

The long and winding road: Macro developmental histories of Canadian sport officials.

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Purpose: To explore the athletic-participation histories of sport officials, and the training and participation histories related to sport officials' level expertise development (i.e., novice, basic, intermediate and advanced/expert).

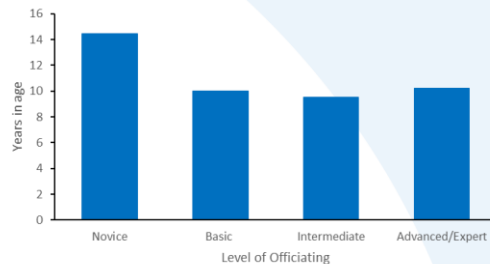
Sample: 511 officials completed a modified version of the Developmental History of Athletes Questionnaire (Hopwood, 2013)

- 17% female; 86% officiated basketball and soccer

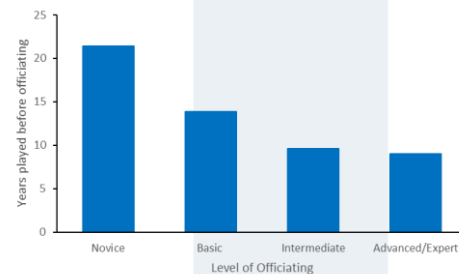
Key takeaways from results:

1) **Over 80%** played their sport before officiating.

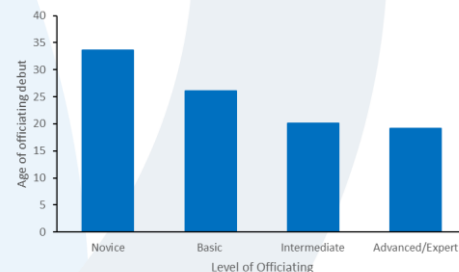
2) Those that reach basic, intermediate and advanced/expert levels **start playing 4 years earlier.**



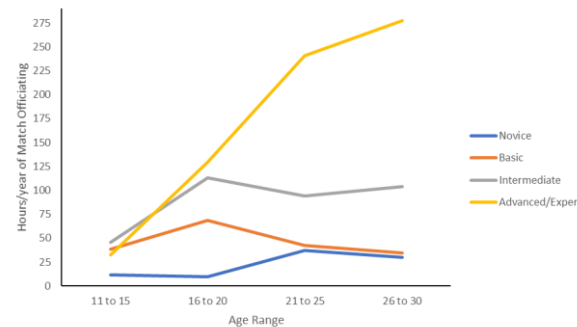
3) Those that reach top levels play for **less than 10 years** before they start officiating.



4) Those that eventually reach top levels **start officiating at or before 20 years of age.**



5) How much (**hours/year**) you actually officiate matters.



6) **Over 70%** keep playing while they officiate.

Implications for recruitment, talent identification and development practices.

Next steps:

- Explore variation in data (e.g., basketball vs. soccer)
- Gender differences