**2022 Referee Report**

**Submitted by Cam Rock, Referee in Chief**

Overall 2022 was a very busy year for the referee committee. It started with a change in governance with Andrew Kibblewhite stepping down as Referee in Chief (RIC) and moving into the role of National Coordinator in order to assist me in taking over the RIC role. A role Andrew held until the end of the year when he officially stepped back from refereeing. We are forever grateful for his 5 years as Chief Referee and the fantastic work he did. We also changed our Referee Committee Structure to a smaller more defined role and responsibility group. Thank you to the previous members as we welcomed the new members; Brendon Waterhouse, Sam Harris and Jordan Stewart.

**We identified 3 key areas of focus for 2022:**

* Change our process of training new referees to reduce barriers to becoming a referee
* Continue our policy of zero tolerance for referee abuse
* Increase mentorship of all referees

**To support these goals, we focused on the following activities in 2022:**

1. Moved the theoretical component of our new referee training program to an online platform allowing referees to train either at their speed or guided online by the RIC
2. Conduct online Player/Coach training sessions on rules including abuse of referee rules
3. Install posters at all rinks reminding everyone that abuse of referees is not acceptable
4. Conduct online training session with all referees on how to manage and what penalties are available to call for abuse of officials
5. Prior to Junior Festival and Nationals conduct referee and coach rule update sessions
6. Have the RIC and members of the referee committee attend all sanctioned and national tournaments to provide coaching and mentoring to the referees

**Our successes for 2022:**

* Trained 26 new referees through the online program, including 11 over age 18
* Went from five abuse of official misconduct penalties called at 2019 Levin Nationals to one at 2022 Hamilton Nationals
* Anecdotally heard from many players and coached at Junior Festival and Nationals that players were very happy with the level and consistency of the referees

**Our 2022 areas for improvement:**

* In all regions struggled to provide referees for all games
* Consistency of calls across all referees throughout the season

**For 2023 our key areas of focus are:**

* Introduction and training of all players, coaches and referees on 2023 updated rule book
* Continue our program of training new referees and focus on recruitment of new referees in areas that have low numbers
* Continue our program of zero tolerance for abuse of officials
* Continue development of all referees with tournament and conference game mentorship and feedback
* Minimise games that do not have referees available