

## **Shadowing/Mentor Program ~ Officials**

Shadowing/mentor Program “This process provides an experienced official to work with two younger officials in a game environment where the experienced official “shadows”, or follows, the official(s) around the ice giving pointers and immediate feedback. In this system, the younger officials are still responsible for calling the game and the shadow will only get involved in making a call if something blatantly obvious was missed. The main purpose of the shadow is to serve as a coach to the on-ice officials by providing immediate positioning and procedural tips along with positive reinforcement” (USA Hockey Mentor Program).

The purpose of this program is to serve as a guideline to develop and mentor new/youth officials. USA Hockey recommends that all new officials work their first game with a Mentor.

The mentor will also provide off-ice instruction and feedback from gameplay. Only in severe and blatant situations with potential injury should the mentor call a penalty for the officials working the game. The mentor’s role is to instruct, not to question the judgment of the officials. Establishing confidence and a comfort level will result in a positive experience for new officials, which ultimately helps keep them involved in the game as officials.

