

2007 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Official

Inductee: Lynda Ward

Lynda started playing volleyball when she was a teenager and eventually moved on to a post secondary career playing for the University of Alberta Pandas. Soon after she realized there was a shortage of certified referees in Alberta and jumped into the officiating ranks.

Lynda has the distinction of becoming the first female Regional and National official from Alberta. During her tenure she served as the official's assignor for the greater Edmonton area high schools, ACAC and CIS. She also assigned the minor officials for several CIS National Championships, and was the Coordinator of minor officials for the Universiade Games in 1983.

Lynda Ward officiated at the highest levels throughout Canada. She worked as the second official for the first ever "friendly" game between Team Canada and USA, with over 2200 rabid fans packed into the U of A main gymnasium. She's been the first official at many CCAA men's and women's National Championships, and worked several ACAC and CIS league matches throughout her career. Lynda has also refereed at the Canada Summer Games and numerous Provincial & National Club Championships in all age classes.

In the early 1970's there were no organized programs for officials in the Edmonton area. Lynda, along with her husband Bill, and Dennis Johnson formed the Edmonton Volleyball Officials Association (EVOA) in 1971. She later served as EVOA President for many years and was instrumental in developing policy for EVOA. She also assisted with numerous committees for the Alberta Volleyball Officials Association (AVOA).

Lynda has been a mentor for many officials working today, as she was heavily involved in upgrading Provincial and Regional officials. She not only taught them about proper protocol, but also the importance of communication and having fun. Lynda was instrumental in improving coach/official relationships, bridging the gap between the two groups with her upbeat attitude. She will be remembered for her passion, positive influence on young officials, and years of dedicated service to our sport.