: Members may advance an official to a higher age division of play if the official has shown a high level of skill and maturity and is recommended by the Member officiating development program for advancement.

- Officials are encouraged to check with their local hockey association and Member officiating development program prior to registering to ensure space availability and confirm any unique registration steps.
- Officials at Level 2 may be assigned in the two-, three- or four-official systems. It is recommended that officials be assigned to the Linesperson role and progressed into the Referee role as determined by the Member officiating development program.
- Officials who have not entered the program through Level 1 are required to register with Hockey University (eHockey) and complete the officiating modules prior to registering for a Level 2 classroom training session.
- Officials will be required to purchase basic officiating equipment as laid out in Hockey University.

Certification

- Officials must register and re-certify annually with Hockey Canada.
- As part of the re-certification process, officials are required to attend a Member-hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session as determined by the Member and achieve a minimum score of 70% on the Hockey Canada quiz/examination.
- Officials should consult their local hockey association and/or Member for details on how to register, along with clinic dates and formats.
- Education modules will be determined annually by the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and the Members to support the growth and development of officials.

Role of the Official

- Level 2 officials and their on-ice partners will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair and safe manner for all participants.
- Rule knowledge and proper execution of in-game procedures and duties will be vital to the success of officials.

Coaching, Mentoring & Development

- Members and/or local hockey associations may have a program in place where officials are provided coaching and mentoring opportunities to review their in-game performance and offer coaching tips for improvement throughout the year. The Member or local hockey association referee-in-chief can provide support.
- Members and/or local hockey associations may also offer in-season development camps or sessions. Officials are encouraged to participate based on availability.

Obtaining Level 3 Status

- The advancement to Level 3 is a decision made by the Member officiating development program and may be subject to identification by the Member and local hockey association as meeting/exceeding the performance levels of Level 2. This may be done through on-ice evaluations and performance.
- Ideally, an official would spend two seasons developing in Level 2 before advancement to Level 3, but Members have the ability to advance officials who they feel meet the criteria of Level 3.

Level 3



Level 3

Level 3 is designed for officials who have been recognized as being ready to move into the higher levels of Competitive and early levels of High Performance hockey. The goal for Level 3 is to further develop officials in the areas of core procedures, rule knowledge and game management.

Prerequisites

- Advancement to Level 3 comes through a recommendation from the Member officiating development program.
- Members are encouraged to progress top officials into Level 3 when they are ready, regardless of the length of time they have been a Level 2 official.
- Officials who feel they are ready may also request advancement through their local hockey association referee-in-chief and or Member officiating development program.
- Officials entering Level 3 will have very good skating and communication skills, able to execute at a high level the procedures, positioning, penalty standards and game management.
- At the classroom session candidates are required to pass a Member delivered National Officiating exam to complete Level 3 certification in addition to participating in all classroom instructor led or virtual workshops, presentations and lessons as determined by the Member.
- Officials advancing to Level 3 may have been working some High-Performance Levels of play as a Level 2 based on their skills and overall competency level.

Certification

- Officials must register and re-certify annually with Hockey Canada.
- As part of the re-certification process for officials, they are required to attend a Member hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session as determined by the Member and achieve a minimum score of 80% on the Hockey Canada quiz/examination.
- Officials should consult their local Association and/or Member for details on how to register, along with clinic dates and formats.
- Education modules will be determined annually by the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and the Members to support the growth and development of officials.

Role of the Official

- Level 3 officials and their on-ice partners will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair and safe manner for all participants.
- Rule knowledge and proper execution of in-game procedures and duties will be vital to the success of officials.
- Level 3 officials will be expected to take a more senior role within the Member. Level 1 and Level 2 officials will look for support, guidance and examples of good officiating skills.

Coaching, Mentoring & Development

- Members and/or local hockey associations may have a program in place where officials are provided coaching and mentoring opportunities to review their in-game performance and offer coaching tips for improvement throughout the year. The Member or local hockey association referee-in-chief can provide support.
- Members and/or local hockey associations may also offer in-season development camps or sessions. Officials are encouraged to participate based on availability.
- Level 3 officials may be asked to assist in mentoring younger officials as they progress through their officiating career, and are encouraged to do this whenever possible. Officials should review opportunities for coaching and mentorship with the Member or local hockey association referee-in-chief.

Obtaining Member High Performance Status

- The advancement of an official to Member High Performance (MHP) is a decision made by the Member officiating development program. Officials advancing into the MHP group are beginning to excel within the High Performance levels while exhibiting strong proficiency in rule knowledge, penalty standards and game management, along with sound judgement through their in-game performance.
- The MHP group is by invite only (see Page 15 for details).

Member High Performance



Member High Performance

The Member High Performance (MHP) official is the top tier within the Member-administered portion of the Hockey Canada Officiating Pathway. Entrance into this level is by invitation from the Member officiating development program and is reserved for officials who have successfully moved through the development levels of the pathway and are ready to move into the elite levels of High Performance play.

Prerequisites

- Officials invited to the MHP group should have competent skating, communication and game management skills.
- The program is delivered in a camp format outlined by Hockey Canada (15-20 hours). It will include:
 - Classroom instruction
 - Workgroup study and development sessions
 - On-ice skating assessment
 - Off-ice fitness assessment
 - Written officiating exam
- Members may promote top-level officials into the MHP group regardless of the length of time as an active official within the Hockey Canada Officiating Program.

Note: *Although this is an invite-only program, officials who feel they are ready may also request advancement through their local hockey association referee-in-chief and Member officiating development program.*

Certification

- To achieve MHP certification, officials must:
 - Attend a Member High Performance certification camp.
 - Achieve a minimum score of 85% on the written exam.
 - Achieve the required skating and fitness assessments.
 - Complete an in-game evaluation by a Member officiating coach/supervisor.
- MHP officials must register annually with their Member. For recertification, MHP officials would only be required to attend a Member re-certification clinic bi-annually in a rule change year. As part of the re-certification process, officials are required to attend a Member-hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session every two years, as determined by the Member. Officials should consult their local hockey association and/or Member for details on how to register, along with clinic dates and formats.
- Education modules will be determined annually by the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and the Members to support the growth and development of officials.
- Members may invite officials moving from Linesperson to Referee in the MHP category to a second MHP training camp in the role of a Referee. This is not a mandatory requirement of the Hockey Canada Officiating Pathway.

Role of the Official

- MHP officials and their on-ice partners will be responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair and safe manner for all participants.
- MHP officials are the top group within each Member and are required to be leaders within the program.
- MHP officials will be expected to take a more senior role within the Member. Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 officials will look for support, guidance and examples of good officiating skills.

Coaching, Mentoring & Development

- Members and/or local hockey associations may have a program in place where officials are provided coaching and mentoring opportunities to review their in-game performance and offer coaching tips for improvement throughout the year. The Member or local hockey association referee-in-chief can provide support.
- Members and/or local hockey associations may also offer in-season development camps or sessions. Officials are encouraged to participate based on availability.
- MHP officials may be asked to assist in mentoring younger officials as they progress through their officiating career, and are encouraged to do this whenever possible. Officials should review opportunities for coaching and mentorship with the Member or local hockey association referee-in-chief.

Obtaining National High Performance Status

The advancement of an official to the National High Performance group is by invitation through the Hockey Canada Officiating Program.

National High Performance



National High Performance

The National High Performance (NHP) group is the assembly of the top officials within the Hockey Canada Officiating Program. Officials selected as members of the group will have excelled within their Member programs and are working at the highest levels of play available. As part of the NHP group, officials are eligible for assignments at Hockey Canada national championships, and top-ranked officials may be eligible for IIHF licensing and potential international assignments.

Selection Process

Selection into the NHP group begins with a nomination from the Member officiating development program. Nominations are reviewed by Hockey Canada Officiating Program leadership to ensure all minimum qualifications and standards are met. Nominated officials are then considered for potential invitation, by the Hockey Canada referee-in-chief and a national officiating advisory committee, to attend the national certification seminar.

In order for officials to remain in the NHP or be nominated for entrance into the group, they will be the top officials within their Member programs. In addition, those officials must be consistently active in the top levels of the game as identified by their Member and Hockey Canada. Officials that have reached the NHP stage but are no longer active at the top levels of play as identified by their Member and Hockey Canada are recommended to register as a Member High Performance official.

NHP officials that are considered for selection should:

- Be a leader within their Member.
- Be in top physical condition.
- Have above-average skating skills.
- Have strong communication skills on and off the ice.
- Have a proven track record of success in the game.
- Have excellent judgement and feel for the game.
- Have an exceptional knowledge of the Hockey Canada playing rules.

Certification

- To achieve NHP certification, officials must:
 - Attend the National High Performance certification camp.
 - Achieve a minimum score of 90% on the written exam.
 - Achieve the required skating and fitness proficiency.
- NHP officials must register annually with their Member. For recertification, NHP officials would only be required to attend a Member re-certification clinic bi-annually in a rule change year. As part of the re-certification process, officials are required to attend a Member-hosted clinic via classroom or virtual learning session every two years, as determined by the Member. Officials should consult their local hockey association and/or Member for details on how to register, along with clinic dates and formats.
- Education modules will be determined annually by the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and the Members to support the growth and development of officials.

National Webinar

NHP officials will participate annually in a Hockey Canada national officials webinar to maintain a continued relationship/connection point with all officials active within the NHP group.

Role of the Official

- NHP officials and their on-ice partners are responsible for administering the rules of the game to ensure it is played in a fair and safe manner for all participants.
- NHP officials are the top group within Hockey Canada and are expected to be leaders within the program supporting officiating development.
- NHP officials will be expected to take a more senior role within the Member. Fellow officials will begin to look for support, guidance and examples of good officiating skills.

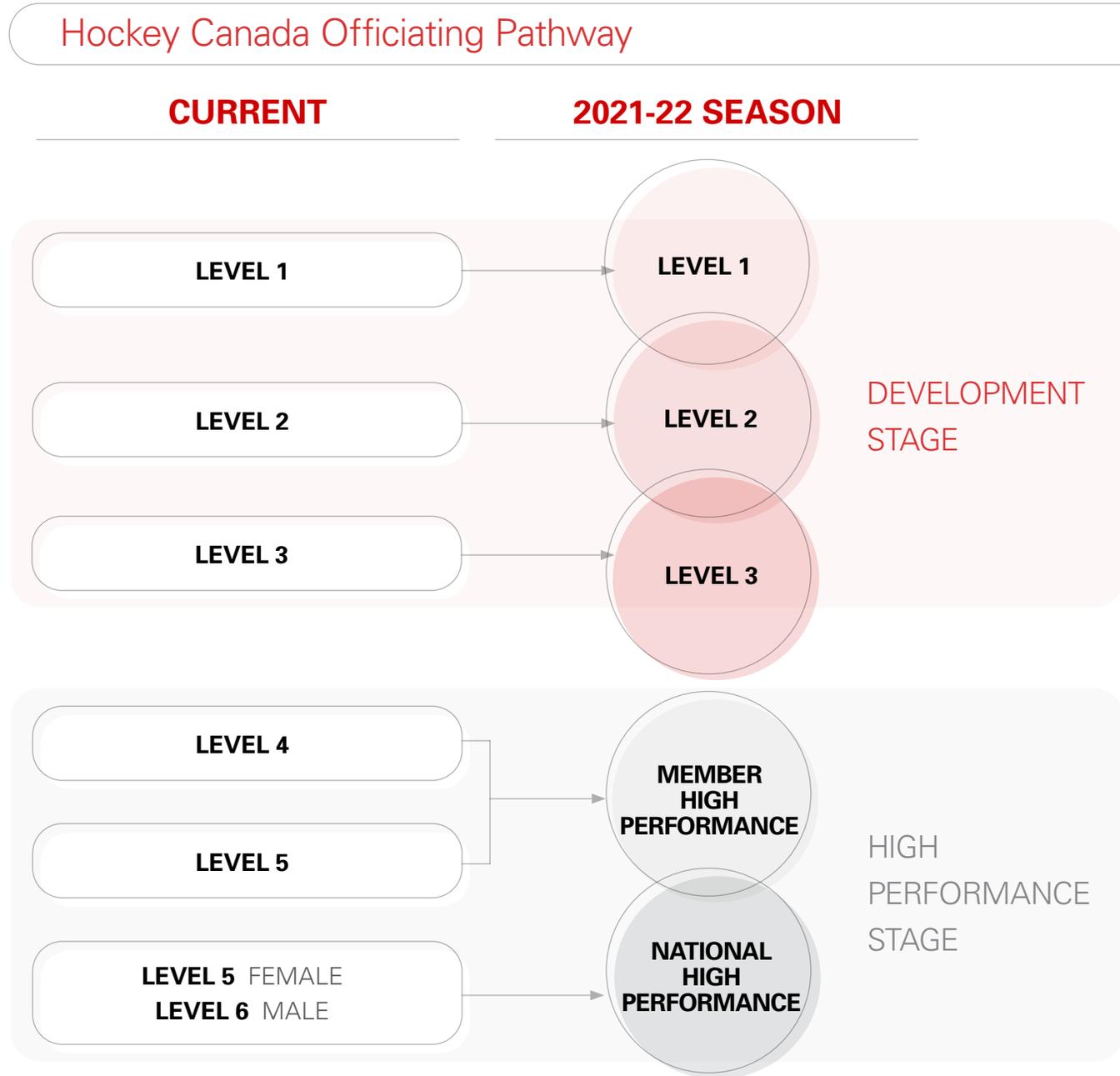
Transition Stage



Transition Stage:

LEVEL SYSTEM TO THE PATHWAY 2021-22 SEASON

The new Hockey Canada Officiating Pathway model will be implemented for the 2021-22 season. Officials registered within the current level system will be migrated to the new model.



 **make
hockey
more**

