

Executive Director's Report 2014/2015

A very good basketball season has passed and IAABO officials distinguished themselves by being prepared as well as buying into the new rules and being consistent in their enforcement. After some initial bumps in the road, officials, players and coaches adjusted to these new rules. Our officials readied themselves by utilizing the new instructional materials made available to them by IAABO. The new "You Make the Ruling" DVD was sent to every board that contained plays on a variety of topics and points of emphasis for the 2014-15 season. Its purpose was to illustrate plays and observe if the play was ruled correctly thus promoting discussion as to the rule. There were also plays where officials had to make the ruling and again the objective was to promote discussion at board meetings. DVDs were updated on Crew of Two and Crew of Three mechanics, complete with a menu page so Interpreters could determine the topic to be discussed. An example would be ruling fouls from the Lead position and then illustrating the proper switches. Fouls from every position were covered. Many thanks to the officials of Colorado Board 4 and the Colorado High School Athletics Association (CHSAA) for allowing IAABO to video their state tournament, so that the new

"You Make the Ruling" film could be created as a teaching tool for all IAABO officials.

A very successful and well attended fall seminar was conducted in Burlington, VT. A new format was undertaken and was met with rave reviews. There were 25 presentations of 20-25 minute durations delivered by some of the usual presenters as well as seven (7) new presenters. The presentations were right on and covered an array of useful topics for interpreters to turnkey in their local boards. Peter Webb coordinated the speakers and their topics. Evaluations of the program by those in attendance confirmed that the presentations were very useful and would be utilized at the local level.

Additional DVDs with basketball plays on them were distributed and comments from various interpreters stated that these were most helpful when they presented a topic, reviewed it then played the DVD to illustrate plays on the topic which promoted discussion among the group. Again like last year, each Interpreter received a flash drive that included the PowerPoint presentations from each of the presenters at the Fall Seminar. All of these materials were given to every (continued on page 3)

2015 IAABO Spring Meeting

Have you registered for the spring meeting in Rochester, NY. If you have not, please complete the forms that are available on the IAABO website. Also if you would like to attend any of the activities, complete and mail the forms found in this Sportorials. The dates are April 23-26, 2015

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 2015-2016. In addition, three of the 12 executive committee positions are open to serve three year terms; these positions are open for regions: **5 - CO, 9 - ON, 10 - ME, and 12 - GA, SC**. 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 meeting, many of which have agendas where input from



its members is extremely important, including constitutional changes, legal issues, budget, official's education and development updates, and the Women's Coordinating committee.

The secretary's roundtable will again be an important meeting with topics such as the database, membership, communication, insurance, Sportorial opt out, IAABO vendors, the IAABO website, and local board regulations. This meeting is a good session for procedures that affect every board.

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. Any and all members of IAABO are encouraged to attend. IAABO is your organization and your voice should be heard.

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 (continued on page 6)

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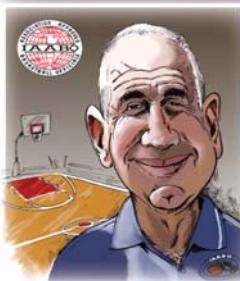
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STATEMENT

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



IAABO Business - We are entering that part of the year the bulk of the officiating has been completed and elections and year end dinners are being held locally. It is as important to be involved within your board in all of these activities in addition to your officiating instruction and training.

There are over 160 local boards in IAABO and each one slightly different from the other, some boards have assigners some do not, some have evaluation processes some do not; the terms of officers may be different from board to board.

The statement above illustrates that differences are ok and work for a particular board. The point being is that no matter what is in place in your board, you should be involved in the decision making policies that take place.

It is IAABO's role to advise the local board as to its policies, practices and share ideas to make things go smoothly through each year and to keep the cost of membership at current levels. However it is IAABO's main role to not only provide sound instructional materials, but also the best ways to utilize these materials at the local level.

As another year comes to a close, a big thank you to all the local boards, particularly the Presidents, Secretaries, Interpreters, and to all of our members for making the organization stronger than ever.

President's Corner



Being Sparked and other Short Stories

People like stories. Especially short ones which have a poignant message.

IAABO members who attend Fall or Spring meetings hear and listen to lots of short stories.

Edgar Cartotto and Ron Foxcroft, two stalwart IAABO clinicians, made us laugh with their officiating stories which always had a message attached to it. If you get to corner Peter Webb or Tom Lopes, you may be treated to a short story (growing up in a large family) which will stay with you forever. I have some short stories to share, if you will.

Recently I had a High School game to officiate in our local community. As I was about to leave the Phys. Ed. office where I had changed into uniform, I noticed a book on one of the teacher's desk- the title caught my eye. Did the game and on my exiting from the office wrote down the title, author and ISBN. When I got home, I searched AMAZON to see if I could find out more about the author and book.

I now have the book – SPARK – and realize the author- John. F. Ratey, MD, an American associate clinical professor of psychiatry @ Harvard Medical School, has much to share with us on the subject of Exercise and the Brain. There is not time or space here to write a synopsis of the story which Ratey shares with readers- but I can tell you one thing- like Apple Pie, and Ice-cream, an American tradition,

You will love the story and its ending. ISBN 978-0-316-11351- 9. Chapter 3 (Stress) and 9 (Aging). Wow! Every Year, our local boards are greeted with new people.

They want to become IAABO 'certified' and join our ranks. Most pass tests immediately; some a year later. I have a wonderful time each year going out and evaluating those who pass the November written test, the Mechanics and Signal Examination and then qualify for the floor testing.

This fall, I'm guessing, there would be more than 1500 men and women being evaluated to join our ranks.

Roger Maxwell is one of those persons who I had on my list to observe and see if he deserves moving forward. Roger, a 2ND year official, scored 92 % on the Officials Written test and 23/25 on the M&S Exam.

I went to see him work a Tournament Game having two well coached teams which at the end of regular playing time had an Over-time Period. An exciting game with the home school team having the bleachers filled to capacity is one thing to be stressed with- but OT on top of that- Talk about nerves being frayed!

Guess what? Roger survived and his partner Tom Carlisle, one of our veteran officials, praised Roger for several tough rulings and his composure on the floor. Roger, like most, will improve on rule knowledge, judgment in ruling selectivity, and floor presence. Welcome aboard Roger and all other new members!

Our IAABO story of local board involvement with canvassing or having activities to raise our Officials Versus Cancer Donations has been a success story from the beginning. This year should be no exception.

I am particularly aware of the impact the insidious disease has on many of our families. Please open up your wallets and contribute- those small donations add up and make a difference. I won't place a quota on what we raise but I do believe 16,700 members can make an impact.

My term as President ends this April. Thanks to all who have supported my visions and work this year. Incoming President Tom Reese will be just as effective as all of who served and are now Past Presidents. May IAABO go forward in strength and unity in our mission to serve a cause. See you in Rochester.

Executive Director's Report (continued from page 1)

board at no charge, thus fulfilling our objective to be the leader in providing educational materials and instruction to all our members.

A further note on the "You Make the Ruling", our DVD has been sold throughout the country with our marketing partner NASO and Referee Magazine that spotlighted the film. NASO endorsed our film as a great instructional piece that should be reviewed by all basketball officials before the start of the season. Sales of these discs help offset the production costs.

Our DVD really is the benchmark of instructional films utilized across the country, in fact IAABO contracted with the NFHS to develop an instructional DVD for their use. NFHS was very pleased with the finished project that they have renewed our contract and IAABO will again produce an instructional film for them for the 2015-16 basketball season.

The IAABO Video Play of the Week has been very popular with our members and is averaging around 7000 hits each week, creating discussion and testing the individual's knowledge as they view the plays.

IAABO created a separate handbook (Federation) for Canada and one that contained FIBA rules and interpretations. The handbooks contain a dedication to a prominent IAABO member in Canada.

A new instructional set of materials using animation has been developed with the first topic "Above the Ring" already sent to our interpreters last year. This year we added a new animation instructional guide on "Traveling" which also has been delivered to our interpreters. The illustrations were a help to the interpreters as they reviewed this topic. Both of these guides continue to be marketed through NASO and as mentioned above these sales help to offset the costs of their development.

Communication to our boards and members continues to be a focal point for the IAABO staff, and we are happy to report that all communications have been responded to within the promised 48 hours; however most are returned within 24 hours. Feedback from the membership on this issue has been very positive. Many local issues are brought to our attention and direction is given and many times these issues are resolved.

The financial procedures that were adopted last year continue to be utilized and have facilitated the yearly audit and quarterly reports. All recommendations in the audit have been implemented, including the establishment of new bank accounts to conform to the insurance limitations. The budget categories have been revised so that they present a clear picture of revenues and expenses. It appears that we will again have a surplus at the end of the fiscal year. Pretty darn good for a staff of two, particularly noted is the solid effort put forth by the Assistant to the Executive Director, Donnie Eppley.

Membership numbers show a very slight increase even though our goal is to retain our numbers from year to year. There are a large number of officials that leave each year and those have to be made up through new members, thus the goal trying to maintain our numbers is a struggle. On this topic, President Herbert and I are working with a number of members in Canada to develop instructional materials for the FIBA Canadian officials. IAABO has to prove to their officials that IAABO can develop these materials in return for them becoming IAABO members. This is a large undertaking, but one that could show positive growth.

The membership numbers for the past five years continue to grow. The IAABO numbers have grown by more than 2,150 officials over the past five years.

It was another banner year for the IAABO schools as most of the schools were filled to capacity. For the second consecutive year a school was held in Pueblo, Colorado and we will once again be returning this year in June. Schools were also conducted at Rutgers University, Milton Academy near Boston, and Susquehanna University. There may be other changes as we investigate alternate sites, but one change is firm and that is Babson College will replace the school at Milton Academy. The schedules are set for this summer and can be found on the IAABO

website.

Corporate sponsors have continued to support our Association and help offset the costs of our hospitality when IAABO hosts one of the meetings. These sponsors include Honig's Whistle Stop who continues to be the official supplier for IAABO officiating apparel. A new three year contract with Honig's was approved at the last spring meeting. Fox 40 sponsors the Life Membership Luncheon and provides awards for each inductee. Fox 40 is also key ingredient in the Officials vs. Cancer campaign as they provide special whistles at a drastically reduced price for all boards and their members, who are interested in participating. IAABO's partnership with Premier Wear who is developing IAABO leisure wear for our members, is entering our third year. This partnership has become another income source that will help us with our pledge to never raise dues. RuleBox Software, the developer of IAABO RefSchool, is also a valued partner and supporter of IAABO Inc.

IAABO handbooks were ready and distributed as promised before September 1st of the past year. Boards were able to distribute them for use in their cadet classes, and according to the survey responses, more boards will utilize them knowing that they will again be available by September 1st. Many of our boards have ordered the books at a cost of \$18.00 per handbook for their cadet classes and pay the additional \$17.00 when the prospective official successfully completed the exam.

Peter Webb, the Coordinator of Interpreters, conducted four conference calls, as well as two conference calls for FIBA in Canada, each lasting about an hour, with the agenda made up of recommendations submitted by local interpreters. The participation in the calls was excellent as was the question and answer period that followed Peter's presentation. We will continue to reach out to the local interpreters to participate as part of IAABO's goal of "One Rule, One Interpretation". Along with the conference calls, Peter responds to individual questions from members and interpreters on a daily basis, some of the questions he receives are quite extensive and interesting.

A partnership continues with NASO. This agreement will again take place at the Summit to be held in St Louis, MO this July, where IAABO will make a presentation at the Missouri Officials Day, and will also conduct the basketball breakout session during the conference.

Officials vs. Cancer, an IAABO project for the past seven years, has done the impossible, that is, raised more money for cancer research than in the previous year. This year's total was a remarkable, \$213,000.00.

A big thank you to the leadership of President Dennis Herbert and the cooperation of the Executive Committee for their timely responses for approvals, communication and suggestions on the running of our organization. These people work hard behind the scenes to insure that the entire operation runs smoothly.

The Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs have worked diligently on their assigned tasks; we appreciate their time and effort. The ideas and suggestions they bring to the table which enables IAABO to meet the needs of the local boards and improve the overall well-being of our association.

The Life Membership Committee under the leadership of Chair Gary Pucino, and Assistant Chair Tim O'Brien screened a number of Life Membership applications. The committee composed of IAABO Past Presidents Lou DeGeorge (NJ); Jack Doyle (MA); Peter Carroll (CT); Dick Mackenzie (VT); and Bill Varno (NY) and Executive Committee Advisors; Joe Gintoli (CT), Sal Capitumino (NY) and Scott Young (PA) recommended that the following members receive the honor and distinction of the prestigious Life Membership award:

David Ames	Board 111 (ME)
Frank Beebe	Board 27 (MA)
Layne Drexel	Board 11 (DE)
Dennis Millevoi	Board 194 (NJ)
Lee Pavlot	Board 51 (NY)

Even princesses find peas uncomfortable.



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Things Officials Should Probably Not Be Saying In A Game

Calvin Coolidge once said, “The things I did not say never hurt me.” Of course, he was not talking about basketball, but many officials would be smart to heed his sage advice as they communicate with coaches, and players.

Good communication skills are important tools to have on any official’s tool belt. Good communication with a partner, with a player, or with a coach, can go a long way to maintaining control of the game, having good game management, and having a smooth game. Sometimes this communication takes place in oral form, talking to players, or coaches, in some cases to explain a ruling, or in other cases to prevent a violation, or a foul. However, probably for reasons of tradition, there have been things that officials often, or sometimes, say during a game that do not have any basis in the rules, and should probably not be said in a game. This article will cover some of those “best left unsaid” statements.

“He wasn’t set”, is often an official’s answer to a coach who is questioning a blocking foul on his player. This implies that a defensive player must be set, and can’t move, to take a charge, while, in reality, the rules say otherwise. A defensive player does not have to remain stationary to take a charge. A defender may turn away or duck to absorb contact, provided he, or she, has already established legal guarding position, which is both feet on the playing court and facing the opponent. The defender can always move backwards, or sideways, to maintain a legal guarding position, and may even have one, or both feet, off the floor when contact occurs. That player may legally rise vertically. However, if the defender is moving forward, then the contact is caused by the defender, which, in this case, is a blocking foul.

“On the floor”, sometimes stated by officials for fouls against players who are not in the act of shooting, is also not rule based. This implies that a player cannot be on the floor, and shooting, at the same time, when in reality the old fashioned set shot, still used by some three point shooters, is a classic example of a player, on the floor, who is also in the act of shooting. Better statement: “No shot”.

“Don’t move”, said to an inbounding player, by an official, before a designated spot throw-in, is another statement that should probably go unsaid. According to the rules, that player can move laterally within a three foot wide area, can jump up, and can move as far back as time, and space, will allow. Better statement: “Designated spot”, while pointing to the spot.

“Hold your spots”, said by the referee, or tosser, before the jump ball, is only rule based for some of the players. One exception to this rule, and there are others, is that players on the jump ball circle can move off the jump ball circle at any time: before the toss, during the toss, or after the toss.

“You can’t stand behind him”, stated by the referee, or the umpire, before a jump ball, to a player who is directly behind an opponent, both whom are ten feet off the jump ball circle, is not rule based. The rule that players can’t stand behind, within three feet, of an opponent, only applies to players on, and within three feet of, the jump ball circle. Players farther back than that can stand wherever they want, as long as they get to that spot first.

“Everybody get behind the division line”, often said by an official before free throws for a technical foul, or an intentional foul, is also not rule based. According to the rule, the nine non-

shooters shall remain behind the free throw line extended, and behind the three point arc, and do not have to stay behind the division line. In some cases, this may allow players to legally converse with their coaches.

“Over the back”, reported by an official to the table on a rebounding foul, is, in reality, probably a pushing foul. Over the back is not necessarily a foul. There must be illegal contact to have a foul. A taller player may often be able to get a rebound over a shorter player, even if the shorter player has good rebounding position. If the shorter player is displaced, then a pushing foul must be called, and this should be reported to the table as such.

“Reaching in”, reported by an official to the table on a foul against a ball handler, is not necessarily a foul. There must be illegal contact to have a foul. The mere act of reaching in, is by itself, nothing. If illegal contact does occur, it’s probably a holding foul, an illegal use of hands foul, or a hand check foul, and these should be reported to the table as such.

“Coach, you have one timeout left”, is a courtesy often extended by officials to coaches, when, by rule, officials should only be notifying head coaches when their team has been granted its final allowable timeout. If there is any miscommunication, or mistake, involving the table crew reporting remaining timeouts, then the officials, by rule, need to stay out of the conversation. Let the coaches, and table crew, communicate about remaining timeouts, other than when a team has been granted its final allowable timeout, which by rule, is required to be reported to the coach by the officials.

“Sit down”, is occasionally stated by an official to a coach who is acting in an unsporting way, but who has not yet been charged with a technical foul, is not rule based. Back in the “olden days” of the “seatbelt rule”, this was a common method of dealing with coaches who have gone, or who are about to go, “over the line”. Now, with the coaching box, officials can only tell coaches to sit down after they have been charged with a direct technical foul, or an indirect technical foul, and even then, there are still a few occasions when these coaches can still legally stand up.

“You have to take out your earrings”, is occasionally stated by officials to players in the pregame layup lines who are wearing earrings. It’s only a minor difference in semantics, but it’s probably better, for legal liability reasons, to instead say, “You can’t play, or even warm up, wearing earrings”. This puts the decision, to remove the earrings, or not to remove the earrings, on the player, or the coach, and possibly, on the parent, and takes any legal liability off the official’s shoulders.

Finally, a thought by Will Rogers, “*Never miss a good chance to shut up.*”



Bill McKernan, is a current member of IAABO, Board 6, Connecticut.

Attention: Board Secretaries:
IAABO Dues are payable to the IAABO, Inc. Office no later than April 15, 2015.

Post-Season Officiating Commentary/Reminders

The post-season state playoffs and tournament time is nearing.

Each State/Provincial High School Basketball Tournament has a rich history and tradition. It is truly a privilege and honor for an official to be selected as a member of the post-season officiating staff. There are very high expectations of those who serve at the state level post regular season games in the role of an official.

A reminder, it is schoolboy and schoolgirl basketball and the official is part of the education process and responsible for assisting the State Association and the member schools in their effort to have youth/students benefit from participating in this very special athletic experience. SPORTSMANSHIP is a priority factor.

Respect the high school basketball game. Bring your high school officiating package of rules applications, coverage mechanics and signals to the post-season play-offs and tournament. Applying other level rules and using unapproved mechanics and signals are a very obvious indication that one does not respect the high school game of basketball and is a disservice to the overall game and to officiating. Join the team!

Consider each assignment strictly confidential. Don't spread the word.

When you accept an assignment, it must be the only game that you officiate that day.

Arrive at the site dressed professionally. Demonstrate respect for the assignment, the event and for officiating.

Arrive at the site early, at least one hour and fifteen minutes prior to game time or as per the state association's directive. Upon arrival, inform the officials' supervisor/contact person that you are present.

Be prepared! Most things are completely within your control – arrival, appearance, rested, attitude, professionalism, respect for the assignment, accountable, review the high school package of rules, mechanics and signals. You control your chance of being assigned another game or of being selected to the officiating staff another year.

A very thorough Pre-Game Conference is a must, be thorough! In multi-game days, be in the dressing room not later than the start of the second half of the prior game. The IAABO pre-game card can serve the Referee well as a guide. Leave the dressing room feeling professionally prepared and ready for the task at hand.

Referee - be thorough and professional with scorer and timer instructions. Don't take things for granted because it is a tournament setting. The on the court crew and the scoring and timing crew communication is vital.

Referee - pre-game head coach and captains meeting is a key "first impression" – be prepared, be professional, be sharp & crisp, be thorough but brief (cover the prescribed essentials).

Throughout the game have the utmost respect and compassion for players and head coaches yet expect rule abiding conduct. Penalize non-rule abiding conduct.

Don't be over emphatic when making rulings regarding time-out requests; blocking or charging fouls; team control fouls; good goal as in continuous motion/act of shooting situations, etc. These are not special situations. They are simply another ruling that you have made. React professionally and demonstrate composure.

Enforce the rules, all rules. That is what fair play/equal opportunity is all about. Officials don't set aside the travel rule or the out-of-bounds rule, why set aside the disconcentration rule, grasping the ring rule, the behavior rule, etc. When those rules are not legally met by a player or coach, apply the penalty. Do it NOW, don't fret, don't put it on hold and don't worry about it. It can haunt you and it can come back to haunt the game. Eliminate the issue. The game is better off when rules are enforced. While intending to be "good" by ignoring an action or by issuing a warning, etc. to one team, keep in mind the opposing team who is adhering to the involved rule(s).

Don't officiate to "stay out of trouble." Be so prepared, so thorough and good at your officiating that trouble doesn't find you.

Contact such as bumping, leaning, forearm warding off, hand checking

and displacement contact must be ruled a foul. These actions are not incidental contact. Rather they are actions that illegally assist the player, defensive or offensive, who is causing the contact. That is exactly why he/she is committing the act. Players and teams, both defense and offense, are very seriously affected by such actions. When an official accepts such contact as "part of the game" he/she is affecting the play and as a result the game. The official is not assuring "fair play/equal opportunity." Keep in mind that every contact, beyond incidental, that goes unattended to encourages more contact. The official can not have his/her version of contact as his/her version of contact may favor one team's style of play over the other team. Officiate by the rule and not by a version of the rule.

Every situation matters to both players involved and to both teams. The rules are in place to assure that legal play by defensive and offensive players is not compromised. The result of your ruling, accompanied by a whistle or not accompanied by a whistle, matters and affects not only the two players, it affects the two teams.

Demonstrate the pride and professionalism expected of an IAABO official. Apply the rules of the game, work hard, enjoy and benefit from your post-season experience.



Past President, Peter Webb, Bd. 111, ME, is the Coordinator of Interpreters for the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Inc.(IAABO). Peter is responsible for providing guidance, clarifying basketball issues, and conducting online discussion groups with all IAABO Interpreters.

Spring Meeting (continued from page 1)

honorees will be presented with the beautifully detailed IAABO Life Membership Ring. Honorees include David Ames, Board 111, ME, Frank Beebe, Board 27, MA, Layne Drexel, Board 11, DE, Dennis Millevoi, Board 194, NJ, Lee Pavlot, Board 51 NY, and Alan Goldberger, Board 33, NJ. Luncheon tickets are available for \$35, Please mail in your registration form to make your reservation.

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 meeting.

The first social event of the spring meeting will be the annual Pete Sheehan Golf Outing at Ridgemont Country Club. The outing will feature coffee, bagels and juice at 9 AM and a nice lunch from the grille and plenty of prizes. There will be a shotgun start at 10 am, and the cost is \$95. Come join us for some friendly IAABO competition. Please complete the registration form on page 7.

The spouse's breakfast will be held on Friday at 9 AM, in the Marriott. Please mail in your registration form on page 7 to make your reservation.

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

Fall Seminar to be Held in Denver, Colorado

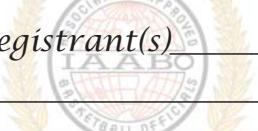
Heads up all Interpreters, IAABO'S Fall Seminar will be held on September 17 - 20, 2015 in beautiful Denver, CO. Plans are already in progress, speakers, and topics being selected and the unveiling of additional IAABO materials to make your job easier. Let's continue our fine efforts of spreading the gospel of IAABO and targeting improvement in rules knowledge and mechanics. If IAABO can help in any way, please contact Tom or Donnie.

2015 Spring Meeting Forms

*16th Annual
IAABO Life Membership Luncheon
Saturday, April 25, 2015 - 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, 2015*

Spouse/ Guest Breakfast
Friday, April 24, 2015, 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, 2015*

Golf Registration

Thursday, April 23, 2015 - 9:00 AM Registration

10:00 AM Shotgun Start

Ridgemont Country Club - www.rccgolf.com

\$95/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, 2015*

2015 Annual Spring Meeting Schedule

Rochester, NY

Thursday, April 23, 2015

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

Friday, April 24, 2015

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 Committee

4:00 p.m. IAABO Foundation Meeting

Saturday, April 25, 2015

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. Legal Issues - Alan Goldberger

10:30 a.m. Life Membership Committee

12:15 p.m. Life Membership Luncheon

Sunday, April 26, 2015

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

Rules Questions for the IAABO Interpreter

1. A-1 is fouled while in the act of trying for goal. The try is not successful. A-1 is awarded two free throws. The first free throw is successful. Upon the release of A-1's second free throw B-3, located in the free throw lane line space nearest the free thrower, enters the free throw lane and then, with his/her foot, breaks the far plane of the free throw line prior to the ball contacting the basket ring or the backboard. The official rules this action by B-3 a violation. Is the official correct?
 2. Late in the game the head coach of Team A requests and is granted a 30-second time-out. The official scorer informs the official that Team A has been granted a sixth time-out. The official rules a technical foul on Team A and an indirect technical foul on the Team A's head coach. Is the official correct?
 3. During A-1's dribble, the ball strikes the leg of B-1 and bounds away. A-2 hustles and recovers/picks up the ball. Then A-1 begins to dribble. The official rules it an illegal dribble. Is the official correct?
 4. A-1's throw-in pass strikes the side of the backboard and caroms back toward him/her. A-1 moves in bounds and catches the ball. The official rules this as legal. Is the ruling correct?
 5. A-1's try for goal passes through the basket ring and is within the net when A-5 bats the ball out of the net. The official rule offensive basket interference. Is the official correct?
- Answers can be found on page 9*

“Let’s Talk Contact”

TWO TYPES OF CONTACT

Anytime we interpreters speak about contact, we must always teach our officials that there are two types of contact and one, which occurs so much more than the other, is legal contact.

LEGAL CONTACT

That legal contact not only has a name...it has its own rule. We know it as Rule 4.27, Incidental Contact.

When the official is monitoring the contact and rules it to be legal contact...Incidental Contact...no whistle is needed. The covering official makes a ruling, using no whistle, because it was ruled as simply contact. Legal contact. No foul. No whistle. The official did not “pass on it.” It wasn’t a “no call.” There was a “call,” which we refer to as a Ruling, because that more accurately describes exactly what took place. When the contact is ruled to be Incidental Contact, there was no foul. No need for a whistle.

ILLEGAL CONTACT

The other type of contact is illegal, which is a FOUL. Fouls come in all “shapes and sizes” and with various descriptive names. What is interesting to note is, the rules pertaining to contact are not just for the defense. They also are created for the offense and make it very clear as to what the offensive player can and cannot do. Too often we officials are more concerned and give more attention to the defense than the offense. Perhaps it is because of the term we’ve heard for years that says, “Referee The Defense.”

In addition, we officials have been convinced over the years that the block/charge play is our toughest ruling to get right. That is just NOT TRUE. The seemingly “default” ruling is a Blocking Foul. The truth is, if the covering official doesn’t know the rule, he/she would be accurate more often if his/her “default” ruling were a Player Control Foul. Making accurate block/charge rulings are really not that difficult for the official who has good eye sight and knows the rules pertaining to this ever-present contact play.

We all should be aware that Block/Charge contact is not legal contact, therefore, ruling it as Incidental Contact is an inaccurate ruling. When an official becomes an expert at the Rules pertaining to Guarding and has the necessary skills to process and rule quickly on the play, the percentage of accuracy goes very high. And, Accuracy is only determined by the Rules of THE GAME. Here are some suggested Rules that all officials should constantly be studying, as we are all in “Pursuit of Excellence” in officiating:

Rules 4.7, 4.19, 4.23, 4.24, 4.27 and 10.6.

We often ask officials, in a group setting, how many years they have officiated. We identify the first-year officials and we applaud them. Then we ask for a show-of-hands for the officials who have been officiating for at least 12 years. The hands are raised with much pride and confidence. Then we ask for a show-of-hands for those who consider themselves a “Rules Expert.” NO HANDS ARE RAISED!! How can this be? How long does it take to learn this? Could it be that these officials actually have “one year experience 12 times?”

These “no-hands” become the focus of our remarks and training for that day or that presentation. We remind these veterans, who are highly-experienced officials, that Doctors do Brain Surgery after 12 years of training. How long does it take to become an expert at these 68 pages? Anything that is only 68 pages? These 10 Rules?

We are quick to inform them that, “I didn’t ask you if you knew everything.” We want to know if you have the confidence of knowing that, “It will be a rare moment for something to happen during a game and you do not know how to rule accurately on it.”

This process of becoming a Rules Expert should not take more than five seasons of officiating for the “real student” of THE GAME. My guess



is, each of you reading this is an EXPERT of the out-of-bounds Rule. Let’s now move on to the Traveling Rule; the Continuous Motion Rule; Basket Interference Rule, etc. These are Violations, but what about CONTACT? As they say on Sunday afternoon in the NFL, “Upon further review...” We will find that CONTACT RULES are just as clearly written as violations; especially now that we have a “new ending” to the Rules Book, with the addition of 10.6.12.

Because of WHO WE ARE here at IAABO, we need Rules Experts to proudly declare such. We need all veteran IAABO officials to do W.I.T. (Whatever It Takes) to become so knowledgeable of the Rules Book, the Case Book and the Officials Manual, that they will soon recognize and accept the fact that they are indeed a Rules Expert.

Now I know some officials who can almost quote the Rules Book and they can get a score of 100 on just about any exam they take. However...I do not want them as a partner, because they are Rules Nerds and can’t officiate. They do not process the information quickly enough or

they do not have excellent communication skills or people skills. But...there are also officials who have amazing potential, but they spend their time on practicing a STYLE and a certain LOOK, instead of learning THE GAME and its RULES. Hear this:

“It is impossible to be a good official without knowing the rules.” Officials who HONOR THE GAME, instead of trying to “sell a ruling” or “please a coach,” are always putting SUBSTANCE before STYLE. THE GAME comes first!

Now, back to CONTACT...

GUARDING

Before officials can make accurate rulings on Block/Charge, they must master the guarding rules. These rules begin with Rule 4.23, even though there are others on the same subject listed above. First of all, all officials must know the following statement, which is found in Rule 4.23.1, where it states, “Every player is entitled to a spot on the playing court providing such player gets there first, without illegally contacting an opponent.”

OBTAIN

With that in mind, the defender is allowed to OBTAIN an initial legal guarding position. To OBTAIN requires the defender to do three things:

1. Get to the spot first...legally
2. Have both feet on the floor in-bounds
3. Be facing the opponent

Now...I have a question for you: “How long does it take to OBTAIN and initial legal guarding position?” The answer is: “As long as it takes to accomplish these three required steps.” Perhaps, as fast as a split-second. It is crucial to understand that the defender is not required to OBTAIN more than once, unless and until he/she has been BEATEN by the opponent.

Another very pertinent question is: How close does the defender have to be to OBTAIN? The answer is: There is no required distance. It could be 42 feet or one foot (choose a number). If B1 is on the Free Throw Line when A1 crosses the Division Line and B1 has accomplished the above three requirements, then B1 has OBTAINED an initial legal guarding position! As A1 gets closer, B1 gets more serious about one-on-one defense, but he/she doesn’t have to RE-OBTAIN!!!

MAINTAIN

After the defender has OBTAINED an initial legal guarding position...then the defender is allowed to MAINTAIN that legal guarding position. The defender is not allowed to be in the MAINTAINING defensive “mode,” until he/she has first OBTAINED.

When the defender is in the MAINTAINING defensive “mode,” he/she is allowed...by Rule...to do ANYTHING and be legal. ANYTHING!

“Let’s Talk Contact”

Well...there is ONE EXCEPTION and that is: the defender is not allowed to CAUSE the contact. Which player actually CAUSES the contact should be easy to see and understand, if you know what action is considered CAUSES by the Rules Book. WOW! YES! These CAUSES are actually found in the Rules Book. We don't even have to be creative. We just have to KNOW THE RULES! It really is nice to know that even the CAUSES are listed in the Rules Book. Most are found in Rule 10.6, along with the Defined Rules in Rule 4.

QUESTIONS

Is the defender allowed to jump?

Is the defender allowed to move?

Is the defender allowed to raise hands?

Answers: YES, YES, YES!

Is the guard required to continue facing the opponent? NO!

Again...the defender can do ANYTHING except CAUSE the contact.

BEATEN

Rule 10.6.8 doesn't use the word BEATEN, but the word BEATEN does serve us as the “perfect word” for understanding when the defender is no longer in the maintaining defensive “mode.” In other words A1 has gotten his/her “head & shoulders” past B1’s “head & shoulders.” B1 doesn't have to take the contact in the middle of the chest. B1 is still legal, even if the left shoulder of A1 hits the left shoulder of B1. Again... B1 is still in a legal MAINTAINING defensive “mode,” until A1 gets his/her shoulders past B1. Stop penalizing good defense and penalize the player who CAUSED the contact.

Also...stop stating that, “He/she didn't get there.” That's foolish talk. When B1 gets knocked down after receiving contact by A1...trust me... B1 got there. A1 doesn't knock B1 down AFTER getting by (beating) B1. B1 gets knocked down from the contact received on the FRONT of his/her body! Try explaining to B1, who's lying on the floor, that he/she “didn't get there.” Many of us would like to hear that “sales” effort.

4 TYPES OF PLAYERS BEING GUARDED

There are only four types of players on the court who can be guarded.

They are:

1. A STATIONARY opponent WITH the ball.
2. A STATIONARY opponent WITHOUT the ball.
3. A MOVING opponent WITH the ball. And...
4. A MOVING opponent WITHOUT the ball.

Only the last one receives the special treatment of “TIME & DISTANCE” TO OBTAIN an initial legal guarding position. “Time and Distance” has nothing to do with MAINTAINING.

PETER WEBB TO A GROUP OF OFFICIALS

When Peter Webb is talking, I am listening and usually making notes. I recall hearing him tell a group of officials, “If the executives of your state high school association were to mandate that all block/charge rulings be ruled as a player control foul... your state would have the highest accuracy in the nation for block/charge rulings.”

Ladies & gentlemen, the reason is: Nearly All Of Them...By Rule... Are Player Control Fouls. We must train our officials to stop penalizing good defense. Always ask them: “What did the defender do wrong?” “Who caused the contact?” The accuracy of the ruling, lies in the answers to those questions.

CLOSELY-GUARDING

Closely-Guarding is when the defender is within six feet of the player in control of the ball, in the frontcourt of the offensive player. In other words...B1 is within six feet of A1.

The Rules Book doesn't require the defender to be in any type of defensive posture. He/she simply has to have OBTAINED a legal guarding position and now be MAINTAINING that same legal guarding position within SIX FEET of the player in control of the ball.



What appears to be the “issue” is, evidently, many of our officials, even those at other levels, including those on television, struggle with math and are not very clear or familiar with a distance of 6 feet. If the defender is required by an official to get closer than SIX FEET, then it is much easier for A1 to drive by and “beat” B1. The Rules Committees do not want it to be easier for the offense to “beat” than for the defense to MAINTAIN. In fact, the NCAA Women have changed their rule from THREE feet to SIX feet, so now all three codes (NFHS, Men, Women) are the same distance. (Women: Holding The Ball Only)

And, another issue, is the covering official, most of the time, is on a count of “ONE” when he/she should already be on a count of “THREE.” The covering official should be thinking: “catch...count” or “dribble...one, two...” The visible count begins immediately; no delay. To become a very accurate counter, we always recommend the use of a Microwave Oven. Use the descending numbers and a visible count to practice your counting. “Perfect practice makes perfect.”

The Closely-Guarded Count doesn't end when A1 drives toward the basket, as long as the defender is still in the MAINTAINING defensive “mode.” In other words, A1 hasn't BEATEN B1 and the defender maintains the closely-guarding SIX feet, or less, distance.

Look For Reasons To Count; Not Excuses Not To.

By the way...who started the MYTH that the Lead Official never has a Closely-Guarded Count? That's just not true. Not accurate. Each official who has a PCA, has closely-guarding responsibilities.

STOP CARING

Let's instruct our officials to have accurate counts. Counting too slowly favors the offense and doesn't reward good defense. Do not hesitate to enforce the rules. Buy into accuracy. It is our job. Stop caring if they violate. Caring is not within our job description. Our job is to “Monitor The Activity” and then MAKE ACCURATE RULINGS based on that activity. Those rulings will only be accurate, if they have rules support. And remember...

“We Can't Make Accurate RULINGS On RULES We Don't Know.”



Ray McClure is a member of Bd. 200 GA. He officiated Division I basketball for 20 years and is currently the Rules Interpreter for the American Basketball Association (ABA). Ray is a current member of the IAABO, Inc. Executive Committee.

Answers to Questions

(From Page 7)

1. Yes Reference 9.1.3d (may enter the free throw lane; the free throw semicircle is not part of the free throw lane; the free throw semicircle is “off limits” to all, excepting the free thrower, until the ball contacts the basket ring or the backboard.)
2. No Reference 5.11.6; 10.1.7
3. No Reference 9.5.2
4. No Reference 9.2.6
5. Yes Reference 1.10.1; 4.6.1



Erratum

Please note that Michael Statham, Bd. 12, DC, Interpreter, wrote the article on page 8 in the January/February 2015 edition of Sportorials (***There is NO Backcourt During a Throw-InBut Why?***). Sportorials apologizes for the oversight and extends their appreciation to Mike for the article.

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36th 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.



Those attending the school will be housed in college dormitories and all meals will be held in college dining halls. There is no lodging or meals provided at the Colorado school. There are no meals provided at the Babson school.

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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Tuition is \$300 for the school

Officiating International – FIBA

Team Officiating: STRONG...CONSISTENT...TOGETHER

“Technology Means More Correct Calls and More Scrutiny” was the title of an article published by The Associated Press this January. Technology and social media are both friend and foe to officials. Technology is on the increase in many sports within games to ensure correct rulings. In the 2014 Official Basketball Rules, FIBA expanded its use of Instant Replay Systems at games if available and approved to help the officials ‘get it right’ in specific areas and times. Officials at all levels are using technology (video and other) to get better. At the same time, whether on the World stage or the gymnasium down the street someone is most likely recording the game and as a result the officials. The officials’ doing a good job isn’t news. Officials making mistakes seems to be and more and more publicized and scrutinized. Officials make rulings in the here and now while others get to view the play on television or the internet, often from multiple angles and slow motion and get to hear all about it in news media, blogs and tweets.

At the same time, overall the game of basketball is faster and more athletic with more offensive and defensive schemes relative to the past at whatever level you officiate. How do we as officials meet the Increasing demands of officiating coupled with increased scrutiny and expectation? For the FIBA Men’s and Women’s 2014 World Championships, the official’s preparation included the following messages 1) the most important thing is the correct outcome of the game and 2) success in officiating is based on seamless teamwork amongst the crew.

In officials’ terms, the correct outcome of a game is one that is determined by the abilities and performance of the two opposing teams as by-product of a correctly called and controlled game by the third team at the game, the officiating team.

Teamwork is defined by buisnessdictionary.com as the process of working collaboratively with a group of people in order to achieve a goal. Our goal is a correctly called and controlled game and the best way to accomplish it is team officiating, working collaboratively to get it right.

There's No "I" in Team

Most of us have probably heard the above expression. The message being that working as a team, our collective abilities augment and complement each other and can achieve more than we could acting as individuals. In no deference to the motivation provided by what is certainly a truism, I think you also have to recognize a silent “I” or an in parenthesis or asterisk “I” in team.

There is another expression that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Each of us as individuals owes it to the game, the rest of our crew and ourselves to be the best we can be for that game. It is on us as individuals to be physically, mentally and emotionally prepared for the game at hand. To continually strive to the best officials we can be. Furthermore it is on us as individuals and as a crew to embrace team officiating and what it entails.

Before The Game

Team officiating starts before the game. The FIBA Officiating Manual states that a pre-game is an absolute necessity. The better the pre-game, the better the team will be prepared for that game. It is important to cover mechanics and techniques. Seamless movement provides for the best coverages and maintained focus on the play and players, liveball and deadball. Review specific situations and how they will be covered. Be detailed in how contact will be ruled. We often assume that call the ‘handchecking’ means the same thing to us as our partner(s). We call have possible variations on the same construct. Talk and possibly, walk through, what specifically will be ruled illegal and what is considered incidental. Review game control and what it entails. What is acceptable behaviour and not and how as individuals and a crew you can both be proactive and appropriate and consistent. Again, as individuals we all have varied interpersonal skills and tolerances but we have to collaborate to be consistent with the participants. Review the how, when, what and whys of



crew communication.

True teamwork goes further than the aforementioned. Team members of the best functioning teams feel involved, empowered and committed to the goal and each other. Be active, responsive and positive. Be open-minded, listen and respect what is being said while also. Involving yourself in the discussion and agreement committing yourself to the collaboration even if that may mean some personal adjustments. At the same time, show respect for your crewmate’s personal preparation time/routines as possible.

During the Game

On the floor, what is team officiating to ensure that correctly called an controlled game?

It’s physical. Location, location, location. The FIBA Officiating manual states that there is a high correlation between the location of an official and the accuracy of their decisions. We have to be hustling, working hard as a crew. We follow the mechanics we pre-gamed at the same time are making adjustments based on the play. We aren’t slaves in that we understand that sometimes we do something a little different to ensure that we are where we have to be to see what we have to see. It’s about our collective positioning and what we collectively see.

Officials have to be strong in their primary area of coverage. At the same time, primary infers there is a secondary. Those prying TV cameras and other can create multiple looks and views when put together, so can we as a crew.

Think about the concept that the official with the best look should be making the ruling. Even when moving properly to cover your responsibilities there are going to be times on the floor that we don’t have the best look at something that may be in our primary coverage. Let’s start with a simple and universally accepted mechanic, outside official(s) helping the lead on post play travelling. Due to the spacing and/or bodies in the way or Lead’s focus on contact, the outside official(s) may have a better look at the offensive player’s foot movement to call travelling.

Let’s explore this further. Fast break situation after quick turnover, play is off outside shoulder of Lead who hasn’t quite turned the corner to face around on endline. The trail or center has worked hard to get into position to see both that the Lead doesn’t have the proper look and there is a obvious (from official’s view across the floor) foul across the arm that separates the offensive player from the ball on a crossover to the basket. Opposite side official blows the whistle correctly for the foul. As officials, we are constantly striving for awareness of ball, players and partner(s). There was(is) and expression “Let the primary live and die with the call”. As a crew, as a team, we have to be better than that. In this case, the opposite official is aware of the Lead’s poor sightline with a clear look at the illegal contact. When that coach or other is looking at the game tape and sees that the other official(s) had an open look at the play it hurts our collective credibility.

This isn’t a free pass to call all over the court. It comes from both an awareness of what is happening on the court, from the understanding of who is looking where as a result of what is happening on the court, who has the best look and whether it is a good enough look. The game is dynamic and fluid and as a team of officials we have to understand that this creates dynamic coverages and looks for the crew. If we are doing it right, we should be getting multiple looks at many plays. The key is the understanding of the quality of the look and personal discipline to not rule on plays you shouldn’t be. As a crew, we want to avoid ‘fantasy calls’, calls that we think we saw that may or may not have happened, incorrect calls where we simply are wrong. We also can’t miss calls that are obvious calls and we should have rulings on what can be deemed ‘50/50’ calls - someone did something wrong but not sure who so let’s not have a whistle.

Trust. We trust our partner(s) to handle their primary but also have

Officiating International – FIBA

Team Officiating

to trust that the official with secondary coverage makes a ruling that is correct. By the way, incorrect rulings look bad in general let alone those that are ‘out of area’. Times to extend help outside your primary is when you have the proper look (no guessing) include when there are multiple competitive match-ups in the other primary, the partner is out of position or straightlined or there is rough play, an obvious foul or a 50.50 play that there hasn’t been on a whistle yet.

Its Mental. We have to be constantly thinking, anticipating and reacting on the floor. Work to build your awareness of the ball, players and partner(s). for the competitive match-ups.

Its emotional. We can’t let our egos interfere. We all make mistakes or miss things. Think we got it right rather than I missed/may have missed something.

It’s about consistency and communication. Where do we start? Have we heard the expression “Make your first call a good one.” Or “If it’s a fifth foul, make sure it’s a good one.”? Our goal is that all our rulings are good ones. The FIBA Officiating Manual talks about setting the standard early. If we are all on the same page (we have the same concept and context of what is and isn’t legal, what creates an advantage/disadvantage and other). We don’t step on the floor aren’t looking for a certain transgression, we simply recognize and penalize if and when it happens. Let’s say our first ruling isn’t a good call for whatever reason. It’s a ruling that we as a crew can’t and shouldn’t match going forward then we have to recognize that and not simply make the same ruling in the same circumstances. The rule book specifies consistency in respect to applying advantage/disadvantage, applying common sense and maintaining a balance between game control and game flow when deciding on personal contact or violation. For that to happen, the crew should set-up a feedback loop for themselves.

Throughout the game the crew should be communicating with each other as much as possible. Review rulings and interactions with players and coaches the factors that made them correct or in correct. Keep building that common context and concept. Talk about the present situation and what is anticipated to happen. If bodies are on the floor someone in the crew should know how they got there, if we don’t – why not and how to make sure it doesn’t happen again. Its important to check where you are at. More importantly, is staying in the here and now and moving forward. Be honest with each other and work to keep each other mentally and emotionally where we ned to be. We can all use a little help/refocus at times.

Utilize the full scope of communication you have. Eye contact, a brief nod or facial expression can speak volumes.

After the Game

Team officiating continues after the game. Debrief as a crew. Talk about the game and the officiating without ego, being judgmental or defensive. Continue to be open, honest and respectful. Consider what went well and not so well. Be positive while at the same time identifying areas for improvement. Breakdown what happened and the factors involved, good and bad. Be specific in identifying things that can be improved and/or techniques and other that were successful and to be continued.

Here comes that silent “I”. Commit to taking something(s) away from the game. Take any points for improvement and internalize them and come up with an action plan to improve before and during your next game. Share your team and personal takeaways in next game’s pregame as possible.

Going forward

It is about the game, it’s about ‘getting it right’, it’s about us as individuals committing to being the best we can be individually and then to team officiating to be even better. Aristotle, famed Greek Philosopher, said “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” At the World’s FIBA said it another way to its officials “Strong....Consistent....Together”.



Tim Laurain is a member of Board 211, and is the Manager Officiating Development at Canada Basketball/Ontario Basketball. You can contact him timlaurain@rogers.com if you have any comments, feedback or questions.

Awareness of Ball, Players and Partner(s)

Most of us remember the first basketball game we officiated. For many, we were ‘on the ball’, literally. We spent the day following the ball wherever it went. We were working hard, focused and thus justifiably confused with the “Ref, you’re missing a great game out there” comment from the crowd (if we were lucky in respect to source).

Spending more time in the officiating manual and on the court we’ve learned the importance of knowing our areas of responsibility and coverage, working on-ball and off-ball. We understand the dynamic nature of the game and as such look to maximize our awareness of ball, players and partner(s) in order to be in the right place at the right time and focused on the right thing to make the correct call.

How do we gain this awareness, this consciousness? We work at knowledge, positioning and focus.

Let’s start with knowledge. Be a student of officiating and of the game. Recognize that having an understanding of what ‘the coaches and players are trying to do tactically’ and then observing play allows us to anticipate the next play and move and focus accordingly. Remembering that we are anticipating what we need to observe and judging the play, not anticipating a foul.

Next a quick look at positioning. Positioning includes both spacing and angle to what you have to see. . When our head is stationary and eyes centered, our horizontal field of vision is approximately 180 degrees. We see with maximum acuity in about a 5 degree range in the middle. We have a working (my term for practical purposes) field of vision of 50 – 60 degrees of shape and color differentiation. The remainder of our vision is our peripheral vision. Position yourself to have the best field of vision you can for what you have to see. The true art is doing so while also generating awareness of what is not your primary responsibility to you and your crew’s benefit.

Let’s cover a couple of common examples. First, the simple technique of coming up the floor as Trail ‘on-ball’ to the side and behind the dribbler and possible defender allows you to ‘see the space’. You have the ball, offensive player and defender in view. What it also allows is to see ahead of the play and any potential upcoming on-ball screens. Not as important to a Trail in a three person crew but essential in a two-person crew. Next, let’s talk about the technique of mirroring/working wide with the ball when off-ball as Lead. This allows us to put the ball which is up top/out of our primary either in our periphery vision somewhere in our working vision while still allowing us to focus on our primary area. Whether initiating a rotation in three person or transitioning/taking coverage in two person it is essential to know the status of the ball. Position yourself optimally to get the looks you need; the look at your coverage and the awareness of what else is happening as appropriate.

The last piece of the puzzle is focus. Are we looking at and seeing the right things. Let’s go back to our example s. Coming up as Trail and the defender is moving with the dribbler with some separation, it is an opportunity to look through play/a head of play and see if a screen is developing (gain awareness). Now we are Lead, the ball is outside our primary and there are either multiple match-ups in our primary or seemingly none as they run a high offense. Our focus on the right thing at the right time is based on things we do or don’t do subconsciously but can be done and trained consciously. Sports eye training is becoming more main stream. In future, I’ll go into more detail on terms like peripheral awareness, scanning, split attention, focus flexibility, dynamic visual acuity and other.

For now, I’ll sum up simply with scan your field of vision to gain awareness, switch your attention to the match-up/part of the play that you need at the time and then don’t fixate your vision/focus where it isn’t needed. These are essential skills for good on-ball and off-ball coverage. In particular, understanding and knowing when to extend coverage outside your primary and which official on the officiating crew has the best look and thus best opportunity to make a correct ruling.

This article only serves as an quick reminder of the techniques and benefits of working at and having awareness of ball, players and partner(s) on the court. Like everything else. You have to work at it to get better at it and reap the rewards. Rita Wilson, successful actress and director, sums it up simply as “Awareness is empowering”. It empowers you and your crew.

Establishing and Enforcing Realistic Policies

If your local IAABO board is set up as a non-profit association, it functions for the most part like a small business corporation.

The group of persons vested with the management of the association is the board of directors and the officers – they direct and control the policies of the local board and must do so in a reasonably prudent manner.

If a board is incorporated, the source of authority for the board of directors to act and the limitations on their authority are found in the association's articles of incorporation – the document which created the association.

The other source of the board of directors' authority is found in the association's constitution. This document should be tailored to fit the purposes and needs of each local board.

No two local boards have exactly the same purposes and needs. The constitution of another board should not be copied arbitrarily. Instead, the constitution should be tailored to fit each particular local board.

The binding effect of a board's constitution lies in its contract nature. Persons who join the association agree to abide by the association's rules. These rules are found in the association's constitution.

Another important thing to keep in mind is that the board of directors – not an individual officer, director, or even the president – has the power to make decisions that instead should be made by the entire board. Be leery of a local board that allows – either by custom or in a constitutional provision – its president or secretary to make unilateral decisions without the approval of the board of directors.

As a member of your local board's board of directors, you should examine the mission and responsibilities of the local board from time to time. You might find that demands and opportunities oftentimes change and alter what the local board does and how it functions. That is why it may be necessary from time to time to amend the local board's constitution.

Become familiar with your local board's constitution. Bring a copy of the constitution to each board of directors meeting and don't be hesitant to refer to it when making policy decisions.

Since local boards are essentially private entities, they are free to implement policies and impose sanctions on members as long as there are procedural safeguards in place so that a member will not be treated unfairly.

Members should know what is expected of them and what types of activities are prohibited. If a local board chooses to enact detailed constitutional provisions regarding conduct while a member is officiating, make sure it is clearly spelled out and uniformly enforced.

Let's look at some hypothetical local board policies and see how realistic and enforceable they are –

My local board says that if I join, I cannot officiate for any other association. This is a restriction of trade. Besides, this is America – I can work for whomever I want to!

- Not a good policy.
- As long as a member complies with a local board's closed date, availability, notification, and assignment policies, why they choose not to work on a particular date – be it a family obligation, work commitment, or working a game for another association – is of no concern to the local board.

My local board doesn't allow any of us to wear beards, have tattoos, or be 'overweight'. Can they enforce this rule? I'm not overweight; I'm just too short for my weight. Besides, my wife thinks I look good with a beard!

- Unless there is a correlation between facial hair or a tattoo and an official's performance, this is not a good policy.
- Unless a local board has physical fitness standards –

and enforces those standards uniformly for all members, being 'overweight' could result in a subjective determination, rather than an objective standard.

My local board suspended me and did not assign me any games this year. They won't let me appeal and won't tell me exactly what I did wrong. When I ask how I can be reinstated, all I am told is that 'official on double secret suspension have no right of appeal and are ineligible for game assignments'.

- While it is acceptable for a local board to impose sanctions on members consistent with the IAABO Constitution, the member must know what is expected of him/her and what types of activities or conduct are prohibited.

- If either suspension or expulsion are among the possible sanctions, a hearing, with notice to the member must also be conducted following the guidelines in the IAABO Constitution.

- Should a hearing procedure result in sanctions, the member must receive a written copy of the sanctions imposed on him/her and must be afforded an opportunity to appeal the decision. Be aware that after local and state board appeals (if any) are concluded, a suspended or expelled member may appeal an adverse decision to IAABO.

I think my assigner has it in for me. I've been officiating for ten years and have yet to receive a varsity game. My local board does not have a formal rating system that tells me where I stand. When I ask, they tell me that I just don't have 'it'. What is 'it'? Ten years seems like quite a lengthy apprentice program. Can't I get at least one varsity game now?

- If a local board assigns games, it should have some sort of a rating or evaluation system in place so that members know where they stand.

- Local board assigners should not make arbitrary game assignment decisions.

- Game assignments by a local board should be made pursuant to an established or written policy implemented by the board of directors.

My local board demands that we all use the same mechanics. I am left-handed and call fouls with my left arm raised. They said if I continue to call fouls like this that I won't be assigned any games. Looks like in this local board that left-handed people are never right. Can they do this?

- This is similar to the beard and tattoo issue.
- Unless there is a correlation between signaling fouls with the left arm raised and an official's performance, this is not a good policy.
- If it is a policy that is enforced 'because we have always done it that way', it is not a good reason for its' continued enforcement.

The local board president told me to buy a new striped shirt because mine is old and yellowing. I told him that I could not afford to buy a new shirt. The next week I did not receive any game assignments. My shirt is polyester and the label says that it doesn't have to be washed until the end of the season. Can they get away with this?

- Every local board has a member who fits into this category – he/she is working so many games that he/she doesn't have a free day to wash the shirt.

- However, this is not an unreasonable policy.
- Every time a member officiates a game on behalf of the local board they are representing the local board.

- It is not unreasonable for the local board to insist that its members look respectable.

- However, uniform standards and criteria should be spelled out so that the member knows what is expected.

As the assigner for our local board, I want all of the officials I assign to look respectable. A member who is one hundred pounds overweight just transferred from another board. He says he is not overweight – he just has a big bone structure. What can I do?

Realistic Policies

- This is not a decision for the assigner of a local board to make.
- It is a board of directors' decision.
- Do not permit the local board's assigner to wield too much power simply because he/she determines who will work, who will not work, and where they will work.
- Unless there is some sort of a medical issue involved, or it affects a member's officiating performance, this is a bad policy.
- Criteria for assignments should be based on reasonable and established objective officiating performance criteria.

Does the fact that we are a non-profit corporation have any effect on the policies our local board implements? When I seek the advice of veteran board members, they tell me as the board of directors we can implement whatever policies we desire. They also tell me that as a non-profit association that doesn't receive federal funding, we can do whatever we please.

- This is incorrect.
- If a local board has applied for and received a tax exemption from the IRS, it must conform to the association's exempt purpose and not engage in any unrelated trade or business.
- Regardless of whether an association receives federal funds, it cannot implement illegal policies.

I would like to run for president of our local board. The current president has been there since the Brooklyn Nets played in the ABA as the Long Island Nets. I asked another board member how I can become president. He said, "Wait till the president dies or retires." The local board never has any elections and there are no term limits in the local board constitution. Can they do this? I thought in the United States that anyone can grow up to be president!

- State law regarding nonprofit corporations generally spells out criteria for terms and election of officers.
- The constitution should spell out officer and board member election procedures.
- Preferably, it should contain a provision that serving as a board member is a prerequisite to running for an officer position.

A member from a nearby board recently relocated to our area and the secretary of his old board sent the required transfer forms. In a recent email, the secretary of the transferring member's old board stated that not only was this member a troublemaker, but his officiating skills were woefully subpar. Can our local board refuse to accept the membership transfer?

- If the transferring member meets and is in compliance with all of the IAABO membership requirements and current in the payment of all dues and assessments, his/her membership cannot be refused by the new board.
- IAABO members in good standing who relocate a residence cannot be denied a transfer for any reason.
- Having objective officiating performance criteria will ensure that the transferring member will be assigned games commensurate with his ability.

Since local boards are essentially private entities, they are generally free to implement policies and impose sanctions on members as long as there are procedural safeguards in place so that a member will not be treated unfairly. Members must know what is expected of them and what type of activities are prohibited. If a local board chooses to enact detailed constitutional provisions regarding conduct while officiating and requirements to maintain membership, they must be spelled out. This will go a long way towards making such requirements enforceable – and keep the local board out of trouble!

Steven Ellinger is the chair of the IAABO Constitution Committee and the secretary-treasurer of Houston Board 205 (TX).



50th Anniversary



DeMatha High School in Hyattsville Maryland halftime presentation to Coach Morgan Wootten when DeMatha defeated Power Memorial and Lew Alcindor. Left to right IAABO DC Bd 12 Officials Greg Anagnostopoulos, Coach Morgan Wootten, Steve Janoskie and Dan Paugh

Dennis and Susan Herbert



Thanks for Serving IAABO

NBA Hall of Famer Adrian Dantley Referees JV Basketball Game at DeMatha



NBA Hall of Famer and former DeMatha star Adrian Dantley has added high school basketball referee to the list of jobs that keep him busy in retirement — a list that already included part-time crossing guard.

"I'll be 60 years old in six weeks," Dantley told Deadspin's Dave McKenna, who broke the story in March 2013 that Dantley was making \$14,000 a year as a crossing guard in Montgomery County. "Being a crossing guard and a ref gets me out of the house. Everybody was surprised to see me [refereeing] last night, but I'm not a person who's going to sit around the house."

McKenna reports that Dantley made \$35 for working Wednesday's JV game between DeMatha and Archbishop Carroll Hyattsville, the first game he's worked involving his former school. Dantley, who began working as a referee in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference last year, had some reservations about working a DeMatha game, but he told McKenna that the heckling from Carroll's staff about any potential bias affecting his calls was minimal during the Stags' three-point win.

DeMatha honored Dantley, a 1973 graduate who went on to star at Notre Dame, with a commemorative ball at halftime.

Article courtesy of Scott Allen and the *Washington Post* - @ScottSAllen on Twitter.

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Periodicals

IAABO Lines

Condolences to: **Bd. 53 NY**, on the loss of their longtime member, **Peter Calieri**; Condolences to: **John Bycina, Bd. 53 NY**, on the loss of his sister; Condolences to: **Joe Banas, Bd. 8, CT**, on the loss of his mother; Condolences to: **James Lass Sr., Board 156 NY**, on the passing of his son, Brandon; Condolences to: **Nina Vasquez, Bd. 175 MA**, on the passing of her twin sister and fellow Board 175 member, **Gloria Soave**; Condolences to: **Richard Wright, Bd. 25 MA**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Donald Dudley, Bd. 255 VA**, on the passing of his mother and brother; Condolences to: **Joe White, Bd. 119 NY**, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to: **Bd. 168 NJ**, on the passing their member, **Bobby Young**; Condolences to: **Reginald Eley, Bd. 12 DC**, on the passing of his brother; Condolences to **Mike Kitts, Bd. 38 NY**, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to **Jim Carter, Bd. 34 NJ**, on the passing of his daughter.