



# ONTARIO MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER COMPETITION



DECEMBER 2016

www.OMFRC.ca

VOL.1 No.4

# DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE ONTARIO MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER COMPETITION.

## ~ How to be a GREAT Judge ~

The Ontario Medical First Responder Competition (OMFRC) is held annually as a fun opportunity for St. John Ambulance volunteers throughout Ontario to come together and complete in first responder scenarios and training situations that are meant to not only increase the volunteer's skills, but their confidence, knowledge and abilities while having the chance to challenge their scores in search of a trophy.

The OMFRC is only able to happen through the generous support of other volunteers coming together to organize and facilitate the event. Having competent and effective Site Judges allow for the competing teams to be fairly evaluated and scores to be calculated.

A **GREAT** judge will:

- Inspire the team to keep going during the scenario; you are paying attention.
- Instill confidence in their skills and abilities
- Encourage the team to improve for the next scenario, level or next year.
- Maintain the teams respect and build a relationship of trust and excitement for the experience.

## ~ TIPS to be a GREAT Judge ~

### Know the Scenario

When you receive the information and marking schemes for what you will be judging, read through each and every single word, make sure you know everything in the marking scheme and history for your casualty! When you have read through your specific casualty's information:

- Does the scenario make sense to you? Do you understand the casualty's injuries/presentation?
- Do you know and understand the first aid care expected?
- Do you have any questions as to what is written?

Any questions NEED to be brought to the Zone Lead PRIOR to the first cycle of the scenario.



### Check your Site before each Cycle

The goal is for each team to have the exact same scenario experience. We want it to be consistent to make it fair and fun for everyone. Before the beginning of the first Cycle make sure your Site is ready.

- Do you have all your hazards for your Site and are they in the correct place?
- Is the Casualty Simulation correct? CHECK!
- Does your Casualty have all their props? (medical alert bracelets or medication bottles)
- Does your Casualty know their SAMPLE?
- Do you have the correct level of marking sheets for the incoming team? (SFA vs AMFR)
- Do you have a clipboard, pen and back up pen, and anything you may need to mark accurately?

### Plan ahead how you will mark

When a team moves quickly, it can be hard to flip pages back and forth trying to find a vital sign or to mark off a rhymed off Secondary Survey. **Plan ahead;** have a loose copy of the vital signs, use check marks (✓) at the beginning of the line if the task was completed and at the end of the scenario you can go back and circle all the points where there are check marks. Come up with a consistent marking method that works for you and will make your job easier and more accurate for scoring of the team.



# ONTARIO MEDICAL FIRST RESPONSE COMPETITION



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**NOTE:** It will not be your task to total up the scores on any pages. However, it is important to ensure each line of the marking scheme has a point value circled (e.g.: 10 or 0, not both and you cannot award half points.)

## Stop Talking... Listen

*"If we were supposed to talk more than we listen, we would have two tongues and one ear."* Mark Twain.

The key to being an effective judge is the ability to LISTEN! In fact, there should be little two-way communication with your competing team.

Focus on the team members who are speaking, avoid distractions or looking around the room. It is very frustrating as a team member to be ignored by the judge. Remember that every delay the team experiences waiting for the judge is less points that they can earn.

Most teams will have at least 2 members talking at a time; and if you are not actively listening, you may not award marks where they are earned or know to correct a team if appropriate. Listen to what they are saying; and silently follow along in your marking scheme.

The only communication that should happen is to verbally correct a stated vital sign (for example, a team member says "the pulse is 84 strong and regular" but as per the scenario outline, that is not accurate... you simply respond with the correct information "pulse is 66 weak and irregular." If the team only says "the pulse is 84" you only correct what was given... "the pulse is 66." HOWEVER, remember that in marking a team for their vital signs – a complete set is to include all three things to get the mark (rate, rhythm and volume); giving just the rate should not be awarded points.



*Always remain within close proximity of the team you are judging, without getting in their way. You need to be able to hear and see what the team is doing in order to judge them appro-*

If the team asks you a question, like "is this an open fracture?" answer with "as you find it"; unless it is not clear or the simulation has been compromised. Do not give hints or clues to an injury or treatment – that's not fair to other teams who are competing... which leads to the last point:

## Be impartial and fair

You may be judging a team from your own unit or teams from a variety of levels of training. From a brand new youth SFA team to Medical Professionals; before each scenario begins, know what level of responders are coming to your site and judge them accordingly! Remember that SFA teams are NOT being held to the same standard as the MFR or Professional level teams. If you are going to be judging a team from your volunteer unit, declare the conflict and see if another judge could switch sites with you to avoid any perception of impartiality. If possible, the same judges should try and judge all the same category level to avoid one judge marking one team in a category harder than another judge.

Finally, have a great time being an important part of this fun and educational day! You play a pivotal role in the success of OMFRC! Thank you for volunteering your time! Join us at our Provincial OMFRC on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2016!

*Special thanks to Sandra Chamieh for her assistance with this month's article!*