

# SPORTORIALS

For All IAABO Members, Coaches, Players and Fans



## OFFICIALS

## vs. Cancer

### January 25 - January 31, 2016

January/February 2016

Volume 67, Number 444



## 2016 IAABO Spring Meeting

The 2016 IAABO Spring Meeting will be held at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort located in beautiful Lake Buena Vista, Florida, April 21-24, 2016. The meeting will be hosted by members of the IAABO Executive Committee. They have put together a well-planned program including golf at the Disney Palms course, the annual Life Membership Luncheon, spouse's breakfast and a visit by Disney characters (only kidding, just testing to see if you read this).

Hotel accommodations are first rate at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort, 1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. The rate is \$129 per room plus resort fees and taxes. This rate may be extended for 3 days before and after the meetings. Reservations can be made by calling 800-624-4109; mention IAABO spring meeting 2016, or visit the link on the IAABO website. Please make your reservations early as the hotel will be full, cut off date is March 15, 2016.

There will be much to do at this year's meeting, starting with the primary purpose, which is to have delegates from all IAABO



Boards elect a President, President-Elect, and a Vice President to serve the organization for the upcoming year of 2016-2017. In addition, four of the 12 executive committee positions are open to serve three year terms; these positions are for regions: 1-NY, 2-MA, 6-DC, and 11-NH. You must be a delegate or former delegate to the IAABO Spring meeting to run for an executive committee position as stated in Article IX, section 1. The elections will be conducted on Sunday morning, see page 7 for a complete agenda and schedule of activities.

All of the standing committees will meet over the course of the conference, many of which have agendas where input from its members is extremely important. These include constitutional changes, legal issues, audit and budget, official's education and development updates, Board Relations and Polices, which are being updated, and the Women's Coordinating Committee.

The Secretary's Roundtable will again be an important meeting, with topics such as the database, membership, communication, the IAABO Handbook, Sportorials opt out, *(continued on page 15)*

## I Gotta Go....

During a recent Executive Board meeting for my local board, the topic turned to money. It seems like a good portion of their meetings are focused on money, and rightfully so. The rank and file expect that they act in their best interests, and keeping the cost of the annual dues down is high on their list of concerns. Even at the national IAABO level, Mr. Lopes is proud of the fact that he has been able to keep the national dues constant during his tenor as Executive Director.

Well, at my local board, the costs attributed to the Interpreter are beginning to creep up. I admit, I do spend some of the board's money on items that I feel are in the best interests of the membership. Tom, Donnie Eppley and Peter Webb provide outstanding tools which I use all the time -- "You Make the Ruling" videos, plays of the week, refresher tests, new applicant teaching aids and study guides, and I could go on and on.

But occasionally I do see books, DVDs and other items from sources outside of IAABO that the E-Board purchases based upon my request. We all agree that they provide value and I am grateful for that. I come from a small board, so any money they spend to



support me and help my efforts in providing interesting and insightful interpretations makes my job easier and hopefully beneficial to the entire board.

On this night, one of the items up for discussion was the cost of sending me to the annual National IAABO Interpretation meeting in the fall. Like my E-Board, I'm also concerned about the cost impact on our budget as well. The percentage of each board

member's dues needed to cover this item becomes larger the smaller the board gets. That is why I've agreed to cover some of the expenses out of my own pocket. All I ask for is to get reimbursed for the cost of the hotel. I pay for travel, food, vacation time from work, etc.

So the President made the suggestion that I only get reimbursed once every three years. It sounds frugal, and with his duty to the rest of the board, I understand his position. But I believe that when you look at the entire cost benefit analysis, it ends up not being in their best interests.

First of all, interpreters like me are not doing this job because of the money. Just with the new applicant class alone, I'm spending over 50 hours a year preparing and teaching the class. *(continued on page 3)*

## The Tip Off

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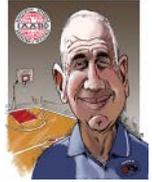
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### STATEMENT

*The International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of basketball officiating, through the proper training of applicants by visual and written aids; constant supervision by board proctors and dissemination of rule changes and interpretations.*

## Director's Court

This year's basketball season is almost over and our officials are awaiting the post-season assignments, hoping that they will be chosen. If that happens and you are selected to work, congratulations, you have earned your spot because of a good basketball season. Continue to do the things that have made you worthy of the assignments and remember it is never about us, it's about the game, 100% effort is expected. You have to be mentally ready as well, to devote your attention to the crucial decisions in every game and handle them effectively. Remember, it is our job to be fair to both teams, have a good working knowledge of the rules and place yourself in the best position to get the plays right.



Moving into April and the Spring Meeting, it will be held April 23-26, 2016 at the Wyndam Hotel in Orlando, FL. This is IAABO's business meeting, where each of our committees meet and evaluate how the organization is being administrated and where changes need to be made to more effectively move the association forward. There are many checks and balances in place which assist in keeping the working of the organization transparent.

We hope many Presidents and Secretaries attend this meeting as IAABO delegates, and welcome their input and that of the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and our general membership. Elections will be held as well, and you will have a chance to take part in this process.

As indicated in another article in this issue of Sportorials, the highlight of the weekend is the Life Membership luncheon where IAABO recognizes five of its members for outstanding service. Yes, this is IAABO'S Hall of Fame. Take a look at pages 13-16 in the IAABO handbook and note former inductees who have been honored.

Looking forward to seeing you in Orlando.

## President's Corner



With the turn of the year we extend to all of you the best of everything for 2016. If we continue with the proper spirit, attitude, and teamwork, every one of us can make ourselves much more helpful to our boards and the game.

The season is now getting more competitive. Rivalry games and team standings mean that games become more important to players and coaches. This is the time of the year when officials must rely on their training and experience to be the best team on the court each and every game.

We have been trained to use our mechanics at all times as a goal to maintain the correct position and procedures on the court before and during the game. Our knowledge of physical mechanics is acquired through pre-season study and continued discussion with our partners in every pre-game through post game.

Mental mechanics are also important. Concerted self-preparation in our personal pre-game is essential for success. Mental mechanics are a form of meditation that begins with the planning of your game day: Where is tonight's game and how long will it take for me to arrive in sufficient time and allow for alternate routes? Where and what should I do when I arrive at the game site? From past experiences, what kind of game might we expect in the way of tactics, any characteristics from previous actual experience of court, table, and the proximity of the benches? What is the demeanor of the crowd and security at this playing location?

These are mundane factual situations that might happen in the game, whether they are in the casebook and manual or from past experiences or situations you have observed. You should also project yourself into the game in the same manner that the coach prepares him or herself and their team for an opponent. Good players prepare by knowing what their offensive and defensive assignments are against each opponent. If we prepare and use mental mechanics, we can take the floor with poise, alertness, and confidence.

Confidence is a valuable asset to every official. Preparation, practicing mental mechanics, and experience improve our confidence. Experienced officials should help and mentor new officials so they gain confidence by offering constructive suggestions, observations, and comments. Everyone needs a pat on the back now and then, and advice is easily accepted from a friend. The players, coaches, and fans can always second guess an official but if we have the proper attitude and preparation, as a crew we will know that we have done the best job capable.

Please remember January 25-31, 2016 is Officials vs. Cancer week. A copy of the donation form is on page 13 of the November/December Sportorials. Your support continues to be an inspiration to IAABO and the basketball community.

I would also ask each member to assist with the Special Olympics State tournament in your area. Volunteering for such a great cause and getting paid in hugs and high fives from the athletes is a memorable experience.

All IAABO members are welcome to attend our annual meetings. The Spring Meeting in Orlando April 21-24, 2016 is an ideal location to attend an IAABO International meeting and also visit Disney World and Universal Orlando. The Spring Meeting is our business meeting, and every Standing Committee meets to keep our organization strong and vibrant. The highlight of the Spring Meeting is the Life Member Luncheon. Registration forms are included in this Sportorials.

Have a successful, safe and healthy remainder of the 2015-2016 season. Good Luck!

## Gotta Go (continued from page 1)

Add in the time needed for preparing and giving those interesting and insightful interpretations, annual coach's interpretations, filming DVDs of officials for them, helping out with evaluations, etc., and the hours add up quickly.

I do receive a much appreciated stipend from the E-Board for my efforts. And just like many officials in my board who officiate for the positive impacts on the game, the players and the schools, the money is a nice bonus. But when you add up all the hours, the hourly pay rate ends up being pretty small, which is just fine with me. I honestly believe that my efforts and contributions for the local board are making a difference, and the level of officiating of our board members is improving. This is the main driver for me and for all the IAABO interpreters that I have ever met.

This brings me back to the national IAABO Interpreters meeting. Two days of presentations and discussions cover all of the hot topics affecting and impacting our game, including rule changes for the upcoming season, refresher sessions on difficult topics like traveling, block charge and correctable errors.

Presentations on insurance and liability, fitness and conditioning, the training and education and retention of officials are just a small sample of the formal topics. All the informal discussions, side bars and relationship building provides just as much value for all the interpreters and attendees, resulting in a tremendous positive impact on our game.

Interpreters do receive copies of all the presentations given each year. I've used them often during my interesting and insightful interpretations. For the years that I don't attend, it's difficult to really give a complete presentation since I'm limited to just the words on the slides, which is a small portion of the valuable message that the presenter delivers.

When you compare all of the knowledge, concepts and ideas that I bring back and share with my membership to the cost impact on my small board's budget, I'm convinced that the value each member receives for their dollars is priceless. Looking at it any other way is just a disservice to their best interests. If all interpreters could attend every year, the impact on our game and officials would be fantastic! IAABO has told me that the locations for the the Fall Meetings will be at a site that is driveable for most interpreters.

The Undercover Interpreter  
Board Unknown

### 50 Year Award



Tom Lopes, Executive Director, IAABO, Inc., presents (Melvin) Red Murray, Bd 118 NH with his IAABO 50 year award at the New Hampshire state clinic.

## Maine IAABO Official Credited With Saving Choking Football Player



Sean Geagan, a member of the Eastern Maine Board #111, who is also the Bucksport High School JV football coach, is being credited for perhaps saving the life of one of his players.

The player, a freshman quarterback on the school's JV football team, was sitting with several teammates at the weekly team dinner during the week of October 12, when something suddenly went wrong. That's when Coach Geagan jumped into action.

"We saw a commotion and people were getting up saying, 'Someone is choking'," said Joel Sankey, the Bucksport High School varsity football coach. "Everyone rushed over and [Sean Geagan] was right there."

Geagan said he thought the students were clowning around at first, until he heard someone yell that one of the players was choking on a piece of chicken.

"I was on the other side of the room and stood up and saw one kid bent over and another kid beating him on the back," Geagan said. "I thought, 'That's not good at all'."

In his rush to get to the student, Geagan says he does not remember much, but was told by other parents he "went over one side of the [cafeteria] table in the air and landed on my feet."

Several nurses were also at the dinner, he said, and one was already attempting the Heimlich maneuver on the student when Geagan got to him, but was having no success in dislodging the food from the young man's airway. "She pushed him toward me and I Heimlich'd him three or four times before things started to clear out," Geagan said. "I held on to him for a bit longer and told him, 'I've got you'."

Thanks to Geagan's quick action, no ambulance or emergency responders were needed.

"By the time I was all done and he was okay, I looked up and there were at least four or five RN's who are moms of some of the kids standing around," Geagan said. "They were all looking at me saying, 'It's all good,' and patted me on the back."

Sankey and Geagan declined to identify the student who was choking. Bucksport High School Principal Bill Tracy said the student is grateful for Coach Geagan's actions, but prefers to keep his name out of any publicity. "Coach Geagan is a phenomenal person and for him to step up like that is amazing!," Tracy said. "We are just very happy that he was there."



# TOUGH WHISTLE FOR TOUGH CALLS



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## Contact Commentary

There is continuous concern about contact by defensive and offensive players by the NFHS Rules Committee, Rules Interpreter and Supervisors of Officials as evidenced by the free throw lane line Rules change (9.1.3d) of 2014-15 and the Points of Emphasis Rebounding and Contacting the Free Thrower and Post Play of 2015-16. Freedom of movement for defensive and offensive players is the desired result. Sharing a bit of contact concern history may serve well in convincing officials to join the team by accepting and applying the contact rules and preventing the necessity of further rules changes.

### “Rough Play” Has Been a NFHS Point of Emphasis as Below

1989-90; 1990-91; 1991-92; 1992-93; 1993-94; 1994-95; 1995-96; 1996-97; 1999-2000; 2001-02; 2002-03; 2003-04. Free throw rebound play was the prime source of contact concern and Point of Emphasis – Rough Play, prior to the 1997-98 Free Throw Lane Line Rules Change of restricting entry into the free throw lane until the ball contacts the backboard or basket ring.

If monitoring and penalizing free throw related contact does not take place, it is very likely that the rule would revert to not allowing entry until the ball contacts the backboard or basket ring. Especially, free throw lane line first and second spaces, each free throw lane line must be attended to and illegal contact must be ruled a foul.

A) Free throw lane line space one players often back into, often extend their arms backward and hold the opponent, often move laterally and cut off/block the second space opponent.

B) Free throw lane line space two players often push, from behind, the first space opponent.

### Time-line of Free Throw Lane line Rules Changes (history may help realize the concern)

Free throw lane line players were not allowed to enter the free throw lane until the ball contacted the backboard or basket ring.

1961-62 The “neutral zone” was inserted between the first space (nearest the end line) and the second lane line spaces.

1981-82 Players occupying free throw lane line spaces were allowed to enter the free throw lane upon the free thrower’s release of the ball. All other players, including the free thrower, were restricted to waiting until the ball contacts the backboard or basket ring.

1997-98 Players occupying free throw lane line spaces are not permitted to break the plane of the free throw lane line until the ball contacted the backboard or basket ring. Rationale for the change was to eliminate “rough Play.” It had been a Point of Emphasis for seven straight years.

**Rough play was not a Point of Emphasis for the next two years.** The next several years of Point of Emphasis was primarily due to excessive contact in regard to regular rebound play, post play, screen play and pressure defensive play.

2003-04 The number of free throw lane lines spaces were reduced from 4 to 3 spaces, 4 defensive spaces and 2 offensive spaces. Rationale was to reduce free throw lane line “rough play” and it may provide the defense a rebounding advantage within an acceptable range.

2008-09 Free throw lane line spaces were moved toward the free throw line, plus beyond the “neutral zone” space, a total of 4 feet from the plane of the backboard extended line. Rationale was to reduce free throw lane line “rough play” while maintaining defensive rebounding percentages with an acceptable range.

The 1997-98, 2003-04, 2008-09 Free Throw Lane Line changes were primarily made for two reasons:

- 1) “Rough Play” – Clean it up/Eliminate it.
- 2) With the Free Thrower and his/her team having the advantage of attempting to score (free throw(s) without being defended against,

the thinking was that in addition to dealing with “rough play” the defensive team’s opportunity to secure rebounds would increase to more balance the play.

The Resulting Factors:

1) “Rough Play” – Without question was reduced simply because of not being able to move from along the free throw lane until the ball contacted the backboard or basket ring, resulting in very little time to do anything other than attempt to secure the rebound.

Perceived as excellent changes that were good for the game.

2) The defensive team’s rebounding, over the years of these changes, has increased drastically.

Prior to the 2003-04 change the percentage for defensive rebound were, round figures, 60 percent.

The 2003-04 change increased the defensive rebound percentage to, round figures, 70 percent.

The 2008-09 change increased the defensive rebound percentage to, round figures, 80 percent plus.

Although it is not the role of the official, one might question whether or not the free throw rebound percentage now is within an acceptable range to provide overall balance between defense and offense.

The 2014-15 Free Throw Lane Line change most likely increased the defensive team’s rebound percentage. It very well could be within the 85 percent plus range.

### Contact - Rebounding

The teaching of “boxing out” (a non-rule term and concept) has encouraged contact during rebound play. Illegal physical play during rebound play must be penalized.

“Boxing out” does not allow for making contact, other than incidental contact (see rule 4.27. 1, 2, 3). By rule, principles for rebound play are identical to the guarding principles (see rules 4.37 rebounding and 4.45 verticality).

A defensive player must obtain or have already obtained a legal position prior to a try for a field goal or free throw. Usually the defensive rebounder was previously legally guarding the opponent whom he/she wants to box out. The defensive rebounder may maintain the position that he/she has already obtained by turning back to the opponent and then moving laterally, to the left or to the right, until “beaten.” The defensive rebounder shall not back into the opponent (push) or hold the opponent by extending an arm(s).

### Contact - Screen/Screening (rule 4.40)

\*The screener must be stationary when contact occurs.

\*The screener must stay within his/her vertical plane with a stance approximately a shoulder width apart.

\*If the opponent being screened is stationary and the screener is outside the field of vision of the player being screened, the screener must allow the opponent one normal step backward without contact occurring.

\*If the opponent being screened is moving, the screener must allow time and or distance for the screener to stop or change direction to prevent contact. The speed of the player being screened needs to be considered. The screener must allow one to two steps/strides when assuming the screen position.

Note: The movement of the screener after the screen must be monitored to assure play of the ex-screener continues to be legal.

### Contact - Food For Thought

\*Contact responsibilities are that of both the defensive player and the offensive player.

\*Offensive contact with legal defense must not be overlooked. A shooter’s follow-through momentum *(continued next page)*

## Contact (continued from page 5)

resulting in bumping into a defender is illegal contact, just as a defender's follow-through momentum resulting in bumping into the shooter is illegal contact.

\*Offensive-initiated illegal contact must be penalized.

\*All contact is suspect. Why do players make contact? Does contact occur to help the opponent? Does contact occur to help the contactor? Is contact made to hinder a player's own defensive or offensive play and effectiveness or to hinder the opponents play and effectiveness?

\*Each and every contact requires a ruling. Is it legal? Is it illegal? If illegal, a whistle is required. If legal, a whistle is not required. However, the observing official **MUST** make a ruling upon each and every contact that occurs.



Past President, Peter Webb, Bd. 111, ME, is the Coordinator of Interpreters for IAABO. Peter is responsible for providing guidance, clarifying basketball issues, and conducting online discussion groups with all IAABO Interpreters.

## Rules Questions for the IAABO Interpreter

1. At the pre-game meeting with the head coaches prior to each game, what are the two questions that the Referee shall ask the coaches?

2. A-1 passes the ball toward A-2, a double foul occurs while the ball is airborne. Where is the ensuing designated spot throw-in spot located?

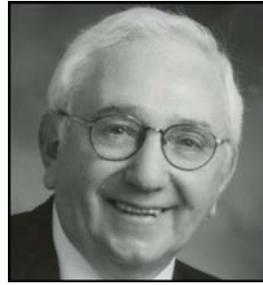
3. During pre-game warm-up, a Team A player dunks the ball. A few minutes later a Team B player dunks the ball creating a false double foul. What is the administration procedure for penalizing?

4. Prior to the jump ball to begin the game, an official notices A-1 is wearing an undershirt with sleeves cut off and hemmed at the shoulders. A-2 is wearing an undershirt with normal length sleeves. A-3 is wearing an undershirt with sleeves extending to the wrist. All undershirts are similar in color to the predominant color of the jersey. Is the correct ruling illegal or legal?

5. While rebounding or attempting to intercept a pass, A-1 touches the ball while trying to gain control, after which A-1 catches the ball and then pushes it to the floor to begin a dribble. Is the correct ruling illegal or legal?

*Answers can be found on page 13*

## Len Maida Passes



Leonard Maida, Board 51, New York, passed away on Saturday, November 28, 2015. He was the 67th President of IAABO, Inc. and an IAABO Life Member. Len was a member of IAABO for over 56 years and will be missed by all. Our condolences go out to his family.

## New Haven District Board # 10 Connecticut State Board #5 Refresher Exam



### Attention: Board Secretaries:

**IAABO Dues are payable to the IAABO, Inc. Office no later than May 15, 2016.**



**Follow IAABO on Facebook and Twitter, go to the IAABO website ([www.iaabo.org](http://www.iaabo.org)) and click on Facebook or Twitter, lots of interesting happenings**

## IAABO Nominating Committee

*Letters of Nomination for the IAABO Executive Committee should be submitted to the Committee Chair, Dennis Herbert, 227 Duncan Road, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 6J6 (Canada). Five copies of each nomination and supporting documentation must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 18, 2016. Attention and consideration will be given only to those nominations that meet these practices and procedures.*



Orrin Barfield, Bd. 19 NY  
Member, Nominating Committee



Jon Lowe, Bd. 95 MA  
Member, Nominating Committee



Dennis Herbert, Bd. 211, ONT  
Chairman, Nominating Committee



Nelson Ribon, Bd. 194 NJ  
Member, Nominating Committee



Judy Ruthko, Bd. 10 CT  
Member, Nominating Committee

# 2016 Spring Meeting Forms

## 17th Annual IAABO Life Membership Luncheon Saturday, April 23, 2016 - 12 Noon

No. of registrant(s) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35/person= \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Registrant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Board No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send check and form to: IAABO, P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013-0355  
Make check payable to: IAABO, Registration Deadline: April 1, 2016

## Spouse/ Guest Breakfast Friday, April 22, 2016, 9 AM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Each IAABO members is entitled to one guest (spouse/significant other). Additional guests are invited at a cost of \$25.00 each.

Send check and form to: IAABO, P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013-0355  
Make check payable to: IAABO, Registration Deadline: April 1, 2016

## Golf Registration

Thursday, April 21, 2016 - 8:00 AM Registration  
8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Disney's Palm Golf Course - <http://golfdw.com/palm-golf-course/>  
\$100/Golfer - Lunch Provided

**Foursomes who wish to play together should be specified on the registration form. Make full payment for the foursome listed below:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

List Members of Foursome:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Send check and form to: IAABO, P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013-0355  
Make check payable to: IAABO, Registration Deadline: April 1, 2016

## 2016 Annual Spring Meeting Schedule Orlando, FL

### Thursday, April 21, 2016

6:00 p.m. Executive Committee (Closed Session)

### Friday, April 22, 2016

8:15 a.m. Welcome

8:30 a.m. Audit and Budget Committee

9:15 a.m. Rules and Examination Committee

10:00 a.m. Constitution Committee

11:00 a.m. Nomination Committee

1:00 p.m. Officials' Education and Development Committee

1:30 p.m. Women's Coordinating Committee

2:00 p.m. Board Secretaries Roundtable (Insurance Matters, Data Base, Membership, etc – Q&A)

3:30 p.m. Board Relations & Policy Committee

4:00 p.m. IAABO Foundation Meeting

### Saturday, April 23, 2016

7:30 a.m. Executive Committee (Closed - If Necessary)

8:30 a.m. Executive Committee (Open)

9:00 a.m. Membership Committee

9:30 a.m. Defending Your Officials - A Practical Guide for IAABO Boards - Alan Goldberger

10:30 a.m. Life Membership Committee

12:15 p.m. Life Membership Luncheon

### Sunday, April 24, 2016

8:30 a.m. General Assembly Meeting, Elections, Awards

## Most Missed Exam Questions

Shown below are the five most missed questions on the 2015 IAABO Refresher Exam.

6. A double personal foul is committed in the low post while A-1 is dribbling near the division line. The official awards the ball back to Team A nearest to where the ball was located. Is the official correct?

6. Yes, 4-6-2a

27. While A-1's pass is in the air toward A-2, A-3 and B-3 commit a double personal foul. The official resumes play using the alternating possession procedure. Is the official correct?

27. No, 4-12-2b, 4-4-3, 4-36-2a

35. A-1 is being closely guarded by B-1. While the official is counting the 5 seconds, A-2 moves between A-1 and B-1 and remains there. The official discontinues the count. Is the official correct?

35. No, 4-23-1, 4-10, 9-10-1a

43. One official rules a block and the other official rules a foul on the airborne shooter. The ball enters the basket. The officials rule a double personal foul, disallow the basket and use the alternating possession procedure to resume play. Is the official correct?

43. No, 4-19-8, 4-36-2b, 6-7-7 Exception a

47. A-1 is awarded a one and one, but the official erroneously states two free throws. A-1's first attempt is missed and rebounded by A-2, who scores while the other players make no attempt to rebound the ball. The official now recognizes the error. The official disallows the basket and uses the alternating possession arrow to resume play. Is the official correct?

47. Yes, 2-10, 6-4-3f, 4-36-2c

## IAABO Officials Ferry to Games off the Coast of Maine, on Long Island

When you sign up to officiate basketball, you don't ever imagine you'll be catching a ferry to commute to games. At least IAABO's Doug Burdin and Grant Lippman never thought so. But it's just what they've done for years, Burdin catching the Vinalhaven or North Haven ferries out of Rockland, ME, to officiate on the two islands, and Lippman catching the ferry out of Lincolnville, ME for Isleboro.

Earl Truland, IAABO #40, covering eastern Long Island (NY), can also relate as he takes a ferry out of Greenport, NY to officiate games on Shelter Island. His boat ride is only about 8 minutes, then another 6 minutes to the school once he arrives on the island.

Burdin, who is a member of IAABO #20 out of central Maine, described the ferries as an "interesting trip," as the officials ride out to islands with the visiting team, catching the 2:45 p.m. ferry for the 80 minute boat ride. Typically a bus is waiting for the opposing team as the ferry lands, and the Athletic Director (AD) waits for the officials.

The crews officiate a boy-girls varsity high school doubleheader, then repeat that early in the morning, getting up at 6:30 a.m. for another doubleheader starting at 8:15 a.m., so they then can return to the mainland on the 1:00 p.m. ferry. "Riding on the ferry home with the teams, we chat with the players and coaches, because there's not much to do when you're out on the ocean," Burdin said.

Lippman grew up across the street from the ferry. Officials ferry over, then catch a special boat on the return trip. On a recent visit, they almost didn't make it back from the game.

The "Quicksilver," which is the normal ferry for the trip, was in the shop for repairs, so the officials and players and some parents ended up on the "Little Dipper."

"We were crammed in together, with a plastic canopy tenting us in. We couldn't have had a better night to lose the engine," Lippman observed. The engine died, and because there was no wind or waves, the boat was carried along by the current for about an hour.

"We were 300 yards out from shore and drifted quite a ways," he said. Ultimately, a rescue boat was sent out and tied along side of the drifting Little Dipper.

The boats slowly motored back to the original takeoff location, and then all passengers switched vessels. No issues were reported with the second trip.



had an hour's drive." Lippman, who has officiated on the island over 20 times, said there has never been an incident before. "They won't go out if it's too stormy," he said.

Because the players, coaches, fans and officials are all on the boat together, Lippman also pointed out how important it is to dress well and act professionally. "It's important for the kids to see you respect your job and the position you take as an official. First impression is vital."

During his first trip, Burdin remembered heavy winds from the south causing tough waves and the boat rolling side to side. "Mark Byron, former IAABO President, was holding onto the sides. We just wanted to get some cool air. Once we got into the area where the islands are, that broke the wind



and waves, so we could relax," Burdin said.

Officials get the opportunity to stay with families and experience a bit of island life. Burdin remembered one time where the officials needed to be getting to the game and he mentioned that to his host while she was cooking dinner. He recalled that she replied, "They're not going to start the game without you." When they got to the game, the athletic director asked, "What, was dinner late?" Burdin laughed.

The trip has its unique situations. Once, a girl fainted on the way out. "It was a fun ride, but I'm not sure whether she played in the game that day," Burdin recalled.

Officials have been stuck on the island 2-3 days due to weather-related issues not allowing the ferry to run. The school tries to schedule its games on the Friday night-Saturday morning schedule to accommodate the visiting teams. Teams would either stay with families from Vinalhaven or sleep on the gym floor on Friday night.

Truland also keeps his eye out for extreme bad weather in case the ferry may be canceled. "You have to do your due diligence. I keep the numbers for the ferry handy," he said.

Sometimes Truland will bump into a friend who works on the ferry, and then he may luck into a free ride. One of the other nice things about officiating on the island, he said, is that "the gym is always paced for the games. It's a captive audience,"

One year, Burdin said, Islesboro High School showed up on a fishing boat to play Vinalhaven on the afternoon of Martin Luther King Day. "The kids were standing on the boat in tee shirts and it was freezing," he said.

A new school was built a little over 10 years ago with a regulation sized floor, but it used to be a "tiny, tiny gym with a stage on one side and four rows of bleachers on the other that were always packed," Burdin said.

One year, when North Haven made the playoffs, they did not have a regulation-sized gym, so the game had to be moved to Vinalhaven. "Vinalhaven students were allowed to leave class to come to the gym and cheer for North Haven," Burdin observed.

The North Haven-Vinalhaven contest is "always a great game as the two islands are separated by a small causeway. Burdin said.

When working the night-morning doubleheaders, Burdin said, "We're pretty tired by the second half of the second game on Saturday morning. There are no pads on the seats of the ferry, so you bounce around on the trip."

Burdin typically used to officiate once or twice a season on the islands. Now he sticks to junior high games as he has dialed back on his schedule.

Indicative of the down-home nature of the area, Burdin recalled how one time he and his partner planned to arrive at 10 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. ferry ride out to one of the islands. As luck would have it, an accident forced them to take a side route, then they got behind the "slowest driver in the state of Maine."

Burdin called the athletic director who in-turn got hold of the ferry service who held the boat's departure for the officials. "As we were running up to the boat, they asked whether we were the officials. When we told them 'yes,' they said, 'Let's go!'" Burdin said with a chuckle.



"The kids were well-behaved considering the situation" Lippman added. Finally arriving back on the mainland, the only thing left was a late-night dinner.

"Fortunately I live relatively close to the ferry dock; but my partner still

Dave Simon is entering his 30th year as an IAABO member. He has written for Sportorials for over 20 years, and currently lives in Grapevine, TX. You can reach him through his awesome Web site at [www.justwrite15.com](http://www.justwrite15.com)



## 37th Year of IAABO Officials' Schools



This summer, IAABO will be hosting four summer officiating schools with the goal of "professional improvement". The desire to improve must always be present if one wants to achieve success as an official. Over the past nine decades the many and varied continuous education materials and officials' schools, which IAABO provides, has assisted thousands of new and veteran officials learn and refine their skills.



IAABO Schools are designed to provide officials who have a wide variety of ability and experience with the individual attention to meet her/his specific needs. The focal points of each school are the review of rules,

mechanics, signals and professionalism. Each official can expect to receive quality instruction in the classroom and on the court. At IAABO Schools, officials receive instant feedback, including video, which can be incorporated into their officiating immediately.



The Director of the IAABO Officials' School is Tom Lopes, IAABO Executive Director and retired Division I Basketball Official. Tom is assisted by Peter Webb, IAABO Coordinator of Interpreters.

IAABO Officials' Schools are dedicated to improving the officiating skills of the men and women who enroll. The program will be designed to benefit those who wish to embark upon a career in officiating as well as those who seek refinement of their skills. Classroom sessions will cover all aspects



of officiating with lectures, films, workshops and testing. During the afternoon and evening sessions, all officials will officiate games. Each official will receive a certificate denoting completion of the course of study provided by the IAABO Officials' school.

Only National Federation Rules and mechanics will be taught and used.

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## Rules & Manual Inquiries for the IAABO Interpreter

*When does the disqualified player become bench personnel and when does the Head Coach become responsible for the disqualified player?*

The player is officially disqualified and the coach becomes responsible for him/her when the head coach is notified by the official. (3.3.3; 4.14.2)

*After a player is disqualified and prior to a replacement substitute enters the game may a time-out request be granted?*

No, the time-out shall not be granted prior to the disqualified player being replaced. Administer the rulings in the order in which they occur.

*The bonus is in place when A-1 is fouled by B-1. Then A-1 is charged with a Technical Foul. It is his/her fifth foul, resulting in A-1 being disqualified. May A-1 attempt the free throws?*

No. A-1's replacement will attempt the free throws. (8.2)

*Where is the ensuing throw-in awarded when the original throw-in goes directly out-of-bounds?*

The throw-in is awarded at the original throw-in designated spot. (9.3.1 Penalty)

*When the try for goal is in flight and a common foul is committed by a team mate of the "shooter", is it a team control foul?*

It is not a team control foul. (4.12.3a)

*Jumper A-1 taps the ball/toss toward the sideline and the ball is deflected out-of-bounds by A-2 and B-2. Is the ensuing jump ball between the two original jumpers or players A-2 and B-2?*

The new jumpers for the new jump ball are A-2 and B-2. (7.3.2)

*May airborne A-1 requests and be granted a time-out to prevent an out-of-bounds violation?*

Yes, the time-out shall be granted. (5.8.3a)

*A-1's try for goal is in flight when time expires. The ball is then touched by defender B-2 followed by the ball entering/passing through the basket. Does the goal count?*

Yes, it is a successful field goal. The quarter or

extra period does not end until the try for goal ends. (4.41)

*A-1 is closely guarded by B-1 when a player gets between A-1 and B-1. Does this end the application of the closely guarded rule and the count?*

No, the closely guarded rule remains in place and the count is not interrupted. (4.10)

*Post player A-1 has one foot outside the free throw lane and one foot within the free throw lane. Does lifting the foot from the floor prevent a 3-second violation?*

No. Simply lifting the foot from the floor does not prevent a violation. The foot must be replaced to the floor in order for the player to be outside the free throw lane. (9.4.7)

*A-1's pass toward A-2 is in flight when a double foul is ruled on A-4 and B-4 near the free throw lane line. Is the ensuing throw-in nearest to where the fouls occurred or nearest to where the ball was located when the foul was ruled?*

The designated spot throw-in is at the spot nearest to where the ball was located. (4.36)

*Should a partner wait to be asked for help by the ruling official?*

No. A partner who has information to share should not wait for a request for help by the ruling official. Help may be requested and/or offered without having been requested. The objective is to arrive at the correct ruling. (19,36,113,137)

*If there are no coaching box marks in place at the game site. May the game begin without coaching boxes?*

No. Coaching boxes must be in place prior to beginning the game. NFHS rules require coaching boxes. There are some variances in sizes, a few states choose to use 28 foot coaching boxes. Tape may be used to mark coaching boxes. (1.13.2)

*A try for goal and a foul occurs (continuous motion) and a successful goal is the result, do*

*I signal my partner that he ball entered/passed through the basket?*

The procedure recommended is to inform the partner verbally – "the ball entered the basket/the ball went in." Signaling a successful goal or verbalizing – "the goal is good", is not a decision for the helping official to make. (Manual - pages 19, 36,113,137).

*Is it appropriate to discuss teams, players or coaches styles of play, previous occurrences, etc during the officials' pre-game conference?*

No. Such topics are off limits for pre-game discussion. If such discussion belonged within the pre-game conference, manuals would address it.

*Prior to A-1 releasing the ball for a free throw attempt, B-1 violates the free throw lane line. The official inadvertently sounds the whistle. The official rules that the free throw be re-administered and allows play to continue. The free throw attempt is unsuccessful, is that a correct ruling?*

No. The free throw is to be re-administered with the free throw lane line spaces cleared. If the free throw is successful, Team B is awarded an end line throw-in. If the re-administered free throw is unsuccessful, a substitute free throw is administered with the free throw lane line spaces occupied. Play continues from that point. (4.36.2b)

*Is pre-wrap worn as a headband permissible?*

Yes. It must be treated as a headband and meet the color requirements. If it is tied it must not have ends/tails. Pre-wrap worn to control hair only, such as a "pony tail", does not have to meet color requirements. (NFHS official interpretation)



Peter Webb, Bd. 111, ME, is the Coordinator of Interpreters for IAABO.

## Conflict Resolution and the Basketball Official

The points covered in this article include: understanding the meaning of conflict for sports officials, how conflict can be minimized and the positive mechanisms for the resolution of conflict within the game.

Conflict can be defined as: "when two or more people disagree over values, motivations, perceptions or desires." Conflict can or may be real or perceived by the individuals involved. It can be legitimate or petty.

Let's look at two "propositions" that can be stated about any basketball contest:

1. Coaches want to win every game, sometimes at any cost. For coaches, it's mostly about the "wins" -- whether we are referring to a CYO contest, an NCAA Final Four game or the championship round of the NBA. As officials in any basketball contest, our major concern is to create a balance of play and to provide equal opportunity between the offense and the defense. We should not care which team wins or loses. Because of these divergent perspectives, conflict will be an integral part of our game.

2. When the term "game management" is used, we are in a conflict management situation. Proposition number two can be stated as, "conflicts are never resolved completely; they can only be managed to

the best of our abilities."

Minimizing conflict requires professionalism from officials, including an attitude which creates believability in our on-court actions. When coaches believe in what we are doing, it minimizes conflict.

Being professional includes arriving at the game site early and looking the part. That includes your uniform, i.e., a clean, pressed uniform with shined shoes. A negative impression is very hard to overcome if an official arrives late to an assignment or dresses inappropriately. The old adage, "You only get one chance to make a first impression" holds true for officials.

A professional has to be a rules expert. Missing a call can be, under certain circumstances, accepted by a coach. "Missing a call" in a game situation because of a misinterpretation of a rule is inexcusable. *the remainder of this article can be found on the IAABO website at [www.iaabo.org/Conflict Resolution.pdf](http://www.iaabo.org/Conflict Resolution.pdf)*



Jimm Paull, Bd. 42 NY, is an IAABO Life Member and the Interpreter for Board 42.

## From Rookie to Veteran: The Effort, Goal-Oriented Official

I recently read a book titled *The Double-Goal Coach* by Jim Thompson who is the founder of Positive Coaching Alliance (<https://www.positivecoach.org/>). At the core of the book is a philosophy that reinforces the following: although winning is often the primary focus of coaching, more importantly coaching should be about teaching life lessons that transfer into other fields of life such as one's profession, citizenship responsibilities, family dynamics, etc.



a-half time span, whereas an effort goal would be to hustle on dead balls to efficiently get the ball back into play. When we shift our focus to effort goals, often over time the intended outcome goal we wanted to achieve occurs. In the mentioned above examples, by having reasonable explanations on all your calls, you are better equipped to respond to challenges by coaches and players - hence less likely to resort to giving technical fouls, and by dead ball hustling you are more likely to be efficient as a crew and finish the game within a shorter time span.

The Double Goal Coach suggests that this shift in philosophy of coaching can occur by redefining what a winner is - shifting the focus from emphasizing exclusively outcomes such as the final score of the game to the processes that contribute to the outcome, such as the individual and team efforts in various categories, such as recovering loose balls, the number of times the team gets to the free throw line, boxing out on every play, etc. Interestingly, "the greatest athletes often don't focus on beating their opponent but on improving their own performance" (p. xx). When this philosophy is internalized and executed with maximum effort, winning often follows.

The number one reason why youth stop playing sports is because it is no longer fun. I find that many officials walk away from officiating or drastically reduce their commitment to the game due to negative on-court experiences such as altercations with players, coaches, and fans. By sharing some of the insights I have learned from reading the *Double-Goal Coach* and applying it to the craft of officiating, I hope many officials will feel better equipped to process and reflect on their negative experiences, and use it as a learning opportunity to become better officials. What is essential to this process is a passion for the game of basketball, an eagerness to constantly learn and strive to improve, and a positive attitude.

**Elm Tree of Mastery** - The *Double Goal Coach* emphasizes that "whereas the scoreboard orientation focuses on results, comparisons with others, and avoiding mistakes, the concept of mastery is concerned with effort, learning and improvement, and how we respond to mistakes" (p. 26). The elm tree of mastery can easily be applied to the art of officiating as a blueprint for officials to improve their craft.

**E is for Effort** - Hustling is one of the key attributes that an official has complete control over. Players, coaches, and fans can gauge your effort by how you hustle on the court and the way you conduct yourself in dynamic, pressurized situations. It is essential that you strive, physically and psychologically, to give 110 percent effort in every game you officiate whether it is an elementary game or a high level university game. As the *Double Goal Coach* points out, "when effort results in winning on the scoreboard, coaches and fans tend to reinforce it, but a great effort that fails is often ignored" (p. 27). As an official, when you put in 110 percent effort, you can reflect on the game without regrets even if you had unpleasant and unexpected situations that arose. You can feel good about trying your best, while looking for alternative avenues to better equip yourself to handle specific situations in order to become a better official, such as greater rules knowledge and game management strategies.

### Effort Goals vs. Outcome Goals

One of the key things that helps me improve my officiating is switching from focusing on outcome goals to effort goals. Most individuals set outcome goals which are highly dependent on external uncontrollable factors. On the other hand, effort goals are largely under your control regardless of external or situational factors.

For example, whereas an outcome goal for an official would be to avoid giving technical fouls in a game, an effort goal would be to have an explanation for every call you make by officiating the defense. Another example of an outcome goal is to finish the game within an hour-and-

### L is for Learning: Continuing to Learn and Improve

Your passion for learning and improving is expressed by the effort you put into tasks as well as your attitude. Whether you are a rookie or a veteran official, there is always room for improvement. The game of basketball changes over time and so do the rules and mechanisms to better officiate it. We must keep up to date on these new changes and be willing to adapt our approach to officiating in order to be the best official we can be, such as reading the rule book on a yearly basis, looking up unusual game situations in the case book, having a mentor to talk to about unexpected situations that we experience as officials, and access to educational materials through IAABO or your association's educational officer and/or interpreter.

By focusing on effort goals every game, you develop good habits, leading to improvement in your officiating. There is no magical "on" and "off" button that applies to how you officiate in relation to the level of ball you are assigned. Similar to a player who strives to develop muscle memory through repetition of drills at game speed and under pressurized situations, we as officials must strive to develop good decision-making capabilities by constantly being alert and focused in the game by treating every game as a learning opportunity to become better officials.

### M is for Mistakes

The path towards avoiding mistakes begins by being prepared physically and mentally. As officials we must learn to listen to our inner voice when it tells us we need to get rest or attend to a developing injury. Mentally, like Olympic athletes, we must find psychological strategies that can help us focus and remain calm in pressurized situations. This includes strategies such as visualization, self-talk, humming, and having a visual ritual for flushing your mistakes.

Yet, regardless of how well you prepare for a game, there are always uncontrollable external factors that can cause unexpected, unpleasant situations to arise such as a fist fight, ejection of a coach or a player, and/or having to throw out a parent from the gym who is verbally abusing you. Constant exposure to negative, unpleasant scenarios greatly contributes to officials beginning to dislike officiating. When unexpected, negative situations arise it will be your attitude that determines the value of the experience. Whether an experience is positive or negative, you can always learn from it. As a coach, you often learn more from losing than winning. Similarly, as an official you often learn a lot from negative, unpleasant experiences compared to games that are blowouts and go very smoothly.

After a negative, unpleasant game, ask yourself:

- What sequence of plays and/or call selections lead to the incident? Could I have been pro-active in doing certain thing differently to avoid the incident and/or the mitigate it?
- What was my first reaction and response when the incident occurred?
- What decision did I make to diffuse the challenging situation and/or the incident? Could I have tried an alternative approach? What could have been the alternative results if I had tried something different?
- Did I make the correct ruling? If unsure, *(continued next page)*

## Rookie to Veteran

who can I talk to in order to get an expert opinion on the incident and how best it could have been handled?

- What can I learn from this experience? What will I do differently next time when I find myself in a similar pressurized situation?

Reflecting on your negative, unpleasant experience by asking yourself the above mentioned questions, you begin to shift your vantage point towards viewing the incident as a learning opportunity that can make you a better official. By processing the negative event using this reflective approach, next time you find yourself in a similar situation you will be more confident and equipped to handle the situation. By avoiding making the same mistakes twice, you will have more enjoyable experiences as an official and you will decrease your exposure to negative incidents. Remember, you will probably never have a complete season with zero unexpected incidents, but the goal is to reduce the number of unpleasant incidents by being prepared, constantly looking for opportunities to improve, and having a positive attitude that will assist you in constructively processing negative incidents and taking away learning lessons from it.

Thanks for taking the time to read what I have shared with you. Remember, focus on the components that you have complete control over, such as your effort and attitude, and over time, through commitment to such factors, the intended outcomes will follow as you develop better habits. Even if the intended outcomes do not occur, you will have no regrets, knowing you gave it your best.

This article was written by and published courtesy of FIBA member, Ardavan Eizadirad.

## Answers to Questions

(From Page 6)

1. Are your team members' uniforms, apparel and equipment legal and will be worn properly? Will all participants exhibit proper sporting behavior throughout the contest? Rule Reference: 2.4.5

2. The point of interruption is where the ball was located when the double foul occurred. Award the designated spot throw-in at the spot out-of-bounds nearest to where the ball was located when the fouls occurred. Rule Reference: 4.36 & 7.5.3b

3. Any Team B player shall be awarded two free throws with the free throw lane spaces cleared. Any Team A player is then awarded two free throws with the free throw lane spaces cleared. Team A will then be awarded a designated spot throw-in at the division line opposite to the scorer's table. The fouls are penalized in the order which they occurred. The fouls are also charged indirectly to the head coaches. Rule Reference: 4.9; 10.4.1i & Penalty

4. All players are wearing legal apparel. The rule does not require all players to wear the same length sleeves on their undershirts, each individual player must have sleeves the same length on his/her undershirt when worn. A visible manufacturer's logo is not permitted on the undershirt. Rule Reference: 3.5.6

5. Legal in both situations. The dribble does not begin until A-1 has gained control of the ball. Rule Reference: 4.15

## The Post Game: A Sportorials Roundup Interview

(Editor's note: "Post-Game" is a new feature in each edition of Sportorials that will spotlight an IAABO official. The interviews will be short, with personal and officiating questions, helping IAABO members get to know other officials from IAABO. If you'd like to submit a name for an interview, please contact Donnie Eppley at [eppleyd@comcast.net](mailto:eppleyd@comcast.net).)

**Sportorials: How did you get your start officiating basketball and find out about IAABO?**

Langton: I was 23-years-old and a friend of mine was taking the rules test and he invited me and four other friends along. You think you know the game, but we quickly learned we didn't. That was back in 1978 and IAABO administered the test.

I began officiating youth and CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) games, and did that for 8 years, before getting married and having kids. I stopped officiating for 10 years, and in 1997 started again. It's been a lot of fun.

IAABO gave the 6-week course and exam through our local board. Growing up, all the games I played in were officiated by IAABO members.

**Sportorials: Describe your biggest game. What happened?**

Langton: It was a Massachusetts High School Divisional Final at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, MA. The winner went on to the 2013 state final. It was a boys' game and a three-man crew. The teams were from a conference I officiated, so I knew both of them.

The arena had a jumbotron, and there were about 2,000-2,500 fans. It had the aura of a big-time game, like officiating the pros. The game was a blowout, but just being there and experiencing the atmosphere was amazing – the game was on TV.

**Sportorials: What tips do you have for beginning officials?**

Langton: Be prepared mentally and physically for each game. Work



Brian Langton

each game like it's a state final. Pay attention. Officiate so the coaches and players know you gave it your all. Never stop learning the rules and about new situations.

**Sportorials: What are your top officiating goals?**

Langton: Initially, I wanted to learn how to be an official, and start working JV and Freshmen games. After having kids, and returning, I wanted to get a full varsity high school schedule. I also have goals to know the rules inside-out and have fun. When you stop having fun, it's time to get out.

**Sportorials: Who is your hero?**

Langton: When it comes to officiating, I don't have a specific hero. Overall, though it sounds corny, my parents are my heroes. They are part of the Greatest Generation.

There are a lot of officials I respect. You can learn from people older and younger, from those better or worse than you. Even in life, you can learn from anyone because of different styles. I pick up a lot just by watching officials and how they handle specific situations.

**Sportorials: Who's on your dream officiating crew?**

Langton: Rich Antonellie and Fran Foley. I grew up with Rich in the same city and we played ball together. He's a former college official and a comedian. He's fun to work with and a good official.

Fran is a former DI official and lifetime IAABO member. He would bring respect to our crew that we might not otherwise receive. He's also a mentor for me, though now he is retired.

**Sportorials: What's your toughest call?**

Langton: The block-charge. You blow the whistle and sometimes have to hold your ruling for a second. You need to look through the play for the defender's positioning. You must determine if the defender established legal guarding position before the offensive player makes contact.

## The Gold Medal Reward

Jeremy Colter didn't win a gold medal at the World Special Olympics games in China, but he achieved something almost as good: He got to award gold medals to the players from the championship basketball teams.

It's not something Jeremy, an IAABO official out of New Hampshire, envisioned or expected. But for someone who once participated as a player in the Special Olympics games, we shouldn't be surprised that Jeremy gained that honor in Shanghai, China in 2007. He's always been an excellent athlete, according to Don Marcotte, a close friend of Jeremy and his father (Blake) from IAABO Board #117 in New Hampshire. He remembers years ago officiating some of Jeremy's games, and Blake, coming up to him and saying proudly, "That's my son playing. Can he take the officiating course?"

That course was the IAABO beginning official's class. Blake wanted to see his son take the next step after participating in Special Olympics basketball games to officiating them. Blake new Jeremy would face obstacles, as Jeremy has a mild form of cerebral palsy, which causes some problems with reading and interpreting long sentences.

Until Blake approached Don, Don didn't know Blake had a special needs child. Don himself had officiated since 1991, which included working Special Olympics games as part of the IAABO training program. Every cadet at the time had to officiate the local Special Olympics tournament. "I've done them every year since," he said.

Through their officiating and friendship, Don and Blake put their heads together to help Jeremy earn his stripes. In Concord, NH in 2006, Marcotte was teaching the cadet class along with Steve Strand. Jeremy was 19 at the time, and old enough to join the association. The program included once-a-week classes, for 10 weeks. But a concern was how to help Jeremy pass the test in light of his reading/comprehension issues.

That was easily solved. When the test date came around, "we decided to read the questions to him, and Jeremy passed the first time," Don said proudly. "He knew the game, knew how to referee."

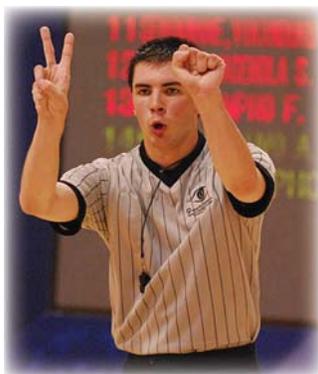
### Getting the Patch and Officiating World Games in China, Greece and Los Angeles

One of the events most IAABO officials probably remember is getting their first patch, signifying they passed the written and floor tests and been accepted as an IAABO member. That was the next step for Jeremy. He officiated some games without the patch, passed the floor test, and was awarded his patch.

Things moved quickly from there. With Blake's permission, Jeremy and Don applied to be an officiating team for the World Games in China under the SOOPA (Special Olympics Officiating Program for Athletes) Program with Don as his mentor. They were accepted, and China then became a planned vacation spot for Jeremy and his family, as well as Marcotte.

"We all got to go, but Jeremy and I didn't always get to officiate together. He officiated with several different officials. It was great to see as we got great feedback on how well Jeremy could officiate," Don said.

The family vacation was huge, as



was Jeremy's and Don's officiating experience, but it became even more for both of them as they got to meet the founder of Special Olympics, Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

"China was filled with love for Jeremy," Marcotte recalled, "including the Chinese officials."

Refereeing the World Games got to be a regular thing for Jeremy and Don as they have also worked the World games in Athens in 2011 and in Los Angeles games as recently as this past summer.

In Greece, Marcotte recalled, Jeremy was asked to referee the celebrity game, which is a big deal. "He's a celebrity himself. The fans cheer for him and support him," Don said.

There were several former NBA players participating, including Darryl Dawkins, Sam Perkins and George 'The Iceman' Gervin. "We looked over one time and saw this huge guy, and Yao Ming was standing right next to us," Don said. Jeremy got to officiate the entire game using 2-person mechanics (the event is now 3-person).

For all of these World Games, both Jeremy and Don had to prepare themselves by learning the FIBA officiating rules and mechanics. This was also true for the Games in Los Angeles as there were close to 70 teams participating and all most of them know are the FIBA rules. Both Jeremy and Don are trained using the NFHS and NCAA rules and mechanics.

### USA National Games in Nebraska

In addition to the three World Games that Jeremy and Don have worked, they were fortunate to have been selected to officiate the National Games in Lincoln Nebraska in 2010. Jeremy was also treated like a celebrity there having been highlighted in one of the local TV stations newscasts.

They wanted to attend the games in New Jersey in 2014 but missed these due to a scheduling conflict. They plan on applying for the next National Games in Seattle in 2018.

### A Regular High School Official

Back home, Jeremy is a high school official, and he even officiates some NCAA women's Division III ball. He lives in the northwest corner of New Hampshire, which is lightly populated. Most of his games are at smaller high schools.

As Marcotte explained, Jeremy is easily able to move between the high school and college contests, as well as Special Olympics because he knows how to adjust to the level of competition. Jeremy regularly officiates the New Hampshire State Special Olympics tournaments.

In Special Olympics, for example, there are multiple divisions. In the top divisions, travel, double-dribble and 3-seconds are strictly enforced. In some of the lower divisions, these are enforced based on player and team capabilities. The official needs to have a feel for the level of play and make fair rulings based on the particular level that is being played.

In a regular high school contest, "Jeremy can sometimes have trouble with coaches if they get all over him. But he has an advantage over many officials because of his athleticism. He runs like a deer. He's fast, looks good, is thin and in great shape," Don observed.

"Jeremy couldn't have made it without IAABO. The training and the materials we provide our officials are



## The Gold Medal Reward

the best, and we were able to give him the attention and feedback he needed to succeed. I doubt he would be where he is today if he had come through a non-IAABO state or program. IAABO officials are the best trained," Marcotte said.

### Greece and Los Angeles

"With all of these World Games and USA Nationals, travel is one of the nice things we get to do," Don said.

In Greece, Don and Jeremy both got in some sightseeing, including seeing situations off the court they weren't quite prepared for. "There was rioting in the streets at the time. I remember one day, Blake was complaining about his eyes because of all the smoke from the canisters the police were launching at protestors. The officials at these games were carted around in buses for our safety and a lot of additional security was provided," Marcotte recalled.

There was also tightened security this past summer at the World Games in LA. "Security was searching all bags going into all of the venues," Don said.

Dave Simon is entering his 30th year as an IAABO member. He has written for Sportorials for over 20 years, and currently lives in Grapevine, TX. You can reach him through his awesome Web site at [www.justwrite15.com](http://www.justwrite15.com)



## Spring Meeting (continued from page 1)

IAABO vendors, the IAABO website, and local board regulations on the agenda.

Delegate registration - all delegates must be registered with the IAABO office. Delegate registrations can be mailed to the IAABO office or transmitted electronically via the IAABO website at [www.iaabo.org](http://www.iaabo.org). Any and all members of IAABO are encouraged to attend as there is no fee. IAABO is your organization and your voice should be heard. To register as a non-voting delegate, please visit the Spring Meeting page at [www.iaabo.org](http://www.iaabo.org).

Highlighting the Spring Meeting will be Saturday's Life Membership Luncheon. This is IAABO'S highest award and presented once a year at this time. Five honorees will be presented with the beautifully detailed IAABO Life Membership Ring. This is IAABO'S Hall of Fame and there are many applications for this award, with the award recipients limited to five per year. Honorees include Reggie Greenwood, Board 12, DC, Jeff Jewett 71 AZ, formerly BD 20 ME, John Lowe, Board 95, MA, Dennis Murphy, Board 117, NH, Tom Reese, Board 23 MD, Luncheon tickets are available for \$35. Please complete and mail in the form found on page 7 to make your registration.

The elections will be conducted on Sunday morning along with the 50-year awards, announcement of the Handbook Dedication and other IAABO awards. We look forward to seeing all the Board Presidents and Secretaries for a most productive conference.

The first social event of the Spring Meeting will be the annual Pete Sheehan Golf outing at Disney's Palms course. This golf outing will feature a box lunch from the grille and plenty of prizes. There will be a shotgun start at 8:30 am, and the cost is \$100. Come join some friendly IAABO competition. Please complete and mail in the form found on page 7 to register.

The spouse's breakfast will be held on Friday at 9 a.m., in the Wyndham. Please complete and mail in the form found on page 7.

Please make every effort to attend the spring meeting and represent your board.



**Benjy Bluman and his son, Kory, Bd. 53, NY, recently officiated a varsity game together. Benjy has been officiating over forty-one years and his son six years.**

## Good Fathers Make Good Sons



**Ed Corbett, and his son, Eddie Corbett, Jr., Bd. 52, recently officiated a Division I game together at Long Island University.**

## The IAABO Team "The Art of Officiating"

As a member of IAABO, how great I feel  
Empowered by strong leadership, we are the real deal

A worthier mission there may not be  
As role models and mentors we affect eternity

Let unite with a renewed commitment, and more  
Be madder than hell, we are not taking it any more

A commitment to fair play, ever defended  
Unacceptable acts by coaches must swiftly be ended

Be guardians of our game, to fair play be true  
Never accepting poor behavior by a few

To each challenge, have the courage to rise  
Lest we become co-conspirators to our game's demise

As a proud member of the IAABO team  
Architects of hope and each player's dream

Fine-tune our people skills, a mission true and sure  
Be madder than hell, do not take it anymore

Ken R. Estabrooks  
Bd. 192 Ontario

P.O. Box 355  
 Carlisle, PA 17013-0355  
 January/February 2016

## Periodicals

# IAABO Lines

Condolences to: **Dennis Herbert, Past President, IAABO, Inc. and Bd. 211 ON**, on the passing of his wife, Susan; Condolences to: **Mike Corcoran, Bd. 33 NJ**, on the passing of his father, **Mickey**, a longtime member and Past President of Bd. 33; Condolences to: **Maurice Webster, Bd. 12 DC**, on the loss of his wife; Condolences to: **Robert Bowins, Bd. 214 MD**, on the passing of his sister; Condolences to: **Lil Jackson, Bd. 70 PA**, on the passing of her mother; Condolences to: **Lamar Mitchell, Bd. 44 MA**, on the passing of his wife; Condolences to: **Jim Frenz, Bd. 121 NY**, on the loss of his mother; Condolences to: **Jaime Wentworth, Bd. 111 ME**, and **John Wentworth, Bd. 21 ME**, on the passing of their father, **Charles "Charlie" Wentworth**, a former member of Bd. 111 ME; Condolences to: **Bd. 119 NY**, on the passing of their member, **Robert Cummings**; Condolences to **Lane Forman, Bd. 130 MA**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **James Welbon, Bd. 12 DC**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Jim Kuzma, Bd. 12 DC**, on the passing of his mother-in-law; Condolences to: **Jon Levinson, Bd. 33 NJ**, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to: **Bd. 6 CT**, on the passing of **Rich Tuller**; Condolences to: **Vince Carnevale, Bd. 36 NY**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Andrew DeGregorio, Bd. 119 NY**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Bd. 180 NY**, on the passing of their member, **Wayne Jackson**; Condolences to: **Jerry Stockman, Bd. 53 NY**, on the passing of his wife; Condolences to: **Rob Snedden, Bd. 60 NY**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Bd. 121 NY**, on the passing of their member, **Lee Schmittendorf**; Condolences to: **Terry Collins, Bd. 121 NY**, on the passing of his mother.