



Post Play Express

Vol.5, No.10, June 2014

NEW BRUNSWICK NANCY MORRISON HONOURED



Since 1982, Nancy Morrison has been running the hardwood, tile and rubber floors on basketball courts around this country. Nancy has not only been working games as an accomplished basketball official, but is also a proficient softball and ball hockey referee as well. Her involvement in sport began early in life and she has continued that love well past those early developmental years and it continues to thrive with her passion as an official. Nancy has given freely of herself in the development of new officials and she never shies away from offering advice to all those that are interested.

Nancy has worked National Championship level games in softball, ball hockey and of course basketball. In basketball, Nancy has worked four CIS National tournaments, countless ACAA and AUS regional tournaments and thousands of high school, junior high school and other various age level contests. Throughout her career, she has built a softball resume that includes four national tournaments, and nine international tournaments. The pinnacle

was representing Softball Canada at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Some more of her other accolades include being named as the Sport NB Official of the year in 2003 and 2008, being elected to the Softball NB Hall of Fame in 2012, the Saint John Sports Hall of Fame in 2013 and will have the honour of being inducted into the NB Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Nancy Morrison embodies all that is good with officials and officiating. She maintains constant professionalism at all times. As part of her interest in growing sport and healthy active living, she is a volunteer athletic director for her high school and always searches ways to improve her game at all levels.....oh and recently she started refereeing volleyball in her “spare” time.

THE « IT » FACTOR

Submitted by Roger Caulfield

CABO Vice-President and Interpreter of Nova Scotia

We often hear about top officials that they have « it ». The “It” Factor refers to skills and qualities that officials possess that allow them to stand out above the rest. No longer does passing the exam and working a lot of games necessarily ensure an official a post season assignment. Today’s officials are under greater scrutiny than ever before. Social media has the referee front and center when any perceived mistakes have been made. If today’s officials want to maintain an elite level of officiating and alleviate any unnecessary criticism, the following qualities must become an integral part of their game.

1. **PHYSICAL FITNESS.** Maintain a very high level of fitness which can be achieved through a commitment to a yearly exercise program. Supervisors are looking for officials who move well and get to the correct spot on time. Being out of shape will allow opinions to be formed about your officiating that may be false.
2. **PROFESSIONALISM.** Conduct yourself as a professional both on and off the court at all times. Remember to give the players their due respect and be courteous at all times.
3. **COURT PRESENCE.** Sloppiness in appearance, attitude or commitment is not acceptable.
4. **GAME AWARENESS.** Know the score, shot clock situations, player fouls and bench decorum.
5. **KNOWLEDGE OF RULES/MECHANICS.** These are the cornerstones of officiating. Knowing your definitions is a key to understanding the rules in depth. Part of your job description is to know the rules and be in the right position at all times.
6. **SELLING A CALL.** In every game, an official will have three to five situations to “sell a call” - these are opportunities to enhance your credibility and respect.
7. **LEADERSHIP SKILLS.** Officials must be able to manage situations with partners, players, and coaches - especially at critical times. Coaches expect officials to be competent and confident at all times.

8. COMMUNICATION. This is demonstrated with your voice, body language and personal mechanics. Always remain calm, poised and avoid unnecessary comments. It is important to be approachable to the participants of the game and remember it is hard to someone to speak in an aggressive, confrontational manner when the proximity between the individuals is side by side.

9. PASSION\ENERGY. These are excellent indicators that you love and take pride in your work.

10. JUDGEMENT. This skill can be improved by watching videos, attending games and going to camps. Getting the tough calls correct in a key situation, will give you instant credibility.

It is essential for all officials to continuously assess their individual qualities and skills. Also it is critical to never give in to a “been there, done that” mentality. Commitment to self-evaluating and identifying areas of weakness will help one become an elite official and set a standard for grassroots officials.

THE 41-YEAR ADVENTURE

Submitted by Mike Homsy, Supervisor of Quebec

On March 8, 2014, Pierre Marion refereed his final basketball game. After more than 3000 games in his career, Pierre walked off the floor at Canadian Tire Centre in Ottawa (CIS Men's Championship) having given so much to basketball officiating in this country.

It was not easy to accept that the time had come to stop doing the one thing that he had been so passionate about for so long. Just one week earlier, Pierre sat in the locker room in Quebec City following the Quebec final, tears flowing, appreciating the moment. Those of us in his presence understood the magnitude of the moment. An officiating icon was hanging it up!

Pierre's love for basketball officiating started in 1973 while studying at Cegep de Joliette, just outside Montreal. He joined IAABO Board 106 in Montreal and worked very hard under the tutelage of Bill Darling and John McDonaugh (1976 Montreal Olympic Games).

After completing his studies at University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières (UQTR), Pierre joined the Quebec university circuit as an official, a spot he maintained for the next 36 years. During that time, Pierre participated in numerous national championships including: Canada Games, Junior Championships, CCAA Championships and more than 20 appearances at the CIAU/CIS National Championships (3 Men's Finals).

Among his many honors, Pierre has been recognized provincially as the 1984-85 Official of the Year and most recently as the 2013-14 Quebec Men's University Referee of the Year. In 2003, he was inducted as a lifetime honorary member of the Quebec Referees Association (CPA).

Pierre's contributions have not been simply on the basketball court. He has held several positions on the provincial executive, including President for 20 years. On the National and Provincial level, he has also served as clinician, evaluator and supervisor. For this reason, Pierre was honored by CABO in 1994 with the "Wink" Willox Award, presented to an official for service and contribution at the provincial level.

The beauty of it all is that Pierre is always there for you, if needed. Those he took under his wing were lucky to have him as their mentor. He was business on the court and a friend off it. To hang with the crew was an important part of basketball. The post-game was a time to eat, laugh and maybe give a lesson in the art of wine appreciation.

He may be done as an active official but far from walking away. Pierre will join the group of Quebec university supervisors and provide his wisdom from 41 years of experience. And when he's away from basketball, there will always be time for a long bike ride and a nice bottle of wine!



Mike Homsy, Quebec provincial supervisor, Pierre Marion, Sébastien Gauthier, Quebec provincial interpreter

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE IN OFF-COURT LOCATIONS

Submitted by Bill Redden, GVBOA Member

Mechanics are an essential tool to perform as a basketball official. These are skills which need to be practiced in order to become automatic.

While regular basketball courts are not always available for officials to practice, any open indoor or outdoor space can be suitably organized for practice. For example, the largest room in a home can serve as a setting for a hypothetical reduced sized basketball court. The room can be set up and visualized with boundary lines, baskets, and a table for minor officials, game clock and shot clock. Props (e.g. tables, chairs, and clocks) can be positioned accordingly to help authenticate a court setting. Open areas surrounding the official's home or playing field/playground areas in close proximity in an official's neighborhood can serve as practice settings in the same manner, but without the restrictions of area size and overhead space. These outdoor spaces provide much better conditions for practicing the jump ball as the referee and for familiarizing an official with the game-like distances involved in foul reporting situations. Officials can also practice basketball court running skills and/or develop cardiac-respiratory efficiency in outdoor settings. The specific content of practice in all of the above locations can also be guided by hypothetical game situations called "I am scenarios."

These scenarios can be created based on the roles of officials: referee/umpire, administering/non-administering, lead/trail, on-ball/off-ball, calling/non-calling. An example of a such a scenario is : "I am the calling official on an act of shooting pushing foul by Gold #13 on Red #4, who released the ball from the three-point area... and the ball went into the basket." Performance of the complete required responses for this calling official's role immediately follows the reading of each scenario. Each of the performances should always contain responses that involve the other members of the officiating team...partner(s) and table officials. A list of a number of different scenarios can be created by the official, based on his or her needs.

Regardless of off-court practice location, whistles should be muted by taping (masking tape) over the holes. Whistle muting and voice volume adjustments are important to minimize the impact of noise on other people in the immediate area.

FEEDBACK for performance in off-court locations should be utilized when and where possible. Sources of feedback may include:

- 1. video and/or audio recording technology for all scenario sessions. Note: voice quality should be evaluated by considering pace, stress, tone, volume, and overall clarity;**
- 2. mirrors for signal refinement;**
- 3. timing devices (clocks with second hands, microwave oven and street crosswalk time indicators) for judging "time count" signalling cadence accuracy;**
- 4. a mentor or officiating partner who could provide advice and comments on performance as well as participate in performing scenarios as another acting official.**

THE SPECTATOR-OFFICIAL

One option for off-court practice is to attend a game(s) and assume the role of an official from a position off-court. The spectator-official can sit in the bleachers or stand on the floor outside the court boundary lines, in a safe area that provides access to the visual field(s) utilized by the on-court officials. The purpose of this practice strategy is to gain experience in visual field perception (eye focusing) and infraction recognition.

Visual field perception. Examples of the many focusing skills that can be practiced are:

1. “seeing off” the ball,
2. “seeing the space” between the shooter and defender;
3. developing a “wide-eyes” approach in screening situations;
4. maintaining vision with any airborne shooter until both feet return to the floor before turning attention to rebounding situations;
5. not looking at the ball (lead official) when it is in the air following the release of a shot.

Infraction Recognition

The most important aspect of officiating is the ability to recognize infractions when they occur and calling them appropriately according to the game situation. One of the best ways to learn how to recognize infractions is as a spectator-official at LIVE and electronically transmitted games. Spectator-officials should ask themselves “why” infractions were called or “why” potential infractions were NOT called when they might have been. “Why” phrases or statements are then developed using the appropriate language.

Here are a few examples

1. “Dribbler’s pivot foot came off the floor before ball was released from her hands... Travelling Violation.”
2. “Defensive player established an initial legal guarding position and moved laterally to maintain position.... Dribbler moved through the defender’s vertical cylinder making contact with defender’s torso. As a consequence the defender was dislodged and placed at a disadvantage... Charging foul.”

In addition, spectator-officials can use “why phrases” in order to identify important criteria for calling infractions. For example, in order to correctly call travelling violations, a clear understanding is needed of how the pivot foot is established when a player on the court receives a live ball. If spectator-officials practice using game situations to identify the pivot foot by stating to themselves or whispering: “Left”; “Right”, or “Both” when observing a player landing, they will have the potential to make the correct call, if they apply the remainder of the travelling rule, when a dribble or a shot/pass follows ball reception. Another example involves the shooter and lane line violations by the non-shooters who are occupying the lane spaces on free throws. The spectator-official should say to themselves “release” on ball release and “in” when a player crosses the lane line. If they say “in” before saying “release” there is the potential for a violation.

Summer is the off-season for many officials. An ideal time to practice, review and keep learning.

SUMMARY OF THE 2014 FIBA RULE CHANGES

By Paul Deshaies, CABO National Interpreter

The following are the rule changes adopted by the Central Board of FIBA, which will come into effect this fall. FIBA should publish official interpretations related to these changes in late July or early August. The CABO Casebook will be revised to take the changes into account. It should be ready in time for the beginning of the 2014-2015 season.

No-charge rule (Articles 2.4.7, 33.10)

- Line is part of the no-charge area
- No-charge rule applies if defensive player is touching the no-charge area with one or both feet

Time-outs (Article 18)

- No more than two time-outs for each team during the last two minutes of the 4th period.

24-second rule (Article 29)

- After the ball has touched the ring on an unsuccessful shot for a field goal, a last or only free throw, or on a pass, the shot clock shall be reset to 14 seconds, if the team which regains control of the ball is the same team that was in control of the ball before the ball touched the ring.

Ball illegally returned to the backcourt (Article 30)

- Control must be established in the frontcourt. A team is in control in the frontcourt when a player is touching his frontcourt with both feet while holding, catching or dribbling the ball in his frontcourt.
- A team in control of a live ball (including during a throw-in) in the frontcourt has caused the ball to be illegally returned to the backcourt if a player of that team is the last to touch the ball in his frontcourt and the ball is then first touched by a player of that team who has part of his body in contact in his backcourt or after the ball has touched the backcourt

Technical foul (Article 36)

- Penalty: one free throw plus possession
- Player disqualified when being assessed second technical foul in the game

ENJOY THE SUMMER!