



# Post Play Express

Vol.5, No.4, December 2013

## SEASON'S GREETINGS!



MAY THIS HOLIDAY PERIOD  
BE FILLED WITH LOVE AND JOY!

# Personal Characteristics in Officiating

Submitted by Bill Denney, Interpreter for British Columbia

Some personal characteristics are likely to be instrumental in helping you become a good official. These qualities are not necessarily inherent, but we can all work to adopt them consciously.

- ***Integrity*** – This involves choices you make while working, always to uphold the highest principles.
- ***Courage*** – Many situations in games will test your ability to be brave and to make decisions that you know in your heart are correct, but may not be popular.
- ***Self-confidence*** – You should start off each game by giving yourself a pep talk about showing everyone that you are completely in charge.
- ***Decisiveness*** – Most judgments have to be made quickly and emphatically. When you execute such judgments properly, you gain the confidence of those involved in the game.
- ***Consistency*** – Each situation differs, to be sure, but strength of purpose is shown in the evenness with which you make decisions.
- ***Being even tempered*** – This may be the hardest attitude to achieve, because, though it's easy to remain calm when nothing is happening, it's difficult to do so when people react negatively to your performance.
- ***Humility*** – There is a tendency among some officials to adopt an authoritative defensive posture, but the official who gains the most respect admits that sometimes he/she could be wrong.
- ***Understanding human nature*** – Some people whine when they are aggrieved and they're usually sorry for it later; try to forgive them before they ask for forgiveness.
- ***Ability to control situations*** – When something odd happens in a game, pause to replay the event mentally, then make a firm decision and resolve to convince others, in a soft but direct way, of the sense behind your decision.
- ***Hustle*** – There is no substitute for hustling to position yourself for a firm call and people will appreciate that you're on top of the play, even if they don't say it.

# **SNOW, SLEET, ICE, FOG AND BEASTIES ON THE ROAD**

## **IT'S CLINIC SEASON IN SASKATCHEWAN**

Submitted by Dave Werry, Interpreter, Saskatchewan

The rural and smaller centre school districts around Saskatchewan ask the Saskatchewan Association of Basketball Officials (SABO) for clinics prior to the start of their basketball seasons every year. These clinics usually happen the last half of November and the beginning of December and require officials to travel to the clinics as well as the clinician. Clinics are usually held on a week night. The reason for this time frame is that the officials in the rural areas are most likely coaches. They usually are the coach of all the sports at the school. The clinics in these regions can't be earlier as they are coaching Football, Volleyball and any other fall sport. These sports do not finish sometimes until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November.

Mike Kylo from Saskatoon handles the Northern Sask Clinics and Martin Holzer from Moose Jaw and I handle the South. Travel to the clinics most times is at night and can be a challenge due to dodgy road conditions, weather and the beasties on the road. Weather can change quickly in Sask. One moment a moonlit sky and the next blinding snow storm or a thick fog appears out of nowhere. Also a dry road can turn into an icy snowy mess in a heartbeat. And then there are those beasties you have to dodge now and then....deer, moose, elk, coyotes, foxes and all sorts' of strange animals. Many times driving down the road you happen upon an animal that has ceased to be on the side of the road and you say "What was that?!?", usually with an expletive deleted thrown in on that sentence.



My worst experience on a travel to a clinic in Canora, SK was I hit a patch of snow a grader left in the middle of the road around Yorkton and I as I was doing a 360 twice I was thinking, it's been a wonderful life. Luckily I spun out into a big pile of snow in the ditch. Called a tow truck and was on my way to Canora. And the funny part of the story....no one showed up for the clinic. There was miscommunication by the school putting on the event. I travelled a little slower going home.

The clinician's travel is paid by a grant from Basketball Saskatchewan. The honorariums are usually paid by the school district. I commend the officials for the time and dedication to attend the clinics. As for the clinicians kudos should go out for spreading the word of CABO on rules and interpretations and mechanics as well as their time and effort involved for these clinics. The SABO clinicians over the past two years put well over 10,000 kilometers on their odometers for the rural clinic season. We handled clinics from Buffalo Narrows to Oxbow and Creighton to Shaunavon and places in between.

I would also like to thank the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association for their support.

# THE NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Submitted by Jamey Jennings, Supervisor for Newfoundland/Labrador

Each year at this time, all CABO members are asked to take a look at themselves and their rules knowledge, and to write the National Exam. For those of us who have been with CABO for quite some time, we know the exam format has been relatively the same. How the exam has been administered may have changed in each province. One has to look at the National Exam twofold: (A) it is a great educational tool to measure what one knows or doesn't know about the FIBA rules, and (B) for those aspiring to work National Championships or be evaluated, success at the National Standard (86%) for National appointments or the commensurate score for each NOCP level, is the **ONLY** tool to achieve these objectives.

There is a segment of CABO's membership who do not study for the exam, nor do they pass the exam on a consistent basis. There are some who do not write the exam – but due to lack of officials in a local board they continue to officiate. Some of those continue to receive the same game fee as if they had passed the exam and retained their rating. Are these CABO members accountable – to the clients we serve, their local and provincial boards? The answer is no.

Coaches and players think they know the rules. On any given night, coaches and players will question our judgment and sometimes our integrity. They should not be questioning whether we know the rules or not. That, as officials, should be sacrosanct. But, unfortunately, it is not. There are a portion of CABO members who do not know the rules as well as they should. These members are not accountable, and by choosing to do so, they unfortunately allow players and coaches to question their judgment and rules knowledge in game situations, especially where knowledge of the rules and the interpretations of the rules will decide games.

Then the question – what can be done about those who choose to officiate but not keep themselves current? Some in the larger provinces will say to not allow those members to officiate. Some others will state that the official should be demoted to a lower rating (in Newfoundland, that would mean a loss of game fees) while others will argue that if these officials don't know the rules, and don't stay current, they shouldn't officiate at provincial age group or high school championships. Conversely, others will argue that we are trying to *retain and grow* our provincial memberships, so we should not turn people off or away from officiating and should not be penalizing officials for not writing the exam.

This writer is unsure of what the right approach to the above dilemma is – I'm sure some or all of the above approaches have been tried across the country. Mentoring approaches have been applied to new officials to help them grow as young officials; why not a mentoring approach to those who can't make the grade on exams, or those who refuse to write on a consistent basis? For those in the former category, mentoring for the exam may be away to help these officials get over the hump and have some measure of success on the exam. For those in the latter category and refuse to write the exam, it would have to be up to local or provincial boards in how they deal with these members on a case by case basis.

The fee we are paid for working games for our clients is a fee for service. Our clients can and should expect us to be the best we can be each time we step on the court. Officials need to be accountable for their professional preparation or lack thereof. If the official is attending clinics, studying the rules, applying FIBA and CABO interpretations and using approved FIBA mechanics, they should be prepared for each game and strive to get better over the course of the season. These officials are accountable to themselves and their association.

Those who choose the path of least resistance – not prepare, not study the approved rules and interpretations and apply the approved mechanics, not write the exam and do as little as possible to accept the game fee, the need for accountability is paramount.