

Executive Director's Report 2015/2016

A very good basketball season has passed and IAABO officials distinguished themselves by being prepared as well as buying into the new rules and consistently enforcing them. After some initial adjustments, officials, players and coaches learned how to play the game within the new rules. Our officials readied themselves by utilizing the new instructional materials made available to them by IAABO.

The new "You Make the Ruling" DVD, which was filmed in Maine this year, was sent to every board, and contained plays on a variety of topics and points-of-emphasis for the 2015-16 season. Its purpose was to illustrate plays and observe if the play was ruled correctly, thus promoting positive discussions.

There were also plays where you had to make the ruling. Again, the objective was to promote good discussion at your meetings. DVD's are being updated on two-person mechanics and another on three-person mechanics, complete with a menu page so that the interpreter can determine the topic to be discussed. An example would be calling fouls from the lead position and then illustrating the proper switches. Fouls from every position are covered.

Many thanks to the officials of Maine for allowing us to film their state tournament so that the new "You Make the Ruling" film could be created as a teaching tool for all IAABO officials. This year we will be filming in New Hampshire.

IAABO scored another hit with a new type of program at last year's Fall Seminar held in Denver Colorado. The interpreters in attendance were treated to a talk by Rod Olson, who spoke about leadership. A short description follows:

"Officials will be challenged to be a master 21st century leader and need to be 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 he received a standing ovation and the chatter from the interpreters was extremely positive.

Our own Alan Goldberger raised the bar also, by tackling a very difficult subject entitled "Lawsuits" (continued on page 6)

Consistency IS The Ball Game

This is my 6th year as Board 25's Interpreter. I've gone to IAABO's National Fall Interpreters Conference most of those years, even having the opportunity to present during the Vermont conference in 2014. During these trips, I've had the pleasure of meeting and networking with Interpreters from all over the country, some that have been doing this job for decades.

Without a doubt, the most challenging part of the job for an Interpreter is developing consistency across all board members. Coaches expect it, players and fans want it, most officials work at it. The Encarta Dictionary defines "consistency" as the ability to maintain a particular standard or repeat a particular task with minimal variation. Officials need to view consistency not only as making the same rulings on both ends of the court during a given game, but also from game to game and from crew to crew.

Coaches and players need this. Without it, how are they supposed to play the game? It's hard enough to adjust from opponent to opponent, let alone having to adjust from one official to another official. "What rules (or whose) are we playing today? Bill's rules? Kathy's rules?" This is why consistency from the officials is so important.

As an Interpreter, the number one tool that we have to help us develop consistency is the rulebook. The basketball rulebook

has been around since the first game was played involving peach baskets. It has been expanded and changed since then by the NFHS' Basketball Rules Committee of dedicated and knowledgeable people, some of whom I have met. They don't just make changes on the fly. Each change to the rules is discussed, debated and dissected for months or even years. It is a huge responsibility that they do not take lightly.

The resulting product is a set of well-thought out rules that each official must be dedicated to uphold. The correct answer to my question above of whose rules are we playing is: "The NFHS rules." They are black and white, with no areas of gray, and all officials need to interpret them the same way. One rule, one interpretation. This is the starting point of developing the consistency that the teams need.

When I listen to the ACA2's, the fans, I hear phrases like, "What impact on the game did coach so-an-so's actions have at that point of time?" To an Interpreter, rationalizations like this introduce gray area into the rules, and destroy any chances of consistency between officials. Officials should not be deciding what rules need enforcing or when during the game we should or should not be enforcing them. How are teams supposed to play the game in this kind of environment? (continued on page 3)

The Tip Off

Director's Report - Page 1
Consistency - Page 1
Director's Court - Page 2
Games Be Played - Page 2
Fox 40 - Page 4
Post Game Interview - Page 5
Three Tony's - Page 7
President's Report - Page 7
Amendment Changes - Page 8
Rules Questions - Page 8
Spring Forms - Page 9
Spring Meeting Schedule - Page 9
Fall Seminar - Page 9
Honig's - Page 10
Registration Form - Page 11
Out-of-Bounds - Page 12
Tom Bowe - Page 13
Question Answers - Page 13
Unified Basketball - Page 14
State Tournament - Page 15
Guardians of Fair Play - Page 15
IAABO Lines - Page 16

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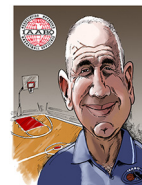
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STATEMENT

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

Director's Court

IAABO Schools - As the 2015-16 basketball season comes to a close, it is time for all officials with one to six years of experience to take a step back and evaluate how you are doing. Do you feel comfortable every time you walk on the court? Are you confident that you have a good knowledge of the rules? Do you know where to go (switch) when my partner rules a foul? Do you feel confident with what to say when asked a question by the coach?



If your answer is "no" to any of these questions, then it is time for you to consider attending one of the IAABO Schools being offered this spring and summer. The schools are fun and include classroom and on-the-court training. Some of the best IAABO officials and trainers are there to assist you in improving your skills. One of the other great benefits of attending IAABO School is meeting your brother and sister officials from other areas and states, and finding out that they all speak the same basketball language. Socializing over food and beverages also provides the opportunity to share experiences and talk basketball with your fellow officials.

Comments from past attendees are very positive, and many have returned two or more times to continue working on their skills. Each camper is filmed and receives comments from the observer on the video, which can be watched over and over. Video feedback is instantaneous and long-lasting.

There are four venues to choose from. They include: Boston, Susquehanna, Colorado, and Rutgers. Tuition is reasonable; check with your local board to see if they offer a scholarship. Secondly, go to the IAABO website (www.iaabo.org) and you will find an IAABO Foundation scholarship form. These resources are available to you as an IAABO member.

The IAABO staff is looking forward to working with you this spring. Be there!!!!!!

President's Corner



March Madness is upon us. To all of you who have been selected to officiate in local and state tournaments, college conference tournaments, and the NCAA Tournament, "Congratulations!" We must remember that this is a special time for the teams also. From various reports we have received this season, tempers and incidents of poor sportsmanship have been reported all season. It is important that we use our "Mental Mechanics" to prepare for these final games of the season. All officials should also review how we handled tough situations that have occurred in our games this season and ask ourselves if we could have handled them differently.

J. Dallas Shirley was a strong proponent of the old saying, "Everyone may lose their cool, but not the official." This is as true today as it was then. Dallas also believed that courtesy was contagious and to use words like "thank you" and "please" will pay dividends. If courtesy and reasonable conversation did not resolve a problem, penalize a coach or player and assess a technical foul and do so with dignity. Regardless of the circumstance of past games, each game is a new one, and all thoughts of the past must be dismissed.

Also remember that you can be courteous with coaches and still be misunderstood. For example, if you warn a coach by saying, "Coach please refrain from any further unsportsmanlike comments, but if you persist with any further discussion in this tone you have been warned. Thank you." A better way to communicate might be to say, "Coach please refrain from further comments; you have been warned. Thank you." Remember the three letter word "but" does not resolve conflict even if delivered in a courteous manner.

Please also remember that there is still time to pledge for "Officials vs. Cancer." The deadline for pledges is March 1, 2016. Any pledges received after March 1 may be applied to next year's campaign.

Also remember that the Special Olympic Tournaments will be held in March and April. Please volunteer for a great cause.

Thank you to all of the Committee Chairs, Assistant Chairs, and committee members for being active on your respective committees. We will see the efforts of their hard work at the Spring Meeting. Also, special thanks to Tom Lopes, Donnie Eppley, and Peter Webb for making this year so special. Congratulations and good luck to our 78th President Dave Smith.

Wow, it is hard to believe this year is over. All the Past Presidents I have confided in say the same thing -- the year will past quickly. So true. I want to thank all of the members, and friends that have supported me for over 40 years. Being a part of such a great organization has been an honor, and we should collectively take pride in the success of IAABO.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Spring Meeting in Orlando April 20-24, 2016.

Let the Games be Played

It seems each and every year, the comments and actions in the stands are becoming more and more visible in the gyms of the Capital District and, for that matter, the entire basketball world. In many cases, due to sportsmanship rules, student sections have become pretty tame. At some schools, the attention has diverted from the boo birds, the clowning around and the innocent heckles of years past (that were all in harmless fun but were prevalent at games around the community led by students cheering on their classmates) to parents and adult members of the community who travel to away games and attend home games of the school of their choice, and mercilessly berate the officials and insert their opinion and armchair quarterback tendencies into the equation.

In our area, the Capital District is home to a proud group of officials underneath the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, or IAABO, within board 36 in the greater Capital District and Board 114 representing the Mid-Hudson region (primarily Patroon and CHVL). Like any microcosm of society, we have some incredible officials within this group and some that may not be up to that level, and when you watch a game, there can be some disparity. No one is discounting that. However, the thing is, this is **Youth Basketball**. That's right. These are human beings coming to work to control a game between children and I can honestly tell you that I have rarely, if ever, seen an official not act in the best interests of the children. After all, that is who the official is there to keep safe and playing the sport they love, the children who play the game.

This is not about you, the adult. This is not about coaches walking and squawking around the court making comments on every decision the officials make. This isn't about the parents sitting around and squawking about every call they make. It is getting to be a tired routine. This week around town, I have heard stories of parents barking at officials, throwing water bottles at officials and in a video that has become viral, a coach apparently headbutt an official.

In a society where we spend so much time taking selfies, checking in to places we are attending, copying and pasting musical lyrics and citing poetry from long ago, we wax philosophically about all this knowledge we have gained and this perspective that we have accrued. We have become an 'I' society living in a 'me' world. We then reaffirm our position by the number of people who like our statuses and pics, share our links and comment on our wisdom with some of their own. This begins dialogues. We call these people our friends because we have connected our digital "footprints". Insert this new world we have created, where we have been given a voice to share what we feel when we feel with little controls and place it into a gymnasium where we are sitting in a fishbowl and all of a sudden, we begin to use our new voice to outwardly comment and critique on every single movement each official makes. Each decision a coach makes. And.....sadly.....quite often we even criticize the actions of kids on the court.

These are kids! Coaches are certified. Referees are schooled. Together, we need to understand that this isn't about us, the adults. We have got to let the games be played because, after all, that is what we are there for in the first place.

Instead we are hearing mocking in the stands, kids in student sections are heckling the officials and I worry that if this kind of behavior continues in the gyms of the country, we will not be able to get our best people to officiate anymore. I would much rather go back to the time when the referees came into a gym, were allowed to do their jobs, smiled and interacted with the kids and coaches, had a chance to use their position to educate the kids on the proper interpretation of the rules, so that kids could understand what could be done and not done within the confines of the rules. Now, we just see these men and women in stripes walk into gyms, spend 75-90 minutes getting absolutely verbally abused and then they leave. Sign your name on a form. Thanks for coming.

Thanks for nothing.

If I was a young person who loved the game, instead of a middle aged never-was like I am and like many people out there are, I do not know

if I would want to go into coaching and hear the comments from around the community looking and scrutinizing my every move and I certainly do not know if I would want to become an official. These guys have absolutely no recourse. Sure they can give you a technical foul if you are a coach and if you cross the line, they can toss you out, but if you are a fan, you can hide within a sea of voices and make comments and together these parent sections become mob scenes as the insults and the barbs shoot off like fireworks when someone disagrees with some call that is made or isn't made, like these people have any advanced knowledge of the rules like the professionals who train in the art of the game.

I am not saying that I have supported or liked every official who has walked in the gym, and I would be the first person to put down right off the top of my head a list of non-preferred officials on a sheet of paper, but that said, imagine if the tables were turned? What if a referee could comment on every stupid coaching decision we make throughout the course of a game? That was a bone-headed timeout.....Wow you really should have used #34, he is killing them on the boards.....That set play you called just gave the ball to the worst shooter on your team. She missed it. Nice job.....Hey you missed that defensive call last possession. Should've gone 2-3 zone. They don't have a shooter on their team. Duh.....

No, the referees can't do that. They are forced to take the criticism night in and night out. They can't turn to the stands and say, man you really should've fed your kid some pasta last night he looks lethargic..... perhaps your kid needs glasses, he can't even catch a ball.....look at your daughter's elbow, haven't you spent any time in the driveway teaching her proper form???? Nice parenting!

Let the referees officiate and for God's sake put yourselves in their shoes. They are just there to do a job. As I began with it is **Youth Basketball**, it is not that serious. Get over yourselves. Let's get back to the game for the joy of the game. That is what it is all about. Watching kids have fun doing something at this very special and critical time of their lives, simply because they want to play for the simple pleasure of enjoying something so much that they spend half a year, or longer, preparing for it.

That, to me, is what it is all about.

This article was authored by Eric Medved and reprinted with permission from **Timesunion**, Albany, NY.

Consistency continued from page 1

Why does it matter if players wear different color headbands? This rule seems like it might have little impact on the outcome of a game. Do players shoot better wearing a green headband versus a white one? Well it matters because the NFHS rulebook defines what players can and cannot wear. Like I said earlier, the NFHS rules committee is made up of dedicated and knowledgeable people. I'm sure that they have their reasons, which were thoroughly discussed and debated. As officials, our job is to accept their reasoning and enforce the rules as written. It's not Mark's game, it's the NFHS' game, and this is the game that we were hired to officiate.

If officials don't buy into that philosophy, then the chances of developing the consistency that schools, coaches, players and fans want will never happen. We'll have hundreds of rulebooks with hundreds of different games being played with no consistency from one game to the next. Even during a given game, the rules might change. "Oh, we don't call that type of foul or violation in the last two minutes." How are the teams supposed to play the game in this kind of environment?

The answer to that question is "poorly" and for once, it will be the officials' fault.



Mark Chylinski is the Interpreter for Board 25, Massachusetts and presented at the 2014 IAABO Fall Seminar.

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The Post Game: A Sportorials Roundup Interview

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

This issue we feature Henry (Hank) Lam, a 42-year Member of IAABO Board #37. He has served as the Board's Awards Committee Chairperson and as an At-Large Member of the Executive Committee. He is still actively engaged at the age of 72 as a varsity high school official and enjoys working the famed West 4th Street tournament every summer. Hank taught in the New York City Public School system for 35 years and coached a high school varsity track team for 30 of those years.)



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

Lam: I played junior college basketball at Staten Island Community College from 1963-1965, then at Pace College from 1965-1967, making all-conference at Pace. We played in the Knickerbocker League, which included ten teams, and I always loved basketball and wanted to stay involved in it.

After graduating, I took a junior varsity track coaching position at Canarsie High School for one season and then took over as the head coach at the school. I juggled officiating with the teaching and coaching, officiating night games in Staten Island and New York City on selected days and usually on Fridays when I gave my runners a day off due to track meets on the weekends. When I figured out that basketball coaching was not for me earlier on, that's when I took the IAABO test in 1973, passed it, and began officiating CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) and city summer league games. I got good ratings and moved up to PSAL junior varsity and varsity and received higher quality games.

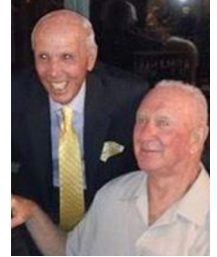
In 2000, I gave up coaching track at Canarsie High School, and went to full-time officiating. I continued to officiate tournaments, private school leagues and summer leagues.

Sportorials: Describe your biggest game. What happened?

Lam: It was during the 1985 New York State High School Championship in Glens Falls, where I had the Mount Vernon-Binghamton semi-final game. Both teams came in either undefeated or with only one loss, to the best of my recollection. It was the biggest game I ever had. There were 10,000 fans in the arena. "King" Rice was on Binghamton, and he went on to play for the University of North Carolina. The game went well and Binghamton won, but they lost in the finals.

Sportorials: What are your top officiating goals?

Lam: Coaching track was my love, along with basketball, and though I had opportunities to officiate college basketball, I didn't want to give up track. I wore two hats, and loved both sports. I've been happy with my level of high school games. One highlight was officiating the 2000 New York City Public School Championship in Madison Square Garden between Abraham Lincoln HS and John F. Kennedy HS. It was another wonderful experience. The game was televised, with about 14,000 fans in attendance. Having a game seen by so many fans, players, coaches, and referees keeps you on your toes and heightens your focus on the game.



Now I enjoy my current schedule. I'm not getting the top games or going deep into the playoffs, but my schedule is challenging and fun.

Sportorials: Who is your hero?

Lam: Dick Bavetta. He's a Brooklyn guy, and was on our board when I joined IAABO. We worked some early games together and he was very forthcoming with advice.

Nick Gaetani, who recently passed away, is another officiating hero of mine. He was a long-term high school/college official and went on to observe for the Northeast Conference and NBA. He was a long-time personal friend and assignor for the NYC public schools. He was good at combining new officials with experienced ones. He knew how to match up his personnel to the quality of the game.

Sportorials: Who's on your dream officiating crew?

Lam: Bavetta and Zack Zarba, a current top-notch young NBA official. Dick, as I said before, reffed with me when I started out. He's a great communicator and a great person, and knows how to diffuse situations. He made the game fun.

I like everything about Zack. If you saw him and didn't know he was an official, you'd think he was a GQ model. He's a great young man with excellent "people" skills, who's also a great communicator. If he's on a game and you see a coach or player "lose it," you'll notice he's always receptive when listening to their concerns. He's just a great listener, and establishes a dialogue with the players and coaches. That's what Bavetta had – the gift of handling game enforcement in a professional/respectful manner, and the coaches would still smile at him afterwards.

Sportorials: What's your toughest call?

Lam: The block-charge is arguably one of the toughest calls. You must see whether the defense is in position before the offensive player goes airborne. You have to look at whether the defender is facing the offensive player, in legal guarding position, with both feet on the ground.



Given how athletic the players are today, deflections out-of-bounds are a particularly tough call when two or three players are near the ball.

Unfortunately, high school officials don't have the luxury to go to the monitor to get another look at a tough play. They are more prone to be second-guessed by the viewer. So they have to live with the call. College and pro referees have more accessibility to view video monitors and overturn calls in certain situations.

Executive Director's Report (continued from page 1)

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 taught us the value of effective communications. He gave insights on the right words to use while under pressure in game situations, as well as real life situations. We learned substitute words for “but.” He also received an excellent rating from the audience.

Michelle Futrell gave us very 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. It was a well-received presentation.

The final session on Friday included a panel of coaches from the Denver area; questions came 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.

Attendees went back to basketball sessions on Saturday, and sat in on 20-25 minute breakouts by top IAABO presenters on pertinent topics for Interpreters to share at the local level. Peter Webb coordinated the speakers and their topics. Evaluations of the program by those in attendance confirmed that the presentations were very useful and would be utilized at the local level.

DVD’s addressing specific plays were also distributed, and comments from various interpreters stated that these were most helpful when they presented a topic, reviewed it, then played the DVD to illustrate plays on the topic, which promoted discussion among the group. Again like last year, each Interpreter received a flash drive that included the power points from each of the presenters at the Fall Seminar. All of these materials were given to every board at no charge, thus fulfilling our objective to be the leader in providing educational materials and instruction to all our members.

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

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

“Play of the Week” has been very popular with our members as we have around 7,000 hits weekly, creating discussion and testing the knowledge as officials view the plays.

IAABO has joined the world of social media. To follow us, go to the IAABO website and click on Facebook and Twitter to see the latest comments, anecdotes and advice on officiating. It is becoming more popular each day as we are receiving about 1,000 hits a day. “Like” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @IAABO.

IAABO created a separate handbook for Canada that contained FIBA rules and interpretations, including a handbook dedication to a prominent IAABO member in Canada.

Communication to our boards and members continues to be a focal point for the IAABO staff, and we are happy to report that all communications have received responses within the promised 48 hours; however most are returned within 24 hours. Feedback from the membership on this issue has been very positive. The new data

base system is up and running and provides the data records for each board, and we would like to thank the Board Secretaries for their cooperation with their recordkeeping accuracy. The data base is managed most effectively by Donnie Eppley. Many local issues are brought to our attention and direction is given with most issues resolved.

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

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

The membership numbers for the past six years are up over 16,000. (07-08—14,634), (08-09—15,311), (09-10—16,086), (10-11—16,195), (11-12—16,254), (12-13—16,674), (13-14—16,769), (14-15—16,784), (15-16—16,831).

It was another banner year for the IAABO schools as most of the schools were filled to capacity. The IAABO school in Pueblo, Colorado will be conducted again this June, after a year layoff. Schools were also conducted at Rutgers University, Babson College near Boston, and Susquehanna University. There may be other changes as we investigate alternate sites. The schedules are set for this summer and can be found on the IAABO website.

Corporate sponsors have continued to support our Association and help offset the costs of our hospitality when IAABO hosts one of the meetings. These sponsors include Honig’s Whistle Stop, which continues to be the official supplier for IAABO officiating apparel. A new three-year contract with Honig’s was approved at the last spring meeting. Fox 40 also supports the Life Membership Awards as well as other IAABO activities, especially the “Referees for Cancer” program. A three-year partnership has been ended with Premier Wear; this was a mutual decision between IAABO and Premier. IAABO is investigating establishing our own store for IAABO wear. These partnerships have become income sources that will help us keep dues at the current level.

IAABO handbooks were ready and distributed on September 1. IAABO boards were able to distribute them for use in their cadet classes, and according to the survey responses, more boards will utilize them knowing that they will again be available by September 1 each year. Many of our boards have ordered the books for their cadet classes and pay the \$18. When the cadet passes, he or she sends in the remaining \$17 for a total of \$35 making them members their initial year.

Peter Webb, the Coordinator of Interpreters, conducted four conference calls, as well as two conference calls for FIBA in Canada, each lasting about an hour, with the agenda made up of

Report

recommendations submitted by local interpreters. Power points and film clips were utilized as teaching tools on these conference calls. The participation in the calls was excellent as were the question and answer periods that followed Peter's presentation. We will continue to reach out to the local interpreters to participate as part of IAABO's goal of "one rule, one interpretation." Along with the conference calls, Peter responds to individual questions from members and interpreters on a daily basis; some of the questions he receives are quite extensive and interesting.

A partnership continues with NASO; this agreement will again take place at the Summit to be held in San Antonio, TX this July, where IAABO will make a presentation at the Texas Officials Day, and will also conduct the basketball breakout session during the conference.

"Officials vs. Cancer," an IAABO project for the last few years, has done the near impossible, raising more money for cancer research than in the previous year. This year's total was a remarkable, \$185,000.

The use of "Survey Monkey" was employed as a tool for input from board secretaries regarding services provided by the IAABO office to the individual boards. This will help us deliver information and guidance as needed.

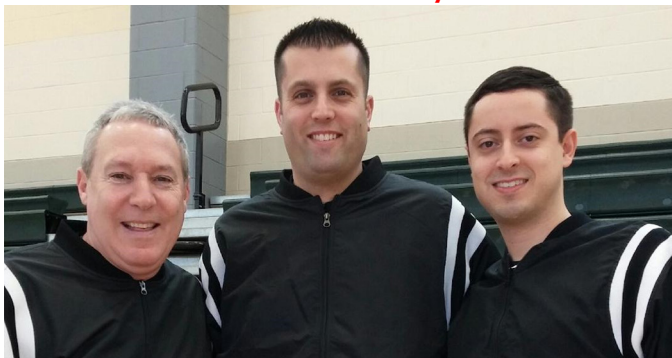
A big thank you to the leadership of President Tom Reese and to the Executive Committee for their cooperation and their timely responses for approvals, communication and suggestions on the running of our organization. These people work hard behind the scenes to insure that the entire operation runs smoothly.

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

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

Reggie Greenwood, Board 12 (DC), **Jeff Jewett**, Board 20 (ME),
Jon Lowe, Board 93 (MA), **Dennis Murphy**, Board 117 (NH),
Tom Reese, Board 23 (MD).

Three Tony's



Antonio Spinelli, Tony Cekovsky both of Board 6, CT and Anthony Dulude Board 31, MA prepare to officiate Mass Bay CC @ Holyoke CC.

President's Report

As I reflect upon IAABO this year, I'd like to say it's been an honor to serve as the 77th President of IAABO. I am grateful to all of the past Presidents and Executive members who have worked and devoted personal resources to lead and execute the IAABO vision. You make us the strong and successful organization we are today.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead and for your patience as I grew in my position. This has been a year I will never forget.

A number of people deserve special thanks and recognition for their work and dedication:

Thanks to Tom Lopes, Donnie Eppley, and Peter Webb for an outstanding job keeping our organization performing at such a high standard, and improving IAABO and our brand through our message: "One Rule One Interpretation."

Thanks to the Executive Committee for their support of their regions, and supporting our initiatives this year. In particular, I would like to thank the Ad Hoc Committee that has formulated a plan to restructure the Executive Committee Regions. Joe Gintoli (Chair) and committee members, Don Thorne, Sal Capitumino, Dennis Murphy, and Paul Spinelli have been working on this plan since last May and will submit a plan with Executive approval to the Constitution Committee at the Spring Meeting.

Thanks to all of the Standing Committee Chairs, Assistant Chairs, and members for being active with your respective committees. Standing Committee work is time consuming and we appreciate your attention to detail and the volunteering of your talents.

Thank you for support to our charitable causes, "Officials vs. Cancer" and Special Olympics. Your continual increase in monetary support of "Officials vs. Cancer" and for volunteering for Special Olympics tournaments in each state are amazing tributes to IAABO.

As President, you get to experience a different perspective on the day-to-day operation of IAABO. Our Local Board Secretaries are the unsung heroes of our organization. Thank you for a never-ending job well done!

Congratulations to incoming President Dave Smith and Vice President Joe Gintoli, and thanks also to Past President Dennis Herbert. It has been a pleasure serving as an officer with each of you.

Our IAABO Official's School has been a success for over thirty-five years, and is a tremendous resource for training members of our organization. Please continue to support our school to help improve our members and recruit future IAABO members.

Serving as President of IAABO for the past year has been a privilege, and a challenge made easier by all you, my friends, and our members. For this, I am deeply grateful.

I thank the Lord who gave me the ability to carry out my leadership duties; I thank all others who have shown me the way to accomplish our goals. Especially, I am grateful to my wife Roxanne and my daughter Megan for their love, endurance, tolerance and support during these long and very demanding years.



Tom Reese and wife, Roxanne

Notice of Proposed Amendments to IAABO Constitution

The proposed amendments below to the IAABO Constitution have been approved by the Constitution Committee and Executive Committee. Pursuant to Article XI of the Constitution, these amendments will be presented to the International Assembly for adoption at the spring meeting in Orlando, Florida, on Sunday, April 24, 2016.

Art. III – Membership

Sec. 2 – Classes of Members

c. Dual (D)

Presently reads:

Active and provisional members in good standing with their Parent Board may apply for Dual membership to (an)other Board(s), which may grant him membership as a Dual member; such Dual member shall have all the privileges of the Board(s) to which he or she has been granted dual status, except that each Board shall determine for itself if Dual members may vote or hold office.

Proposed amendment:

Active members in good standing with their Parent Board may apply for Dual membership to (an)other Board(s), which may grant membership as a Dual member; such Dual member shall have all the privileges of the Board(s) to which he or she has been granted dual status, except that each Board shall determine for itself if Dual members may vote or hold office.

Rationale:

Delete ‘and provisional’ in the first sentence. This phrase was inadvertently omitted with the deletion of the provisional membership category. This will make the section consistent with the membership provisions of Article III. Delete reference to ‘him’ to be gender neutral. Remainder of section unchanged.

Art. III - Membership

Sec. 4 – Admission to Membership

d. Registration

Presently reads:

Every applicant who passes the IAABO Written Examination, the IAABO Floor Examination, any applicable oral examinations or evaluation criteria, complies with all meeting and attendance requirements and pays the appropriate dues, must be registered with the Association office on or before the ensuing fifteenth day of April as an Active/Officiating (AO) member. Area boards shall collect the international registration fee and remit the international registration fee and register members with the Association office.

Proposed amendment:

Every applicant who passes the IAABO Written Examination, the IAABO Floor Examination, any applicable oral examinations or evaluation criteria, complies with all meeting and attendance requirements and pays the appropriate dues, must be registered with the Association office on or before the ensuing fifteenth day of May as an Active/Officiating (AO) member. Area boards shall collect the international registration fee and remit the international registration fee and register members with the Association office.

Rationale:

To give boards sufficient time to register members and remit registration fees to the Association office prior to incurring a penalty for failure to timely register members and remit registration fees.

Art. V – Fees and Dues and Assessments

Sec. 5. – Official Board Lists

Presently reads:

Each Board secretary shall send complete membership lists, addresses, and classifications of the Board’s members to the Executive Director of the Association by April 15 of each year. Each name submitted after April 15 shall be subject to a late registration fee in the amount of \$10.00 per member.

Proposed amendment:

Each Board secretary shall send complete membership lists, addresses, and classifications of the Board’s members to the Executive Director of the Association by May 15 of each year. Each name submitted after May 15 shall be subject to a late registration fee as established by the

Executive Committee.

Rationale:

To delete the reference to a specific dollar amount and make this Section consistent with Secs. 2 and 6 of this Article with regard to the fee being established by the Executive Committee. This gives boards sufficient time to register members and remit registration fees to the Association office prior to incurring a penalty for failure to timely register members and remit registration fees.

Art. IX – Executive Committee

Sec. 2 – Qualifications

Presently reads:

Exclusive of the Officers, not more than one of the twelve members elected to the Executive Committee shall represent any one geographical region. In the event of an Executive Committee member relocating into a geographical region having an Executive Committee member, the relocating member shall be replaced (by election) at the next meeting of the General Assembly. Any member of the Executive Committee not in attendance at two consecutive meetings without cause shall forfeit his membership, and a successor shall be selected to fill his vacancy.

Proposed amendment:

Exclusive of the Officers, not more than one of the twelve members elected to the Executive Committee shall represent any one geographical region. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill a vacancy thereon until the first annual meeting following such appointment.

Rationale:

It is established law that a person who is elected to the executive committee does not represent a particular geographic area or segment of the membership. He/she is elected to act in the best interests of the organization as a whole.

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



Rules Questions for the IAABO Interpreter

1. Is the team control signal part of signaling a player control foul?
2. Is the team control foul signal to be presented as a “punch”?
3. Must the “designated spot” signal preface every designated spot throw-in?
4. Must a request for a time-out be immediately followed by the official checking to learn if, during live ball play, the request may be granted prior to granting or not granting the time-out.
5. Is the time-put signal a thrusting of an arm toward the bench of the team who is charged with the time-put?
6. A-1 jumps to attempt a try for goal. B-1 jumps and places a hand on the ball, preventing A-1 from passing or releasing the ball for a try for goal. The official rules a held ball? Is the ruling correct?
7. With 20 seconds remaining in the 4th quarter and the score is Team A 49 and Team B 45. A-1 is dribbling the ball when B-3 rushes up behind A-1 and places both hands on A-1’s hips. Official rules a common foul on B-3. Is the ruling correct?
8. With 47 seconds remaining in the 4th quarter and the score is Team A 61 and Team B 54. A-1 has the ball for a throw-in. B-3 moves toward A-3 and pushes him/her from behind. Official rules an Intentional Foul on B3. Is the ruling correct?
9. Team A’s errant pass is bouncing toward the boundary line. A-3, dashes toward the ball becomes airborne and controls the ball. While still airborne, in an effort to prevent an out-of-bounds violation, A-3 requests a time-out. The official denies the request. Is the ruling correct?
10. Team A has just scored a goal. B-1 picks up the ball and moves out-of-bounds. Team A’s head coach request a time-out? Official grants the time-out? Is the ruling correct?

Answers can be found on page 13

2016 Spring Meeting Forms

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

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

Name of Registrant(s) _____

Board No. _____

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

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

Name: _____

Board Number: _____

Number of Guests: _____

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

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

Golf Registration

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

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

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

Name: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

List Members of Foursome:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

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

2016 Annual Spring Meeting Schedule Orlando, FL

Thursday, April 21, 2016

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

Friday, April 22, 2016

8:15 a.m. Welcome

8:30 a.m. Audit and Budget Committee

9:15 a.m. Rules and Examination Committee

10:00 a.m. Constitution Committee

11:00 a.m. Nomination Committee

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

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

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

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

4:00 p.m. IAABO Foundation Meeting

Saturday, April 23, 2016

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

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

9:00 a.m. Membership Committee

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

10:30 a.m. Life Membership Committee

12:15 p.m. Life Membership Luncheon

Sunday, April 24, 2016

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

Mark Your Calendars Fall Seminar 2016



September 21-25, 2016

NEW FOR 2016

IAABO SUBLIMATED SHIRTS



SALE
\$31.95
REG \$39.95

NO FLAG AS SHOWN - B116I



FLAG ON BACK - B116IB



FLAG ON LEFT SLEEVE - B116ISL



FLAG ON RIGHT SLEEVE - B116ISR

Honig's

The right call... for over 30 years

LIMITED SIZES AND QUANTITIES AVAILABLE

37th Year of IAABO Officials' Schools



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



APPLICATION — IAABO BASKETBALL OFFICIALS' SCHOOL — 2016

Please register me for the session circled. Enclosed is my nonrefundable payment.

Name _____

Circle the session that you are attending

Home Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone:(Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email address _____

IAABO Board No. _____ Years Experience _____

Signature _____

T-Shirt Size (circle) _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____

Mail to: IAABO, P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013-0355, 717-713-8129

May 20 – May 22, 2016
Medford High School, Boston, MA
 Tuition is \$275 for the school

June 10 - 12, 2016
Colorado State University-Pueblo, Pueblo, CO
 Tuition is \$200 for the school

June 24 – 26, 2016
Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ
 Tuition is \$300 for the school

July 15 – 17, 2016
Susquehanna University, Selingsgrove, PA
 Tuition is \$300 for the school

The Out-of-Bounds Call

Sometime over the course of a season, officials may find themselves discussing tough calls -- in a clinic setting, or during the question and answer time allotted following a formal presentation. The discussion may occur during a post-game with your partners and perhaps even a game observer in the locker room. On occasion, however, the discussion will occur in a more casual setting, perhaps while enjoying an adult beverage with your partner(s) and other officials, following a game. So, what is the toughest call?

When asked, many officials will quickly reply **Block/Charge** and there is significant evidence to support this. Other tough calls often mentioned include **Goaltending** and **Basket Interference**, and here again, there is evidence to support these positions. But it's not very often that the opinion offered up will be the **Out-of-Bounds** call. Yet I believe this is one of the toughest calls that we regularly make and it is one that when called incorrectly can lead to an otherwise well officiated game going off the rails and causing embarrassment for the game officials.

As points of reference, I offer the following. A few years ago I attended a clinic and when asked about the toughest call, Hugh Evans of NBA fame, without hesitation said **Out-of-Bounds**. In 2011, at our provincial clinic held in Edmonton, Benny Adams and Violet Palmer, also two well known NBA officials, explained that the **Out-of-Bounds** calls had only a 93 percent success rate and that was the benchmark officials were measured against.

Putting this in perspective, if you make 10 **Out-of-Bounds** calls in a game and get one call incorrect, you are below the benchmark grade. For clarity, I'm not saying that the **Out-of-Bounds** call is the toughest; what I am saying is that the **Out-of-Bounds** call is a definite candidate for one of the toughest. Consequently, officials need to give this commonly made call a bit more respect. And quite often, it may not be the call itself that creates the problems, but rather the often questionable and poor mechanics used by the officials to make the call, and the ensuing procedures adopted for putting the ball back into play. So let's begin.

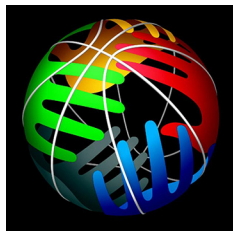
Since Post Play Express reaches all CABO officials, from those at the grassroots level to our well known seasoned officials, I'll focus my comments and situations on games officiated with a two-person crew. Officials working three-person games should be able to make the appropriate adjustments. One last point -- rather than using "his/her" and "he/she" in this text, I'll stay with "his" and "he" for the convenience of readers.

The Perfect World - No Problem

The first situation we'll look at is where the ball goes Out-Of-Bounds on the end line in the front court. The official responsible for the end line is the **Lead**, who correctly sounds his whistle while simultaneously giving the Stop Clock signal. After a very brief pause, the **Lead**, with an assertive voice, will indicate the **Color** of the team who will be awarded the ensuing Throw-In and simultaneously give the signal for the direction of play for the ensuing Throw-In. No problem, this call is made many times over the course of a game regardless of the level of play.

Soliciting Help From a Partner

In this situation, the ball again goes Out-Of-Bounds on the end line in the front court, and the **Lead** sounds his whistle while simultaneously giving the appropriate Stop Clock signal. However, the **Lead** is uncertain as to who last touched the ball and needs some help. No **Color** has been given by the official nor has a direction of play signal. The **Lead** turns to his partner, the **Trail**, for assistance - he solicits help from his partner. By soliciting help from his partner, the **Lead** is effectively turning the call over to the **Trail** to be completed.



FIBA

We Are Basketball

The **Trail** accepts the request in one of two ways.

1. With absolute certainty and using a strong, firm voice, he will call out the **Color** of the team who will be awarded the ball for the ensuing Throw In and will simultaneously give a strong direction of play signal. In most situations, no whistle is required as the **Trail** is completing the call initiated by the **Lead**.

However, depending on the circumstances, such as in a closely contested game near the end of a period or in a very noisy venue, a firm and authoritative whistle is a great asset in getting the attention of all involved, prior to communicating how play will be resumed. Good communication is very often the key attribute of a well officiated game, but that's perhaps the topic of another article.

2. If the **Trail** is uncertain as to who last touched the ball before it went Out-Of-Bounds, he will give the HELD BALL signal and play will be resumed with an Alternate Possession Throw-In. Remember, the **Lead** has effectively turned the call over to the **Trail** to be completed, so the responsibility to complete the call becomes that of the **Trail**. As above, no whistle is necessary as the **Trail** is completing a call initiated by the **Lead**. However, the use of the whistle as a communications aid before completing the call is acceptable. Completing the call means verbalizing the **Color** of the team who will be awarded the Throw-In while simultaneously giving the direction of play signal.

Offering Assistance to a Partner

Let's now go back to the perfect world scenario. The **Trail** is absolutely certain that his partner, the **Lead**, has made an incorrect Out-of-Bounds call. He sounds his whistle, which lets his partner know he has something to offer. The **Lead** must accept this offer and the two officials should come together and meet for a very brief (a few seconds maximum) conference. This is still the **Lead**'s call and in the vast majority of situations he will accept the assistance offered by his partner. Following the very brief conference, the **Lead** will sound his whistle and change his call, indicating with a strong voice the **Color** of the team to be awarded the ensuing Throw-In and signaling the direction of play. A whistle is needed here, as the final decision for the call has been reversed by the **Lead** as opposed to simply being completed by the **Trail**. The important point to remember here is this - you are offering assistance to a partner (the **Lead**) who has made a call. It's still the **Lead**'s call and therefore the responsibility remains with the **Lead** to complete the call.

So, what can go wrong? In the interest of simplicity, I've focused on the most common Out-Of-Bounds problem area which is on the end line in the front court. However, the same principles should be adopted for side line calls and in situations where the ball travels a significant distance across the floor and goes Out-Of-Bounds in a partner's Primary. Be prepared to offer assistance.

1. When verbalizing an Out-Of-Bounds call, give only the **Color**. Avoid comments such as "Off Blue" or "Hit the Knee." These comments are unnecessary and can lead to confusion, as some players or coaches may only hear the words "Blue" or "Knee" and incorrectly infer who will get the ball or assume that a foul has been called. Keep it simple and don't give the players, coaches, benches and fans an opportunity to be confused or uncertain as to how play will be resumed.

2. Do not make an Out-Of-Bounds call in your partner's Primary. This can result in the Out-Of-Bounds equivalent of a "Block - Charge" play where the **Lead** is pointing in one direction and the **Trail** is pointing in the opposite direction. Both officials will look anything but professional should this occur. Unlike other tough calls, Out-Of-Bounds calls are the primary of only one floor official. If your partner wants your help, he will ask for it. Agree in (continued next page)

The Out-of-Bounds Call

your pre-game conference who will take the call that goes Out-Of-Bounds in a corner.

3. When offering assistance to a partner when solicited, be firm and decisive. You either know or you don't know. An unnecessary delay here makes you and your partner look bad.

4. For ensuing Throw-Ins, make sure the ball is put back into play at the correct spot on the floor. Should a time-out be called, which is often the case when the ball is being returned to the team last on offence and shot clock time is at a premium, make sure that both teams know where that correct spot is. No surprises when play is to be resumed.

5. Also, for ensuing Throw-Ins, make sure that the shot clock shows the correct time, particularly when the ball is being returned to the team last in control. Ensure that the shot clock has not been inadvertently reset. This often occurs when a missed field goal attempt fails to strike the ring and subsequently goes Out-Of-Bounds off a player who was on defense. This correct shot clock time must be determined before the ball is allowed to be put back into play and may require input from your partner and the table officials.

6. When offering assistance to a partner, be absolutely certain that your assistance will be welcomed and beneficial to the game. The calling official, in all of the above cases, the **Lead**, may have chosen to rule that rebounding contact between opponents was marginal as opposed to calling a foul, and return the ball to the team that was last on offence, even though a player on that team may have been the last to touch it. This is often referred to as a "Give Back." Believe me, the last thing you want to be a part of in a highly competitive game is offering assistance to your partner and learning that his decision to return the ball to the team last on offence was a Give Back. I'm now wondering if the editors will allow this statement to be included in this article. But, a part of the FIBA philosophy is Happy Outcomes and on second thought, I believe this comment will pass the test.

7. Also, when offering assistance, only do so as a result of your own personal observations. Do not let the players, the team bench areas or the crowd influence you. This often occurs in a Give Back situation where the last player to have touched the ball appears obvious and it is the only factor being considered by the players, the team bench areas or the crowd. Ever heard of the phrase "Trust Your Partner?"

8. On occasion, the official responsible for making an Out-Of-Bounds call may have a touch of doubt as to who last touched the ball. This is another advantage of having a slight pause following the sounding of the whistle and giving the Stop Clock signal. If players remain in the front court without hesitation, they expect a front court Throw In. If they retreat to the opposite end, they are expecting a back court Throw-In. Their actions or body language are assisting you in completing your call. You then have the opportunity to complete your call with a strong direction of play signal while simultaneously giving the **Color** of the team to be awarded the ensuing Throw In.

9. Last, as noted above, the Out-Of-Bounds call mechanics for many officials can be significantly improved with something as simple as a patient whistle and a slight pause before giving the **Color** and signaling the direction of play. Try it -- it works. Hopefully, you will find the above comments beneficial in improving upon one of the most common calls in the game, the Out-Of-Bounds call. And maybe, you will find your games running more smoothly and with less controversy in the future. And just maybe, that city, zone, provincial or national championship assignment you've been yearning for will come your way.

Tom Bowe - IAABO Board 34 South Jersey Basketball Hall of Fame

Tom attended Gloucester Catholic High School and in 1951 enlisted in the US Navy. Following his four-year enlistment he accepted an invitation to referee in order to stay close to the game he loved. In 1959 Tom began a 50-year journey encompassing all levels including high school, independent, college, professional in the old Eastern league and 5 years as a licensed FIBA official.



In the late 60's and 70's, Bowe led a program to integrate the eight IAABO Boards in New Jersey and IAABO State Board #1 was established. Tom was elected the first Executive Director and held that position for thirty years.

As Camden Board 34 Secretary for ten years, he was instrumental in re-structuring the cadet training program and formulating the organization's structure and management plans. After chairing committees for the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO), Bowe was elected its worldwide President in 1989, the first South Jersey official to hold that position. During his year he led the team that developed the organization's Master Plan, which still exists today.

Professionally, his career is just as interesting as his sports contributions as Tom has spent over forty years in the engineering and design of US Navy warships and Australian Navy submarine and surface ships and supporting both the US and Australian Department of Defenses.

Tom's awards are numerous, achieving high school and college officiating accolades in two sports, and include the National Federation of State High Schools (NFSHS) selectee for the 2000 Contributor Award, the recipient of the NJSIAA Award of Honor (2012), Gloucester City Rotarian of the Year, The Courier-Post's Businessman of the Month and two-time recipient of NJSIAA Basketball Official of the Year. Born and raised in Gloucester City, and a longtime resident of Haddonfield, he now resides in Sea Isle City.

Answers to Questions

(From Page 6)

1. No The player control foul, after the official signals to stop the clock (arm raised with closed fist) is signaled by placing a open hand behind his/her head.

2. No Not a "punch" signal. The signal is extending an arm with fist closed. This indicates that an offensive player, without the ball, committee the foul and there will be no free throws.

3. Yes A must, to indicate that a specific rule is in place during the throw-in.

4. Yes A time-out may not be granted until there is assurance that the requesting team has a player who has control of the ball; or an opposing player does not have control of the ball; or the ball is not at the disposal of Team B. Note, if the ball is dead, there is no need to check.

5. No The time-out signal is the arm, with open hand, raised high upward (stop the clock/time-out signal).

6. Yes 4.25.2

7. No 4.19.3c Contact that is not a legitimate attempt to play the ball or player – specifically designed to stop the clock

8. Yes 4.19.3c Contact designed to keep the clock from starting

9. No 5.8.3a Team A has player control of the ball. The request must be granted.

10. No 5.8.3a The request can't be granted as Team B has the ball at its disposal.



Bill Carr resides in Calgary Alberta, is currently the Supervisor for Alberta and is a member of the Provincial, Canada West Conference and National Panels of Evaluators. He is a past Education Officer for the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials (CABO).

Unified Basketball in Maine

Players with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Explore Varsity Status

Consider this: You have a son or daughter with an intellectual and/or developmental disability. You would like him/her to play sports, perhaps even basketball. You explore Special Olympics, and that works out great.

One day, you find your high school in Maine is taking an additional step. They set up a program where kids with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities get to play on a high school varsity team that travels to play other schools. And, as a bonus, your son or daughter gets to participate on the team with higher level athletes in a co-ed atmosphere. WHOA! How cool would that be?

Well, it's a reality. And IAABO is part of it. IAABO officials cover these games in the Maine High School Unified Basketball Season. The 2015-2016 season is the second full schedule for the participating teams. The effort began three years ago, when discussions between the Maine Principals Association (MPA) and Special Olympics Maine (SOME) to partner on the effort took place.

Special Olympics provided invaluable knowledge, as they had supported an independent Unified program for years, and also helped with funding of the new programs. The partnership has worked nicely ever since.

Early steps included unique rules that dovetailed with high school basketball, allowing leeway for lesser skilled players to still strut their stuff. MPA/SOME wanted board officials, which is where IAABO came in.

"Having board-certified officials gives us credibility and shows the kids it's a true game. We also track standing similar to our regular basketball teams," said Mike Burnham, MPA Assistant Executive Director.

Over the years, a great number of IAABO officials have supported Special Olympics. When officiating those games, there is a constant need to let the kids play through certain situations based on their abilities (or - status of their disability). It takes an excellent official to keep that balance, and MPA/SOM recognized the need to bring that quality to "Unified Basketball" games. The rules outlined this more clearly as they were developed.

For example, the team lineup must include 3 Unified Student Athletes on the court at all times. These are the students identified with an intellectual and/or developmental disability. They are typically joined by 2 Unified Student Partners (higher skilled players).

Another portion of the rules mandates that the partners may not score more than 25 percent of its team's point. Doing so results in a forfeit. Both rules result in greater participation for all players, sharing scoring and ensuring athletes get their time on the court and opportunities to score.

Officials Play a Crucial Role

When the first season launched two years ago, there were 17 teams. Each game had to have at least one board official. The second official might be a student athlete. The certified officials pool used for Unified Basketball games was the same as for regular high school games, which is where IAABO came in.

"The officials play a crucial role. Kids must be identified as a Unified 'athlete.' Officials must use discretion during the games based on the students' abilities," Burnham said.

"We found officials across the state embracing the program and many refusing to take pay. It's a positive activity for the Unified athletes having a chance to represent their high schools and getting to travel on the bus for away games," he added.

To assign the games, IAABO established a pool of interested officials, according to Board #21 Interpreter Barry Fuller. "We looked for interested officials, developed a pool, then assigned geographically. It's important that they use their best judgment in these games," Fuller said.

"For the high school partner, if the pivot foot drags, that's traveling. For the Special Olympics athlete, the official must use more judgment. It adds an element to the official's job," Fuller added.

The True Meaning of Sports

"The program brings you back to the true meaning of sports: Getting to participate," Burnham continued.

He has received many accolades on the program, including one that brought tears to his eyes from a parent with a boy who has Down's Syndrome, regarding how good the program was for his son. "It's not about basketball. It's about inclusion in the hallways back at the school. It's about the friendship of two kids – an athlete and a partner – doing things outside of basketball," Burnham said.

Burnham lauded IAABO's Peter Webb for stepping forward in the effort to get Maine basketball officials involved.

"It's great for the kids. One school is going to release their entire student body to watch the Unified team play in their next game. I've seen ladies coming down from the stands crying in joy. One told me, 'I cry every game. My daughter doesn't even know if she's won or lost. It doesn't matter.' Many schools have now created a Unified cheering team, made up of Unified cheerleaders and members of the school's cheering team," Burnham observed.

In the second season (2015-2016), the league almost doubled to 32 teams. Since some schools cannot afford the program, or don't have enough kids for their roster, they are encouraged to join with other schools to create a full roster.

"We knew schools were interested and took a 'wait and see' attitude. It's tough to introduce new programs in the school system. This is one of those programs where you never get a complaint. We don't have many programs like that. Every communication is positive," Burnham explained.

"It's a great feeling for our officials. I get a chill and goose bumps working the games, and it feels so good when I leave the gym," Fuller said.

Ian Frank, Special Olympics Maine, lauded MPA's initiative and the program, "It's an outstanding experience for the athletes, partners, fans, coaches and parents."

For many of the basketball officials, Frank said, "These games are the best part of their career. They'd rather ref a Unified game than a varsity contest. We see the program continuing to grow year after year, and hope to see it expand to other sports."

A coordinated effort between MPA, the officials and Special Olympics makes the program happen, solidifying the SOME program, according to Frank. "The kids are getting an extra chance to represent their schools, and get the benefits of the social aspects of sports. The kids are accepted and respected as students. The Unified program gives them a chance to shine," he observed.

Many of the gyms are full for the games, which can contrast with a regular high school contest. "The fans will give huge uproars. The coaches, who are trained in the Special Olympics area, are so good," Fuller added.

Last year, Burnham heard from one parent of a partner player who was struggling in school. After participating in the Unified program, "now the young man plans to be a special education teacher." Sometimes all it takes is exposure to something new to learn a special skill. Maybe we'll hear of some students wanting to join the officiating ranks next.

Dave Simon has been an IAABO member since 1984 and written for Sportorials for over 25 years. Signed copies of his newest book, "Whistle in a Haystack," with Rick Hartzell, are available by contacting him a davidsimon15@hotmail.com or 817.251.1052



State Tournament Officials and Officiating

IAABO congratulates all members who have been selected to a state tournament officiating staff. It is a significant personal accomplishment and honor!

Each State High School Basketball Tournament has a rich history and tradition. There are very high expectations for those who serve the tournament in the role of an official. The state office, the schools, the athletic administrators, the teams, coaches and players are depending upon you.

Keep in mind that the official's role includes being part of the education process and is responsible for assisting the state association and the member schools in their efforts to have the student-athlete benefit from participating in this very special athletic experience. **Sportsmanship** is a priority.

First-time post-season officials: be prepared and ready for the opportunity. Many things are completely within your control – appearance, being rested, positive attitude, facial and body mannerisms. Respect the entire situation and demonstrate professionalism. Be accountable – review the official's manual and rules book, in advance of receiving an assignment(s). Doing so can enhance your chances of progressing during the tournament and/or being invited back in future years.

Officials who also officiate collegiate basketball – be sure to bring **ONLY** the high school package of rules, mechanics and signals/signaling to the high school tournament. To do otherwise, in addition to being unprofessional and wrong, can potentially have a drastic affect on a high school game.

Suggestions:

- Inform the supervisor and assigner of any potential conflicts of interest and relationships with those involved - such as schools, coaches, players.
- Inform the supervisor should your availability change.
- On the day of an assignment, make that the only game you officiate that day.
- Consider your assignment confidential – don't spread the word.
- Arrive at game site early.
- Be professionally dressed.

Food for Thought Topics

- A thorough pre-game conference is a **must**.
- Personal versions of Rules, Mechanics, signals/signaling are not acceptable
- "Preventative Officiating," "Passing on Situations" and "No-Call Situations" are concepts are not acceptable.
- Guarding – Blocking/Charging and Crash situations **must** have a whistle.
- The "**Beaten**" factor must be understood, as per Blocking or Charging. Until the offensive player has both shoulders and his/her head past the defender's frontal plane, the ruling can't be Blocking. To contact the last one inch of the defender's body is not to be ruled differently than to contact the middle of the defender's body. A defender who obtains legal guarding position, maintains LGP, until beaten (offensive player has head and shoulders past the defender).
- "Boxing-Out" does not include allowing for contact – it should be officiated/ruled just as all other contact situations.
- All contact/physical play must be monitored and ruled according to contact rules.
- An offensive player's contact must be monitored and ruled just as a defensive player's contact is monitored and ruled.
- Loose ball situations and falling on a defender must not result in a "held ball" ruling.
- Free Throw Lane Line, especially spaces 1 and 2, must be monitored closely for violations and illegal contact.

- An arm bar or hand used by the defense on an initial dribble, to prevent a dribbler from going north/south, actually forces the dribbler to go east/west. The arm bar or hand then is usually removed. However, most times the advantage has already been gained by the defender.

- Aggressive defense is legal only when it is played legally – not holding, checking, bumping, or grabbing the player or jersey.

- Aggressive offense is legal only when played legally – not when warding off the defender with a hand or arm while dribbling or moving to beat or keep the opponent away.

- A Defensive or Offensive player reaching or feeling to locate and/or hold the opponent must be monitored closely.

- 3-point try: the covering official must stay with airborne shooter up and down – if fouled while airborne and the try is unsuccessful, award 3 free throws.

- Mechanics and Signals - Don't hurry; hold your stop the clock signal and make eye contact prior to continuing with the follow-up sequence/procedure of information.

- Don't appear to be excited – be deliberate; the information shared will be clearer and better understood by all involved. This applies to, but is not limited to – Technical Fouls; Blocking; Player Control Foul; Team Control Foul; Time-out; Good goal; "bang-bang" out-of bounds rulings. Signal to stop the clock, then act like you have "been there/done that" before. Being over-emphatic does not serve an official well.

Finally, demonstrate the professionalism and pride expected of an IAABO trained official. Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable post season officiating experience.

The IAABO Team Standards of Positive Behavior 'Guardians of Fair Play'

Negative behavior there must never be
To our game that affects eternity

Life skills to be learned with standards to uphold
For the love of the game, let the action unfold

As guardians of the game with principles of fair play
Be the best that we can, there is no other way

Prepared for the action, bringing our finest A-game
Proud of our legacy and IAABO's fine name

To coaches, players and fans who loudly cheer
The standards of behavior must be implicitly clear

When over-reacting with behavior obtuse
There will be consequences for offensive abuse

Be prepared to take action with swiftness of call
In the heat of the action stand firm and tall

Honing our people skills with patience our forte
Quietly and firmly demanding fair play

May our ethics be strong and our commitment true
Talking the talk while walking the walk all game through

Our game is challenging, from the simple to the fine
May our logo never be that almighty dollar sign

Our legacy is founded on principles of truth
There is no greater cause than dedication to our youth

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Periodicals

IAABO Lines

Condolences to: ***Marvin Scott, Jr., Bd. 173 MO***, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to: ***Kelvin Abernathy, Bd. 173 MO***, on the passing of his grandmother; Condolences to: ***Steve Kaitanowski, Bd. 53 NY***, on the loss of his father; Condolences to: ***Randall Amey, Bd. 119 NY***, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: ***Marty Luckey, Bd. 12 DC***, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to: ***John Baumgardner, Bd. 70 PA***, on the loss of his mother; Condolences to: ***Tim Smith, Bd. 12 DC***, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to: ***Earl Robinson, Bd. 42 NY***, on the loss of his mother-in-law.