The Shadow (Mentor) Program is a Hockey Canada program that was developed in early 2000. The program manual issued in 2002 is the foundation of the program that will be run in the Central Zone. This program is the most effective and direct training tool available for first and second year officials. It allows for instantaneous feedback for the officials during the course of the game. It also serves to provide a visible support for new officials who are nervous and inexperienced, calming the players, coaches, and fans who can see that the new officials are receiving much needed training.

The basic requirements of the program are as follows:

1. Program is for first and second year officials working the 2 man system only.
2. A senior official at least 16 years old with 3 years or more of experience.
3. First period is spent shadowing one official, second period the other official, third period in the stands writing up supervision notes for the officials to refer to later.
4. Shadows will wear black slacks and a windbreaker identifying them as a Shadow. They will also wear a helmet.
5. No whistle is to be worn and no calls are to be made by the Shadow, they will allow the officials to make mistakes. Every effort will be made to coach them through those moments of indecision.
6. In the event of a highly controversial play or injury the Shadow will actively support the on-ice officials as required.
7. Every effort will be made to not slow the pace of the game.

Our Ask of the Community Associations:

- Put forward any names of potential shadow volunteers or coordinators from your community
- Provide a list of officials to be shadowed and their schedules to the Shadow Coordinator
- Communication of the program to the coaches and parents

CZRC will Provide the Following:

- Shadow Coordinators - one per community ideally but one coordinator may work with up to 4 communities
- Shadow Jackets for the mentors
- Supervision and Support for the Coordinators throughout the season
- A one to two hour training session in October for the mentors

Goals for 2012-13:

- 1 Shadow Mentor for every 4 officials (1st and 2nd year only)
- 2 shadows per official, one before Christmas and one after