



# Post Play Express

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## **NEW OFFICIAL CABO JACKET NOW AVAILABLE**



### **CABO Jacket size specs**

<b>SMALL</b>	<b>CHEST 45"(22.5)</b>	<b>LENGTH 25.5"</b>
<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>CHEST 48" (24)</b>	<b>LENGTH 26.5"</b>
<b>LARGE</b>	<b>CHEST 51"(25.5)</b>	<b>LENGTH 27.5"</b>
<b>X-LARGE</b>	<b>CHEST 54"(27")</b>	<b>LENGTH 28.5"</b>
<b>2X-LARGE</b>	<b>CHEST 58"(29)</b>	<b>LENGTH 29.5</b>

**Contents: 100% microfiber polyester. Breathable fabric with added stretch for comfort.**

**Price \$55.00**

***It is mandatory for all officials assigned to national tournaments to wear the new official CABO jacket starting this summer (2012)***

***While individual orders are possible, provinces are encouraged to buy in bulk. MFE Sports is the exclusive provider of the official CABO jacket. To order, please contact Howard Monk at [hmonk@mfesports.com](mailto:hmonk@mfesports.com)***

# **BASKETBALL OFFICIATING - FULL CIRCLE**

**Submitted by Tim Heide, Supervisor for British Columbia**

**There are many and various factors that influence and motivate people to begin refereeing basketball; from aspirations of travelling the world and working World Championships or Summer Olympics, to getting or staying in shape, to giving back to the sport, to making some extra money, or simply to challenging oneself to work a level of competition that family and friends would not expect of them. Many officiate in rural, even remote locales where weather can be extreme, or games, few and far between (figuratively and literally). Some find their own way into the officiating fraternity while others are recruited. But few if any, begin with an eye towards glamour and glory. Even less, I would suggest, choose this avocation out of interest in filling their local Board or Regional Association's need for administrators and volunteers to train and evaluate their peers; all tasks, which are necessary for the effective administration of the Boards and Associations that give us our start and provide us with training and opportunity. Some of us, before choosing to referee, had experienced basketball in some other capacity; such as playing or coaching, but had to learn officiating skills. Others had the benefit of previous officiating experience in a different sport, but knew very little about basketball and thus, had to learn the game. We come from different backgrounds and are gifted with personalities and styles which vary from calm and reserved to bold and extroverted. Without commentary on the effectiveness of any such traits, I will say that none should be excluded simply out of hand. In fact, with only 4,000 plus registered officials covering the more than 100,000 basketball games played in this Country each year, we can't expect a collection of clones. The abusive, the incompetent and the non-supportive must be weeded out. The rest will develop at varying rates and to varying degrees.**

**What we do have in common however, is a journey which includes unique experiences; and personal opportunities to share them constructively with our fellow officials. Whether it comes from our first "big" game assignment or the 8:30 Saturday morning game between losers from the loser's side of the draw, each one of our game experiences offers an opportunity for reflection, improvement and personal development. Every post-game discussion, casual conversation with fellow officials and game we observe, does the same. If we allow it, any and all of these experiences will help us to better understand; the intent of rules and purpose for mechanics, the importance of game management and techniques for developing those skills, the benefits of skillful and effective communication and will also help us develop an appropriate feel for refereeing the sport.**

**None of us knows what experiences lay ahead, or what opportunities will come our way. All we can control is our attitude, thought process, efforts to improve and performance when given an opportunity. Whether, or not, we are promoted by an Evaluator, from grade eight to Junior Varsity competition or selected to work the "final" of a Provincial or National tournament, is someone else's challenge and responsibility, not ours. Those someone else's have been in that same spot and their own journey has evolved with the benefit of their experiences and opportunities. They share them with us selflessly in order to make us better. The term for this is mentorship and we call them Mentors.**

In relation to our numbers, only a fortunate few receive opportunity to referee Provincial championships or National competition; fewer still, International competition. To not receive such opportunity, is not failure. No one is excellent at everything. We must each recognize and accept our own abilities and strengths and offer them to our local Boards and Regional Associations. We are all the benefactors of many whose “assignment resume” may not be all that extensive or impressive. At some point we need to be prepared to replace these people, so that the next generation of basketball officials will develop their skills, be afforded opportunity and be supported as we have.

Mike Woods was a mentor to many of BC’s finest and most successful officials between the late 1970s and early 1990s. Never shy to offer his opinion, Mike expected officials to meet their potential and wasn’t afraid to hold them accountable, yet generous with praise where deserved; all for the purpose of making them better. As BC’s Interpreter, he was a member of the National Council for many of those years as well. Mike passed away on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the age of 72 and although not actively involved with the BCBOA during the past fifteen or so years, his mentorship is still evident and valued today.

## **Officiating in Baker Lake, Nunavut**

**Submitted by Wes Crymble, Supervisor for Manitoba**

As assignors we often complain about the problems we have assigning games and the late changes made to some tournaments. I thought you might be interested in hearing about a tournament in Baker Lake, Nunavut, for which we were asked to provide officials.

In November, I received a call from Sport Nunavut to see if I could possibly send four officials to Baker Lake to officiate a senior men's tournament. I made the arrangements. The officials were to fly out Friday morning and return on Monday afternoon. The airfare was \$1250 per official - \$5000 to get the officials to Baker Lake. I found out at this time that the organizers were covering the costs for the teams to fly in and their accommodations. Their budget for the tournament was approximately \$80 000.

On Thursday, the night before the tournament I got a phone call informing us that there was a blizzard in the area and the tournament was cancelled. On Monday, the tournament was rescheduled to the upcoming weekend. Unfortunately, on such short notice the four officials scheduled to go were not able to change plans at work. We could only arrange for two other officials to go and the organization arranged for two officials from Yellowknife. I asked Andy Russo, one of the MABO officials to give us a brief account of his experience.

*“Ever since I've been involved in basketball refereeing, I've been able to see a lot of Manitoba. So when I threw my name in to referee a tournament in Baker Lake, I thought just another new spot in Manitoba. When I informed my wife where I was going, she googled Baker Lake and showed me exactly where I was going. It's not in Manitoba, but approximately 1200 miles north of Winnipeg in Nunavut, where it's cold and food is expensive. If I was going to be there for 3 days, I was making sure a duffle bag filled with snacks and drinks was coming with me.*”

*Friday morning, I met my partner Ben at the airport to kick start what many people have been telling me would be the "experience of a lifetime" . Now, there are two things you need to know about me, I rarely travel anywhere in Canada and I'm afraid of heights (but I'm fine with big planes). When I learned we were flying in a small plane, the kind I refer to as "rock star", where you have to walk outdoors to the plane and see the guys stand on milk crates to start the propellers, not fun.*

*After a gruelling flight to Rankin Inlet and a 45-minute flight to Baker Lake, we landed safely in what I can describe as white sheet. We were taken to our lodge where we met with the other two officials from Yellowknife. After settling in, I made it very clear to everyone that I was not taking back any of the snacks and drinks I brought, so this all needed to be consumed by Sunday.*

*Overall, the tournament went very well, so much so, the finals went to overtime where the home team came out on top in front of a packed gym. The people were generous with their time, the players were enjoying themselves and the organizers were very accommodating to our every need, with the exception of one request.*

*On Sunday morning, one of the staff from Sport Nunavut came to see us and share some news. She started off by introducing herself and followed up with, "I have bad news and really bad news, what do you want to hear first?". At 8:30 in the morning, I'm thinking between our two options, something has changed in this tournament. WRONG! The bad news, there's a blizzard coming this way in two hours. The really bad news, it's going to last 2-3 days. HELLO, DID YOU SAY 2-3 DAYS? I believe the next thing I said to her was, if you want me to referee the finals, you're going to have to make sure we're going home on Monday morning. She laughed at me and I cried. Then she added that we would need to ration our food and water supplies as the community shuts down during a blizzard.*

*Earlier, I said I was thrilled to have this lifetime experience of going to Nunavut. Nobody told me it would change to a scary adventure. I also said that I brought all this food and drinks, guess what, ALL GONE. So now we will be stranded for 2 -3 days with no food and water. Great, who signed me up for a this reality T.V. show.*

### **Monday**

*Our lodge faces the lake and you can't see anything but white. The windows are rattling, howling winds and nothing but a cold chill in the air. I still don't believe we're not going home, as I'm packed and ready to be picked up and taken to the airport. Even so, I go outside for 5 minutes to survey this so-called blizzard. I tell the other three, there's no blizzard, I could still see the house in front of us. Within 10 minutes, that same house I saw, disappeared. The wind went from 60 km/hr to 110 km/hr. Reality hit, we were not going home today. I was trying to text my wife to let her know, but my cell had no service. All we could do was watch TV and thank goodness it was working. Before night fall, we wanted to see how bad it was outside. The Lodge had two doors, one filled up with snow that you couldn't get out and the other that we had been using all this time was sealed up by frost. Fantastic, not only were we stranded here, now we were locked in. Wonderful experience. By the end of the day, we had all hit our breaking point.*

### **Tuesday**

*Not accepting defeat, myself and one of the other guys decided to try and walk to the hotel (45-second walk) to get some food and water. We must have walked for 15 seconds and had to turn around, we were out of breath, no visibility, cold and dumb for trying. When we turned around we could not see where we had come from. Luckily we stumbled in the right direction back to our lodge. All we could do was stare at each other with disgruntled looks and watch TV repeats all day. Still unable to call anyone, I was able to text my family and work to let them know what had transpired at Baker Lake. By mid-afternoon my cell phone rang. It was my assignor Wes Crymble calling. He had dialed my number by mistake totally unaware that we were still in Baker Lake. I informed him that we were not coming home for some time. Now I could call my wife and talk to her. Great, lost connection. My one call and it was a wrong number from Wes. Thanks Wes.*

#### **Wednesday**

*Things were clearing up but still no signs of going home yet. By now, the other three guys, who I may add were all taller than me, were looking at me strangely. Later on, we did what we've been doing the last couple of days, watched repeat shows on TV. By 3 pm, things cleared up a bit that we were able to walk to the hotel to grab some food. It was so good to be outside and see other people besides each other. We heard that the winds had crumpled half of the metal roof top. That night, we were invited for some caribou stew at one of the teacher's home. We learned that evening that we were finally going home and catching a flight out around 11am the next morning.*

#### **Thursday**

*We were awakened by a phone call. It was the woman from Sport Nunavut who informed us that our flights had changed and that we were leaving at 8:30 a.m. We said our goodbyes and off to the airport. When we checked in we were told that there was a delay to our departure. At 9:30 a.m., there was an announcement saying that the plane has not left Rankin Inlet yet. Now, our departure was scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Things were not looking good, I knew it was too good to be true. New departure time, 12:45 p.m., then 1:30 p.m., then 2:15 p.m. Now we were told that the connecting flight that was going to take us home had left Rankin Inlet. Now we had two options, catch the 4 p.m. flight to Rankin Inlet and stay there overnight and leave Saturday morning, or do a milk run Friday morning. I had no idea what that meant, but we would do the milk run. Back to the hotel for the night.*

#### **Friday**

*We were picked up at 7am to start our journey home. By 8:30 a.m. we were in the air to start the milk run. At this point, the fear of flying in a small plane was overshadowed by the awesome news of going home. It was on the plane that I discovered what a milk run is. We had to make numerous stops before heading home to Winnipeg. It was in Churchill when I found out Wes had taken my assignment away from me that night. My wife was able to speak with Wes and made sure he put me back into my games. When it was all said and done, we touched down around 4:30 p.m. and I was back on the court at 7:00 p.m. to referee my double.”*



As a footnote to Andy's story, Ben Szymkow the other MABO official was a school teacher and had to pay the substitute costs for the 4 extra days he missed. The tournament organizers were kind enough to reimburse him the cost of the substitute. Because of the tremendous hospitality and despite the 4-day blizzard both officials said they would gladly do it all over again if asked.

## **SUMMER OFFICIATING : TIME TO REFLECT AND TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE**

Submitted by Morgan Munroe, Interpreter for Alberta

As you head into the so-called off-season you may want to sit back and reflect on the past season's highs and lows. But wait, your assigner is calling or emailing you with games from now until mid July. Basketball officiating has become an almost year round avocation. Is that a good thing or should we raise the proverbial stop sign (even though we're not supposed to use it anymore) and ask ourselves if this is actually time we rethink the whole year round officiating carousel on which we find ourselves?

**Why it can be a good thing to officiate in the off season**

When I started officiated nearly twenty five years ago, adult summer leagues gave me my first glimpse at officiating bigger players and the speed, athleticism and contact that accompany this type of play. It also exposed me to the not so fun part when players play with little structure and where winning and losing often is of little consequence to

the participants. I remember assessing a technical foul to a rather large muscular gentlemen and then having him invite me “outside” after the game. This certainly didn’t make for an enjoyable experience, but it did give me invaluable experience in dealing with an emotional player. By the way I didn’t take him up on his offer.

Summer basketball gave me a chance to work on things that evaluators had told me to try in games near the end of the season. Summer leagues were the perfect laboratory to try and work your way through some of their valuable insights. At that time, officials would often hear the adage “Anticipate the play, evaluate the contact, rule on the result” (it still works today by the way). When you are in a less pressure packed setting, like a summer league game, you can begin to put these principles into practice.

Another benefit of summer officiating was that it gave the players an opportunity to learn valuable things about officials. At least I feel they are valuable. First, they got to appreciate that we too work on our game and try to get better every chance we have. When they saw us the next fall some of them remembered that we had been out there in the summer refining our craft. Second, the relaxed atmosphere was a good setting to see that we were approachable people who weren’t there to make their basketball lives hell or just to “grab some cash”. We were actually “real” people with jobs and families and yet we were willing to sacrifice time away from them in order to improve.

For me off-season officiating was a great accelerator for my officiating career.

### **Why then am I concerned?**

First let me distinguish between opportunities such as camps, summer games events organized by provincial bodies and national championships presented by Canada Basketball. These events for the most part are well run and provide officials with opportunities that almost always improve the quality of officiating in this country. I support and encourage officials to participate in these events

I am concerned about the almost exponential growth of spring and summer leagues along with the explosion of club tournaments that seem to multiply yearly. Here in Alberta there are 29 tournaments listed on the Association of Alberta Youth Basketball Clubs website. Having officiated in and watched many others I think it is cautionary for officials to remind themselves of some of the pitfalls that can occur when we continue to work so many games especially those in the spring and summer.

Experience has taught me that one of the drawbacks of these games can be the bad habits we often pick up. The games are often played with modified rules which may indirectly encourage the officials to also make modifications. Sloppy signals, improper mechanics and other counterproductive behaviors may subtly sneak into the official’s presentation and, without knowing it, these can reappear in the fall.

In addition to the growing number of games, another frequent complaint I’ve heard as well as personally observed is the irresponsible behavior of a small minority of coaches and spectators. Organizers go to great lengths to promote the value of the additional development opportunities that these tournaments afford the players. However, the same precept is often not applied to the officials. This is especially true when younger officials work these tournaments.

These should be viewed as development opportunities for the officials as well. Instead, they seem to be the stage for a small group of coaches with marginal training to try and emulate the people they see on television when it comes to “working” the officials. Likewise we see parents who often sit courtside and criticize young officials with no appreciation of the rules. Last summer, I was observing a game when an official made a charging call. It was a correct call. Two outraged gentlemen began verbally abusing the official. Eventually, one came down and asked if I thought that the charging call was in fact correct. When I said yes and explained the rule to him he thanked me. At that point, I had some small hope that maybe these games might actually have some unplanned benefits. Then he casually asked when they had changed the rule and I snapped back to reality. I’m not sure if officiating games in which there is often a lack of offensive and defensive structure as well as a lack of fundamentals, is good for anyone - players or officials. I’m sure having people with little knowledge of the rules verbally abuse the referees does nothing for the game. In my opinion, the increasing demand to officiate more games as well as the excessive behavior by some individuals is a recipe for losing officials.

There are certainly some benefits to spring and summer officiating but the potential positives need to be carefully considered against a bigger issue. The bigger issue is of course the retention of officials. I think we need to start to ask some tough questions about the number of games we do throughout the year. Do we need more officials? Obviously we never have enough but perhaps those we have should be used more wisely for the betterment of everyone involved in the sport.

## **Refereeing Multiple Rules Sets and Championships**

**Submitted by Mike McPhee, Interpreter for Ontario**

In Ontario, the officiating and club basketball communities were looking forward hopefully to the possibility of OFSAA ( the high school sports authority) adopting FIBA rules for their competitions. Unfortunately the motion was defeated and the province will continue to be the one that requires officials to officiate highly competitive basketball with two different rule sets.

Right now we are in the midst of our provincial age group championships and the issue of what happens when we have to work two different sets of rules has come up an unfortunate number of times. This led me to decide to focus on how we as officials prepare for situations at the championship level in general as well as the problem associated with having different rules sets to administer.

I believe the key to success is focused preparation, and diligent use of the guidelines that rules and mechanics give us. In any situation where an officiating crew is using rules that differ from what they are most accustomed to, a method of preparation before working those games is essential. If there are documents available that delineate the differences, then they should be studied and reviewed, not just by the individual official, but by the crew as part of the pre-game that they have. This becomes a critical reason for having a pre-game. It is vital that we as officials understand and have confidence in the rulings we are going to be asked to make in an upcoming game. Our job is to make sure that the two teams have the same opportunity to succeed that the makers of the rules have built into the structure of the game. To not know something or make a ruling using the wrong set of guidelines is likely to destroy that very trust that we have been hired to uphold.



Secondly, I believe that using the set of mechanics that pertains to the game in question is an important tool that can help us be not just intellectually ready for the task, but physically ( by virtue of repetition ) in tune with the game we are calling as well. Therefore using the signals attached to the rules set, using the terminology of the rules set when making rulings and being where the mechanics manual wants us to be and performing the tasks it asks of us, give us a better chance to apply whatever is needed for the contest in question.

The last thing to think about, particularly at the end of the season where most of the games are going to terminate some team's dream, is the importance of what we do and how we feel about what we are about to do. If we have been officiating since September we are certainly physically but probably more importantly mentally tired. That state of being is going to get us into difficulties unless we make a deliberate effort to "get up" for the games. The hardest games to do are the ones between the less successful teams, once the score has become non competitive. This is the time when we must be on top of our game. The kids playing late in those games are quite frequently the ones who normally see little floor time. They deserve the chance to play a real basketball game, to pass and dribble and shoot and play defense and have fouls called that are deserved. The parents want to cheer, to see the success that just being in the game has given their child, so we need to referee right to the end until the final buzzer decides that the game is over. And that is paramount to our duty and responsibility, regardless of the rule set under which the game is played.