



# NRSA Referee Handbook - Inline Hockey

### **An important note from National Roller Sports (NRS)**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide officials with important information and guidance to help them achieve the NRSA's foundational goals of skill development, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

The NRSA strives to improve each player's skill level, and enhance their enjoyment of the game, while helping them to develop both mentally and physically.

#### **Important! This Handbook is not a replacement for the rules.**

- The addition, deletion, and modification of the NRSA house rules are continuous work in progress by the league's Board of Directors.
- It's expected that all participants will become familiar with the changes outlined in the NRS Rulebook. No allowances will be made for the ignorance of the rules.
- League Managers and Directors assume no responsibility for any claims arising through the operation of the League and its functions.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This National Roller Sports Association (NRSA) Officiating Ethics Code ("Code") intends to provide standards of ethical conduct for referees involved with NRS and its member organizations. It provides General Principles and Ethical Standards which cover many situations encountered by officials, with its principal goals being the welfare and protection of participants with whom officials work.

In addition to the Code, the SafeSport program provides resources for the safety of all involved in the game. For more information, go to

<https://nationalrollersportsassociation.org> .

Officials will respect and protect human and civil rights and not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

**Referee Eligibility Requirements:** Note that all officials need to have completed these items before becoming a certified National Roller Sports Referee:

- Become an NRSA member.
- Review the NRSA Referee Manual/Rulebook
- Obtain certification of completion for NRS Referee Exam
- Obtain and maintain updated certification of SafeSport.
- Complete background check

### **Key Contact for Officials:**

Your role as an official is to be responsible for the conduct of the teams and coaches on the floor. If at any time you witness or hear about conduct that is concerning, please contact the appropriate level of authority as dictated below.

**NRS Offices.** SafeSport issues, along with player wellbeing and safety concerns, must be brought to the attention of National Roller Sports.

### **Arriving at the Arena**

We're all familiar with the timeless adages, "Image is everything" or "you have to look good to be good." While these clichés don't solely determine an official's success, they do hold some truth. How you present yourself as an official plays a crucial role in shaping perceptions among players, coaches, and spectators.

Embracing the appearance of an official offers several advantages. Just like in various aspects of life, making a positive first impression is paramount. Often, the initial judgment of you as an official is based on your appearance when you step onto the floor. This first impression becomes the cornerstone for establishing credibility, a vital component for effective game management.

Maintaining a polished personal appearance not only contributes to a favorable first impression but also helps define your role as an official. In lower levels of hockey, the official is seen as a teacher, while at higher levels, the official transitions into the role of a game manager. Simply being the individual on the floor without a stick in hand doesn't automatically convey these roles. Looking the part of an official, both on and off the floor, allows you to command instant respect, making your job more manageable.

Your personal appearance, both on and off the floor, is within your control as an official. Taking charge of your appearance enables you to project a positive image that garners instant respect and credibility, ultimately easing your responsibilities as an official. Remember the age-old saying, "You only have one chance to leave a good first impression," and take pride in your officiating appearance.

### **Being on time and prepared**

As an official, you serve as both the timekeeper and rule enforcer. It is crucial that you are always present at the floor and ready to take the floor 30 minutes before the scheduled start of your first game. Additionally, you must ensure you have all the necessary equipment and items required to fulfill your officiating duties. The mandatory protective equipment includes:

- Helmet (mandatory): A black hockey helmet with a properly fastened chin strap.

- Visor (mandatory): A half-shield visor properly fastened to the helmet, covering the eyes.
- Sweater: Black and white traditional sweater with clean white stripes, properly fitted for hockey. Only a black T-shirt should be worn underneath if visible. Orange arm bands should be used.
- Trousers: Black trousers neatly pressed and loose-fitting. Suspenders should be used instead of a belt for proper positioning and safety. The length should reach the top of the toes to prevent catching in the tendon guards of the skates.
- Skates: Properly fitted skates with clean white laces, regularly polished and maintained. Tendon guards should be taped to prevent catching in the trousers.
- Cup and Supporter or Pelvic Protector: Properly fitted for necessary protection.
- Shin Guards and Knee Pads: Lightweight guards and pads allowing for maximum protection and mobility.
- Elbow Pads: Lightweight pads fitting nicely under the sweater, offering full protection.

In addition to these items, it's essential to have the following to ensure optimal performance and smooth game flow:

- Whistles (at least two): Finger-type whistles providing a deep, loud blast. White tape on the mouthpiece and finger clasps for protection. Always have a second whistle in case the first one falters.
- Official NRS Rulebook/Casebook: Can be accessed on the NRS website. Printed copies available on request.
- Equipment Bag: A black bag with sufficient space for all officiating gear and supplies.
- Tape (both white and black): Used on whistles and to tape tendon guards.
- Telephone Numbers of Assignors, Supervisors, and Officials: Handy in case of emergencies such as a partner failing to show up or a severe penalty being assessed.
- Cut Skate Laces: Old laces cut to various lengths, carried in your back pocket for repairing holes in the nets.

### **During the Game**

Throughout the course of the game, it is the official's responsibility to ensure that gameplay adheres to the NRS Rulebook. This includes awarding goals, assessing penalties, addressing necessary stoppages, and maintaining the pace of the game.

Just as it is crucial to arrive composed, it is equally important to project a positive image and attitude on the floor. Officials will encounter challenging situations that test their patience and mental stamina. It is essential for officials to remain calm and collected at all times. Any issues with players, coaches, or spectators should be reported to the event coordinator or NRS officers.

While there are various aspects of officiating to practice, such as positioning, conducting face-offs, and communicating with scorekeepers and coaches, the primary duty of officials is to ensure the game is played in accordance with the NRS rulebook. Regularly referring to and reviewing the rulebook is crucial to maintain a thorough understanding of the rules.

Depending on the level of the game being officiated, the role of the official may vary. For games involving younger or lower-skilled players, officials should take the time to explain incorrect actions or penalties. Conversely, during high-level play, officials should maintain order while allowing players to dictate the pace of the game.

## **End of the Game**

Even after the horn has sounded, officials must remain focused on the players. An altercation occurring post-game leaves a negative impression. Awareness remains crucial for managing post-game activities.

When the horn sounds, officials should swiftly skate to position themselves between opposing players. This typically prompts teams to separate and form a handshake line. Each official should stand on one side of the handshake line, staggering themselves to cover each end. Vigilance is essential as one player's remark or unnecessary contact can escalate into action.

Watch for potential issues, such as players who had ongoing conflicts during the game meeting in the handshake line. Another concern is when a player commits a violent infraction resulting in injury, as the injured player's teammates may seek revenge during the handshake. Officials maintaining a calm presence can prevent potential altercations.

Furthermore, remember to address any deserving penalties post-game. This ensures fair enforcement of rules and maintains order.

## **End of your Assigned Games**

As you exit the floor, it's important to maintain a professional appearance and demeanor. Keep your helmet on and your sweater zipped until you have reached your dressing room. Move swiftly to your dressing room and avoid engaging in conversations with spectators.

While it may be tempting to respond to a spectator who has been hounding you throughout the game, refrain from doing so. This will uphold your integrity and prevent the spectator from feeling satisfied that their remarks affected you. Maintaining a professional attitude until behind closed doors demonstrates that officials are in control and take pride in their work.

The officials' dressing room after the game provides a space for relaxation and reflection. While changing, it's an opportunity to review the game with your partner, discussing any unusual situations and areas for improvement. It's important to also commend your partner(s) for their strengths during the game.

Just as before the game, respect your partners' privacy by not allowing any visitors into the dressing room. Before leaving the room, tidy up the dressing area to maintain a clean atmosphere for the next officiating team. Respecting the cleanliness of the officials' dressing room is appreciated by the arena staff, who will reciprocate the respect during future visits.

If a game is scheduled immediately following yours, ensure the next officiating team is present. If they are not, offering to fill in for missing official(s) prevents an embarrassing situation for your local group of officials and is greatly appreciated.

Remember, our ultimate goal is to contribute to the growth of the sport as a whole. Officials play a vital role in this puzzle. Approach your work with pride and confidence, but above all, enjoy the time you invest in officiating. When you're having fun, it positively reflects on the floor and enhances your performance.

Thank you for becoming a certified NRS Referee!

