



Calgary Minor Basketball Association

Blue Whistle Program: Updated Structure & Policy

The Blue Whistle Program is Calgary Minor Basketball's entry-level officiating stream, designed to introduce and develop new referees (primarily youth and beginner adults) in a supportive and educational environment. The focus is on skill development, confidence building, and providing foundational knowledge of officiating in a live game setting.

Eligibility & Intended Purpose:

- For individuals aged 13+ or new adult officials with fewer than 2 years of officiating experience.
 - Must attend a CMBA Intro to Officiating Clinic prior to being assigned games.
 - Blue Whistle officials are only eligible to officiate:
 - U11 and U13 below Div 2 games (Used in Div 1 as needed)
 - U15/U18 recreational games as a supporting role with a certified Black Whistle mentor.
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Practical Application & Development:

1. On-Court Mentorship:

- Every Blue Whistle will be paired with an experienced Black Whistle or designated mentor during their first 6 games minimum as much as possible based on availability.



- Mentors will provide in-game feedback and post-game evaluations to guide development.

2. Skills-Based Progression:

- Officials will be evaluated on core competencies: positioning, signaling, communication, whistle control, game management, and knowledge of rules.
- Feedback will be uploaded into a personal development file accessible to the official and assignors.

3. Mid-Season Workshops:

- All Blue Whistles should make an effort to attend one mid-season in-person workshop focused on common challenges, conflict resolution, and rules application when they are offered.

Earnings, Advancement, and Time Limitations:

To ensure this remains a development program and not a permanent role, the following criteria will apply:

Maximum Duration in Blue Whistle Program:

- No more than 2 seasons (including both fall and spring leagues), unless granted a development extension by the CMBOA Chair.
- After 1 full season, an official becomes eligible for promotion if:
 - They have officiated at least 12 games,
 - Have completed a formal evaluation, and



- Have attended required workshops and clinics.

Compensation Cap:

- Officials earning more than \$25/game or officiating higher than U13 without a mentor are considered out of scope for Blue Whistle.
- Once an official regularly earns above this threshold or officiates competitive games (e.g., Div 1 or club-level), they must transition to the Black Whistle Program within 4 weeks.

Ineligible Assignments for Blue Whistle:

- Any games that pay \$35 or more.
- Any championship or club games.
- Competitive league matches outside the U13 level.

Transition to Black Whistle Program:

- Blue Whistles ready to advance must:
 - Pass a formal evaluation from the CMBOA or designate.
 - Complete the Level 1 referee certification.
 - Attend a Black Whistle onboarding session.

Transition bonuses or recognition incentives may be offered to promote development and continued participation.

