



Post Play Express

Vol.4, No. 3, November 2012

NATIONAL RULE EXAM 2012-2013

The national rule exam will be administered on line

The deadline to write the exam is December 15, 2012

The time limit to complete the exam will be 90 minutes

Starting November 15, 2012

Access the CABO website at cabocanada.org

Instructions on how to access the exam will be on the website

For any questions or issues about the the exam, please write the administrator, Matthew Koivisto, at the following address:

caboexam@gmail.com

FIBA CERTIFICATION/RE-CERTIFICATION CLINIC

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

OCTOBER 18-21, 2012

Submitted by Dave Morphy

CABO Past-President

CABO in co-operation with Canada Basketball held a very successful FIBA Certification/Re-Certification clinic in Montreal, Quebec at McGill University October 18-21, 2012. Thirteen current FIBA cardholders from Canada along with a number of Americans and one official from Puerto Rico were there to re-certify. We also had thirteen Canadian candidates seeking to obtain their FIBA card. Three Canadians who had been invited to obtain certification as a FIBA commissioner/instructor and two candidates, one from Canada and one from the Bahamas, were re-certifying in this category. Indeed, a very exciting group of people to work with over the weekend.

We were very delighted to have as our clinicians, Lubomir Kotleba, FIBA Sport Director and Fred Horgan, FIBA President of the FIBA World Technical Commission. It was a pleasure for me to attend on behalf of CABO, given my current responsibility for the international portfolio and to work with Michele O'Keefe, Executive Director of Canada Basketball, to ensure that all of the details surrounding the clinic were taken care of. Thanks to Mike Homsy of Montreal who also assisted with finalizing a number of important details.

Current FIBA card holders had to successfully pass an English test and a FIBA rule exam as well as the physical test (the beep test). Those seeking certification had to fulfill these three requirements plus a practical test which involved officiating a University Men's or Women's game in the McGill invitational tournament. Those seeking certification/re-certification as a FIBA commissioner/instructor were required to pass both the English test and the FIBA rule exam as well as a test designed to cover the responsibilities of a FIBA commissioner. And no, these four individuals did not have to do the beep test.

Lubo Kotleba is a very interesting and entertaining speaker. Listening to him talk about the FIBA philosophy, his views on the use of a technical foul and what is wrong with officiating, which is basically nothing, was very useful for all to hear. Initially, and he did soften his views on this later, he indicated that if a technical foul was called, it was the fault of the official for not controlling what he/she was doing in terms of managing and taking charge of the game. His view was that the officials should be seeking a "happy ending" to the game and a technical foul would not get you there. That being said and later in discussions, he did conclude that there were circumstances where the technical foul was required, but the point I concluded was that officials need to know that the technical foul is only one tool in your tool box to take control of and manage the game.

Lubo stressed the importance of the official being fair, strong and consistent. He emphasized the importance of appearance and the body language and personality of the official and how critical the first impression made by the official was, starting with meeting the coaches and the importance of a firm handshake and eye contact. Concentration and game control were emphasized as was the ability of the official to be game aware, that is, knowing the score, alternating possession, time-outs and number of fouls on players. There is not enough space in this article to elaborate on Lubo's points, but suffice it to say there were many pearls of wisdom shared with the officials in attendance at this clinic.

The candidates all had to do a practise game in the McGill tournament under the watchful eye of Lubo and Fred and the four commissioner/instructor candidates. Although Lubo and Fred did not comment on the games or provide direct feedback to the candidates, the commissioner/instructor candidates, all with strong international officiating experience, debriefed the games in an open session with all in attendance. The importance of mechanics and signals in particular, as well as communication both verbal and non-verbal were stressed. It was obvious in a number of games that officials needed to take care of excessive contact in the post, on cutters and on dribblers bringing the ball up the floor. The importance of the official setting the tone early in these areas was stressed. Given one play situation that involved a double whistle and a sense that one official saw it as a hard foul and one didn't was used to communicate how important it is in a situation like that for the official who was of the view that it was a hard foul to take charge of the call rather than entering into a discussion with the other official that could create issues with the coaches. Again, the debriefings underscored the value of officials being observed in games as much as possible so as to capitalize on the learning experience. A great job done by the "debriefers".

For me, although I suspect not for the runners, the highlight of the weekend was the beep test. We broke the officials into 4 groups with the women running together. The target for women was 66 "laps" and 86 for men. All officials were successful and our medical professional who was on site commented to me on the exceptional fitness level of all the officials. The women didn't break a sweat and the men easily handled the distance with few if any officials showing any stress from the effort. What was exciting to experience was the camaraderie and bonding that took place and how alive the facility was with everyone cheering the runners on. I was very proud of everyone who participated in this physical test – they represented themselves, as well as how important fitness is for an official, so very eloquently.

The re-certs



Front row: Geoff Astles, Maripier Malo, Maggie Tieman (USA), Rick Stehlik
Back row: Jon Hunt, Steve Seibel, Reid Kenyon, Scott Critch, Neil Donnelly, Gina Cross (USA), Sébastien Gauthier, Karen Lasuik, Tanner Cervo, Perry Stothart, Jose Carrion (Puerto Rico), Michael Weiland

The candidates



**Front row: Jayson Stiell, Frances Enns, Stephanie Nordlee, Christine Vuong, Reed Scott
Back row: Anna Maria Del Col, Justin Pursaga, Matt Boyle, Nathaniel Saunders, Matt Kallio, Jean-Philippe Herbert, Trevor Barss, Riley Kerrison**

The commissioners/instructors



**Nadine Crowley, Lubo Kotleba, Fred Horgan, Paul Deshaies, Mike Homsy, Mike Thomson,
Freddy Brown (Bahamas)**

At the end of the weekend, all FIBA “refreshers” were successful and my congratulations to Geoff Astles, Tanner Cervo, Scott Critch, Neil Donnelly, Sébastien Gauthier, Jon Hunt, Reid Kenyon, Karen Lasuik, Maripier Malo, Steve

Seibel, Rich Stehlik, Perry Stothard and Michael Weiland. Our newly carded FIBA officials are Anna Del Col (Ontario), Jean-Philippe Herbert (Quebec), Matt Kallio (Alberta), Stephanie Nordlee (Alberta), Nathaniel Saunders (Quebec), Reed Scott (BC), Jayson Stiehl (Quebec) and Christine Vuong (Ontario) and my congratulations to each of them on their accomplishment. Finally, congratulations as well to Nadine Crowley, Paul Deshaies, Mike Homsy and Mike Thomson in receiving certification from FIBA as commissioners/instructors.

This is the third FIBA Certification/Re-Certification clinic I have had the opportunity to attend on behalf of CABO, that being Winnipeg, Colorado Springs and now Montreal. It never gets old and the learning that took place by all who participated made a great and unique experience for me.

COURT PRESENCE

Submitted by Roger Caulfield
NSBO Panel Supervisor



University supervisors love to assign officials whose athleticism mirrors the athletes. Officials are often graded on correct and incorrect calls, game management skills and how well they handle pressure situations. But the referee's court presence is now becoming the defining characteristic of a superior floor official. This statement was certainly echoed by FIBA, NCAA and NBA clinicians at the basketball conference held this past summer in Toronto.

Physical appearance, the use of appropriate body language and decisive game calling helps to raise the profile of a top quality official. It is very important for a referee to start the season in good cardiovascular condition and have a healthy body weight in order to keep up with the play for the duration of the game. An official's image is greatly enhanced with good posture and a smooth running style.

Today's games need to be handled by referees who move quickly and interact positively with players and coaches. Good communication skills, the use of proper mechanics and applying consistent signals will always enforce a positive court presence. The game's most difficult calls need to be handled in a positive way with emotions under control. Raising your voice, using repetitive warnings and exhibiting negative body language are ineffective.

The CABO official understands the importance of being dressed in the most current uniform, pants and shirt pressed and shoes shined. A quality whistle is required. Blow it with confidence and avoid double tooting the whistle. This shows indecisiveness. A strong physical appearance projects that you are a professional and have a love and respect for the game.

Court presence is an integral part of our National Certification Program. A continual self-assessment in this area is recommended for an official to advance to the next level.

U15 NATIONALS
SHERBROOKE, QUEBEC
JULY 31 TO AUGUST 5, 2012

Submitted by Kerry Rokosh
Teacher, Maple Ridge, BC

Some time has gone by and the experience of the 2012 U15 Nationals still occupies my mind. When I found out I was going, my preparation began immediately. I've always preferred being over prepared than the alternative. Two camps, several rereads of the rule book, plays of the week, mental and physical rehearsals, practicing in the mirror and intense daily workouts were all on the agenda. I was glad I did all that because it turned out to be needed.

I boarded the plane early Monday morning with a sense of uncertainty. It was a long day of travel and although I had lots of great advice I still was not quite sure what I was heading into. As a player, I participated on 2 provincial teams that played at a national tournament (U21 in those days) and the Western Canada Games, but as I have learned, playing (and coaching) is very different from officiating. When I arrived in Montreal, I was relieved to see several familiar faces from the Canada West Camp. Eleven officials gathered their stuff and crammed into a 12 passenger van. Almost immediately we began to ask each other "Do you speak French?" After a long 2-hour drive we arrived at Bishop's University and found our dorms. Our rooms were not much to look at and no AC. Sleeping was going to be one of the big challenges. After meeting all the officials, then a short meeting and a quick trip to Subway, it was time to get ready for the first day of the tournament.

My 1st game was Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan and my partner was Alexis from Quebec. The night before I had not slept a minute so I knew this was going to be a struggle. Fortunately Alexis turned out to be an energetic, positive referee who was able to help me find my own energy for the game. Several plays stood out. The first was when I was in Lead and was ready to hand the ball to a player for a front court inbounds. I looked up and Alexis was on the same side as me. I called to him and he nodded but he didn't move. So I handed the ball in and snuck over to the other side of the lane. I found out later that in Quebec they don't switch and will bounce the ball from the other side of the lane. Apparently the other officials watching immediately began debating it and there was a west/east split on who had screwed it up. The other things that stood out for me was how wide the FIBA lane is. It definitely took some getting used to. Overall it was not my best game. I felt like I was a half second behind the play and with my whistle. Fortunately I had a good partner who was able to help me out on a couple of occasions. But he couldn't help me out on a poor double foul call I made. It was a double foul but there was a clear first foul that I should have penalized immediately. I knew as soon as I went up to report it that I should have just got the first one. The coach questioned me and at least I was able to give him an articulate answer.

My 2nd game was BC vs. Ontario and my partner was Evan from Manitoba. From what we had seen the first day, neither of us expected this to be much of a game. We could not have been more wrong. BC came out strong and stayed strong and only in the last few minutes did Ontario pull away. Easily one of the most intense and fast games I have ever worked. Ontario fast broke so quickly that it took all we had to sprint and get ahead of the play. Overall, I was pleased with how we handled the game as we both raised ourselves to the level of play. There was a stretch in the middle where the game got quite physical but we responded with good calls to clean up the play. Another thing I

was happy with was when my partner went on a run and had 6-7 foul calls in a row. Good calls, but it was just that most of play was happening in front of him and I resisted the temptation to go reaching for a call. Unfortunately I had a “coach” moment at the end and blew a foul because I thought the BC coach wanted a foul.

The 3rd game was Manitoba vs. PEI with Justin from Quebec. We had an excellent pregame. We both have a similar over prepared approach. And we officiated a great game for 38+ minutes. Our communication was excellent. However, when PEI started to fall behind, a couple of tough 50/50 calls when against them. They had an emotional coach who started to direct his frustration at us. He was particularly upset with Justin who called 2 charges on his players that he did not like. I had an opportunity to support my partner and try to calm him down. I made the decision that the game was almost over and to just grin and bear it. His actions at the end took away from the great 38+ minutes we had done.

My 4th was the late game Friday night and included Ontario and Alberta. My partner was Mark from Saskatchewan. At this point I was starting to feel the length of the tournament. It felt like it should be ending but we still had 2 more days. And although I didn’t realize it at the time, I had not even done half my games yet. We knew it was a mismatch but that Alberta would still play hard. I came out prepared to officiate. I finally had some rest the night before, but could also feel myself growing more confident. I started the tournament with some uncertainty, but it was now gone. I was using my voice more and had good presence in the game. In particular, I set the tone with a strong team control foul when an Alberta post player used his elbow and shoulder to displace an Ontario defender. I also called a good technical foul on an Ontario player for hanging on the rim, doing a chin up (knees up) and taunting a defender.

The last 2 days turned out to be a grind. One of the officials had to drop out for health reasons and I did 2 games each day. On the Saturday my 5th game was Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia again and I was with Justin. We worked well together again and had a successful 40 minutes this time. We both felt good about that. We had one particularly good moment when we had a double whistle on a block/charge situation. We both raised our arms and made eye contact first. I was in Lead so Justin waited and then let me signal an offensive/team control foul. My 6th game was the first semi final between Ontario and Manitoba and my partner was Mark. It was not a close game. There was a stretch of 5 minutes of no whistles. Although I’m in shape, I was breathing pretty heavy as I sprinted to get down to Lead, as Ontario ran their fastbreak again and again. Despite the lopsided score, we both called a strong game and were in sync for 40 minutes. One play really demonstrated that. A back-up post player from Ontario fouled a Manitoba player as he drove to the basket. Mark had the primary defender. A helpside defender had come over and also fouled the driver. The primary defender was about to pick up his 4th foul before the coach was able to sub him. Mark and I made eye contact; he dropped his arm and let me make the call on the secondary defender.

After another night of struggling to sleep, I was up early to officiate back to back games on the final day. I knew it was going to be tough. I was pretty tired and these were going to be the toughest 2 games of the day. My 7th game was New Brunswick and Saskatchewan for 7th/8th place and I was back with Justin. The game was ugly but we managed it as best we could. There were 2 technical fouls, 1 unsportsmanlike foul and easily over 20 fouls a half. It could have been much worse but we were able to keep things under control. My last game was between Nova Scotia and Alberta for 5th/6th place and my partner was Alexis. It turned out to be a great basketball game. Close all

the way and it came down to the last minute. The game challenged me mentally but I stayed on top of it. Good thing because I had to correct a shot clock error in the last minute and I had to pick up a foul in Alexis' area that he was shielded from seeing. In many ways my last 2 games were my best. I was positive, had fun and met all my goals. It was a great way to end the tournament.

A few general impressions:

- Nationals are a grind. It's the Provincials times 2. 8 tough games over 6 days. I knew it would be, but it was even more than I expected
- Never assume minor officials know what they are doing. Just because it's Nationals means nothing. My 2nd game conversation with the table began with "it's his first time".
- You really have to take care of yourself. I brought snacks and drank lots of liquids, but sleeping was tough. A small fan and my own pillow would have been a good idea
- Working with other officials from other provinces was great. There were some differences, but overall not many. They have different experiences so it was interesting to talk with each of them
- Great crew and A/E's. Everyone was strong and good people
- Mario and Morgan worked hard and never left the gym. They gave us great feedback, which I tried to use every chance I got. I said a few words for the group at the wrap up meeting and hopefully I reflected our appreciation for their efforts.
- Asking lots of questions prior to the Nationals and studying plays of the week paid off. For example, one situation was an offensive violation on the first free throw and a team wanted to sub after that. My partner asked if we let him in and I knew the answer was no since we had begun the administration of the free throw.

I had 5 goals going into the tournament:

1. WORK AS HARD AS I CAN- PARTNERS AND ASSIGNORS NOTICE
2. LEARN AND IMPROVE- LEAVE A BETTER OFFICIAL
3. REFEREE TO MY POTENTIAL- IMPORTANT TO KIDS AND COACHES
4. BE A GOOD PARTNER AND TEAM MEMBER
5. REPRESENT THE BCBOA/CABO - PROFESSIONAL ON AND OFF THE FLOOR

I reread them each night and before each game. After the tournament I was pleased because I had largely fulfilled them. The only one I thought I did not entirely reach was #3. I felt I was at my potential by the end of the tournament but not at the start. The one change in my goals I would have made was to add "have fun". I put too much pressure on myself and needed to enjoy the experience more. It was pretty cool being in Sherbrooke, officiating a national tournament. I was enjoying the games much more by the end of the tournament.

Nationals was a great experience. I had done provincials, camps and clinics, but this was longer with even more intensity. My partners and evaluators were great and I learned from everyone. I know I came back a better official. My angles/positioning, voice and game management were areas in particular I felt improved. Nationals was an opportunity that I hope I will one day have again.

I have been lucky. I was fortunate to represent the BCBOA at a national tournament. In 2 years I've had wonderful experiences and people have taken the time to help me improve as an official. When I started officiating I just wanted to stay involved in the game and try to make a few dollars. It's turned out to be much more than I could have hoped for. These opportunities have shown me that one day I hope I can be in a position to help newer officials. That's a long way off because I have so much to learn first.