

Jahresbericht 2017 Schiedsrichterkommission

The last 2 years the Jahresbericht indicated a similar message: although there was still a lot of work to be done many things had changed to the better. New initiatives like the Umpire Mentor Program and the Development of Training materials in 4 different languages in combination with an increase in training sessions resulted in a higher number of umpires at all levels and improved the overall quality of the arbitration. Also, every year active and motivated members joined the Schiedsrichterkommission.

Unfortunately, this was not the case in 2017. Almost no training sessions have been organized, no new initiatives have been started and almost all the members decided to leave the Schiedsrichterkommission. The Umpire Mentor Program is still in place but at a much smaller scale than planned.

Part of this change is due to the suboptimal communication and cooperation between Schiedsrichterkommission, the Geschäftsstelle and the Vorstand.

For some reason almost all initiatives by the Schiedsrichterkommission were not sufficiently supported and have for that reason not (properly) been implemented. This had a negative impact on the motivation of the Schiedsrichterkommission members: most of them left over the last 12 months.

Currently there is a severe lack of umpires in Swiss Romand for the LNA which already resulted in undesired situations where less experienced umpires, in combination with aggressive (and unacceptable) behavior of both players and spectators, lost control over a match. This is not what Swiss Hockey should be about and what should be tolerated.

Instead of having meetings, discussing, and spending money, the focus should be on getting the basics right. Therefor the theme for the near future should be: Train, Train Train!!!

I ask all clubs to let us know when there will be friendly games. These are great opportunities to organize umpire training sessions. Last October a session has been organized in Lausanne but more need to take place.

I ask the Vorstand to present a vision which clearly supports the Umpire development in the long run: it is time to invest in a broader long-term approach.

I am committed to set some ambitious goals for 2018 and beyond, by re-energizing the Schiedsrichterkommission and starting new initiatives. But this can only happen as an integral part of the Swiss Hockey strategy whereby focus and commitment are more important than budget.

I would like to end with a positive note and say a big Thank You to all umpires who during the last season showed their commitment. We are counting on you again and will do our utmost to give you all the support needed in the near future: together we will make Swiss Umpire a success!

Bart Slager Vorsitzender Schiedsrichterkommission