Mentoring an Official

Introduction

Mentoring is the developmental process that experienced officials use to support and guide their (mentees) through early transitions. This is part of learning how to be an effective, reflective official and a career long learner. Being aware of the challenges that face new officials today along with the needs and anxieties of new officials coming into the sport of lacrosse is one of the primary goals.

Mentor Roles

The mentor's role is to provide guidance and support to a new official. A basic role is to ensure that new officials start off the season with resources that they need to be successful.

General Roles of the Mentor

- Instructional, professional and personal supporter
- Provide Liaison with other officials and the executive board
- Confidential colleague providing feedback
- Provide a resource in the area of rules, policies, procedures and routines
- Friend

Goals and Purpose

In essence, the basic purpose of the Mentor Program is:

- To promote interaction between new and veteran officials
- To give officials an opportunity to receive feedback on their skills
- To share information about official procedures and rules
- To share information on effective instruction

Role of New Official

- Be a team player and offer critical reflections of his/her own practice
- A person who seeks feedback, who accepts critical feedback, who initiates questions and is willing to learn and grow
SR II Mentor Responsibilities

Each person selected as a Mentor needs to be willing to spend time in making the program work and in working with the newer officials. While each person will mentor based on their own styles, the items below include some basic responsibilities that should be performed.

• Contact the Mentee as soon as they have been assigned and establish a relationship.
• Offer advice, when needed, on situations that come up during their games.
• Be receptive to post-game calls, and if they don’t call you, you should call them at least once a week during the season.
• Observe on-field performance when possible and offer constructive suggestions after these observations.
• See if your assignor can arrange to have you and your Mentee scheduled to work on some games together.
• Discuss Mentee performance with other senior officials in the Local Board to promote their capabilities, if positive in nature.
• Talk with the assignor so that Mentee gets performance/capability appropriate game assignments.
• Discuss officiating career possibilities with your Mentee.
• Encourage your Mentee to participate in local and out of area training events in the off season.
• Show your Mentee resources available to them for career growth. (clinics, convention, seminars etc.)
• If possible, invite your Mentee to accompany you to watch a collegiate game and discuss the game’s situations with them.