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Welcome to the 2018-19 hockey season. The SHA's Referee's Division wants to thank you for your interest and commitment as an official this season as we look forward to getting all our officials certified, out on the ice and ready to help with everyone's development.

Along with this information letter with some information about the start of the season, you will also receive attachments with registration instructions and the clinic schedule.

A few things to note before you get started with the process. All officials must register online, complete the online modules and sign up for a clinic to be certified this season. Registration opens August 15, 2018. Along with those steps, all senior officials (18+ as of December 31, 2018) must complete a Criminal Records Check and have it approved by December 15. Please allowed yourself and the lawyer's office plenty of time of confirm this process meets the Hockey Canada standards.

Also, many senior officials will need to complete fitness testing again this season. It is required for any official who works in the Canada West (male and female), Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League and the Saskatchewan Midget AAA Hockey League. It is also recommended that officials who work the Saskatchewan Female Midget AAA Hockey League, and the Saskatchewan Bantam and Midget AA Hockey Leagues also complete fitness testing.

A note for junior officials, the on-ice sessions are not mandatory to become a certified, in most minor hockey associations, but it is highly recommended that if you attend a clinic with the option of an on-ice session that you take advantage of it to improve your knowledge comfort level on the ice and development.

At the clinics, all officials will receive a new Hockey Canada Rulebook, which was part of the registration fee. Additional rulebooks can be purchased for \$10 at the clinics along with the SHA and Hockey Canada Crests that every official must wear on their jersey. Crests are \$5 each. Officials can also purchase referee, on-size fits all, arm bands for \$15. These are the items available at the clinics for purchase.

A reminder for the clinics that the sessions start at the time posted on the clinic schedule so please arrive earlier to get registered and put in the proper classroom. Also, this season, it is encouraged that parents or guardians of younger or new officials stay for the first 15-20 minutes of the clinic as the local assigning procedure, payment structure and contacts will be discussed before moving on to the clinic material.

Participants travel from the clinic to the ice session is also up to them so please coordinate travel arrangements and your may consider bringing and snack or bag lunch, as there is just a half hour schedule between the classroom and ice sessions.

Here is to a great season of development and support for officials in Saskatchewan,

Trent Cey

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