



## NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE  
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8  
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 · FAX: (705) 474-6019  
[www.noha-hockey.ca](http://www.noha-hockey.ca)



# NOHA CONTINUES FOCUS ON SUPPORT OF OFFICIALS

## MINOR OFFICIALS TO WEAR GREEN ARM BANDS FOR 2022/2023 SEASON

**North Bay, ON – September 14, 2022:** In an effort to continue to provide support for new and young Officials, the Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA) announced today that it will implement a Green Armband policy for On-Ice Officials under the age of 18. The initiative is aimed at reducing harassment and abuse of Officials by spectators and team officials.

Effective the 2022/2023 season, all On-Ice Officials under the age of 18 will wear a green arm band, which will identify that they are a minor. Roughly 35% of registered On-Ice Officials in the NOHA are under the age of 18 and are extremely important to the present and the future of the Officiating Program in Northern Ontario.

The policy will also further support Officials with increased discipline for spectators and team officials who abuse or harass Officials wearing green armbands. It is important that these individuals know that some of our Officials are minors under the law and be reminded that this behaviour is not acceptable.

The green armband initiative was initially implemented in Montreal in 2020 and subsequently applied across Hockey Eastern Ontario (Ottawa and surrounding areas) last season and is being implemented across the NOHA based on feedback received earlier in the Spring from our Membership. The policy will also assist in supporting the New Officials initiative, where the NOHA will provide free registration and free equipment to first time Officials this season.

“The NOHA understands that harassment and abuse of Officials is never acceptable. We also recognize the need to further support our young Officials who are in a position where they are being yelled at by adults, and we believe that the green armband initiative will assist with this,” said NOHA President, Sue Shepherdson.

In the coming weeks, the NOHA will distribute posters that can be displayed in arenas and will host presentations for our Minor Hockey Associations and team officials to better understand the policy.

The full policy and frequently asked questions are available on the NOHA website, [www.noha-hockey.ca](http://www.noha-hockey.ca).

Questions can be directed to NOHA Officiating Program Coordinator, Adam Morell, at (705) 474-8851 or [amorell@noha-hockey.ca](mailto:amorell@noha-hockey.ca).