

# Bow Valley Referees Association

## Tournament Policy

### **Goal:**

A transparent direction for assessing, accepting and providing quality officiating to hockey tournaments in the Bow Valley

### **Stakeholders:**

Bow Valley Referees Association (BVRA)

Banff Hockey Academy (BHA)

Banff Minor Hockey Association (BMHA)

Canmore Minor Hockey Association (CMHA)

Non-local Minor Hockey Association(s) (Non-local MHA)

Town of Banff (ToB)

Town of Canmore (ToC)

### **Background:**

- The term “Bow Valley” encompasses the communities of Banff, Canmore, Exshaw and Lake Louise
- The BVRA is recognized by the Central Zone Referee Council of Hockey Alberta as the coordinating body for sanctioned hockey officiating in the Bow Valley
- The BVRA is no different than other officiating groups across Canada in that the recruitment and retention of officials remains difficult and officiating rosters are chronically understaffed. Thus outside factors and requests notwithstanding, the BVRA has finite resources available to provide qualified officials.
- The BVRA follows an established prioritization policy for determining the order that games are to be assigned
- All BVRA officials are duly registered with Hockey Alberta and by extension Hockey Canada, thus are only covered by their on-ice insurance in games sanctioned by those organizations
- Past history has shown that games starting during normal working hours on weekdays and early in the morning on weekends are very problematic to find officials to work

### **Policy:**

- The BVRA will tentatively accept requests to officiate tournament. Binding commitment will occur 30 days before the first tournament game. Should the BVRA be unable to provide officials, they will work proactively with tournament organizers to ensure all games are adequately covered.
- Tournaments will be a maximum of 16 games
- A maximum of two tournaments per weekend will be accepted

- Tournament schedule must be supplied to the assignor in a format designated by BVRA at least 96 hours prior to the first game. Errors contained in the provided information or schedule changes may negatively impact the proper coverage of games and BVRA is not bound to accommodate any changes within 96 hours of the first game
- Tournaments have a reduced priority for receiving game assignments than other hockey games being played concurrently, thus if BVRA requires more officials and must have officials travel in from other centres, those costs will be borne by the tournament. BVRA will give tournament organizers a preliminary cost estimate 60 days before the tournament and a final cost 15 days before the tournament. Any changes to the tournament schedule within the final 15 days may result in further adjustments to the total cost.
- Due to school, work and travel constraints, tournament games cannot start before the following times. Exemptions may be granted at the sole discretion of the game assignor.
  - Friday 4pm
  - Saturday 8:30am
  - Sunday 8:30am
- The BVRA can not and will not assign games for tournaments not sanctioned by Hockey Alberta or Hockey Canada. Should a request be received for a non-sanctioned tournament, the BVRA will distribute the information to its membership with the direction for individual officials to contact the tournament organizers directly if they are available and interested in working games on their own