



BECOMING A MINOR HOCKEY REFEREE IN CUMBERLAND – 2026

(District 12 – Cumberland Referees Association)

If you have been actively refereeing within the last 5 years, contact one of the members of the CRA executive directly. The contact information is listed on the CRA website – www.cumberlandrefs.ca.

Otherwise, follow the application process for new officials below.

APPLICATION PROCESS – NEW OFFICIALS

To apply to become a new minor hockey referee in Cumberland, you must be at least 12 years of age and you must attend an on-ice tryout. The date and time for this tryout will be posted on the News & Events page of the CRA website – <http://www.cumberlandrefs.ca>.

Before attending the tryout, send an email to:

jdunn@breken.com

d12crarefdevelopment@gmail.com

Please notify us of your intention to attend at least 1 week prior to the tryout. You should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled ice time. You must bring with you the following:

1. A completed application form (see below)
2. A completed written assignment (see below)
3. Skates, helmet, and neck guard (you do not need a referee jersey or other refereeing gear)

If you email your completed written assignment to the email addresses mentioned above (before coming to the on-ice tryouts) you do not need to bring it with you.

After attending the on-ice tryout, the CRA will select a limited number of applicants and offer them positions with the CRA. Successful applicants will then need to register and attend an HEO / Hockey Canada referee clinic. After having successfully completed the referee clinic, applicants must notify the CRA so they can be issued an account with user ID and password for the CRA website.

APPLICATION FORM

The application form is included below. You must fill it in, providing answers to all of the questions and bring it with you to the on-ice tryout, or email it to the addresses listed above. This completed application form must be handed in at the on-ice tryout..

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

The written assignment will be posted on the CRA website a few weeks before the on-ice tryouts. It will include questions and links to all the reference material you will need to complete the assignment. It is not a long assignment, but you MUST read the references and answer the questions based on the



material contained in the references. The completed assignment must be emailed to the people mentioned above or handed in at the on-ice tryout.

ON-ICE TRYOUT

There will be an on-ice tryout that you **MUST** attend. The time and place of the on-ice tryout will be posted on the CRA website once it has been set. For this session, you will need skates, a helmet, a neck guard, and you should wear comfortable clothing.

SELECTION

There are a limited number of positions open each year, therefore, this is a competitive process and only the top applicants will be selected. Following the on-ice try out, the top applicants will be selected and notified that they are then eligible to attend an HEO / Hockey Canada refereeing clinic. Selection will be based on: the responses in application form, the written assignment, and on-ice performance (skating ability, presence, etc).

ATTEND A CLINIC

If you are selected, you must then register and attend a refereeing clinic, at your own expense, hosted by HEO. For 2025-26 and future seasons, there is an online component to the clinic that must be completed first, followed by a half-day in-person clinic. It is highly recommend that successfully candidates complete the on-line component as soon as possible, as there are a limited number of half-day, in-person clinics each year for new officials. The combined cost of the online and in-person components to the clinics is ~\$170. Only those selected can attend the clinic. More info is available on the following websites:

[Officiating Resources | Hockey Eastern Ontario](#)

[HCR - Hockey Canada Registry](#)

Do not attend an HEO clinic unless you have been notified by the Cumberland Referees Association that you have been selected as a successful candidate. Every referee must take a clinic every year.

NOTIFY CRA THAT CLINIC HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Following successful completion of the HEO clinic, you need to email jdunn@breken.com and d12crarefdevelopment@gmail.com to advise that you have completed both components of the referee clinic and you must provide your full HCOP (referee number, usually 12-14 digits long), which is visible once logged into your Spordle account – <https://myaccount.spordle.com/login>. Providing us with your HCOP will allow us to create an account for you on the CRA website. The account cannot be created until you send us this number and you cannot be assigned any games until you have an account on the CRA website.



POLICE RECORDS CHECK

All officials involved with minor hockey and who will be 19 years of age or older during the season must have a valid police records check with vulnerable sector check, and must have attended a “Respect in Sports” session. Selected candidates who are 19 years of age will be sent an volunteer association letter, which should be uploaded into the portal in order to have the \$70 fee waived. Please see the following website for more information:

[Vulnerable Sector Check | Hockey Eastern Ontario](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please read the FAQ section at the end of this document. All referees will be expected to attend monthly meetings and new referees must complete a series of online quizzes. Officials who do not demonstrate a reasonable level of commitment will not be asked to return the following year. More details will be provided in the CRA Statement of Understanding at the beginning of the season.



REFEREE APPLICATION (must be completed and brought to the on-ice tryout)

Name:

Birth date/age:

Address (you must live in the D12 area):

Phone number (both day and evening):

Email address:

Last level of hockey played (e.g. U15RB, U16AA, U18HLA, etc.):

What level of hockey you expect to play (if any) in the upcoming season:

Any relevant previous experience (e.g. soccer referee, etc.):

Why do you want to be a hockey referee? (Attach a separate page if necessary):



FAQ – BECOMING A MINOR HOCKEY REFEREE IN CUMBERLAND

How old do I have to be?

All applicants must be at least 12 years of age.

What if I can't make it to the tryouts?

We only hold 1 tryout each year. This is a competitive process and there are a limited number of positions open each year. Some applicants will be turned down. It would not be fair to allow an applicant who did not attend the tryouts to take the position away from an applicant who did. Therefore, to be fair to all new applicants, you must attend the tryout to be considered.

How do I get assigned my games?

To be assigned games, you must have an account on the CRA website (www.cumberlandrefs.ca). Once you get an account, you need to update your profile (contact information). This will allow our assignors to assign games to you, as well as to be able to contact you directly where needed and to provide other information pertinent to assigning of games.

How do I get an account on the CRA website?

After you have taken your clinic (do not take a clinic unless you have been notified that you have been accepted into the CRA), you must contact the webmaster (email and phone are on the CRA website) and he will create an account for you.

Do I have to take a clinic?

Yes. All referees must attend a clinic every year. The clinics are administered by Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO). After you have been accepted by the CRA, you must register to attend the HEO refereeing clinic. For more information, go to:

[Officiating Resources | Hockey Eastern Ontario](#)

[HCR - Hockey Canada Registry](#)

How much does it cost to take the clinic?

The cost is set by HEO (Hockey Eastern Ontario), but has historically cost ~\$170.

When can I take the clinic?

The clinics are in the fall during September and October. The exact schedule is published by HEO in late summer at [HCR - Hockey Canada Registry](#). Note: you must sign up for the appropriate level. Contact one of the members of the executive if you are uncertain of which level.



What level of hockey will I start with?

Most referees will start at the lowest levels (U9 and U11 house league). For the first few games, you will be paired with a more experienced official. There may also be a senior official on the ice to supervise/assist.

Once you have done a number of games and the supervisors feel that you are ready to progress, you will receive games with other junior officials, including other first year officials. Those officials that demonstrate the ability and desire to officiate higher levels of hockey will be rated for higher levels.

How many games will I get?

There are a limited number of games at the U9 and U11 house league levels. This means that most first year officials will not receive a large number of games. Historically, most first year officials get 4 to 6 games per month to start. This will usually increase around Christmas. Depending on availability, second and third year officials usually get 8 to 10 games per month.

What is the pay?

Current pay rates vary by game level and duration. They are listed on our web site.

What equipment will I need?

As a new referee, you will need:

- Skates with white laces (must be player skates – not goalie skates or figure skates)
- Black helmet with a CSA approved half visor (a full face mask does not work as you can't blow the whistle)
- A hockey referee whistle (2 recommended)
- Referee jersey (can be purchased at local sports stores for ~\$100 – make sure you get the style for minor hockey and NOT the NHL style used by many men's leagues)
- Shin pads
- Jock /Jill
- Small elbow pads (not required, but a good idea)
- Black pants (large enough to fit the shin pads under them; they must be solid black with no stripes or other pattern). NOTE: You do not need actual referee pants to start with, but if you progress to higher levels of hockey, you will want them (and some form of padding under them for protection).

I have refereed in the past but was not in the CRA last year. What do I do?

Returning referees and referees transferring in from other districts will be considered on a case by case basis. However, as a general rule, anyone who has not refereed within the past 5 years will be considered as a new referee and will have to attend the on ice tryouts. If you already have an HCOP



number from Hockey Canada and you have been actively refereeing within the last 5 years, contact one of the members of the executive directly. The contact information is listed on the CRA website – www.cumberlandrefs.ca.

Otherwise, follow the application process for new officials.