



OREGON HOCKEY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 375, Beaverton, OR 97075 • www.oregonhockeyofficials.com

So you want to become an Official?

Want to start officiating, but have no idea what to do? Our staff has put together a comprehensive guide that will take you through the steps required to become an official.

Step 1 *Locate The Officials Association* www.oregonhockeyofficials.com

Now that you are here, Review the Website and the links, and then look for the contact person and the Seminar locations page. Find the seminar that is close to you or fits your schedule. You are welcomed to attend any seminar in the state or an adjoining state.

Step 2 *Contact the Seminar staff*

Don't put it off! Make contact with the State RIC or seminar instructors immediately. They will have some good information for you on the process. Let them know that you would like to start officiating and would like to know which clinic would be the best for you. Register with them to save you a spot. It's as easy as sending them an email.

Step 3 *Register yourself with USA Hockey* www.usahockey.com/officials

You will need to register with USA Hockey to become an official. Go to their website, You will need to complete the on-line registration and pay the fee. They will send you a rulebook and will then give you info about the on-line test.

Step 4 *Attend the clinic*

You will be required to attend an all day beginner clinic where you will learn the basics of officiating both inside a classroom and in an 'on the ice' session. Make sure to come prepared with a pen and notebook along with any other required items such as money for registering or equipment for the on-ice session.

Once at the clinic, you will generally fill out some paperwork such as a registration form or insurance information. If you're a teenager check with the person in charge to see if you need mom or dad to sign any paperwork for you.

Pay careful attention during the clinic and take plenty of notes. Take your time and feel free to ask plenty of questions. The only dumb question is the one not asked.

As mentioned above you will most likely be required to attend an on-ice session that might last anywhere from a half-hour to two hours. During this session, you will work on basics of skating, on-ice positioning, and procedures.

Step 5 *About equipment*

As a novice official you will find yourself working many low-level games, so there's no need to go out and purchase something that you won't need. So before the clinic is over ask the instructor if he knows of anyone with some used gear for sale, as many experienced officials have collected a wealth of old gear and are looking to get rid of it. Your local association might even have some loaner sweaters or helmets.

If you are ready to buy new gear, go to www.officialswearhouse.com



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Step 6 *About games*

Before the clinic is over, ask how you go about getting games in your local area once you are completely registered and certified. Most places require you to attend a scheduling meeting or send your available dates to an assignor or supervisor once a month.

Step 7 *Don't get discouraged*

Remember this is your first season. You might not receive many games and the games you will receive are probably going to be at the lowest levels of hockey. When you work these games remember what it was like to be their age and playing. Every game is important to these kids.

As an official, you will need to develop the ability to block out the negative criticism. If you're looking for a job where people are going to be happy with you each and every game, then you might want to re-consider officiating. Don't expect to go out there and make friends with everyone.

During the season don't be afraid to ask more experienced officials questions. The best ways to learn and develop as an official is watch and ask those with more experience than you. You should consider helping out at tournament or playoff time as an off-ice official running the clock or keeping score. This is an excellent way to learn from those with more experience than you.

Step 8 *Officiate with ethics*

Your duty as a hockey official is to act as an impartial judge and this duty carries with it an obligation for the official to perform with accuracy, consistency, objectivity, and the highest sense of integrity.

In order to preserve and encourage confidence in the professionalism and integrity of officiating, officials must first foster ethical behavior.

The USA Hockey Official's Code of Ethics:

Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.

Accept responsibility for all actions taken.

Be impartial.

Avoid any situation that may lead to a conflict of interest.

Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.

Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance evaluation, and regular renewing of certifications.

Be a positive role model for both the participants and younger officials in your behavior and personal appearance.

Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards participants.

Refrain from any form of sexual harassment towards participants.

Show concern and caution towards sick and injured participants.

Have Fun.