



# Post Play Express

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***HAPPY HOLIDAYS***

***AND***

***ALL THE BEST***

***FOR 2013***

# **MAKING PAR**

**Submitted by Mike Homsy, Supervisor for Quebec**

**For Forrest Gump, life is like a box of chocolates. For referees, officiating is like scoring par. Now I know I have the attention of all you golf lovers!**

**Most officials know what needs to be done at a given moment. They know the rules, the proper mechanics, how a situation should be handled. The issue however, is how we act.**

**Actions in basketball, as in life, are based on history. Actions are also the way we are judged. The experiences we've had along with the information with which we're presented at the time will influence our actions. If we had the good or bad fortune of a situation that repeats itself, then we can use those lessons as a tool in judgment and act accordingly. If it's a first time occurrence, then we must rule based on the knowledge we've gained.**

**I like to think that we can help ourselves tremendously by applying several principles to our officiating. I have always been a proponent of breaking things down into small pieces to get the full advantage. Mistakes happen when we fail to apply an important component of our decision-making process. If we follow the principles, it makes it easier to judge the actions and subsequently easier to evaluate if we managed the situation correctly or not.**

**The great game of golf is predicated on the score of par. Using the PAR principle in refereeing will help us to properly officiate any situation that arises.**

## **P – Preparation**

**Every official knows that if we are not prepared when we walk on the field of play, we risk performing at a sub-standard level. It is vital that preparation includes physical, psychological and theoretical aspects. We must begin our preparation immediately after our last game. Knowledge on the history of the teams, player match-ups, previous altercations between players and/or coaches, relationship with either coach, crew experience and partner chemistry are just some of the issues we may have to consider.**

## **A – Awareness**

**Being on the court is not enough. Coaches, players, supervisors don't need you to just be present. You must be an active participant! That means that you must be engaged and involved. So much happens on the court that decision-making goes beyond just blowing the whistle. A good no-call is as good a decision as any other. So much happens in the game that we must have our antennas on always. If we are aware, then we can anticipate the potential of an unpleasant circumstance arising. We must be alert to any situation that could provoke a reaction. A hard foul, a cheap shot, frustrated players and taunting are all examples that can lead to a problem.**

## **R – Reaction**

Assuming that we have followed the first parts of the equation (preparation and awareness), the final part is to react. Reaction involves using knowledge and information to make a proper decision. Armed with these two components, our judgment now comes into play. This is it! We are evaluated based on our reaction (whistle vs. no whistle) and the way we present it. If we are convincing, we can “sell the call” better. If we demonstrate any uncertainty, regardless of the decision, it will not be well accepted. Be strong with your signals.

Remember that despite your low handicap in golf, as referees, your goal is to make PAR!

# **CANADA BASKETBALL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**

Submitted by Ted Montgomery, CABO Vice-President

Twice each year the Executive Directors of Canada Basketball and of the provincial and territorial basketball organizations meet. The fall two-day meeting, this year in Montreal, had a full agenda, covering a broad range of topics important to the basketball community. CABO has a place at the meeting as a Canada Basketball partner. Here is a snapshot of some of the key topics addressed at the meeting.

FIBA continues to expand its focus on 3x3 basketball. They have developed an internet strategy whereby players can gather information, schedule competitions and even obtain a national ranking by entering data regarding their games on the FIBA digital platform which includes “Event Maker,” “3x3 planet,” and a specific 3x3 app. FIBA hopes to have 3X3 played at the Rio De Janeiro Olympics in 2016. World Championships this year were in Miami and a team from Canada competed. One of our CABO FIBA officials, Rich Stehlik was assigned to the tournament. While in its early development stages as a distinct sanctioned sport, 3x3 is growing rapidly, nurtured by FIBA. Canada is a part of that rapid growth. Officials will need to be attentive to the development of officially sanctioned 3x3 to ensure that CABO, the provinces, and local boards maintain the levels of service and training that the basketball community expects and deserves.

Youth player development is probably the strongest focus of the provincial and territorial leaders. Every province has programs in place for long term athlete development with care given to both grass roots play and those athletes with elite level talent. There was discussion of the Steve Nash Youth Basketball program and engaging more with the NBA and Toronto Raptors. The youth focus is shifting to younger players in the 8-12 year old range.

There are some interesting rule modifications for various age groups. In Saskatchewan, grades one to three players are restricted to 3x3, while it's 4x4 for students in grades four through six. In British Columbia, for players under 13 years of age, it is a violation to attempt a 3-point shot. The ED's discussed the difficulties of officiating some of the rule modifications.

The American Athletic Union basketball programs and try-out competitions in the U.S. are having an impact on recruiting and retaining elite level players. Several provinces are finding various ways to try to work cooperatively with the U.S. entities so that the needs of everyone involved are best met.

There was a request from former Concordia and a national team coach, Mike Hickey, to petition the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA for the inclusion of Jack Donohue in the contributor category through the international screening committee.

Coach development is another key aspect of the work of Canada Basketball and every provincial and territorial basketball. Coaches are encouraged – and at nearly all levels – required to engage in training and development certification programs, primarily the NCCP. The ED group committed to expand their use of internet-based interactive pathways to significantly enhance accessibility, participation, and effect of their coach training packages. To that end the group agreed to spend \$20,000 to support a new online coaching education site.

CABO, which itself, of course, is founded on a cooperative and partnership structure, is happy to be involved with the provincial and national basketball leadership, as we are with the CIS and CCAA. We often hear calls for greater consistency. Canada Basketball and its provincial and territorial partners are working together and with CABO towards both improved and more consistent practices. Next meeting will be at the Canada Basketball AGM in the spring.

## **THAT’S WHY WOMEN QUIT OFFICIATING!**

Submitted by Sandy Forand, Ontario

This past summer while umpiring a men’s slow-pitch game; an incident occurred that affected me so drastically, I truly WANTED to “quit” officiating.

I am a level 4 umpire for Softball Canada as well as a level 4 basketball official with the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials. I have umpired for nearly 35 years and done 3 Canadian Championships in both the men’s and women’s divisions. In my 40 years of basketball, I officiated NCAA Div. 1 & 3, had 7 Canadian National Championships and am currently an Assignor/Evaluator for the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials at national tournaments. I am also an IAABO Interpreter for Board 192. My passion these days is with Special Olympic Basketball.

On that particular day I was the base umpire in a senior men’s division of slow-pitch baseball. On a double play, I called the runner going to 2<sup>nd</sup> out and the runner going to 1<sup>st</sup> safe. Close play (correct call)! The shortstop for a team I have never umpired prior, nor knew, said things I have NEVER heard in any sport in all my years of officiating. “Umpy, you blew that call, get OFF your knees”! I proceeded to throw him out and the situation escalated. “You f\*\*king b\*\*ch”. You f\*\*king c\*\*t”!

People around the perimeter of the diamond were shocked. Players from both teams were equally shocked. I have to write these words, so you can understand how it made me feel. I felt embarrassed, demeaned and sickened. I

can only compare it to a racial slur, bully statements made to one of my special needs students or an abusive tirade by an enraged spouse. These words cut me to the core. On that day, in that game, I was JUST A WOMAN IN A UNIFORM. It doesn't matter where I've been or what I've done. My time spent or many accomplishments carry no weight with prejudices.

Many, many years ago, I can recall one of my first high school games. I was 15. I was too young to drive and my Mom drove me and she watched the game from the stands. Numerous times in the 1<sup>st</sup> half, the coach called me a "dumb broad". At halftime I told my Mom about it and she said "what would Willa do"? My Aunt Willa Leach was a very successful basketball official of her time. "Willa would give him a technical foul"! "Do it" my Mom said. And I did!

These are the issues young female officials of all sports WILL encounter. It is inevitable! These are the issues ANY woman will encounter for the rest of her officiating career. THIS is a fact! Is it right? NO! But it's a fact! The biggest question is WILL she have the "supports" to deal with it and remain in the game? Supports are needed not only from her family but her partners, associations and sometimes provincial/state and national bodies.

Without these fail safe supports to deal with these incidents, women will NOT be represented as leaders and role models for those that follow. Female players will never know that this is something THEY might strive to do, when their playing days are behind them.

In our sport communities, ALL of us should NEVER allow such negative actions to go without consequence. NEVER! "Her" future depends on it.

IT TAKES A LITTLE COURAGE AND A LITTLE SELF-CONTROL AND SOME GRIM DETERMINATION, IF YOU WANT TO REACH THE GOAL.

IT TAKES A DEAL OF STRIVING, AND A FIRM AND STERN-SET CHIN, NO MATTER WHAT THE BATTLE, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO WIN.

THERE'S NO EASY PATH TO GLORY, THERE'S NO ROSY ROAD TO FAME. LIFE, HOWEVER WE MAY VIEW IT, IS NO SIMPLE PARLOR GAME; BUT ITS PRIZES CALL FOR FIGHTING, FOR ENDURANCE AND FOR GRIT; FOR A RUGGED DISPOSITION AND A DON'T-KNOW-WHEN-TO-QUIT.