

SPORTS

Former coach gets final say as referee-in-chief

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Mike McLean has served as an assistant coach with the Stouffville Clippers' rep teams and senior on-ice official within the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association.

Just recently, McLean was given a new position when he was

appointed as the association's new referee-in-chief.

McLean succeeds Paul Thornhill, who resigned due to business commitments.

In naming McLean to the new position, Don Easter, association president, felt he was the ideal candidate to take over a revamped position.

McLean will be counted on to bridge an in-house age difference.

AGE GAP IN STRIPES

"The WSMHA needs to focus on the training and development of new officials," Easter said in an association media release. "We have a number of senior officials who have done an excellent job

over the years, and we are counting on them to continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

"But we have a significant gap both in age and numbers between these older officials and the young kids just starting out. This needs to be addressed as an issue of some urgency. Training, mentoring and developing officials will be Mike's

first priority. His experience as a referee and as a coach will enable him to bring a unique perspective to this role."

While Thornhill has resigned from the position of referee-in-chief, Easter said he will continue to work as an on-ice official as his time allows.

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