



## Green Armband Initiative

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The Green Armband Initiative has been introduced in many minor sport associations, including hockey and basketball. This Initiative is being implemented by Ringette Saskatchewan for the 2023-2024 season. The goal of the Green Armband Initiative is to bring awareness to the age of many ringette officials in Saskatchewan and create an environment of respect for all participants involved in ringette in Saskatchewan.

Addressing the issue of abuse and harassment of officials within ringette in Saskatchewan is an ongoing concern. While the majority of players, team staff, and spectators treat officials with respect, there are unfortunate instances where this is not the case. To help tackle this problem and raise awareness, as well as to clearly identify these minors for all involved in the game, all officials under the age of 18 will be required to wear a green armband. The goal of this initiative is to help deter those who engage in abusive and harassing behaviour towards officials, particularly minors.

All officials under the age of 18 will wear a green armband on their left arm during all games in Saskatchewan to identify these officials as minors to coaches and team staff, players, parents, and spectators.

- An officials may stop wearing the green armband as of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- The green armband is to be worn on the left arm, between the elbow and shoulder.
- The green armband is to be worn regardless of the age of the players involved in the game and of the competition level of the game. The wearing of a green armband reflects the official's age NOT their skill level as an official.

## **PURPOSE**

The Green Armband Initiative serves several purposes:

- Protect Young Officials
  - The Initiative aims to provide greater protection for young officials, who may be more susceptible to mistreatment due to their age.
- Raising Awareness
  - The green armbands will serve as a visual reminder to all involved in ringette, emphasizing the importance of treating officials with respect and dignity.
- Encourage Respect
  - The Initiative aims to emphasize the importance of fostering a culture of respect towards all participants in the game.
- Deter Abusive Behaviour
  - The Initiative aims to discourage individuals from engaging in abusive behaviour, as they understand their actions will be readily recognizable and may result in additional consequences.
- Promote a Supportive Environment
  - The green armbands serve as signal to other adults involved in the game, including coaches, team staff, parents, and spectators, to actively create a supportive and protective atmosphere for young officials.

## OBJECTIVES

- Reduce harassment and abuse of younger officials by clearly identifying them as minors to coaches and team staff, players, parents, and spectators.
- Educate coaches and team staff, players, parents, and spectators about the challenges officials face with respect to harassment and abuse while officiating ringette games.

## NEXT STEPS

- Promote the Green Armband Initiative throughout Saskatchewan through a rink poster campaign, social media campaign, and through officials wearing green armbands to increase awareness of the challenges faced by officials and to educate members of the greater Saskatchewan ringette community about how they can help.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- When does the Green Armband Initiative take effect?
  - The Initiative officially begins at the start of the 2023-2024 season.
- Do officials have to pay for a green armband?
  - No, all green armbands will be provided to all minor officials through their local association.
- Do only new officials have to wear green armbands?
  - No, all on-ice officials under the age of 18 will be required to wear a green armband starting in the 2023-2024 season. This includes brand new officials and returning officials. New officials over the age of 18 are not required to wear a green armband.
- What if an official refuses to wear the green armband?
  - For the Initiative to be successful and have the desired impact, all officials under the age of 18 need to do their part and wear a green armband.
- When does an officials stop wearing the green armband?
  - Officials may stop wearing their green armband on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Does an official have to wear a green armband while officiating outside of Saskatchewan?
  - It is up to the official whether or not they wish to wear their green armband when officiating ringette outside of Saskatchewan.