

Interpreters to Gather in Beautiful Cape Cod



Where can you go to obtain the very best rules and mechanics knowledge to make you and your members better officials at the best price on earth?

If you are an IAABO Interpreter, where can you go to obtain the very best

basketball rules and mechanics knowledge that will prepare you for the presentations to share with your board membership?

The answer is the IAABO Fall Seminar in Cape Cod, MA. And: **Everything is Free!** No registration fees, no individual presentation charges and a chance to interact with officials and interpreters like yourself. This seminar may confirm that all the things you are doing are appropriate, and/or that others are experiencing the same issues that you struggle with.

You will have a chance to hear from the experts, as we search for interesting speakers who are rules knowledge experts and have the skills to engage the audience, who also can stir up controversy and create meaningful exchanges until there is agreement in the interpretations so



that we are all on the same page.

If you have never attended a Fall Seminar, you are missing an opportunity that only occurs once a year. Interpreters look forward to these sessions as it gives them a leg up on how to share rules knowledge and practical application of these rules with their local members.

The location this year is special: the Cape Codder Hotel in Hyannis, MA, a beautiful setting that time of year. See the IAABO website for more information. Below is the tentative schedule of the sessions; look them over to see why we are excited about this program.

Thanks a million to our staff, Donnie Eppley, Kelly Callahan, and the coordinators of interpreters, Layne Drexel, TJ Halliday, Dan Shepardson and Dave Smith for putting together an excellent program.

Don't miss this opportunity. See you on the Cape!!!



Help Situations

Officiating a high school basketball game presents numerous challenges. Despite an official's best effort to be in proper position, work hard to get angles, and be on top of the play, there will be situations that can get the best of even the most seasoned official. In these instances you may need help from a partner to make an accurate ruling.

As defined in the glossary of terms in IAABO's manual, "Help may be requested or offered. As a result of the information conveyed, the official responsible for stopping the clock or the assisting official will give the appropriate signal."

As written, the definition is vague and is not that effective in helping officials to understand proper procedure for potential help situations. At the IAABO Spring meeting in Ocean City, MD, The Co-Coordinator of Interpreters met to review the manual for the upcoming season. This issue was discussed and the definition will be modified in 2018-19 manual to better clarify the proper procedure for help situations.

The new definition is as follows:

Help—Refers to verbal and nonverbal communication between officials. Help may be requested or offered. As a result of the information conveyed, the official responsible for stopping the clock or the assisting official will give the appropriate signal. *Depending on the information communicated, either official may give the appropriate signal. If the information is used to change the original ruling, the official responsible for stopping the clock shall give the appropriate signal. If the help information is to communicate an original ruling, the assisting official*

should give the appropriate signal.

So what does all this mean? Let's take a look at an out-of-bounds scenario to demonstrate how the process should work.

Sometimes there is a need to ask for or offer help when the ball goes out-of-bounds and the ruling official is not sure which team touched (or was touched by) the ball before it went out-of-bounds. In cases such as these, help may be offered or requested.

In cases when the ruling official does not know who last touched the ball before it went out of bounds, the ruling official (after blowing the whistle and demonstrating the stop clock signal with an open palm) should verbalize/request "HELP?" If their partner has definite knowledge of who touched or was last touched by the ball before it went out of bounds, they would verbalize the color of the team's jerseys and point in the direction of the team that will be awarded the throw-in.

However, if an out-of-bounds ruling is made and the "helping" partner(s) have definite knowledge that the ball was touched by the team that was awarded the ball, the non-ruling official(s) who observed the touch should go to and confer with the ruling official and offer help. After conferring, the official who originally ruled the out-of-bounds violation should consider the information that was offered, and then make a decision. Once a decision is reached, the ruling official should sound the whistle, and point in the proper direction and verbally announce the color of the team that will be receiving the ball.

The official offering help must be 100 (continued on page 2)

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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

Fall Seminar on beautiful Cape Cod - Yes, it is time for another Fall Seminar, a time for IAABO Interpreters to get together to talk with each other and share best practices. Our four Co-Coordinators of Interpreters (Layne Drexel, Bd. 11 DE; T.J. Halliday, Bd. 21 ME; Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105 VT; and David Smith, Bd. 4 CO) have prepared an excellent program: diverse, timely and accessible for Interpreter's immediate use. The new "You Make the Ruling" DVD is ready and will be distributed on Sunday morning as usual. In this year's edition, you will find some very interesting plays for discussion.



Just when you think you have seen it all, IAABO comes up with some new presenters and topics designed for today's game. If you have never attended a Fall Seminar, you are missing an opportunity that only occurs once a year. Interpreters look forward to these sessions as it provides them with the information and tools on how to share rules knowledge and the application of these rules with the local members.

Cape Cod is beautiful this time of year -- beaches are not crowded, our golf outing is on a great course and the Massachusetts State Board No 32 along with the other boards in Massachusetts are providing a very nice hospitality room.

We will continue our search for a new Executive Director. Those who are selected to move on will be interviewed, and the search committee will present a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Seminar. And remember, ALL officials, not just Interpreters, are invited to attend the seminar at no cost.

IAABO

Inside the Lines Archives

Visit www.iaabo.org

President's Corner

Just a quick update on the state of IAABO, Inc. through my eyes as the President. We recently completed the third and final IAABO Officials' School for the current off-season. Over 125 officials were trained on various rules topics, using proper officiating techniques, signals and mechanics. Six (6) of the officials in attendance at the various schools were invited to place their officiating profile on the NBA website as potential candidates for Grass Roots Training by Al Battista, Eastern Regional Scout - NBA Referee Operations. I continue to be amazed by the progress of our IAABO officials who attend and then return for a second season. Our local boards are doing great work.



One of my initiatives was for every IAABO member to recruit at least one new member for their board. I honestly believe that if everyone spreads the word about how great this avocation is, we can put a huge dent in the nationwide shortage of basketball officials and other sports. I have found that once an individual gets involved as an official in one sport, it becomes contagious and shortly thereafter, they expand their horizons into other sports. If the individual is not from your local area, encourage him/her to visit the IAABO website at www.iaabo.org and complete the registration form to become an official. Someone from the office will reach out to the individual and point them in the right direction.

We are moving forward with our nationwide search to find a suitable replacement for our current Executive Director Tom Lopes. The selection committee along with the IAABO Executive Committee have been doing their due diligence in finding the right individual. Select individuals who have expressed interest will be interviewed at the Fall Seminar in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

I strongly recommend that all IAABO Boards send their Interpreters to the Fall Seminar in Cape Cod, MA. Tom Lopes, Executive Director, along with the four Co-Coordinators, Layne Drexel, Bd. 11 DE, T.J. Halliday, Bd. 21, ME, Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105, VT., and David Smith, Bd. 4, CO, have worked long hours to put together a seminar program packed with great information for Interpreters to take back to their boards.

The season will be here before we know it and everyone must begin now to get in proper physical condition. Don't wait until it's too late. I would also recommend that everyone get a physical prior to the season -- annual check-ups are a good idea as one never totally knows what is going on with our bodies.

Until next time.....Peace,

Help Situations (continued from page 1)

percent sure the information being offered to the ruling official is correct before offering help. In out-of-bounds situations, the decision with regard to the final ruling shall be made by the official who originally sounded his whistle.

There will be instances when the ruling official may blow the whistle when the ball gains out-of-bounds status and not know who touched the ball last. If the partner(s) do not have definite knowledge of who touched or was last touched by the ball before it went out-of-bounds, the officials should briefly convene, confirm that neither official has definite knowledge and the official who called the out-of-bounds violation should sound the whistle, show the held ball signal, and point in the direction of the team entitled to the alternating possession throw-in.

This procedure should be followed in any situation where officials can correct or avoid potential mistakes. Was a perimeter try a 2-point or 3-point attempt? Was there team control on that foul during a loose ball? Is that the correct shooter on the line? Did the foul or violation happen first? These situations and many others may require officials to conference to ensure the accuracy of the ruling.

Should an unusual situation or circumstance occur requiring an explanation, both head coaches should be invited to be present. Unusual situations would include, but not be limited to, fighting, correctable errors and alternate possession, scoring or timing mistakes.

Officials should cover "Help Situations" as part of a thorough pre-game conference. We need to strive to cultivate teamwork and the ability to set aside egos for the good of the game. It is imperative that officials ask for, offer and accept help when needed to get the play right.



T.J. Halliday is a 32 year member of IAABO. He currently is a Co-Interpreter for IAABO, Inc. and a Board Interpreter for Bd. 20 ME. He has presented at the IAABO Fall seminar every year since 2008 and has contributed to several IAABO educational videos and other educational materials.

IAABO in Cuba

Two IAABO members from Fairfield County Board 9 had a trip of a lifetime to Cuba this past July.

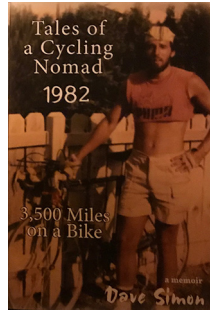


Glen Colello, Board 9 Assistant Rules Interpreter, and Josh Davis spent time teaching basketball officiating, officiating games and helping local residents restore basketball courts. The duo went with a local Fairfield County non-profit organization "Full Court Peace", which was founded in 2006. FCP has spread its mission to Belfast Ireland, Ciudad Juarez Mexico and Havana, Cuba. The group's mission is to unite, educate and strengthen local and global communities through the game of basketball.

Glen and Josh joined 11 teenage boys and 5 other adults, including founder Mike Evans, in Cojimar & Havana Cuba. While there they helped to restore basketball courts, officiated a series of games between the Fairfield County youth and Cuban youth and taught players and coaches basketball rules and regulations. Amateur games in Cuba are normally officiated by local residents without any formal rule training.

You can learn more about Full Court Peace's mission by going to www.fullcourtpeace.org

Long-Time IAABO Member Dave Simon Pens Third Book



Long-time IAABO member and writer for *Sportorials*, Dave Simon, recently penned and published his third book. Simon has been an IAABO member since 1984 and written for *Sportorials* for 29 years.

"Tales of Cycling Nomad 1982," published by Orange Hat Publishing, chronicles his 3,500+ mile journey on a bicycle across North America in 1982.

Autographed copies of the book are available by contacting Dave by email at davidsimon15@hotmail.com. Copies can also be ordered through Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

Previously, Simon wrote "Whistle in a Haystack" with Rick Hartzell, which details stories and insights from Hartzell's DI men's basketball officiating career. Simon is also the author of "Bad Golf," a humorous take on why golfers punish themselves playing the game.



Officials at the Susquehanna University Officials School listening intently to IAABO Executive Director, Tom Lopes

Rules Refresher

We all know how important it is for officials to continually study rules and their application, even in the off season. Below are five questions you can use as part of your summer rule study.

1. A-1 attempts a free throw which is successful. The official scorer now notifies the official that A-1 has five fouls. The official cancels the free throw and has A-1's substitute attempt the free throw. Is the official correct?

2. While the ball is in the air on a jump ball to start the first extra period, B-2 commits an intentional personal foul on A-2. The official has the scorer set the possession arrow when A-2 receives the ball for the first free throw. Is the official correct?

3. Team A is in control of the ball in the backcourt for seven seconds. A-1 throws the ball to A-2 in the frontcourt. B-1 jumps from A's frontcourt and catches the ball. While in the air, B-1 fumbles the ball into A's backcourt. When the ball touches the floor in the backcourt and before A-1 secures control, the official starts a new 10-second count. Is the official correct?

4. A-5 tries to dunk the ball. The ball bounces off the ring high onto the backboard. A-5 chins himself on the ring and the center official rules a technical foul. A-5 releases the ring and subsequently the ball passes through the basket while the ring is returning to its original position. The ball does not touch the ring. The officials count the goal, award two free throws to Team B and then award the ball to Team B at the division line opposite the table. Were the officials correct?

5. During an interrupted dribble, the official inadvertently sounds the whistle. The official resumes play using the alternating possession procedure. Is the official correct?

Answers can be found on page 5



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Getting the Most Out of Summer Basketball

As we all know, there is really no more “off season” for high school basketball players, coaches or officials. Teams, whether they be associated with schools, clubs or AAU, play games all year long and where there are games officials are needed, which means greater opportunity to see more plays to improve our judgment, mechanics and signals.

With most summer game situations, officials are asked to officiate multiple games back to back in gyms that aren't air conditioned during the hottest time of the year. This makes it very easy for officials to take short cuts and develop bad habits.

So how do we avoid the pitfalls of officiating during the summer and take advantage of situations where we can work on some things that will make us better?

Be selective in the nights and number of games you work

If you work games three or four games a night, three or four days a week that could be up to 16 games. Working 16 games a week will only benefit you in one place, your pocket book! It is impossible to give a 100 percent effort physically, mentally or mechanically if you work too many games. Accept only the number of games where you commit to yourself, your partners and the teams you will work hard every possession and every play. Anything less will be wasted time, effort and opportunity.

Identify the areas you want to concentrate on

Evaluate your last season. Recognize areas where you can improve and work on them. Set goals for improvement and how you are going to get there. Work on one thing every time out. Don't try to fix everything at once. When you are satisfied with your progress in one area, move to the next.

Positioning

Positioning is an area we can improve upon. Proper positioning puts us and our crew in the best possible position to see, observe and rule on plays. When an official or crew is out of position we often have the wrong official ruling on the play and accuracy goes down.

Being in good position begins by being in the best starting position. In either a two or three-person crew, the Trail official should start at or below the 28-foot line when the ball is in the front court. This puts us in a position to be able to move to get “under” or “on top” of the play to be able to see through and observe any illegal contact. Before the ball gets into the frontcourt, the Trail official should “trail” the play by remaining a step or so behind the ball to be able to observe the ball handler, defender(s) and any potential screens. If the Trail gets ahead of the ball and has to look backward, it is impossible to observe any action between the ball handler and the division line.

In a three-person crew, the Center official should use the free throw line extended as the general starting position. From this position, the official can move either “high” or “low” to be able to have an angle to see the play.

To be in the correct starting position in either a crew of two or crew of three, the Lead official should “mirror” the ball and select either the “A” or “B” starting position as depicted on pages 24 and 123 of the Manual. Being the proper starting position will allow the Lead official to be in a better position observe the play and adjust if necessary.

Moving to Improve or position adjusting is important for every official on the crew. Basketball cannot be properly officiated standing still. Getting plays right and making proper rulings requires us to be in the proper position to see the entire play, all the players in our PCA and obtain an angle that lets us observe whether

any action was legal or illegal.

In every game and on every possession work to get to the right starting position and move at the right pace to get yourself and your crew in the proper position. Make the effort not to get “straight lined” where you can see only a player's back and cannot see either the ball or any contact that may occur. Many times, a move of only a step or two will put you in the right position.

Hint: In most cases if a player goes one direction, we move the opposite direction to improve our positioning and look at the play. By moving the same direction, we do not change our angle. Try it and see if it works for you.

Be a better traveling official

It goes without saying traveling is difficult for many officials regardless of experience level. We either allow a player to travel without penalty or penalize a player moving legally by calling a travel when there isn't one.

Work on being a better traveling official in every game this summer. To be a good travel official, you have to identify the pivot foot. The only to do this is to officiate from the “floor up”. First find the pivot foot and then worry about the rest of the play. Be a good travel official, not a technician or a “hair splitter.”

Post travels are probably missed more than any other traveling call. Whether it is a crew of two or a crew of three, the outside official(s) must help. Many times, the Lead official is too close to observe the movement of the post player's feet and the ball.

As the Trail or Center official, be engaged on post travels!

Don't penalize a legal defender

Too often legal defenders are incorrectly penalized. Review and make sure to fully understand rule 4-23. Work to recognize a defender's initial legal guarding position and what he/she can do to legally maintain that position. Concentrate on the defender. If the defender moves legally, laterally, obliquely or backwards, and contact occurs the responsibility for the contact is on the offensive player not the defender. This includes a defender that jumps within his/her vertical space.

You've heard it said before, “What did the defender do wrong?” If the answer is, “Nothing” then the defender should not be penalized.

In summary, use the summer season to your advantage. Think of your summer schedule as “continuing education.” Take only the number of games you are comfortable with that will give you the best chance to get better. Identify and work on the things you are deficient in along with some of the things listed above. It's not a bad idea to discuss what you are working on with your partner(s) and ask them what they are working on. Remember, scheduling too many game, and showing up to be on the court to collect a check will probably not help you improve...it may do just the opposite.



David Smith, Bd. 4 CO, is one of four Co-Interpreters for IAABO, Inc. as well as a Past President.

Rules Refresher Answers

1. No 2-11-5 Note,
2. No 4-3-2, 4-3-3b
3. No 4-12-3b, 4-12-4&5, 9-8
4. Yes 6-7-7 Exception a, 4-6-4, 10-4-3, 10-4 Penalty
5. No 4-12-2c, 4-36-2a

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The Technical Foul: Why are You Hesitating?

The dreaded Technical Foul. What is it about these technical fouls that make some officials shy away from issuing them?

Seems this is especially true when it comes to coaches. But why is this the case?

“You don’t know what you’re doing!”

“You don’t know the rules”

“You’ll never work here again!”

These comments are what’s considered ‘automatics’, or easy Technical Fouls. Most officials would have no problem issuing a Technical for these comments when they come from a player. When coaches make these same comments, officials will sometimes ignore it.

In this article, we will discuss:

- When a Technical Foul should be issued.
- How a Technical Foul should be signaled.
- technical fouls can help the game (If done properly)

It’s Not Personal

It’s just another rule in your Rules Book. When a player or coach crosses the line don’t hesitate to take the necessary action. It’s no different from you signaling a common foul or a violation. It’s your job.

What you permit, you promote

How do you think it looks from the sidelines when a coach is screaming at an official and nothing is done? Think about it.

If you accept this behavior, you are telling everyone it’s ok to disrespect you verbally.

Anytime a coach or player directs negative comments at you personally, don’t hesitate. If you don’t address it, the comments will continue.

Don’t be the official that takes verbal abuse all game, and then in the fourth quarter decide to issue a Technical Foul in a close game.

Did the coach deserve it? Yes.

The bigger question is why did you wait until the fourth quarter to give the Technical Foul?

If you give him/her an early warning or Technical Foul, the coach will understand he has to tread lightly the rest of the game. Coaches normally know when they’re crossing the line. But if you allow coaches to cross the line for most of the game and then all of a sudden in the fourth quarter you give the technical, it just doesn’t fit in most cases.

Remember, it’s not personal. Unsportsmanlike conduct is just against the rules of our game.

Verbal warnings and Technical fouls let everybody know that the behavior displayed will not be tolerated. It gives a clear message to the offender and everyone else that you will penalize unsportsmanlike conduct.

What’s The Proper Way to Call a Technical Foul?

I heard a story once of a well-known official that got so emotional when signaling a Technical; he broke one of his fingers.

“One night, I hit Bill Fitch with a technical so hard, I broke my finger,” Crawford recalled. “My finger was all swollen. I slammed my whole hand down on it when I gave the signal. That’s why I changed my signal to a little one-finger tap — because I broke it once the old way.”

Crawford said the snapped finger incident was the first time he decided to see a sports psychologist.

That’s the type of emotion you don’t want to display. If you do that, you’re letting the whole gym know you’re out of control and have allowed the coach/player to get under your skin.

When you signal a technical foul, it should be no different from you signaling any other foul. As a matter of fact, you may want to be even cooler when signaling the Technical. It’s just a foul.

The beauty of issuing a technical foul calmly is your demeanor shows everyone in the gym that you’re not taking anything personally. The coach may be losing his mind, but your calm demeanor shows everyone that you’re just handling business as usual. You’re just enforcing the rules.

You not only have to have thick skin as an official you also have to be a decent actor/actress at times.

Conclusion

The first few Technicals in your career can be tough. I know it took me close to a year to call my first one. In actuality, I probably should have had 5 at that point. Once you get your first one out, it gets a lot easier.

You just have to realize that a technical foul is just an infraction and needed when the behavior rules are violated. If you continue to look at it as some type of cruel punishment, you will hesitate in pulling the trigger when you should. ***Remember you don’t “give” technical fouls they’re earned.***

Mentally prepare yourself for games, and make sure your mind is as clear as possible before your games.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is an act that warrants a technical foul whether it’s from the coach, a player or bench personnel.

Rule 10 gives many examples of unsportsmanlike acts. Study these examples and remember to uphold the spirit and intent of the rules.

- Don’t go looking for trouble
- Don’t have rabbit ears
- Have thick skin, and don’t be a pushover

Finally, you are supported by the rules to issue technical fouls when they are warranted.

Most times, if you call a technical foul early in a game, you won’t hear a peep from that coach the rest of the game. They do work!

Use them for the betterment of the game and don’t make a big deal out of it.



Gary Holt is a member of Bd. 42 NY and has been officiating for 5 years. He lives in Bronx, NY and also writes a basketball officiating blog that can be accessed at <https://basketball-referees.com>



Special Olympics



IAABO Officials, Kevin Krisak, Bd. 193 NJ, Tim LaScala, Bd. 34 NJ, and Bruce Davis, Bd. 33 NJ, recently participated in the 2018 Special Olympics USA games that were held in Seattle, WA. The games hosted more than 3,500 athletes and coaches representing 50 state programs and the District of Columbia. If you have never officiated a Special Olympics event, you should try. You will never be involved with a more rewarding experience. To participate, contact your local Special Olympics Office.

2018 IAABO Officials' Schools



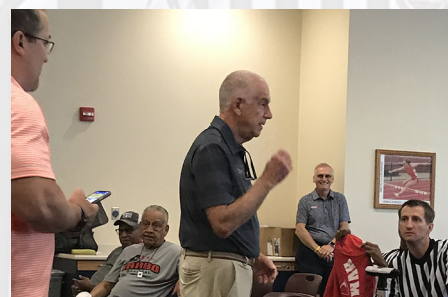
Class of 2018 – IAABO Officials' School at Brandeis University



John Rafferty, Bd. 95 MA, leads a classroom session at Brandeis University



Rich Antonelli, Bd. 27 MA, and Charlie Harbach, Bd. 7 CT, provide constructive comments to a crew at Brandeis University



Tom Lopes, IAABO, Inc., speaks to the class at Susquehanna University



Classroom session at Brandeis University



Officiating games at Brandeis University



Class of 2018 – IAABO Officials' School at Susquehanna University

2018 IAABO Officials' Schools



Class of 2018 – IAABO Officials' School at Rider University



Willie LA Jones, President, IAABO, Inc. and Joe Mitchell, IAABO Executive Committee Member, observing games at Susquehanna University



Kevin Chapman, Bd. 128 NH, observes officials at Susquehanna University



Earl George, Bd. 70 PA, officiates a game at Susquehanna University



Tom Hanbach, Bd. 50 NY, speaks with Chris Zeigler, Bd. 70 PA



Members of Bd. 129 DE at Rider University



Classroom session at Rider University



Classroom session at Susquehanna University



Gary Sluck, Bd. 33 NJ, instructs at Rider University



Female IAABO officials at Rider University

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2018 Fall Seminar Schedule/Agenda

Friday, September 21, 2018

- 7:15 AM** Rules Exam Meeting
Constitution Committee Meeting
- 8:25 AM** Opening Remarks
(**President Willie 'LA' Jones, Bd. 12 DC**
Tom Lopes, IAABO Executive Director)
- 8:30 AM** Keynote Speaker
(**Jon Levinson, Bd. 33 NJ & NCAA Women's Rules Editor**)
- 9:20 AM** The Nature of Feedback
(**Billy Martin, Bd. 34 NJ**)
- 10:30 AM** Are You Reaching Your Members?
(**Mike Thomas, Bd. 8 CT**)
- 11:00 AM** Legal Guarding Positions – Fact & Fiction
(**Alan Goldberger, Bd. 33 NJ**)
- 1:30 PM** Athletic Directors Panel
- 2:00 PM** Interesting and Unusual Plays
(**T.J. Halliday, Bd. 20 ME**)
- 2:30 PM** Angling for a Better Presentation
(**Felix Addeo, Bd. 33 NJ**)
- 3:15 PM** Guided Principles
(**Al Battista, Bd. 12 DC**)
- 4:00 PM** Scouting IAABO Officials for Talent
(**Al Battista, Bd. 12 DC**)

Saturday, September 22, 2018

- 8:15 AM** Announcements
- 8:30 AM** All the Small Things
(**Kelly Callahan, Bd. 11 DE**)
- 9:00 AM** Essential People Skills for Officials
(**Robert Alston, Bd. 134 MD**)
- 9:30 AM** End of Game Situations
(**Layne Drexel, Bd. 11 DE**)
- 10:00 AM** Crew of 3 Mechanics
(**T.J. Halliday, Bd. 20 ME**)
- 10:30 AM** Verticality
(**Dick Hecker, Gary Sluck, Bd. 33 NJ**)
- 11:00 AM** Players Highlight or Officials Lowlight?
Continuous Motion and Travel Rulings
(**Jeff Jewett, Bd. 71 AZ**)
- 11:30 AM** Throw-ins and Line Coverage
(**John Rafferty, Bd. 95 MA**)
- 1:15 PM** The Science of the Visual Field and Positioning
(**Tim Laurain, Bd. 211 ONT**)
- 1:45 PM** Crew of 2 Mechanics
(**Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105 VT**)
- 2:15 PM** Offense Initiated Contact
(**David Smith, Bd. 4 CO**)
- 2:45 PM** The C's of Officiating
(**Ray Vanacore, Bd. 10 CT**)
- 3:15 PM** Interpreter's Roundtable

Sunday, September 23, 2018

- 8:30 AM** Rules Changes, Points of Emphasis, Crew of Two and Three Manual Edits
(**Layne Drexel, Bd. 11 DE, T.J. Halliday, Bd. 20 ME, Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105 VT, and David Smith, Bd. 4 CO**)

2018 Fall Seminar Forms

Spouse/ Guest Breakfast

Friday, September 21, 2018, 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, Inc., P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013
Registration Deadline: September 1, 2018

Golf Registration

Thursday, September 20th - Registration 7 AM

Shot Gun Start 8:00 AM - \$100/Golfer

Location - Dennis Pines Golf Course
<http://www.dennisgolf.com> - (lunch buffet and gift)

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, Inc., P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013
Registration Deadline: September 1, 2018

FIBA's Image of a Referee - Strong, Decisive and Approachable - Part 1

A Masterclass in Nonverbal Communication

Strong, decisive and approachable are the terms FIBA uses to describe their desired image of a referee. Three words that encompass a multitude of habits, skills, and abilities and for many, take years to develop.

Why these three terms? FIBA stresses game control and recognizes the core function of officiating as decision-making. Referees need to look, act and be perceived as in charge (strong). Referees need to be comfortable, ready and able to make decisions (decisive). FIBA has another axiom "In charge with a service attitude." Referees need to interact with participants comfortably, effectively and efficiently (approachable).

How well you communicate and are perceived to be strong, decisive and approachable greatly impact your effectiveness as an official.

The often-stated formula 55 – 38 – 7 stresses the importance of nonverbal communication for officials. The formula breaks down the components of face-to-face communication as 55 percent non-verbal, 38 percent tonal qualities and 7 percent what is said. Over 90 percent of your communication on the court is not what you say, it's non-verbal.

This article is part 1 of what constitutes your image as an official and how to create it by serving as your introduction to a masterclass in nonverbal communication.

Starting at the Beginning

"Dress like you own the bank. Not like you need a loan from them."

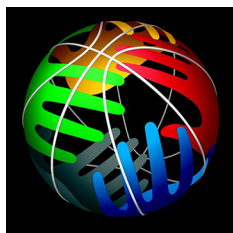
- Louis Raphael

Studies have shown that others are making assessments of you based on your clothes, appearance and how you present yourself before meeting you. To be perceived as professional with attention to detail, your appearance and deportment need to reflect that. Research has shown that dressing professionally facilitates others interacting with you in a professional manner by creating social distance and through implied behavioral norms. As well as influencing how others perceive and interact with you, research has shown that dressing professionally influences your self-perception and deportment. Simply put, dressing more professionally influences you to act more professional.

Compare the look of a well-fitted (better yet, tailored) non-wrinkled shirt versus one that hangs loosely, bunches in places or is wrinkled. What about your pants? They should fit and be cared for properly. Are the pant legs the right length? Are they clean? Is there a crisp crease? When starting out it is understandable that you picked up a pair of low-cost black slacks. As you progress in the levels you officiate, the quality of your pants will be noticed. Upgrade to a higher quality pant. If you began officiating without beltless pants, have you made the switch to beltless pants?

When it comes to uniform items such as beltless pants or patent versus shined leather shoes, I am going to divert from science and revert to something I learned from Sesame Street. If you aren't familiar with Sesame Street, you can check out on YouTube or online. One of the standard segments involved showing similar items and one that was different with a song to teach skills in differentiation. The lyrics went like this "One of these things isn't the same. One of these things doesn't belong here." If the standard (de facto or not) for your association, panel or level you officiate is patent shoes and beltless pants, then being the official who is different has the potential to be perceived as the official who doesn't belong (unless you are the official dressing "up" which has a positive perception).

Whether patent or not, are your shoes in good repair and clean? If not patent, is there a shine on them? Are they all black? If needed, have you blackened any white or any other color on the shoes with a black



permanent marker or a black shoe paint?

Assess your warm-up jacket in the same way as your pants and shirt. Does it fit, is it clean and non-wrinkled?

Good personal hygiene and grooming further cultivate respect and confidence in you by others. They convey attention to detail and a positive image. Hair, facial hair, make-up and tattoos are examples of what should be reviewed

for their potential impact of your image and in respect to the norms for the level(s) you officiate or desire to advance to. For example, how many officials at the elite levels do you see with beards or with brightly dyed hair? You need to look like you take care of yourself and that you fit in.

Research has shown that another strong benefit to dressing and grooming yourself professionally is that it influences your self-perception and actions as well as how others perceive and interact with you. Simply put, looking the part helps you be the part.

"The right costume determines the character; helps the actor feel who he is, and serves the story." - Colleen Atwood

Entering the Court

Start by being at the court on-time. "Where are the officials?" is not a good first impression. Entering the court is your first opportunity to show you are confident and focused. Walk with confidence. Confident people fill their space comfortably and naturally. Keeping your posture upright and open projects confidence and approachability. Walk with your shoulders back, spine straight, chest up, chin slightly raised and your eyes focused ahead. Your arms should fall loosely at your sides and move naturally back and forth appropriate to your walk. Avoid having your hands in your pockets. Look to smile. It should not be forced nor a huge grin. A subtle natural smile projects both confidence and approachability.

The pace you walk can affect perceptions of you. Studies have revealed that naturally fast walkers are perceived as higher energy, engaged and confident. Too fast can be perceived as rushed, excited or nervous. Slower walkers can also be perceived as confident but are attributed with being more calm and relaxed. Too slow and the perception is unengaged or not focused. A longer stride can be perceived as more powerful yet, an exaggerated stride can be perceived as either arrogant or compensating. Your pace needs to be natural, convey what you want it to and appropriate to the situation.

Observing Warm-ups

FIBA has introduced an on-court pre-game warm-up. The on-court warm-up isn't mandatory; it just ensures you are physically ready at tip-off. Skipping the on-court warm-up and not being ready when play begins provides a poor perception. When performing your warm-up, follow the accepted procedure and focus on the warm-up as opposed to allowing yourself to be distracted and interacting with others.

When it is your turn to stand and watch the players, apply the same principles as when moving. Stand comfortably with your back straight, shoulders back and chin slightly raised. Have your head up and maintain focus on the court. Maintain an open, wide stance with your feet around shoulder width and your feet pointing slightly outward. Keep your hands out of your pockets and avoid fidgeting which can be perceived as disinterested or nervous. Maintain a positive or at a minimum, a neutral facial expression. Your image should say strong and approachable, relaxed and focused.

First Contact

So far, so good. Your uniform and grooming project a professional image. You are warmed-up and have further projected the image of a confident focused official from a distance with your movement onto

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the court and body language observing the players. Time to meet the coaches.

Studies have shown that a good handshake can produce higher levels of intimacy and trust in a matter of seconds. Other research has shown that giving a firm and steady handshake for 2 – 5 seconds is perceived as self-assured. Giving too strong a handshake can be perceived as domineering while a limp handshake can be perceived as weak. Nonchalantly wipe your hands on your pants if sweaty before shaking. Come to a full stop and face the coach. Make and maintain eye contact. Eye contact is one of the most powerful nonverbal communication tools we have. It shows self-confidence and interest in the person. Lean in slightly and smile which both reinforce interest in the coach and approachability on your part. Have a friendly tone to your voice.

Ensure that you meet the opposing coach(es) in the same manner.

Interactions with Participants During the Game

There are time restraints and other obstacles to effective interaction between officials and participants. The principles we have already mentioned are integral to ensuring effective and efficient interaction. The language we use, our tonal qualities and nonverbals will differ depending on the nature of the interaction and the degree we are being approachable versus assertive or other. For example, our facial expression and tone will differ when asking a question and showing interest versus assertively giving a warning for behavior.

Verbally work at being direct and concise with your explanations. Avoid using filler words such as “okay” or “uh.” Focus on speaking clearly and slowly. Speaking too quickly, with excessive filler words and ending sentences on a higher pitch can all be perceived as nervousness, excitability or unsureness. Practice active listening techniques such as paraphrasing and summarizing. Maintain eye contact and nod appropriately to acknowledge, show focus and engage. Alternate your gaze between eyes and mouth of the person you are speaking too or periodically look away as needed to avoid making the eye contact awkward.

We have further covered that keeping your body upright and head up shows confidence. Having an open body stance and leaning in keep you engaged and confident in the interaction. Slouching, a lowered head or not maintaining eye contact gives the perception that you are unsure, ashamed or not telling the truth. Have an open or neutral facial expression characterized by raised or neutral eyebrows and smiling or having your lips slightly open.

In a potentially contentious interaction, adopt an angled body position so you aren't perceived confrontational. To be assertive, hold direct eye contact when making the point and have a more closed or neutral facial expression. Lips and eyebrows neutral. Consider employing the technique of dropping your tone at the end of a sentence to add finality and assertiveness to a statement as needed. If leaning in slightly, then leaning back out is a subtle cue that the conversation is ending. The timing of when you break eye contact can be used to signal the end of a communication.

You can use your hands to talk and make a point but don't overdo it as it can be distracting or show nervousness. When talking, open palms show approachability. On the other end of the spectrum, the “stop sign” and how it is delivered can denote varying degrees of assertiveness.

In all your interactions, work at being nonconfrontational. Be conscious of your physical proximity. Being too close and invading someone's personal space is perceived as challenging. Work at being aware of and controlling your voice and nonverbals so not to display anger. Verbal anger can be recognized in the language used, increased loudness or rate of speech and aggressive tones. Body language that denotes anger includes clenching your fists or jaw muscles, chin

forward, direct stare, rapid movements, change in breathing and other. Controlling your mental and emotional states and physical breathing to stay calm and un-angry.

Very Importantly, your words, vocal qualities and other nonverbals need to be congruent with the message you are trying to convey.

Making a Call and Reporting

Project your voice appropriately so it can be heard. Good voice projection comes from using your diaphragm rather than coming from your vocal cords. Too soft and you may seem indecisive or weak in your call. While yelling can be perceived as excited or nervous. You want to be consistent in your delivery to show sureness and calmness.

It used to be that we trained officials to “sell the big calls.” FIBA defines selling a call as “placing emphasis on a call with a louder voice and whistle and slightly more demonstrative signals.” There are times that a call would benefit from a little more onus. The idea is to convey strength and calmness with your consistency of presentation while recognizing that the nature of human reaction and perception makes a slightly stronger presentation more desirable at times to gain acceptance.

Overselling calls can be perceived as excitableness and lessens credibility. For the same reasons, you want your delivery to be appropriate for the situation. A louder gym requires more projection while a quiet gym may require you to lessen your projection.

Use the authorized FIBA signals to properly communicate your calls. FIBA has added a variety of new signals over the last several years. Credibility is gained by calling and using the appropriate signal for the infraction committed. FIBA in the last several years has become a proponent of having both a visual and verbal communication of calls. Be in the habit of communicating the violation and ensuing direction vocally: “illegal dribble,” “blue,” as well as signaling.

Ensure that you habitually stay with every play when you make a call. Continue to watch the end of the play after your whistle sounds and make the required signals confidently with an unhurried cadence without turning away. Take your time to get it right. How decisive do you look when you need to turn back to get a number after leaving the scene or report the wrong number?

The sound of your whistle should be one sharp crisp blast. The de facto standard where I officiate is the FOX40 whistle; it has a distinctive sound versus a pea whistle or other brands and models. A whistle with a different sound than participants are used to will be noticed especially if it is shriller. Blowing your whistle without the same volume as your partner(s) or your whistle “running on” can be perceived as less decisive.

The timing of your whistle impacts the perception of decisiveness. An individual officiating technique (IOT) is to process the end of a play before ruling, which means we will have a patient whistle on many plays when processing advantage/disadvantage. A strong decisive patient whistle is differentiable from a weak indecisive whistle. A patient whistle is not for every play. Decisiveness is displayed by immediately recognizing and whistling rough play and plays involving recent points of emphasis regarding freedom of movement and cleaning up the game. Your whistle sounding too early or too late effects the perception of the quality of your call and your mental state. Too early could mean you are excited or unfocused. Too late could mean you are indecisive or unfocused.

FIBA is moving away from insisting that officials run to and from reporting fouls. Walk with confidence (pace, stride, and nonverbal body language) and focus as we have talked about. Ensure you come to a complete stop, set both feet, breath and get your balance before starting to report. Have strong crisp signals. Have an unhurried and efficient rhythm in your delivery. Be consistent with *(continued next page)*

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each report in your delivery. Use the authorized signal, and importantly, report the foul that reflects what happened on the play. If the player got pushed, don't report it as a hit. It speaks to credibility and decisiveness. Lastly, maintain your image after reporting while getting back into position. This isn't the time to let your focus wander and search the crowd or put your chin down and look at the floor while lazily moving back to position.

Covering the Play

Another IOT is to move based on the play to get open angles and proper spacing to the play. How do you look when you move? When position adjusting or rotating in 3PO, ensure that your movements are smooth and controlled to look calm and composed and you minimize/eliminate your eyes bouncing. Your adjustments shouldn't be overly frequent (good spacing and angles work to minimize the need to move) or severe that you look like a cat on a hot tin roof. Your running style should be efficient and athletic looking. Whether running or adjusting position, the goal is controlled athletic movement.

Time-outs and other Crew Communication

When getting together as a crew to communicate, be aware of how your individual nonverbals and the dynamics of the communication may be perceived. Having your hands on your hips can be viewed as tired or angry. Individually and as a crew you want to look calm, focused and confident. Excessive gestures can be perceived being excited or unsure. Shaking your head shows disagreement. Staring off in the distance or fidgeting looks unfocused. Crew members should be consistent in their body language and the crew should appear as they are getting along and inclusive. Does it look like someone is dominating or submissive?

Working on your Image

Your image has many component parts that can be developed and improved. There is a wealth of information and free and paid online

courses in verbal and non-verbal communication. You can work on your body language and signals in-front of a mirror. You can video yourself and review it. Breakdown the video of your games specifically for the points we have discussed. Identify and then work on what you want to improve. Involve others for feedback. Watch other officials work to identify traits you may want to emulate.

To be successful, expect that developing the image you want may not happen overnight and treat it as a process. Be systematic and committed to it.

Conclusion

The Urban Dictionary's defines a strong person as someone who comes off confident while Webster's definition includes effective, efficient, clear, logical, convincing and not easily disturbed. The Urban Dictionary defines a decisive person as someone who is sure of a direction and takes it, while Webster's definition includes having the ability to decide and who is determined. Approachable is defined as someone who is open, accessible, friendly and easy to meet or deal with.

We have discussed many factors constituting that image -- appearance, tone, nonverbals, movement, signals, whistle and other. Analyzing and then systematically improving each constituent part as needed will develop the strong, decisive and approachable image you desire as an official.

Let me know if I have missed anything and what may work or not for you. I can be reached at timlaurain@rogers.com.

Future articles will discuss the psychology of a strong, decisive and approachable image and verbal communication skills involved.



Tim Laurain is member of IAABO Board No. 211, York, Ontario, and is the OABO Provincial Supervisor. He is also a Consultant, Officiating Development and the Assistant Committee Chair, IAABO Educational Committee. You may contact him @ timlaurain@rogers.com if you have any comments, feedback or questions.

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Errors of Commission versus Errors of Omission

Summer is a great time to step back and self-assess where you are in your officiating career and what your goals are for the future. Now that you have had some time to get away from the day-to-day grind of the season, it makes honest self-reflection a bit easier. Video review is one of the best ways to assess your performances and help set goals for the upcoming season(s).

Some organizations with the personnel and resources provide their officials with a video of every game they officiate and also provide an accuracy rating for the plays that involve them. They use a four-step rating system:

- Call: Correct (CC)
- Call: Incorrect (CI)
- No Call: Correct (NCC)
- No Call: Incorrect (NCI)

While you may prefer to use the term “ruling” to describe what an official on the court is doing, the essence of the system is the same. When you “put air” into the whistle...were you right or wrong? Likewise, during plays that you did NOT put air in the whistle...were you right or wrong?

That system of evaluating plays is a great example of how to review tapes of your own games. The initial review should be of all the plays where you blew the whistle i.e. made a call or a ruling. Were you correct? As officials, we need to be. We stopped the game because we deemed there was a rule being broken and as a result it created a consequence for a team/player e.g. turnover or foul assessed. Many times these types of errors are referred to as “Errors of Commission.” We committed an act (put air in the whistle) and that act stopped the game. If we were correct, that’s great. If, however, we were not correct e.g. we incorrectly called a legal jump stop a travel, we have penalized a team unfairly. Once you have reviewed all plays where you did make a call/ruling, then you can

move on to the next series of plays.

The next series involves plays where we did not stop the game i.e. did not blow the whistle. We made a “no call” and/or ruled that the action was legal and thus did not justify a whistle e.g. incidental contact vs. a foul. Using the same logic as before, these calls/rulings are referred to as “Errors of Omission.” We “omitted” the sound of the whistle. We determined that the action was acceptable/legal, according to the rulebooks, and allowed the game to continue uninterrupted. Again, if the play was legal i.e. the contact was incidental, that is great. If however, we did not make a travel ruling on a “spin move” that the video shows was clearly a travel, we have rewarded the offensive team and penalized the defensive team.

An honest assessment of all these types of plays will benefit you in the long run. Where do you fall in the continuum? Do you make a lot of calls/rulings with many of them being incorrect (CI)? Or do you “pass” on a lot of calls that should have had a whistle (NCI)? Obviously, we’d prefer to have all our rulings meet the criteria of “correct call” (CC) or “no call correct” (NCC)...but that’s not reality. When looking to make adjustments to your game, “errors of commission” are more egregious than “errors of omission.” When we make a call/ruling, we must be right. If you are not sure, don’t put air in the whistle and allow play to continue. We are paid to be fair and to adjudicate the game based on the rules. By studying the rulebook and watching video of your games with an eye toward ALL your rulings, your game will improve. The perfect game has yet to be called...so until then, review tape and analyze your calls/rulings.



Dan Shepardson is one of four Co-Interpreters for IAABO, Inc. and is the Board Interpreter for Bd. 105 VT. He has been officiating for 33 years and is the Activities Director (AD) at Champlain Valley Union HS in Hinesburg, VT.



Staff Members at the Susquehanna University Officials School take a break while School attendees practice their signals

IAABO Lines

Condolences to: **Bd. 52 NY**, on the loss of **Rachelle Jones**, a former member and Women’s NCAA Division I Final Four official; Condolences to: **Mark Kimmel, Bd. 70 PA**, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to: the members of **Bd. 121 NY**, on the passing of their board member, **Gary Jones**; Condolences to: **Brett Kinney, Bd. 70 PA**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Mike Marino, Bd. 185 NY**, on the passing of his wife; Condolences to: **Kevin Chapman, Bd. 128 NH**, on the loss of his father and sister.