



C A B O



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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# **REG JEWKES RECEIVES THE FRANK BALDWIN AWARD**

Submitted by Reg Caulfield, Supervisor of Nova Scotia



This award was named after a very special man who was often referred to as the Godfather of Basketball in Nova Scotia. He left a legacy and a love for the game that is second to none. Frank was a strong supporter of officials and was always there to assist them in their development.

Nova Scotia Basketball Officials are pleased to present this prestigious award to Mr. Reg Jewkes in recognition of his 40 plus years of extraordinary commitment to basketball and its grass root development. Honesty, kindness and ability to help others are but a few of the characteristics both Reg and Frank share.

Reg started his officiating in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1973 shortly after he started his teaching profession. He has officiated for over 40 years at every level of basketball. His love of the game came from his playing days at Springhill High School and his desire to follow in the footsteps of his good friends, the Caulfield brothers. He was mentored by two seniors officials from the Truro area, Lloyd Sutherland and Keith Finck. Reg joined his two mentors when he too became a recipient of the Wink Willox Award presented by the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials.

Reg is often referred to as the “Energizer Bunny” due to his strong work ethic and tenacity. Reg worked over 11 years as an AUS official and worked numerous national championships. He became one of the better officials in Nova Scotia. His passion for the game is unparalleled as he served in various administrative roles (i.e. Vice President, Provincial Assessor, Area Supervisor, Area Assignor, College Commissioner and National Evaluator). He has been selected to evaluate 15 national championships.

Since Reg’s decision to move on from actively officiating, he has devoted his time to developing officials at the grass root level. His commitment and contribution in this area has helped NSBO achieve success in the growth of officiating.

# CANADIAN BASKETBALL OFFICIALS COMMISSION

Submitted by Morgan Munroe  
CABO President and Commission Chair

In September, I was elected as the president of CABO. It is an honor to hold the office that has been previously held by some truly great individuals who laid the ground work for our association. Needless to say I am humbled to follow in their footsteps and I hope to do my part as your president over the next two years to advance the development of officials at all levels of our great sport.

During this article, I will be using the acronym CBOC when discussing the new Canadian Basketball Officials Commission.

## Background

CABO was formed in 1974. The details can be found in the CABO Fact book on our new website at [www.cabocanada.ca](http://www.cabocanada.ca). I'm summarizing some of the details here, but the impetus for forming the organization was the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. Many parts of Canada had no exposure or experience with international basketball and were unfamiliar with FIBA rules. As a result, it was decided that representatives from the administrative side of the game, such as the presidents of provincial officiating organizations as well as rule aficionados such as interpreters, should be part of the National Council. Today's National Council has two representatives from each province. One is the interpreter and the other a president or supervisor who fills the administrative role. The other six members are the President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer, National Interpreter, National Education Chairman and Past President.

It must have been very heady times for the inaugural CABO executive members back in 1974. However, it was not without many trials and tribulations and the Fact book reflects some of that. The desire to do something new and groundbreaking for officiating in Canada must have been both exhilarating and, at the same time, very intimidating. The same can be said for the people on the CBOC. We are trying to work to enhance and improve upon the great work that CABO has done. Much like Ted Earley, Al Rae, Fred Horgan and their contemporaries in the mid 70's, the CABO members of the CBOC, Tim Heide, Nadine Crowley and myself, feel a great deal of exhilaration and optimism at the opportunity ahead, but we are not without some trepidation. This is a new era and we approach it knowing that we don't have all the answers. What we do have along with our partners from Canada Basketball, CIS and CCAA, is a vision of how the next steps in the maturation of officiating in this country will hopefully unfold.

## The Role of CABO in the CBOC

Let me be clear about this. There will continue to be an organization known as CABO and it will continue to play an integral role in the basketball community within our country. However, just like any successful organization, CABO must adapt to the new realities of the sport in the year 2015 and move forward. In 41 years since the formation of CABO, the game of basketball has changed. The rules have undergone significant revision. Coaching philosophy and methods have had to change to match the speed and athleticism of the modern game. The role of officials on the floor has had to change and adapt as well. The identification, training, assessment and organization of officials should have and has changed as well. The CBOC is the next step in this process. Over the past four decades, one can think of any number of organizations, businesses and associations that have

changed and remained viable and successful as a result of evolving and, in some cases, rebranding and re-imaging themselves to reflect the realities of the world in which they operate. Unfortunately, we can also think of numerous businesses and other groups who are no longer operational and have been relegated to history as a result of either mismanagement or a variety of circumstances outside their control that rendered them obsolete. It is our goal, as your national executive, to guide CABO through a period of transition in order to keep the organization relevant and integral to you, our members, and to our partners.

Part of the motivation for forming the CBOC has been changes in the global structure of the governance of the game. At one time, the six FIBA regional bodies operated with a degree of independence. That has now changed and those six bodies report to the “parent” organization FIBA World. This has also impacted the officiating side of things. The previous CABO executive first noticed this about 18 months ago when our national interpreter was informed that questions from CABO would no longer be answered by FIBA’s rule experts. Why would or could this be allowed to happen? The answer is that CABO although members of Canada Basketball (CB) were not officially recognized by FIBA. Only the national sport organization (NSO) has the right to access information from FIBA. We, as individuals or as members of CABO, may not agree with their response, but, if for a moment we detach ourselves from the “emotional” side of the question and look at it from a business model perspective, one can understand why they would take this position. There are over 200 basketball federations in the world. If every official or their local or regional organization kept contacting FIBA with rule questions, they would be bogged down beyond the point of realistic efficiency. As well, the potential for the message being misconstrued would increase exponentially. Trying to control the number of times and to how many people they speak to, is a practical model.

As mentioned previously, FIBA only communicates with national federations. Canada Basketball has that role for Canada. CB would be the first to admit that they currently have no professional staff specifically assigned to officiating and the programs that need to accompany it. From the perspective of FIBA, the best word I can use to describe their view of CABO, prior to signing the CBOC agreement, is – anomaly. Other than the Americans, we were the only officiating organization not fully under the umbrella of the NSO. Some people see the word anomaly and, in this case, it being likened to a “badge of honor” - a group standing up to the power of some faceless international body. Some relish in being contrarians. In some cases, there is merit in that manner of thinking, but let me pose this question. In the year 2015, how many officials on the floor are true contrarians? There may be some, but I’d speculate that their numbers are dwindling as they either leave officiating or fall into line. How many organizations really promote officials who significantly deviate from the mechanics and signals that are being taught by the province? Would we tolerate officials who make up their own rule interpretations or choose to ignore rules? This should be a rhetorical question. Generally, officials see the benefit in consistency and working within the parameters of the larger organization. In 2015, it is simply no longer viable for CABO to be an “anomaly” in the eyes of the world body. By joining the CBOC, we can tap into a wealth of information that FIBA has for its officials.

FIBA as an organization has committed financial resources to the area of officiating. Not only has there been extensive work done in the traditional areas of rule education and training, but additional work has been put into revising the on-floor mechanics that are used worldwide. What is even equally if not more impressive, is the work done by FIBA to develop video examples for these areas, as well as specific programs to improve the physical and

psychological fitness of officials. The list of improvements expands rapidly. As members of the CBOC, CABO executive members will now be able to access these officiating resources and share them with our members.

### Possible New Initiatives

Let me discuss a new initiative by looking back a bit in time and using a personal analogy. I began my officiating career in 1989. Like many officials, I got a bit of a late start as I was a former player and coach. I was fortunate enough to have a mentor by the name of Keith Jorgensen who was instrumental in whatever success I had on the floor. Part of my good fortune was that Keith was part of the provincial association here in Alberta and alerted people to my potential. I was given some assignments and for me personally it worked out well.

I too have mentored new officials in my area and within my province and, in their eyes, as I am a member of the national council, they might indicate just as I did in the past that they were receiving help from CABO. But the reality is this was done on a more piecemeal or ad hoc basis. My work, while well intended and hopefully successful, is not formalized. This is no way intended to impugn the great work done by so many mentors across the country over the past decades, but rather to make this a call to formalize the system of mentorship. It is also in no way intended to minimize or to trivialize the work done by those who have organized CABO camps and other programs designed to enhance the development of our members. However, so much of the success of these depended upon the drive and time commitment of volunteers who had to work long hours to get the camps and clinics off the ground.

We need to develop recognized pathways for officials to achieve their goals. A very small number aspire to officiate internationally. We need to have a formal system of identification, regardless of where the official resides, to help start potential candidates on the road to their goals. This pathway has to fit into the model that FIBA is developing and it will require us to start finding these candidates at a very young age, at least by current officiating protocols. We need pathways for officials who want to be the best local or regional officials possible. How does one improve especially if they live in an area where accessing training information and feedback is not easily found? In the past, there might have been a fall clinic in the area on an irregular basis. Today, that is not a model that can be the sole method of identification or development.

How will these pathways be developed and disseminated throughout the country? This is where the next steps in the evolution of CABO, CB and the CBOC need to occur. CABO is an organization with approximately 4000 members. As I mentioned earlier, there are 26 volunteers on the national council. All of these individuals have a passion for the sport, but they also have jobs and careers that pay their bills. To develop educational materials, make them accessible to the membership, communicate with FIBA, update and revise the NOCP documents and a myriad of other tasks are well beyond the scope of 26 volunteers. The answer is clear. Full time paid professional staff are required. CABO is not an employer. We don't have the funds nor are we in a position to access funding. Canada Basketball is the organization who can, through their business plan, investigate options that will support our goals while expanding opportunities for Canadian officials. Our NSO has done tremendous work in the area of player and coach development. As evidence, one only needs to look at the recent success of Canadian teams internationally, of both genders and at various age levels. If you get the chance, I'm sure you'd be impressed at the programs and educational material that are there for coaches. The same can happen for officials. It will take time, but it is clearly doable. Some of the information and ideas are in place already. The CBOC is the vehicle to add to this.

**Envision a system where officials are able to access personal training plans depending upon their goals. Envision a system where officials can log in and review information before starting their NOCP program. Envision a system where officials can be updated when new plays are released that reinforce rule and mechanics that can be used at a variety of playing levels. Envision a system where officials are identified and, if qualified, will be recommended for advanced training opportunities that might involve the top people in the FIBA officiating structure. Canada is unique in the officiating world. Our members have demonstrated their skills in numerous events. The chance to build on these accomplishments by building an even better system is within our grasp. The goal of the CBOC is to make the vision a reality. What will be the role for CABO within this commission? Quite simply CABO members are the technical experts (pardon the pun), when it comes to officiating. Our organization will play a prominent role in providing the knowledge and expertise that the professional staff can then develop into workable programs and materials deliverable to our members throughout the country.**