

For All IAABO Members, Coaches, Players and Fans

SPORTORIALS



Happy Holidays

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The Basketball Issue



Leadership Tips Shared at Fall Seminar

IAABO scored another hit with a new type of program at this past Fall Seminar held in Denver, Colorado, and sponsored by IAABO Colorado Board No. 4. The interpreters in attendance were treated to a talk by Rod Olson who spoke about leadership, including this short description:

“Officials will be challenged to be a master 21st century leader and given the tools to put them on the path to excellence. Find a common language, lead yourself and others to greatness, control the pace at both work and home, learn how to motivate while holding others accountable and construct a vision for those you influence”.

When he completed his presentation, Rod received a standing ovation, and the chatter from the interpreters was extremely positive.



Rod Olson has trained thousands of leaders nationwide. His clients range from the U.S. Navy SEALs to the leaders of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Currently Rod helps direct the Coaches' Development program for the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball organization and many more. He has also mentored numerous CEOs of Fortune (100-500) companies and coaches at all levels of sport. Rod is also a certified speaker and coach for the John Maxwell Team.

The seminar started early Friday morning as Roger MacTavish, Rich Antonelli and the Rules Examination committee met and created the applicant test. As always, Roger and Rich kept the committee on track as they completed their assignment on time.

President Tom Reese welcomed everyone to Colorado, followed by Colorado Executive Committee member Bob Lantzy.

Board No. 33's Alan Goldberger, raised the bar by tackling a very difficult subject entitled, “Lawsuits Waiting to Happen—A Cautionary Tale.” He had everyone's attention as all realized the seriousness of the topic.

The afternoon commenced with nationally known Lee Fjelstad of Verbal Judo fame, who shared with attendees the value of effective communications. *(continued on page 9)*

Rule-Based Officiating

Preparation - There is not an IAABO official who doesn't need to continually be concerned about improving and becoming more knowledgeable about rules, mechanics, signals and officiating in general. Most officials were players and/or coaches. As a player or coach one desired to improve and be a better coach or player from one year to the next. As an official, bring that same painstaking mentality into your approach of improving. As a player we looked forward to the next practice. As officials do we anxiously look forward to the next Board clinic? Outstanding achievement is always preceded by painstaking preparation. Pre-season preparation should include setting goals for improvement.

As we prepare for the upcoming season, have we looked in the mirror at our physical condition?



Am I still up to the demands of serving the game as the game needs to be serviced? Am I thinking about the expectations of the schools, the daily preparation work of coaches and players or am I being *selfish* about liking/wanting to continue to officiate with no respect for the top notch service that the schools, the overall game and the participants expect and deserve? Am I one of the officials whom spectators, media,

coaches, players and fellow officials are asking...why is he/she still officiating?

Officiate Based Upon the Rules - The goal of officiating is *not* consistency. The goal is accurate rulings. This can only be achieved by accurate rules enforcement throughout the entire game. Consistent accuracy is achieved by knowing what is and what is not allowed by the rules. The rules are in place to assure fair play and provide a balance between defense and offense. At times the balance is very delicate! Enforce the rules with no regard for the time of the game, the score of the game or the specific situation of teams or players. There are two teams, each situation and each ruling matters equally to *both* teams.

Does your rules application/misapplication compromise a player's or team's strong point(s)? *(continued on page 3)*

The Tip Off

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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

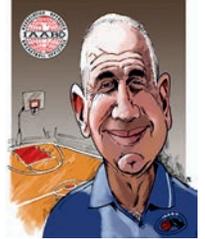
New Season 15-16 - I hope this issue of Sportorials finds everyone healthy and in shape to begin the new basketball season. You have attended your local interpretation meetings and with their expert presentations on the rule changes and points of emphasis, you are armed with the information needed to officiate the games assigned to you.

Mental preparedness is also important to your success in the upcoming season. You must be mentally ready to devote your attention to the game and able to handle the many decisions you encounter. 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.

In addition to the required interpretation meeting, your interpreter provides current information at all of your local board meetings. These provide ongoing education for you to strengthen your officiating skills.

Check out all the articles in this issue of Sportorials, they will better prepare you for the first tip-off. If you have basketball rules questions and need an interpretation, ask your interpreter first. If he can't give you the answer, he will contact Peter Webb, our coordinator of interpreters, for the ruling.

Best wishes for a great year and remember it is never about us, it's about **"The Game"** and the participants that play the game.



President's Corner



When we played competitive sports, we knew a new season meant a lot of hard work and practice. As officials, pre-season preparation has historically been important to IAABO to ensure a successful year. In 1962, IAABO established a Standard for Boards Committee that developed a set of principles for proper preparation that are relevant today. The principles include:

Have a thorough knowledge of the rules and mechanics of the game of basketball.

- Be well-trained, capable, and of high caliber mentally, morally, and physically.
- Report to the game site in sufficient time to handle all pregame duties.
- Do everything possible to assist and aid any IAABO member to better himself, or his or her work.
- At all times -- on and off the court -- dress to uphold the dignity of being an IAABO official.
- Never make statements to coaches, teams, affiliates, or news media in regard to any game, other than to clarify a rule interpretation.
- Conduct yourself in such a manner as to avoid any action that might be deemed a violation of a professional code of ethics.

These principles have stood the test of time. Over the last 50 years we have improved in many areas of officials training. We should take advantage of the following:

- Fall Seminar Local Board Training Preparation

The Fall Seminar in Denver was a tremendous opportunity for IAABO interpreters to get recharged for the new season. The guest speakers' presentations offered a different perspective on personal enrichment. The "quick hit" 20 minute sessions on specific rules and mechanics are a valuable resource for rule reference and casebook plays. Game tape plays were also a great success. Local board interpreters are recommended to incorporate the 20 minute sessions into their board rules interpretation meetings.

The local board interpreter's position is very important to any board's success. Our interpreters need to possess not only knowledge of the rules, but the ability to communicate effectively. IAABO offers the best training material to each board. Local boards receive a refresher test with the IAABO Exam, a "You Make The Ruling" DVD, and access to IAABO RefSchool with an interpreter's training guide. A flash drive of every presentation is also presented to every interpreter at the conclusion of the Fall Seminar.

A future goal of every board is to use video review in assessment and training. Video is the future of officials' development, and IAABO is committed to this improvement. If we all continue to use these tools to perpetually train our members, we will always adhere to our philosophy of "One Rule, One Interpretation."

Preparation is a personal commitment, and as Baltimore Colts Hall of Fame Receiver Raymond Berry said, "The most prepared are the most dedicated." Joe Namath, New York Jets Hall of Fame Quarterback, was quoted as saying, "What I do is prepare myself until I know I can do what I have to do." If we all take the time to prepare ourselves for the upcoming season and continue to follow the Principles of Standards, this season will be a success.

I would like to thank Tom Lopes, Donnie Eppley, and Peter Webb for planning and directing the Fall Seminar in Denver. IAABO has a talented roster of presenters and clinicians, and thanks to everyone who participated. Finally, thanks to Board No. 4 Colorado for your hospitality and being gracious hosts.

Pre-Season (continued from page 1)

Favor an aggressive defensive team? Favor an aggressive offensive team? Rules allow for aggressive play. As with all other plays, is it legal or illegal aggressive play? One rule...One Interpretation is a MUST. There is no room for an individual official's threshold of tolerance when monitoring behavior, contact and violations. It is not whether the situation "bothers" the official; it is a matter of whether the behavior, contact or behavior is or is not to be condoned by the rule. Is it legal or illegal?

There is absolutely no place in high school officiating for the "preventive officiating" philosophy!!!

Contact Situations Needing Attention

Rebounding

Following Field Goal Try/Tap & Free Throw Attempts

Every player is entitled to a spot on the court, providing the player gets there first without illegally contacting an opponent. (Guarding - 4.37 & Rebounding - 4.37.3)

Very important points to remember:

- No Team Control during rebounding.
- No Team Control Fouls during rebounding.

The Similarities of Rebounding and Guarding

Just as a Defender must *obtain* a legal Guarding position the Rebounder must also *obtain* a legal Rebounding position.

The Defender, in guarding, must initially face the opponent to OBTAIN, while the Rebounder is usually facing the basket.

When the Defender is *maintaining* a legal guarding position, he/she can do no wrong, unless he/she causes the contact.

When the Rebounder is *maintaining* a legal rebounding position, he/she can do no wrong, unless he/she causes contact.

Rebounders Can Be Beaten Too

Guarding: When the offensive player gets his/her head & shoulders past the Defender's torso, the defender is beaten

Rebounding: When the player being "blocked out" gets his/her head & shoulders past the "inside/blocking out" player's torso the "inside/blocking out" player is beaten.

To *obtain* or *maintain* a legal Rebounding position, a player may not":

- Displace, charge, or push an opponent.
- Extend shoulders, hips, knees or extend the arms or elbows fully or partially in a position
- other than vertical, so that the freedom of movement of an opponent is hindered when
 - contact with the arms, or elbows occurs.
 - Bend his/her body in an abnormal position to hold or displace an opponent
 - Violate the principle of verticality.

End-Of-The-Game Contact/Defensive Contact To Stop the Clock

The main role of the game officials is to enforce the rules of the game.

The Rules remain the same throughout the entire game.

Grabbing an opponent from behind is an intentional personal foul in every quarter.

Holding an opponent, away from the ball, so the official sees it, is an intentional personal foul anytime.

Resist the urge to use any substitutes for rules enforcement.

Honor the game with consistent, accurate rulings during the entire game.

Fouling on purpose is certainly a coaching strategy.

However...the players must actually commit a foul before the

official is to sound the whistle.

Officials cannot "join the team that's behind" and make it easy for them to "get what they want," which is a stopped clock.

The other team probably doesn't want the clock stopped.

The official's role is to consider *both* teams.

Note: With the Rule Change of 2014-15, free throw rebound play is now a major factor in the game and it MUST be monitored and ruled just as all other rebound play.

Role of the High School Basketball Official

•Officials must accept the fact that they are a vital part of the Education Process.

•Officials must understand that they are serving the schools.

•Officials, especially those who officiate other levels of basketball, must bring the "high school package" of rules, mechanics and signals.

•Officials are to care about, monitor and enforce the rules pertaining to appearance, verbal and physical conduct and sportsmanship.

•Officials must understand that a major factor of sports being sponsored by schools is because the "favorable messages" and "life-time lessons" that can be gleaned.

•Officials must understand they assume the responsibilities of being in a role model position.

•Officials' code of ethics and the coaches' code of ethics along with the rules book and officials' manual make it very clear that both groups are to keep the "life-time lessons" as the top priority when interacting with student athletes.



Peter Webb, Bd. 111, ME, is the Coordinator of Interpreters for the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Inc. (IAABO) and Past President, IAABO, Inc. 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. A-1's throw-in pass is within the cylinder above Team A's basket when B-2 bats the ball away. An official rules that B-2 has committed basket interference. Is the ruling correct?
2. A-1's end line throw-in pass contacts the bottom edge of the backboard. A-2, located near the free throw line, catches the ball. An official rules that the ball contacting the backboard is a violation. Is the ruling correct?
3. During a designated spot throw-in, the ball slips out of A-1's hands. The ball rolls along the sideline out-of-bounds. A-1 hustles to pick up the ball then moves back to the designated spot and passes the ball inbounds within five seconds. The official rules a throw-in violation. Is the ruling correct?
4. Free thrower A-1 has possession of the ball and is about to attempt the first of a one-and-one free throw situation when A-2 & B2 are charged with a double foul. The official then resumes play from the point of interruption by administering A-1 a one-and-one situation with the free throw lane line spaces properly occupied. Are the rulings correct?
5. Thrower-in A-1 rolls the ball to A-2 who stops the ball with his/her foot, then picks up the ball. The official rules the act a kicking violation. Is the ruling correct?

Answers can be found on page 8

FOX 40 PEALESS WHISTLES ARE HEARD AROUND THE GLOBE!

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Pre-Season Memo

As IAABO Boards have been preparing for and conducting pre-season clinics there has been considerable discussion and questions regarding the 2014-15 rule change 9.1.3g. The change allows players who occupy the free throw lane line marked spaces to enter the free throw lane when the ball is released by the free thrower. The purpose of this memo is to clarify the 2014-15 rule change and to share the 2015-16 Rules Book and Case Book corrections that have been identified to date.

Rules Book Corrections

9.1.3a - Delete the word “backboard” Article 9.1.3a is to be changed to read.... He/she shall throw within 10 seconds to cause the ball to enter the basket or touch the ring before the free throw ends.

9.1.3 B - Penalty 4b - Is to be changed to read....If the second violation is by the free thrower or a teammate **behind the free-throw line extended and the three-point line**, both violations are penalized, as in penalty item (3).

Comment

Rule 9-1 does not address the issue of players, other than the free thrower during the free throw, entering the free throw semi-circle. The National interpretation on this issue is that until the ball contacts the backboard or basket ring, anyone entering

the free throw semi-circle has committed a violation. If a teammate commits the violation the ball is to be ruled dead immediately. If an opponent commits the violation it is a delayed lane violation. The free thrower shall be awarded a substitute free throw if the free throw is not successful.

Case Book Correction

Page 22, Situation 3.5.3 B: - Change to read....Substitute A6 reports to enter the game to replace A1. A5, **presently in the game**, is wearing beige compression sleeves on his/her arm and leg. A6 is wearing a black headband and wristbands. **Ruling:** A6 is not allowed to enter the game because the rules require all team players to wear the same allowable color sleeves, headbands and wristbands. No penalty is involved. A6 simply cannot participate until the color restrictions are corrected. (3.5.3)

Enforcement of Free-Throw

Semi-circle Illegal Entry & Contact

The free thrower must remain within the free throw semi-circle until the ball contacts the backboard or basket ring.

The same rule applies to all other players who do not occupy free throw lane line marked spaces.

Players who occupy free throw lane line marked spaces during free throws may enter the free throw lane upon the free thrower

releasing the ball.

A player who has entered the free throw lane legally, may not cross the free throw line prior to the ball contacting the backboard or basket ring. To do so is a violation. Initially, a delayed dead ball signal is to be displayed.

If the free throw is successful the violation shall be ignored.

If a defender who has entered the free throw semi-circle, contacts the free thrower, a common foul is the correct ruling.

If the free throw is unsuccessful, the violation shall be enforced and a substitute free throw is awarded.

If a defender who has entered the free throw semi-circle, contacts the free thrower, a common foul is the correct ruling.

Whether the free throw is successful or unsuccessful, the penalty for the common foul is awarded.

If the free thrower’s team is in a bonus situation, the free thrower is awarded a one-and-one or two free throws.

If the free thrower’s team is not in a bonus situation, his/her team is awarded a throw-in along the end line.

Note: Should the substitute free throw be followed by free throws because of another foul, the free throw lane line marked spaces may not be occupied during the substitute free throw.

Play Situations - Rules Change Based

Play Situation: A1 is dribbling and (a) places and keeps a hand on defender B1; (b) places an extended arm bar on defender B1; (c) contacts defender B1 more than once with his/her hand. **Ruling:** Illegal in all cases. A foul shall be ruled any time this type of contact occurs on a defensive player. It should be noted that contact by offensive players shall be penalized as contact by defensive players is penalized. Freedom of movement applies to both defensive and offensive players. (10.6.1,3,4)

Play Situation: After A1 releases the ball for a free throw try, B1, located in a free throw lane line space, enters the free-throw semicircle prior to the ball contacting the backboard or the basket ring. The free throw is (a) successful; (b) unsuccessful. **Ruling:** Situation (a) Ignore the violation and award Team B a throw-in along the end line; Situation (b) Penalize the violation and award A1 a substitute free throw.

(9.1.2g Penalty 2a & b)

Play Situation: After A1 releases the

ball for a free throw try, B1, located in a free throw lane line space, enters the free-throw lane. B1 then enters the free throw semicircle and contacts the free thrower prior to the ball contacting the backboard or basket ring. The free throw is unsuccessful. **Ruling:** The official shall rule a violation and a common foul on B1. The violation and foul shall be penalized. (9.1.2g Penalty 2b; 10.6 Penalty 1a, 3)

Play Situation: During a free throw by A1, B2 enters the free throw lane prior to the free thrower releasing the ball and B1 pushes A2. **Ruling:** The official(s) shall rule a violation on B2 and rule a common foul on B1. The violation and foul shall be penalized. (1) If A1’s **free throw is successful** ignore the violation and (a) if Team A is in a bonus free throw(s) situation, award A2 a one-and-one or two free throws; or (b) if Team A is not in a bonus situation, award a “designated spot” throw-in to Team A at the end line. (2) If A1’s **free throw is unsuccessful**,

penalize the violation by awarding A1 a substitute free throw with the free throw lane line spaces unoccupied and (a) if Team A is in a bonus situation free throw(s) situation, award A2 a one-and-one or two free throws; or (b) if Team A is not in a bonus situation, award a “designated spot” throw-in to Team A at the end line. (9.1.2g Penalty 2a & b; 10.6 Penalty 1a, 3)

Play Situation: Members of Team A are wearing headbands that have extensions.

Ruling: Headbands with extensions are illegal. Players are not allowed to enter the game wearing illegal headbands.

(3.4.5b)

Play Situation: Officials, during pre-game warm up time, notice that team members are wearing headbands, wristbands and/or sleeves of varying colors.

Ruling: Illegal apparel. It is suggested that the Referee, as soon as he/she becomes aware, be proactive and inform the head coach of the need to address the proper dress requirements for players. (3.5.3 & 4)

When There's Chaos at the Table

Listening to Dave Boland, you get the sense that profound chaos affects some scorer's tables, not just in basketball, but also in other major sports that require accurate timing and scorekeeping. In his experience, there are also scorekeepers and timers who are not far off from the high quality and assistance necessary to be contributing team members to the officials on the court. Based on his observations, four out of five high school basketball scorer/timekeeper table personnel and one out of every two at the collegiate level fit his line of "profound chaos."

The lack of consistency, need for better communication and teamwork are prime reasons he has spearheaded a group looking to rectify some of the problems that occur between officials as they report to mostly lowly paid and undertrained personnel who keep the clock, register fouls and the score for sports like basketball, soccer, football, lacrosse and volleyball.

How to fix the problems is tremendously important for all sports. Lack of accuracy, timing problems or registering the wrong number of fouls on a team or individual are just a few of the issues that can dramatically affect the outcome of a basketball game. As the level of play rises from high school to small college and Division I, the stakes go up, and the pressure to get everything perfectly accurate mounts as well.

Without training for individuals manning the time and score sheets, errors will occur. As these positions at the high school level and below are often covered by individuals that are not paid and may not even have experience in the game of basketball, it becomes apparent that steps need to be taken to ensure there is better communication from the officials on the court with their crewmates at the table.

Boland, with IAABO Board No.8 in Eastern Connecticut, has taken these concerns to heart, and is working to rectify some of the problems by matching up former (or older) officials with colleges to put people at the table who have experience in sports to improve game administration. What he is building at the collegiate level in the Southern part of New England is a model he believes applies elsewhere, though it won't be easy to implement without more resources and a commitment from those charged with running state associations (at the high school level) and colleges (either through the school or conference).

Your Call to Work the Table

For anyone whose son or daughter plays summer basketball, particularly on a select team, you know it's typical to get a request from your coach before each game for a parent to help man the table. If you accept, because you have IAABO training, and have officiated basketball, you are already a huge step ahead of any other parent volunteering. You know when the arm slices down by the official to start the clock. You recognize his or her hand signals. You know when a goal is signaled good, when to award the two- or three-point goal and when to cancel it.

Other parents are not so fortunate. They may not even know where the on-off button is on the clock.



Regardless of whether you are an IAABO official volunteering to work the clock, or as an official on the court, if you are dealing with a rookie at the scorer's table, it's easy for mistakes to be made, and they can affect the outcome of the game. It's incumbent that the best communication possible take place, and that is at the core of Boland's mission for "Time it Right," a group of former and experienced officials covering 140 college team sports. The group (www.timeitright.org) sends professionally capable individuals to serve as scorer and timer.

Boland jumped into the arena because "no one was taking responsibility for it. We had to figure out what was needed, and now I'm addicted to it. Now I'm prolifically involved."

"The individuals who join 'Time it Right' are professionally capable, know the rules and must be able to commit to the job without a big paycheck," he observed.

There are only so many games they can cover. For every 5 collegiate teams requesting TimeItRight coverage, one is selected for service – often because of the distance necessary to travel to the game (and attendant time and expenses required), according to Boland.

Those who join Time it Right must have a "junkie's passion for the sport. It's an idea whose time has come. For those who have retired from their on-court career, officials bring knowledge, experience and capability to the table," he said.

The Table as Part of the Officiating Team

The table is part of the officiating team. Why shouldn't they meet with the officiating crew? When there is a table issue, why not have all the officials come over instead of just the referee?

Boland believes the table and officiating crew should all be one team together. "This creates camaraderie. Communication is the key to success," he said.

T.J. Halliday, with IAABO Board No. 20 out of Central Maine, also recommended that officials work to make the table crew feel part of the officiating team. "Don't treat them as inexperienced. Ask them their approach, how they keep the book and the clock. Build them up so they have more confidence," Halliday explained.

"If there's an unusual situation in the game, you may need them to help," he added. Halliday encouraged officials to educate the table because some game situations could "fall on their shoulders," like bringing attention to a potential correctable error to the officiating crew.

Halliday also suggested making sure table personnel understand terminology. The term "flopping," for example, became an issue for him in one game. He had to explain the ruling was a technical foul, not a personal foul, and this took additional explanation and an understanding of rules-based terminology. The situation led to a long delay in the game, "people got tense and the coach was fuming," he said.

"We should have been more clear in our pre-game with the table. They don't know the rules as well as the officials do," Halliday advised.

When There's Chaos at the Table

Halliday also likes to see table personnel wearing the black and white striped officiating shirt. "It's a good idea. It makes them feel part of the crew, and makes them identifiable. They can't be a fan," he said.

Valerie Light, IAABO Board No. 6 out of Central Connecticut, agreed that the scorekeeper and timer need to not only understand they are part of the team, but "feel" part of the team. To facilitate that, she attempts to meet with the table personnel 15 minutes before the start of the game and asks questions.

"They are part of the crew. The four of us – two officials on the court, the scorer and timekeeper – want the game to go as smoothly as possible. They are just as important in their roles as my partner and I are on the court. I will express to them how important they are," Light said.

She also emphasized the need for the scorer and timekeeper to understand signals. If they don't clearly see or understand the signal from the court officials, she wants them to let her know.

Light, who is serving on her IAABO board as an Assistant Interpreter, said she also emphasizes substitutions with the table personnel. "We don't want substitutes to just walk on the court. We want the timer to sound the horn and only on dead balls."

She also encourages table personnel to remain professional at all times, particularly in dealing with coaches. "We want them to stay away from any negative conversations with coaches," Light observed. She advises the home and visiting scorekeepers to get together and compare books, because if there is a discrepancy, they need to rectify it. "If not, then they notify us (officials on the court)," Light said.

A particular area of concern can be sub-varsity games (JV and Freshmen) where you have students serving as the scorekeeper and timer, according to Light. "They might have their cell phone out, for example, and the perception is they are not paying attention." Light will pay extra attention to specific actions to make sure table personnel at this level stay engaged. For example, she will hold eye contact to make sure her signals are understood. Or, when there is a change in possession, she will watch to make sure the arrow isn't changed until the throw-in has ended.

Light uses hand signals to help in these situations. If, for example, the clock has continued running after it was supposed to stop, or stopped when it was supposed to run, after speaking with the timer, Light will use the "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" sign to indicate the timer is getting it right or wrong next time down the court.

Long-term IAABO interpreter and coordinator of IAABO interpreters, Peter Webb observed that by rule, the officiating crew includes the two individuals at the scorekeeper's table. "If we teach this correctly, officials on the court know vividly that their crew includes members at the scorer's table and they should be sharing information with them," Webb said.

What should they share? "At the pre-game meeting with the Scorer and Timer, the Referee should introduce himself/herself, welcome them and inform them that they are part of the officiating



crew. When you are done with the instructions and going through the lineup, emphasize to the scorekeeper that he or she is the official scorer and the person on the clock is the official timekeeper," Webb continued.

Webb suggested emphasizing that the individual on the book is responsible for accepting correctable error requests and the Referee should remind him/her to notify the on-court officials on the next dead ball should a correctable error request occur.

"Make good eye contact with the reporting official. You share in the ruling through eye contact," Webb emphasized.

To help basketball officials in creating a team atmosphere at any level, Boland suggested some of the following tips:

- Ask the table participants if they have handled the duties before.
- Ask if they have any questions.
- Check with them to ensure all the equipment is operating properly.
- Do you know the official signals?
- Continue to watch the official until his signal(s) are completed.

It's not an exhaustive list, and if there are issues, the officials need to spend extra time to explain or answer questions. But it's a first step to build a stronger working relationship before and during the game.

Most table personnel watch the play and not the officials, according to Boland. Rather than waiting, they will often just write down what they see. That leads to errors.

A good example of where this type of error occurs (and why it is important to present only approved signals and a strong voice) is an official going to the table, speaking quickly or unintelligibly, flashing fingers too quickly during signaling, then the table marking it down even though they might be confused.

In this situation, the table should sound the horn, beckon the official over and ask for a clarification. Will this happen? Given the current environment, probably not, because the table and officials haven't communicated what to do in this type of situation or had a joint pre-game.

Boland believes bringing the table personnel into the pre-game conference is a great idea. It would resolve the situation above, and in general create a better atmosphere conducive to getting time correct and plays accurately recorded, a common goal for all parties.

Another helpful tip, according to Boland, would be for leagues to set up a preseason meeting get-together with coaches to address table issues – problems and solutions, and why it's in everyone's best interests to get every timing and scoring issue right the first time.

"If a school is cavalier about this, the fans lose. A good game that is well-officiated can be offset by a poor table," Boland observed.

As an IAABO elder statesman with over 50 years in the officiating business, Boland offers the following tips to help them work with the table:

(story continues next page)

When There's Chaos at the Table

- Slow down. "If you think you are going through your signaling too slowly at the table, you're probably not."

- Pay close attention to the table in the first 5-8 minutes of the game. "You must get a feel for what they are capable of. Make corrections, if necessary. Talk to the table personnel at halftime to see if there are questions. Otherwise, it could be a long second half."

- Get the table involved as part of your officiating crew. "Build a bond with them."

Halliday had this to add, "Make eye contact with the table personnel. That gives you assurance that what you wanted to convey was received."

A Loose Table can Lead to Game Management Issues

Earlier in her officiating career during a JV game, Light found out how timers and scorekeepers not being fully professional can potentially lead to confusion/challenges for game officials later in the game. In this game, she and her partner had been to the gym before and worked with the table personnel, who were a "little loose, joking, talking to each other and not always paying attention to the game."

Late in the third quarter, her partner reported a foul, which happened to be the player's fifth. The table did not notify the officials. A free throw was administered before the mistake was recognized.

"I should have emphasized before the game to them that they should notify us immediately on the fifth foul on any offending player. Not mentioning it to them before the game may have led to the situation," Light observed.

There were also a lot of fouls in the game, with 3-4 players fouling out, and fouls were not being put up accurately on the scoreboard. "It became a game management and a table issue," Light said.

"That's one thing I know is never going to happen to me again – having a player with five fouls in a game," she said.

Officials are not Scorers or Timers

"Officials are NOT the scorers or timers," Webb emphasized. That responsibility resides at the scorer and timer's table, but the "referee is the Administrator of the game." By this, he means the Referee is the overseer, and has the final say in decisions. He/she shouldn't be making any timing or scoring decisions, but if there is a conflict, he must make the final ruling based on the information shared by the table officials.

One area where he sees an issue is with substitutes reporting to the table. Officials will often beckon them onto the court before the horn is sounded. By rule, a substitute cannot enter until he/she reports to the table and is recognized and the horn sounds, then he/she can be beckoned onto the court.

Webb emphasized that officials must always clearly understand that "everything matters to both teams," his point being that if you allow leeway in one direction, the other team is affected by that.

Webb also emphasized the need for officials to use only approved signals with the table to ensure good communication. "Officials must do this. It's the language of the game. Officials must be close to robotic in their signaling. We can't be speaking Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Korean out on the court. Officials can't have their own special signals," he indicated.

"We should observe officials presenting the same signals in every gymnasium. Regarding signals and signaling, we should reach the point in time when, if you have seen one official signal, you should expect to see all other officials presenting the signals in the same manner," Webb added.

"We must honor the rules book, the officials' manual, our partners and the table officials. Keep in mind, it is not the officials' role to control the game, the officials' role is to officiate the game," Webb concluded.

Summary

Peter Webb provided the following summary as a reminder for IAABO officials:

The Referee is charged by the rules book and officials manual to conduct a pre-game meeting with the Scorer and Timer. The Scorer and Timer must expect to witness the same procedure each and every game.

Must include:

Referee introducing self, welcoming Scorer and Timer as crew members

- Designation of official scorebook
- Scorebook must remain at table throughout the game
- Designation of official scorer
- Designation that the running score is the official score
- Designation of official clock
- Designation of official timer
- Notification of officials – halftime
- If mistakes, questions – procedure for informing Referee

Other instruction or sharing of information may be brief and as thorough as reasonable and/or needed.

- Importance of eye contact
- Correctable error request & procedure
- Processing Substitutes – S & T
- Alternating Possession Arrow
- First horns
- Notification – bonus; 5 fouls; 5 time-outs

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



Answers to Questions (From Page 3)

1. Yes 4.6.2; 4.42.3, **2.** No 4.4.5, **3.** Yes 4.42.6; 7.6.3; 9.2.1, **4.** Yes 4.36.2b; 7.5.3b, **5.** Yes 4.29; 9.4

Lawrence J. Mitchell

IAABO Life Member Lawrence J. Mitchell, 90, Bd. 117 NH, died August 24, 2015, after a period of failing health.

Born in Manchester, NH on February 25, 1925, he was the son of Lawrence J. and Mary Elizabeth (Mahan) Mitchell, who emigrated from County Roscommon, Ireland. He was a lifelong resident of the Queen City.

In 1951, Larry was named coach of the St. Marie High School basketball team. During his long career as an NHIAA basketball official, he officiated at twenty consecutive "Class L" Basketball Tournaments and seventeen consecutive final games at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. After his retirement as an NHIAA basketball referee, Larry officiated at a National Invitational Basketball Tournament in Madison Square Garden.

An avid golfer, Larry was a lifelong member of the Manchester Country Club, where as a teenager, he was a caddie. He was elected to serve as president of the board of directors of The Club for two terms. Larry received the Union Leader John R. Clark Award. He was a lifetime member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, where he served as president. He also was a member and treasurer of the Raphael Social Club.

Fall Seminar (continued from page 1)

He gave insights on the right words to use while being under pressure in game situations as well as in life. We learned substitute words for “but.” He also received an excellent rating from the audience.

Michelle Futrell gave sound advice for preparing physically for the upcoming season and procedures for stretching before and after the game. She also presented illustrations for dealing with those dreaded injuries -- a well-received presentation.

The final session included a panel of coaches from the Denver area, questions from the moderator as well as from the audience. Their responses sparked some lively conversation, but like in a game, the officials have the last word.

Back-to-basketball sessions were held Saturday, including 20-25 minute sessions by the following presenters and their topics:

- Video Breakdown & Critique – Steven Ellinger, BD 205 Texas
- Multi-Rules Codes – Officials & Officiating Obligation/Responsibilities -- Paul Behr, BD 403 SC
- Counts & Counting – Review; Importance of Application; Procedures — Rich Antonelli, BD 27 MA
- PCA & Field of Vision Cones Review – Crews of 2 and 3 Barbara Eppley, BD 70 PA
- Mechanics & Signal/Signaling Review -- Kelly Callahan and Layne Drexel, BD 11 DE
- Site of the Foul; Reporting the Foul Procedures; Administration of Free Throw -- Peter Palermino, BD 6 CT
- Site of the Violation Procedure; All Throw-in Procedures -- David Smith, BD 4 CO
- Clarifications and Reminders --Mike McPhee, BD 212 Ontario
- Contact Review - Guarding; Block-Charge; Verticality -- Jeff Jewett, BD 71 AZ
- Traveling - Back to basket; Reception while moving; Beginning Dribble; Jump stop -- TJ Halliday, BD 20 ME
- Substitution and Time Out, Rule Briefing and Procedures Review -- Felix Addeo, BD 33 NJ
- NFHS Rules Changes, Points of Emphasis, Other -- Peter Webb, BD 111 ME

Colorado Board No. 4 was outstanding as they went above and beyond to make us feel welcome. They had a great hospitality room, and good food and drink was a focal point for all of us to make new friends, swap basketball officiating lies, stories, and share common practices regarding what is happening in local boards. The meeting included a terrific golf outing with great prizes as well as a trip to see the Rockies play baseball. We hope to duplicate the standard set by Colorado; now it is time to turn our attention to the 2016 spring meeting.

The spring meeting will be hosted by the IAABO Executive Committee, who have promised us beautiful spring weather. That should not be problem as the meeting will be held in Orlando, FL. Mark your calendars for the April 21-24, 2016 dates.

During the Interpreters roundtable, we introduced the new version of “You Make the Ruling,” discussed the role of the Interpreter and how important that role is in IAABO. Your dedication to the position of interpreter continues to make IAABO the number one basketball officiating training organization in the country.

Tom asked members to submit an article for Sportorials and that if it were accepted, the writer would receive a check for \$100 for a full page and \$50 for a half page.



Lee Fjelstad, Verbal Judo

If you are an IAABO Interpreter and attended the Fall Seminar, then you left with an armful of instructional materials provided by the IAABO presenters and the IAABO office. If you are an IAABO member, then you can expect to view the 2015-16 “You Make the Ruling” DVD, included in these materials, that illustrates a variety of plays and mechanics for discussion at your board meetings.

Tom spoke on the role and responsibilities of the Interpreter, described the conference calls that will be held during the season, and thanked the interpreters for their continued passion for their role.

The last session on Saturday addressed Rules changes and points-of-emphasis, conducted by IAABO’s Coordinator of Interpreters Peter Webb. At the conclusion of the session, the materials were distributed to each board in attendance.

During your Fall meetings, you might want to remind your officials of the words of the great Dali Lama, who said, “When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. If you listen, you may learn something new.” Best wishes for a great basketball season.

Remember next year’s Fall Seminar will be held in Gettysburg, PA, September 22-25, 2016.

IAABO Manual Quiz

- Yes No 1.** The Lead official’s primary coverage area includes the free-throw semi-circle?
- Yes No 2.** Upon all foul, violation and time-out rulings, the official is required to sound the whistle and signal to stop the clock?
- Yes No 3.** The coverage position of the Center official, for free-throws, is at the free-throw line extended and near the sideline?
- Yes No 4.** When the Center official signals a 3-point attempt, the Trail official shall mirror the 3-point signal?
- Yes No 5.** During a time-out, to be followed by a tableside throw-in, an official shall be positioned at the designated spot of the throw-in at the tableside sideline?
- Yes No 6.** The Lead official always initiates the rotation?
- Yes No 7.** Prior to beginning the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters, the Referee shall sound the whistle, state the color of the throw-in team’s jersey, signal the direction of play and designate the throw-in spot?
- Yes No 8.** At the site of all fouls, after stopping the clock with arm raised and fist closed, the official shall state the team’s jersey color, signal the number of the player who committed the foul, signal the type of foul, signal the number of free throws or indicate the throw-in spot?
- Yes No 9.** When a team control foul is ruled, the first signal after stopping the clock is the team control signal?
- Yes No 10.** When reporting a team control foul to the scorer, the only signal describing the foul is the team control signal?
- Yes No 11.** Upon hearing the time-out first horn warning the official shall move toward the team huddle, stop, signal and announce “first horn”, then proceed to the huddle and encourage the team to break-up the huddle?
- Yes No 12.** Upon ruling a player control foul, the official simultaneously raises an arm with a closed fist and places a hand behind his/her head?

Answers can be found on page 15

IAABO Executive Committee Approves Life Membership Inductees for 2016

Five candidates were presented to the Executive Committee for Honorary Life Membership at the fall seminar in Denver, Colorado. They unanimously approved and will bestow Life Membership status on these individuals at the spring 2016 meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida.



Reggie Greenwood

Reggie became a member of IAABO Board No. 12 in 1981 and has served on the Boards' Executive Committee, Budget Committee, Banquet Committee, and Training Committee. Reggie was elected President of the Board from 1992-1994. He served on the IAABO Budget and Foundation Committees, and was the Assistant Chairman of the Foundation Committee. Reggie also

had a very successful collegiate officiating career culminating with his selection to the Final Four in 2005. He is currently the Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officials for the Patriot and Ivy Leagues. Reggie continues to mentor younger officials in the Maryland and Washington, DC area.



Jeff Jewett

Jeff started with IAABO in 1984, becoming a member of IAABO Board No. 20 in Maine. He served as the Interpreter for 13 years. He drafted the State Board Constitution in Maine and operated the Maine referee Academy for 15 years. Jeff has been a presenter at several IAABO Fall Seminars and a clinician at the IAABO Officials' schools. Jeff has been a member of

the IAABO Rules Examination Committee and the Education and Development Committee. He also elevated himself to the collegiate officiating ranks, having done Division I women's and Division II and III men's basketball. Jeff subsequently moved to Arizona where he was instrumental in starting Arizona Board No. 71 and serves as the Interpreter.



Jon Lowe

Jon became a member of IAABO in 1976, joining Board No. 95 in Lowell, Massachusetts. He was Board Vice-President from 1997-1999, President 2000-2002 and Secretary-Treasurer from 2007 to the present. Jon was elected Vice-President of Massachusetts State Board No. 15, in 2010 and served as its President in 2012. He served as IAABO's

Assistant Chair for the Membership Development Committee, and is still a member of that Committee, as well as the Board Relations Committee. Jon founded the Pelham, New Hampshire Youth Basketball Tournament in 1996, and the Pelham, New Hampshire Travel Basketball Organization in 1998, both of which are still operating. Jon is an active official and has officiated many high school games for both boys and girls. He has also served as a women's collegiate official during his career.



Dennis Murphy

Dennis began his IAABO career in 1977 when he became a member of Board No. 95, Massachusetts. He was Vice-President of the board from 1992-1994 and President from 1994-1996. In 1996, he transferred to Board No. 117, New Hampshire, but remains a dual member with Board 95 to this day. Dennis became President of Board No. 117 in 1997

until 1999 during which time he established a Big Brother program. He became an active participant at the International level in the fall of 1994 and has been a presenter and staff member of the IAABO Officials' Schools. Dennis spent two terms as the Assistant Chair for the Constitution Committee, and two terms as the Assistant Chair for the Audit & Budget Committee, as well as two terms as the Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee. In 2009, he was elected the Region XI Representative to the IAABO Executive Committee, a position he still holds.



Tom Reese

Tom's IAABO career began in 1974 when he became a member of the Central Maryland District Board No. 23. From 1981-1986, he was a member of the Executive Committee for Board No. 23 and in 1986 was elected its' President. He became the Interpreter in 1993 and held that position until 2009. Tom began to climb the ranks within IAABO,

Inc. in 1996 when he was named the Assistant Chairman of the Membership Committee. In 1998, he was named the Chairman of the Board Relations and Policy Committee and in 2002, he was elected the Region 7 representative of the IAABO Executive Committee. He then became Vice-President of IAABO in 2013 and President Elect in 2014. On April 26, 2015 at the Spring Meeting in Rochester, New York, Tom became the 77th President of IAABO, Inc.



Diane Alicea – IAABO Member Facing and Conquering Life Challenges

Basketball had always been a cherished part of Diane Alicea's life. So much so, that after graduating from The University of Bridgeport, she immediately began looking for a way to stay connected to the sport that she loved. In 1995 this search led her directly to IAABO Board No. 9 in Fairfield County, where she began her career as a basketball official. When asked how that first year was, Diane replied "It was rough. I thought I knew basketball inside and out but was quickly overwhelmed with anxiety and intimidation. I don't think I blew my whistle ten times that year!" Describing herself as type A, Diane became obsessed with becoming a better official. She attended as many summer camps as possible in those early years. "The more I learned, the more I started to enjoy it. I wanted to be the best!" In 2001, after much hard work and determination, Diane joined the ECAC college ranks with great expectations of fulfilling her dream of becoming a college official.

Unfortunately, college officiating wasn't as glamorous as she had imagined. Hours of solitary time on the road, too many late nights to count, and all the precious family moments missed gave her cause to reevaluate her career move. "My daughter was born in 2002 and I was missing her desperately. I would go for days at a time without seeing her awake!" Diane made the decision not only to leave the ECAC, but also Board No. 9, in order to spend more time with her family. However, she did continue to officiate travel games, as well as high school intramurals in her hometown of Newtown CT. This allowed her to continue to work on her officiating skills with minimal commitment. More importantly during this time, her love of officiating grew as it became more enjoyable without the added pressure. As her daughter became older, she too gained an interest in the sport and started playing basketball. Without hesitation, Diane sprang into action – she volunteered to coach her daughter's teams and found herself falling in the love with the sport all over again. "I'll never forget my daughter's first year of playing when she told me, 'Mom, basketball is addicting!'"

Diane's husband, Ed had also officiated in his younger years. In fact, it was not surprising to learn that they actually met while officiating together in Bridgeport, CT. Having been away from it for a while, they were both itching to get back into officiating. "We are grateful to Board No. 9 for giving us our start and in 2013 we joined Board No. 7 in Litchfield County and absolutely love it. Board No. 7 is a laid back, fun, friendly and supportive group of people." Diane finally felt like things had come full circle. That is, until the day she received the call that would change her life forever. "I was on my way out the door to officiate a game at Watertown HS on Dec 8, 2015 when I received the worst phone call of my life". It was her doctor calling to tell her she had breast cancer. "I just couldn't...wouldn't... process the words".

"My officiating community became one of my biggest sources of support during this difficult time. Without that and the incredible support from my husband and sister, I don't know how I would've made it through." December was a whirlwind of tests, surgeries, stress, denial, more surgeries and always more denial. Basketball season had always been something Diane looked forward to, and she didn't want to lose that joy now. "Fortunately for me, our assigner, Ted Zaloski, was very accommodating during that time and allowed me to continue with an altered schedule". Another difficult year was



Diane Alicea, CT IAABO Bd. #7

on the horizon, with more surgeries, procedures, and chemotherapy followed by radiation. The physical and emotional struggle was real and debilitating. Diane struggled to keep things together and be there for her 12-year-old daughter. No matter how bad things were, she always had the strength and determination she gained from the IAABO community. The socialization and camaraderie helped keep her from falling deep into that black hole of depression. Surprisingly, this was the time when Diane actually found officiating to be easy. "I didn't take things as seriously as I used to - like coaches and fans screaming". Diane was elated to learn that she made the State tournament list. Her first few games went well and she was feeling positive... and then her hair began to fall out. She had anticipated this happening and was prepared

with head gear. Her first game with no hair was Ridgefield HS vs. Amity. She had no idea what to expect. "What a wonderful game... NO ONE yelled at me or said one bad word for the entire game!" That experience would be short lived, which was fine with Diane. "I didn't want people feeling sorry for me. All I wanted was some normalcy." At her husband's urging, Diane stopped wearing the little black cap. She found it to be distracting as she was constantly tugging it down during the games. To her delight, she continued to be assigned games and went into each contest bald. It was actually liberating, in a way. "I've never been caught up in appearances much so it wasn't really as hard as it may seem to some people."

Diane was thrilled to get quarterfinal and semi-final games. The chatter soon began. Did Board 7 have a chance of getting a state final? Diane was selected for a State Final's game! It was a dream come true for this woman, this OFFICIAL that had been through such a difficult battle only to rise to the top. "Officiating at the Mohegan Sun was an amazing experience, and I cherished every moment of it!"

So many people have said to Diane, "I admire your courage" or "You're such an inspiration". As much as she appreciates these sentiments, Diane doesn't believe herself to be courageous or inspirational. "I'm just doing the best I can to make it through each day. Basketball has always been a source of support for me, as well as an escape." Once the game starts, whether playing, coaching or reffing, all troubles disappear and it becomes about the pure joy of basketball. "I always tell my daughter to make her own choices in life and not to let anyone or anything stop her from doing what she loves. I hope I am leading by example. I refuse to allow cancer to dictate my life. I aspire to be as good as Charley Harbach, my Board 7 interpreter. He is the epitome of a true professional." Diane has a message to share, and it is not just about surviving cancer. Take pride in yourself and elevate your game. All officials should strive to be better, regardless of their situation. Players and coaches are out there every day, dedicating hours to the game. Every official owes it to themselves, their board, the players, coaches, and the vocation as a whole, to be the best they can be for each and every game.



Diane Alicea is a CT IAABO Bd. No. 7 member. She was interviewed by Sharon Shepard who is a CT IAABO Bd. No. 6 member.

FIBA Individual Officiating Techniques (IOTs) - Pt 1

‘If the rate of change outside your organization is greater than the rate of change inside your organization, the end is in sight.’

Jack Welch – author, speaker and retired Chairman and CEO of General Electric

It is as true in most avocations and occupations as it is in officiating. The game of basketball and its participants are changing. The athletes are bigger, stronger, faster, fitter and more mentally prepared for their respective levels. The coaching utilizes analytics, more widely available and informative developmental and strategic material and game footage for breakdown and preparation. The play is more up-tempo and spread out more over the entire floor with whole court pressure, shooting from beyond the 3 point line, the associated play above the 3 point area that results because of it and the ever present desire to attack the basket. FIBA understands this and is changing along with it.

FIBA published eight (8) Individual Officiating Techniques (IOTs) for their officials. The IOTs are techniques that each official should utilize as mainstays of their officiating in order to maximize their effectiveness in calling and administering the game. Applying the IOTs individually results in better individual and crew consistency and performance. I have expanded that number of IOTs by making some other points such as Decision Making that were also covered in the material released by their own IOT. As well, I have grouped the IOTs into those that address the calling of the game and those that address its administration. I’ll cover them in two articles, with this article covering the ones that impact how the game is called.

Decision Making

Officiating requires quick accurate decisions in a complex physical, mental and emotional environment. Studies show that we are not good at consciously multi-tasking. So how do we go about making good decisions in a potentially over-sensory environment? Recognition, training, being in the right place at the right time, being focused on the right thing at the right time and ‘seeing the whole play’. Simply put, you know what to look for, be in position to see it and get a good look at it.

Decision-making is a process, following the right steps far more often than not (hey, we all know we aren’t going to get them all right) results in the correct decision. Skip a step and our accuracy decreases. There are specific IOTs that deal with being in the right position and looking at what you have to see that I’ll cover later in this article. For now let’s focus on the process of “seeing the whole play”.

Officials are expected to call the obvious fouls in their primary area and extend coverage to make the correct call as appropriate outside their primary while at the same time avoiding the reactionary or fantasy call. We do that with



a simple process. To make accurate calls we need to see the *Start-Middle-End* of plays. Reactionary calls often come from not getting the correct look or no look at all at any step in the process. Fantasy calls can result sometimes when we do get a look at all the steps (i.e. predisposed or affected by external influence) but more often than not blowing our whistle on a play we don’t utilize the process.

I mentioned earlier that the athletes are physically, mentally and emotionally better prepared (didn’t say all and yes, at times, doesn’t seem that way) and we have to be too. Our decision-making has to be logical (“this is what I saw and this was the effect - legal or illegal”). We have to take steps to stay in the moment mentally and emotionally. Being out of moment or not on an even keel affects our decisions. Self-talk, breathing techniques and visualization can all be effective before and in the moment and contribute to good decision-making.

Lastly, experience is a great teacher. Studies show that experience does matter. Seeing the same situations and being continually introduced to new ones over time makes recognition and interpretation more subconscious, efficient and accurate. There isn’t a virtual reality simulation around every corner (yet) so take the time to watch games and break them down from an officiating standpoint. It’s readily available on all your modern devices

Distance

It’s not just angle (getting the open look) that we should be concerned with. Work to maintain the proper distance to the play. This is highly dependent on what you have to see and is limited sometimes by the physical space of the court and the location of the play.

Distance does several things for us. First of all, science tells us that the closer we are to an object, the faster it seems to move. Too fast and we get a blurred view or miss small segments as our vision and brain try to catch up. When things happen too fast, there is a greater chance we either miss part of the process or focus too much on one part of the process and have a reactionary call.

Distance also allows us the opportunity to put what we need to see in our effective vision cone. Too close and you can’t see and/or focus on the hand of the defender swatting at the ball at the same time focusing on the pivot foot of the player starting the dribble. It allows you

to potentially see the imminent screen while still officiating the ball match-up or puts two or three sets of players in view when off-ball rather than one set.

Stationary

It is a fact that our vision is more effective when we are stationary. Our eyes bounce when we are moving. The degree varies and in proportion to speed. A smooth controlled slide step for example will not be as prone to eye movement as quick jerky movements or a full out run. I think we can all admit we get a better look when we are on the endline stationary and receiving a play rather than in a full sprint and arriving at the endline and trying to come to a stop at the same time the play attacks the basket.

How do we attain the optimal stationary position? Move with a purpose based on your recognition and anticipation of developing play. Ingrain a simple four step process;

Move -Stop - Observe - Decide.

Stay With The Play Until The End Of The Action

Part of our decision-making process is seeing the end of the play. I’ll repeat myself and say we have to stay in the moment and focused on the end of the play both physically and mentally. It is important to recognize that the end of some plays are after the shot or a whistle sounded. Have you ever stepped down as Trail to look back and see the shooter and defender still coming hard after the shot release? Have you ever turned your back on two players starting a pushing match?

Mentally keep your mind active. Anticipate action as appropriate after shots, passes and other contested situations. Maintain focus after the whistle on the players. Someone always has to watch the players during a dead ball. Be aware of partner and play situation and don’t release/transition your coverage too soon (until your partner has it).

Physically don’t “fade away” step away from plays too soon. The most common example is stepping away from the basket as Trail in rebounding situations. Be conscious not to divert your eyes away from the play or turn your back on the play/deadball activity until it is looked after.

Effective Positioning

When ‘on-ball’ in your primary coverage area you should position yourself with an open look to officiate the defensive player while being aware of the offensive player. When ‘off-ball’ in your primary, you should be able to see all the play/players in your primary area. If you are on the perimeter of play (i.e., wide as Lead), position yourself on a 45 degree angle to maximize your field of vision on the playing court.

When ‘on-ball extended’ you should position yourself to see any progressing/developing play that you have the open look at and/or your partner(s) may need help on.

FIBA Individual Officiating Techniques (IOTs) - Pt 1

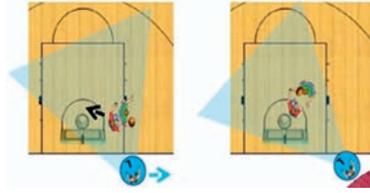
When 'off-ball' extended, you should be able to see as many players as possible outside your primary area. Obtain a position with a sufficient field of vision and/or employ good visual scanning techniques to identify where focus is needed.

Adjusting Positioning

Play is dynamic and as such, coverages change and positioning needs to be adjusted. To gain an initial position as Lead, run hard to get ahead of the play and take a position on the endline with an open look to receive the play. Set-up wider than you have in the past and resist closing off your angle and getting too close to the play by curling under the basket which at one time was the norm. As Trail, run hard to re-attach to play that moves quickly out of backcourt.

In all positions, anticipate where you need to be. Adjust to the play, even if only one or two steps in a direction. Work to maintain open angles. The old adage still applies: "Go where you need to be to referee the play". This means you will be outside your working area. To coin another expression, "It's the nature of the beast". Remember that once in position, movements should be made in a controlled manner. The less speed and jerky the movement, the less the eyes bounce. Remember our goal is to be stationary when we make our decisions.

One of the techniques we employ is to penetrate with the play. At times though, this serves to maintain or create a closed look. FIBA has highlighted the cross step to maintain or obtain an open look as play moves away from you.



Know and Understand the Game

Be a student of the game both on and off the court. View, watch, study and visualize the possible outcomes of various play situations. Scout the teams (tendencies and what they run defensively and offensively) and players (tendencies, right or left handed, shooter or other). The goal is to anticipate and identify play during the game. Anticipation allows us to get into the correct position to view the play. Proper focus and observation allows us to identify the contact and determine the legality of the play. We've all heard, "Anticipate the play, not the foul." Good advice to officiate by.

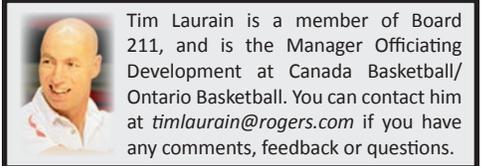
Knowing what to look for is only half the task at hand. There are a number of criteria in the rule book to base judgment on; advantage/disadvantage, game flow, game control, integrity of the game, level of play, consistency and common sense. There are Points of Emphasis to apply and Interpretations to understand.

As well, in today's game there is a focus on reduction of rough play (game control) and freedom of movement. You have to observe and understand how the contact affects rhythm, speed, balance and quickness (RSBQ). The effect of calling the fouls that affect RSBQ is that game flow is increased.

We have to see the action and then take

all the above into account to understand the action's impact on the game. How well we do depends on us taking the responsibility to consistently do all we can towards that end.

FIBA ends many of their presentation material with this phrase "No worries! Next generation will always be better than the previous one." It is an admission that like being static on the floor instead of moving when you should and missing the play, that officiating has to progress to meet the demands of the game. It is also a commitment on FIBA's part to do so. Your charge moving ahead as an official is to understand and apply the IOTs for the betterment of you, your crew and the game. It's amazing the new perspective you can get from a simple little cross step. Enjoy the view.



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

Answers to Manual Quiz

1. **No, pages 21, 117**
2. **Yes, pages 36, 52, 87c, 137, 149, 211 D**
3. **No, pages 205 2, 208**
4. **No, page 119**
5. **No, pages 91, 217**
6. **No, pages 114 9c, 132, 135**
7. **Yes, pages 38 E 1f, 139 E 1f**
8. **Yes, pages 52 A, 149 A**
9. **No, pages 53 B 10, 150 B 9**
10. **No, pages 53 B 9, 150 B 9**
11. **No, pages 86 L, 211 N**
12. **No, page 229**

We hope you will join with us to support the fight against cancer. By making a pledge to donate 25% of ONE game fee that you officiate for the week of January 25 - 31, 2016, you will help further our efforts to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. For your minimum donation in the amount of \$20.00, you will be sent a pink whistle



We will be accepting donations throughout the 2015-2016 season. Donations are collected year round, but to be included in the current campaign, the deadline for mailing these tax deductible pledges is March 1, 2016, to receive your pink whistle.

This fundraiser is being run in conjunction and support of "Suits and Sneakers" night, a project put on in association with "Coaches vs. Cancer," a cause co-sponsored by the NABC and The American Cancer Society.

If you haven't been touched by cancer, chances are you will be. Someday it will touch a loved one, friend, or colleague. That's why officials from around the country are uniting in the fight against cancer.

On behalf of the American Cancer Society and IAABO, your contribution is greatly appreciated. Through donors like you, the society is able to continue funding ground-breaking research, improving care and support for cancer patients and their loved ones, as well as informing them about cancer prevention and detection, and advocating on behalf of those affected by cancer.

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Carlisle, PA 17013-0355
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Review - Continuous Motion

- Continuous Motion is of no significance unless there is a foul committed by the Defense.
- Continuous Motion applies to tries for a field goal or free throw.

- Continuous Motion **begins:**

When the habitual throwing movement begins a **Try** for goal, free throw or touching of the ball on a

Tap/Tip

- Continuous Motion **ends:**

When the ball is clearly in flight.

- An offensive player, by rule, has a basketball given right to try for a goal anytime and from any place on the court that he/she chooses.

- The try **Merely** has to have begun.

- Continuous Motion pre-supposes that a foul occurs after the “shooter” begins the “shooting” motion,

- but before the ball is released.

- If a **Try** has begun and a foul is committed by the defense, the “shooter” is entitled to complete the act by legal means (not commit a foul or violation).

- The “shooter” does not have to be in the final stages of the “shooting” motion for Continuous Motion to apply.

- Although the **Try** may be clearly in flight, the airborne “shooter” is considered to be in the act of “shooting” until returning to the floor (one toe/foot down).

- When the official rules the foul, sounds the whistle and signals the clock to be stopped it does not end the **Try**. The ball remains **Live** and the “shooter” may **Continue (Continuous Motion)** the **Try** for goal.

Summary:

- When a player is in the “act of shooting” and is fouled or a teammate is fouled, the player (“shooter”) is allowed to **Continue** the **Try** for goal.

- The sounding of the whistle does not cause the **Try** to end nor the ball to become dead.

- The sounding of the whistle simply means a foul has occurred, the clock is to be stopped, the ball is to remain Live and the “shooter” is, by rule, allowed to **Continue** what he/she has begun.

- Don’t penalize the wrong player!

Rules Reference: 4.11 (Continuous Motion)

Proper Basketball Terminology

Continually striving to master all ten rules in our Basketball Rules Book should be a common goal for all officials. If you haven’t begun reading and studying for the upcoming season, it’s not too late. A good technique for rules study is to read one or two sections each day from the rule and the case books. If you finish with those quickly, go back and re-read for further clarity. You could also supplement your reading with other material, such as *Referee Magazine*, *The Tough Calls Series*, IAABO Ref School, and/or any other study material available to you.

When completing game reports and all other verbal and written communications regarding play situations, please consult your Basketball Rules Book and use proper terminology. This has many purposes. First of all, it speaks to our professionalism. Having a common language used with correct application shows our commitment to the game of basketball, and that helps alleviate a lot of potential ambiguity, confusion and misapplication of rules.

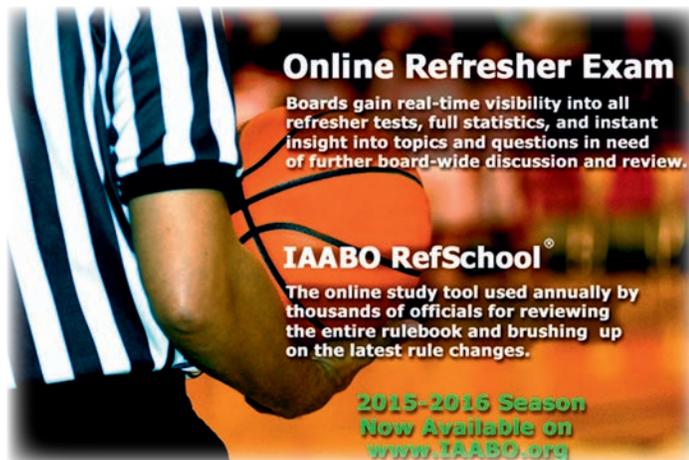
An example of this can be seen in the following: “After an intentional foul by Team A, Team B will shoot two free throws and play will be resumed at the Point of Interruption.” This is an incorrect use of Point of Interruption. Point of Interruption is defined as a “method of resuming play due to an official’s inadvertent whistle, an interrupted game, as in 5-4-3, a correctable error, as in 2-10-6, a double personal, double technical or simultaneous foul, as in 4-19-8 and 4-19-10.” (Rule Reference: Rule 4, Section 35, Article 1) Please note that the definition does not support resumption of play after an intentional foul as being the Point of Interruption.

Proper support for the correct terminology to be used in an intentional foul situation is found in Rule 7. “Designated out-of-bounds spot throw-in nearest the foul after an intentional foul, as in 4-19-3, or a flagrant personal foul, as in 4-19-4, any player from the team to whom the free throws have been awarded shall make the throw-in.” (Rules Reference: Rule 7, Section 5, Article 4)

Think of the following scenario for further support of using the “nearest spot” terminology and not Point of Interruption. While A1’s try for goal is in the air, B2 intentionally fouls A2. If we apply the Point of Interruption as a method to resuming play in this situation, then Team A would shoot two free throws and the Point of Interruption would be to go to the Alternating Possession arrow to resume play because during a try for goal neither team is in control of the ball. Also, consider this situation: If A1 is intentionally fouled in the act of shooting and it is a successful try for goal, the penalty for this would have A1 shooting two free throws. If play were to be resumed with the Point of Interruption then Team B would be entitled to the ensuing throw-in following the made goal by Team A.

The penalty for an intentional foul is designed to be more severe than a personal foul. It will always be two free throws, except if an intentional foul occurs on a three point try for goal that is unsuccessful. In this case, the offended player would be entitled to three free throws. However, in all situations, play would be resumed after the free throws with a designated spot throw-in nearest the spot of the intentional foul.

Remember that in game situations we have two types of rulings: those that involve a black and white rules application, such as uniform rules and those that involve some judgment by the ruling official, such as block / charge plays. Incorrectly applying a rule in a black and white situation will never be acceptable and is totally preventable with adequate study, reinforcement and training regarding the ten rules of the game of basketball.



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Barbara Kistler is the secretary for IAABO Board No. 70 and chairperson of the IAABO Women’s Coordinating Committee.

P.O. Box 355
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 November/December 2015

Periodicals

IAABO Lines

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