

## Eric Cowsill

My name is Eric Cowsill. This is my 11<sup>th</sup> year as an IHOA official. I have been part of the Mentor, Evaluation/Supervisory, Performance, Education & Development and Rules & Ethics committees, and attended championship functions in efforts to better myself, serve and support the membership throughout each season.

In my recent service as a board member, I chaired the Performance, Education & Development (PED) committee. While this committee is historically an outlet for people to voice their displeasure we've been able to use the feedback we receive as a teaching tool for officials, parents, coaches and players. One way we were able to do this was through the purchase of LiveBarn and using video footage to support and defend officials against unjust claims and continue to build IHOA as a positive brand in the Illinois hockey community. I believe through continuous communication with officials, parents, players and coaches we have been able to reduce the overall number of PEDs by 25% and encouraged those who write in to submit positive feedback regarding the officials as well. The committee and I have been advocates to build the relationship between IHOA and AHAI and have done so through open dialogue.

In previous seasons, I have enjoyed teaching at seminars, both in class and on ice. As a certified instructor, I challenge myself to innovate and enhance the seminar experience for all involved, especially our new officials. I have also leveraged LiveBarn by including actual local game footage as discussion points in seminars this past year, as well as incorporating various interactive aspects. I am currently working on developing online tutorial videos to help guide new officials through the process in order to increase completion rates for new officials.

I believe by allocating assets to seminars, general and advanced development, mentor and evaluation programs we can increase our overall knowledge base as a membership and increase overall retention.

Over prior seasons, I have attended Central District meetings in a collaborative effort to enhance the districts' officiating and bring ideas back to Illinois that are successful for other states. By attending various USA Hockey meetings, I have been able to learn their short and long-term goals and assess how they may affect IHOA so we can align and prepare for them in ways that best serve our membership.

I greatly enjoy the ability to serve in these roles allowing me to give back to the IHOA membership. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue my service on the Board of Directors for you, the membership.