



Post Play Express

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CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Submitted by Jim Cervo, CABO Education Officer

At the time of this writing, (early January), many officials are thinking about receiving an assignment to a championship tournament. Some are hoping for a provincial tournament assignment while others are wondering if they might receive an assignment to a national tournament. For the Spring national tournaments, there are 48 spots and CABO has over 5,000 members. The odds are much greater for a provincial tournament. In British Columbia for example, there are approximately 185 assignments to the various Provincial tournaments for a membership of just over 600 officials.

So who decides who goes to what tournament? How do you get selected to a championship tournament? First of all, let me tell you what I think it should not be. An assignment should not be given to an official because he/she “deserves” it for various reasons, or be given out as a reward for long time service. Nor should it be given to an official because of where he/she lives. I believe an appointment should be awarded to an official because he/she “qualifies” and that should be the only reason he/she “deserves” it.

The student-athletes and coaches participating in these tournaments have worked hard in most cases for many years and are expecting to have the most qualified officials in their games.

So what is the selection process? Let me explain the process in British Columbia as I am most familiar with it and I would suspect similar processes in other provinces.

Firstly – National Tournaments. The CABO National council determine the number of assignments given to each province in conjunction with the contracts between CABO and the national tournament governing bodies such as the CCAA and the CIS. The provincial supervisor typically receives confirmation of the assignments from the CABO Vice President in December for the upcoming Spring tournaments. The BCBOA Executive member with the responsibility solicits recommendations from the Canada West and PACWEST supervisors in BC, other executive members and a number of senior, well respected officials – approximately 10 individuals in total. Their decisions are based on whether an official is qualified – NOCP qualifications, capable of officiating at the proposed tournament, would be considered as a leader both on and off the court at that level, written and passed the CABO exam and works a steady schedule of conference games. A proposal is then sent to the BCBOA Executive for ratification and the appointments are made. I understand that some provinces have an application process and then follow a similar selection process.

Secondly – Provincial Tournaments. In BC, officials go to the BCBOA website and complete an application for the tournament at which they wish to officiate and for which they are available - whether it be location or tournament dates. The BCBOA Executive member with the responsibility for selecting officials, contacts the local board educators to see if the individual is qualified to work at the selected tournament – NOCP qualifications, capable of officiating at that particular tournament, written the CABO exam, and works a steady schedule of games at that level. Also, past tournament recommendation forms are reviewed. Once the tournament crews are selected, the officials are notified of their appointment. They are then asked to confirm acceptance of their assignment.

There is an often used phrase in the basketball officiating world – “control the things you can control”. Do what you need to do to qualify yourself to be considered for a championship tournament assignment – provincial or national. The results will prove to be beneficial during your regular season games for you and your officiating partners. . The selection process is out of your control. The committee responsible for the selections has a difficult job. Complaining about missed assignments will not only be of no benefit, it will usually have adverse effects. Rather than getting upset and asking why you were not selected, go to your mentor or another official you look up to and ask what you can work on to improve your game.

At the time of publication, the appointments to all the tournaments have been made. If you are one of the fortunate ones to be working at a championship tournament; congratulations. If you were not selected, cheer on your peers and prepare yourself for next year.

BALANCING FAMILY AND OFFICIATING

Submitted by Bill Denney, Interpreter of British Columbia

Keeping your officiating in perspective is one of the most important - yet often challenging - aspects of refereeing the game of basketball. Sometimes, we forget critically important things, like family.

1. **Do not take the game home with you:** Frustrations often mount in officiating. Think about the typical horrendous event. The coach was screaming at you. The fans were brutal and disrespectful. The game was a blowout. Your partner arrived late. The observer made you feel like you did nothing right. You drove home in terrible weather. Certainly, most spouses are supportive and want to know how your game went. Tell your significant other, but be careful not to cross the line and heave mounds of emotion on your better

half. If you need her/him to act as a sounding board or give you a pep talk every time you come home from a game, you're probably not having any fun officiating. Certainly, your spouse isn't having much fun with your avocation either.

2. **Give your spouse your game fees:** Seriously, give your spouse the officiating cheque and let him/her spend on whenever he/she feels fit. Chances are he/she's going to spend on you anyway! It's a token of your appreciation and acknowledges the spouse's understanding and tolerance of your officiating.
3. **Call home when you're away:** When and if your officiating takes you on the road, call home when you get into town. Most spouses would tell you that they worry most about the travel associated with officiating, whether it's across town or across the province. If you're spending time overnight, be sure to let your spouse know you've arrived safely. If you're gone for a few days, check in often. It eases your mind knowing everything is all right at home and it eases your spouse's mind knowing you're all right and you have not forgotten. Don't forget to say hello to the kids as well.
4. **Call if running late:** Arguably, few things get officials in more trouble with their spouse than getting home later than expected without calling home. If you're really running late on your way to a game, you'll probably frantically try and call your partner, your assignor, the school, etc. Why not have the same emphasis when you're running late going home. There's no excuse for not calling. That's especially true if you stop for a couple of cold ones with your officiating cronies. Stopping at the local watering hole to share some stories is a lot of fun and can be great therapy. Just let your significant other know you're doing it. Play a little role reversal. How would you feel if your spouse were due home at a certain time and showed up later without calling? Your range of emotions would travel quickly between anger and worry. Don't put your spouse through it.
5. **Be careful when climbing:** Most often officials hope to move up to another level or increase the number of games on their schedule. It's our competitive nature. However, before accepting that promotion or working those extra couple of nights per week, consider the ramifications on your family. Many officials who have climbed to higher levels in officiating have sacrificed relationships with their spouses and family. At the very least, discuss changes in your schedule and travel with your family before accepting the assignments. Be sure that you have your priorities straight - family or officiating!

Think about it!_

LIFE LESSON

Submitted by Bruce Covert, Supervisor of Ontario

As some of you know, my father passed away at the end of July after a prolonged battle with leukemia. I received over 75 phone calls, texts, and emails offering condolences, thoughts and prayers from officials. It was truly overwhelming, as was the number of officials who attended the visitation and the funeral. It re-enforced my belief that OABO is not just an association, but a family.

My dad was first and foremost a family man. He was kind, hard working, generous to a fault with both family and friends, self sacrificing and extremely patient. I would like to believe that I inherited some of these qualities. Many of you who have worked with me at camps or tournaments and had me "tear a strip off you" may not agree! During his

lifetime, our family shared many “highs” and “lows”. Whether a joyous occasion or a tragedy, there were always “life lessons” to be learned. Some big. Some small. I would like to share the life lesson I have learned from my father’s passing with all of you.

I have officiated for almost forty years at every level, from public school, to CIS, to whatever pro league has been in existence during that time. I have been very fortunate to be assigned to numerous provincial and national tournaments. Although we rarely spoke of it, I know my dad was very proud of my success.

I am very sad to admit that my father never came to see me referee a single game. He did appreciate my passion for officiating as it grew over the years. As I became more successful and travelled more extensively, he would ask: “Where are you off to this weekend?” He always liked to know where I was working.

I had every intention of taking my dad to watch me officiate “someday”. Over the years, I assumed it would happen. I never really gave too much thought to when. I always believed we had lots of time. It seemed that “life” always got in the way. I was leaving directly from work. I was traveling with others. I was staying overnight. I was too busy to arrange it. He wasn’t available. In 2013, I was assigned to work what I knew would be my last CIS men’s tournament. I thought it would be the perfect time to take my dad. An exciting event. Lots of atmosphere. Close to home. The only problem was that, by then, his illness had taken hold of him. He no longer had the energy to travel, even for a three-hour drive to Ottawa. Shortly after that, I finally realized that he was never going to get better, that he would never see me work.

The life lesson. Cherish your loved ones and the time you have with them. Do not take anything for granted. My dad never realized several things on his bucket list. He never owned a Cadillac. He never took an Alaskan cruise. However I do believe he achieved his number one: to provide a safe, secure home for his children and unconditional love and support for all of us. Do not put off doing things on your bucket list because you believe you have plenty of time to do so later. There is no promise of tomorrow. Take country western singer Tim McGraw’s advice “Live Like You Are Dying”. What a difference this would make in most of our lives. I wish I had learned this lesson earlier. If so, my dad would have seen me officiate at least one game. I will always regret the fact that this didn’t happen. That we never shared the experience and the joy that would have come with him watching me do something I love.

(Editor’s note : This article was originally published last fall in OABO's newsletter, The Whistle)