



# Post Play Express

Vol.7, No. 8, April 2016

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CABO EDUCATION OFFICER

By Jim Cervo

The Spring National tournaments have been completed once again. These tournaments are the CCAA Women's Tournament, the CCAA Men's Tournament, the CIS Women's tournament and the CIS Men's tournament. This is a very interesting and exciting time for players, coaches and officials. There are only a few teams that have the opportunity to participate in these events and similarly, there are only a few officials and fewer A/E's that have the same experience. These tournaments are all single elimination towards the championship game so the intensity is high and the pressure is unparalleled to regular season conference games. As officials, we need to understand and appreciate the hours and hours of hard work and effort put in by players and coaches. For many, this is the highest level of competition they will experience in their life. So to that end, we need to ensure that our officials are offering the same level of hard work and preparation into our avocation. We need to come to these tournaments with a high level of professionalism, fitness and expertise. Once again this year, everything at these tournaments seemed to go off without a hitch. The officials did a good job, the games were decided by the teams and there were no controversial endings. At the conclusion of each tournament, the A/E's write evaluations on each official and I receive those along with a summary report of the tournament by the Lead A/E. There were common issues reported in the evaluations from each tournament.

- Some officials were using signals that are not in the FIBA manual
  - Using a "bird dog" signal
  - Officials reporting to the table showing FIBA numbers incorrectly
  - Walking to the table to report a foul, then walking back to the next position
  - Whistles
    - Multiple tweets
    - Too short
    - Not sharp enough

- **Work in the Lead position was a concern**
  - **Going to the Lead position and not having their eyes on the court while running to the set up position**
  - **Running during rotation**
  - **Not coming to “close down”, pausing, assessing and rotating**
  - **Officiating in “close down” too long**
  - **This led to problems with the crew members being in a poor position to officiate a play**
  
- **Judging block/charge incorrectly**
  - **Not officiating defenders properly**
  - **Being out of position to officiate defenders**
  
- **Bench decorum**
  - **Allowing players to stand for long periods of time and not addressing this with the coach**
  - **Allowing Assistant coaches to stand at the same time as the Head Coach**
  - **Addressing comments from Assistant coaches**

This year at the CIS Men’s tournament, we had two special guests attend and watch the highest level of basketball we officiate in Canada. Carl Jungebrand, FIBA head of refereeing and Geraldo Fontana, FIBA Americas head of refereeing, attended the tournament and put on a session designed for “Referee Coaches” on the Friday morning of the tournament. Steve Seibel conducted a session in the gym and showed the attendees some of the official’s training sessions currently being used and developed by FIBA. We will be making some additions to the NOCP training curriculum to include some of the drills Steve demonstrated and taught to the group. These sessions were video-taped and we hope to be able to have them in a format that will be available for National and Provincial educators and evaluators to use for local training sessions. This was a CBOC initiative and it is important that each province understand and recognize the need to meet a consistent standard...these sessions showed the standard does exist so there is no need to reinvent the wheel or debate what the standard should be.

I believe this will go a long way to help us develop a common standard of officiating across Canada.

## **PROFESSIONALISM: ALL EYES AND EARS ARE ON YOU**

**By Jim Walsh, CABO Past President**

A professional is a person who is perceived to be an expert in his or her field. In the basket world, officials are perceived to be professionals.

How many times have you heard clinicians and evaluators tell you to “control what you can control”? What comes to mind when you hear that message?

The easy answers that jump to mind include knowing the rules, knowing and using the correct mechanics, being early for your assignments, making sure your uniform is clean and pressed, being fit, hustling at appropriate times, making sure that you are properly groomed.

Do you consider what you should wear to the gym? Do you think that jeans and a t-shirt are a professional wardrobe? If you don't think that, then why do you wear that outfit to a game?

If beer and alcohol are available for sale at the facility, are you one of those who thinks that it is okay to drink alcohol at the facility solely because your game is finished?

Are you one of those who goes to your local pub and criticizes players, coaches or other officials? Or are you one of those that will sit and watch a game and do the same thing?

Are you a person who will pass inappropriate comments about someone's looks, gender, sexuality or ethnicity while watching a game or attending a clinic?

Are you an official who likes to spend time chatting and laughing with spectators during your game or sitting on the scorer's table during pre-game or time-outs?

I raise all of these questions because these situations have all been raised with me in my capacity as an evaluator or as a member of the CABO Executive over the past number of years. These are real life complaints received from university or school administrators, coaches, players, fans and other officials. Those who made the complaints were able to identify the official(s) by name, place where the matter occurred and often in very great detail, including direct quotation of the comments made.

Officials are an identifiable and identified group. Once you have gone on the floor to do a game, there is someone who will always associate you with basketball officiating. From that point on, it is important to always be aware that many eyes and ears are on you. Your behaviour is always under scrutiny!

Think about your day jobs. How are you expected to behave? Are you governed by a professional code of conduct? Are you often identified in your community by your occupation? In my community, I have a very common name. My father, grandfather and nephew all had the same name as me. At one point, there were 33 James or Jim Walsh entries in the St. John's phone book. As a result, I was frequently identified as "Jim the referee".

Your conduct can have a real effect on others involved in the game we love so much. If you are not one of those I have referred to in this article, I am certain you can identify someone who is. In any event, the game deserves our utmost respect at all times. This kind of misbehaviour can have significant consequences on how successful your officiating career can be.

**Let's take a stand. Let's be professional!**

# SO YOU WANT TO BE AN OFFICIAL?

By Bill Denney, Interpreter of British Columbia

Why? Well just because you have the desire isn't good enough. It's definitely a start and very important, but it's not enough!

1. You've got to want it. Realize what being an official entails - being a necessary evil, only tolerated by many.
2. Give until there's no more to give! Just simply be perfect.
3. Be impartial. That's the watchword. Prove it every game, every call.
4. Never give up. Never show fear or indecision. When you show up for work - work!
5. Be a 'thank God' official. Make sure people say, "thank God he's/she's working tonight!"

How can you get to the pinnacle? One way. Work your tail off. Same way, only better. The game belongs to the players and rightly so. But the officials can make it better or make a debacle with their work.

Don't officiate unless you're willing to sacrifice to achieve perfection. If you're totally introspective of yourself and your work, you are misplaced. If you have any doubts about your success, do something else. Make the tough decisions now before the damage is done to you or others. Some enter this avocation because they feel it's easy and they can make a few dollars. That approach is the first step to failure. Just because you like the sport and even played it, doesn't mean officiating is the next step. How and why an individual gets started may seem trivial in the overall scheme, but it's vitally important. Officials must be (not become) dedicated to correctness and immerse themselves entirely into this game.

Here are some pointers basic to success in basketball officiating:

- **Warning players:** Remember that a warning to a player is always a forerunner to a foul call or violation. Officials can never warn and not follow up with a call. You cannot win with that perceived kindness. Call the infraction and it's done. Officiating has so much to do with the auditory organs as the eyes. Listen and you will be prepared for what's going to happen. Every scrap of information or any hint will make the job easier. To officiate well, you must learn well.
- **Using your voice:** An additional weapon each official has is a voice. The whistle gets everyone's attention, but the voice with a precise, clear signal helps sell the call. Do not fear calling out to your partner. You should use an affirmative voice at all times. It's part and parcel of your officiating equipment. Test your whistle and your voice prior to the game. Make both strong and believable.
- **The Trail Official:** The Trail is the one who controls the game. You must get off the sideline and referee. However, do not get too close to the play. Always leave yourself an escape route. Anticipate ball movement to avoid problems.
- **The Lead Official:** The Lead must move along the baseline and control the pivot/post play and prevent physical play, control the players cutting through the restricted area and observe rebounding.

- **The Officials 'even up' calls?** If you ever even think of evening up calls, the god of officials will come down and get you!
- **Keep officiating:** Do not turn your back after making a call. Officials sometimes think that after a call their job is ends. They turn their back and something happens. You must protect the players. When a official blows the whistle, the play is not over.
- **Do not imitate:** Some officials become icons. Other officials, therefore, will try to imitate their styles. That attempt to hitchhike on another's success is rarely effective. Become an innovator, not an imitator! Being a copier always fails. Do your own thing. Command respect, don't demand it. Remember, the only thing they really care about an official is the ability to be correct all of the time. Set your standards of excellence. Emulate yes, imitate, never!
- **No competition:** It must be ingrained in all officials that there is no competition between them on the court. The amount of calls made by each does not mean anything. It's only a measurement of how the game was played. Call what you must to control the game. Support your partner at all times.
- **Bench conduct:** Wise guys occupy the bench during play. Coaches verbally abuse officials assuming it's part of their job. An official could be doing a terrific job, but the bench is on them. It's assumed they are not in control of the contest. Take control of bench conduct and you will control the game. Don't ignore control!
- **Technical Fouls:** Technical fouls are a part of the game. However, they are not to be used as a weapon. Officials usually do not solve problems by calling a T. React calmly. Do not compound an error of commission by calling a T. Indiscriminate use of the Technical Foul dilutes its value. Preventative officiating is much better than punitive officiating. It's easy to call a T but it takes a fine official to prevent one. Make sure they are earned. Always remember, your responsibility is to be correct. Nothing else. Same way, only better.

**Just words to Officiate by!**