



S P O R T S R E A L S

Junior IAABO

With the constant reminder of the “official shortages” across the country over the last several years, many organizations are looking for more creative ways to enlist officials. Surely the positives surrounding this line of work outweigh the negatives, but in this digital world, how would a group portray the great benefits of officiating that most common fans don’t see?

Young people are “plugged in” to social media the most. They see posts of horrible fan behavior, fights, and general lack of respect for officials. Surely there is a better way to promote all the good things that don’t go viral: camaraderie, positive teamwork, confidence, rules knowledge, working under pressure, among many others.

By tapping into this market, IAABO has been an organization that has adapted to this era the best. From RefQuest video rules review to IAABO University, the transition to the modern world has been quite smooth. This is not to say it hasn’t been an enormous task; many hours of hard work have gone into this evolution.

This leads us to an inquiry that came from the Waldo County YMCA in Belfast, ME that was having trouble finding officials to work their youth games. Swanville, ME resident and IAABO Board 111 member Scott Cournoyer has always felt that it is important to serve his community.



Longtime Bd 111 official, Lon Bagley with Julia Richards, current Junior IAABO student from Mount View HS, Thorndike, ME

It was a natural idea to share his love for basketball officiating with the youth of the community. From there, an idea formed to get high school students proficient in the rules and trained to work these games.

Scott took this idea to his board’s fall meeting as a way to get community involvement. He explained the benefits of a course for high school students would have benefits that would be four-fold:

- It would get them to be better players by understanding the rules.
- The YMCA would win by getting games covered.
- IAABO would gain distinction by getting more interest from young folks.
- Plus – the young officials get PAID!

He connected with Julie Goupille, from Presque Isle, ME and of IAABO Board 150. An original contributor to the IAABO University program, it was a natural decision back in 2020 for her to become involved with developing a youth program for IAABO. She already had hundreds of PowerPoint slides – more specifically over 800 slides – the curricula from IAABO U at her disposal. With the help of an ad hoc committee, she developed the Junior IAABO program with the blessing of IAABO’s Executive Director and Director of Membership & Development, Felix Addeo and Donnie Eppley, respectively. *(continued on page 3)*

When Is the Ball at the Player’s Disposal?

A close contest can often be determined by the officials’ ability to successfully manage players’ actions on the floor in relation to the clock – most often in the final seconds. What may have been a well-officiated game can suddenly turn into a nightmare, based on the split-second decision an official makes relating to clock awareness. I contend that every reputable and respected official has learned how to successfully and effectively manage these last-second situations through an initial experience that was less than pleasant. Or, more specifically, an experience that resulted in a questionable outcome that could have been avoided if the official possessed a higher clock-awareness acumen.

Personally, I learned this lesson midway through my second full season, during a JV game. Throw-ins are generally straightforward. Far before any of us earned the IAABO patch, we all knew through our own experience as players that a dead ball is not at the disposal of a player until it is handed to the thrower by the official. And, once successfully transferred to the player, the official’s five-second count begins.

When a try is successful, the ball becomes dead and the ensuing throw-in must be released within five seconds. The official’s five second count,



however, does not begin until the official determines that the ball is at the throw-in team’s disposal. This can be a somewhat subjective determination that becomes problematic when there appears to be a deliberate attempt by the throw-in team to have more seconds tick off the clock than might otherwise under normal circumstances. Given that the official is not handing the ball to the player, the ball is at the player’s disposal when the ball is readily available after a goal is scored. Again, the official’s decision to start their count is somewhat subjective and may become problematic in the final seconds of a game when the team who is behind must have their opponent inbound the basketball to have a reasonable chance of regaining possession.

That’s where my story comes in. I’m the Trail official in a 53 - 49 game with 12 seconds on the clock, when a player from the team who is behind passes the ball into the frontcourt. His teammate buries a three-pointer, making the score 53-52. As the shot goes up, my eyes are locked on the player’s feet to ensure that I am certain he is beyond the three-point arc so a successful goal is accurately awarded. My hands go up in the proper signal, indicating a successful three-point goal as the ball goes through the *(continued on page 5)*

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Statement

The International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of basketball officiating, through the proper training of applicants by visual and written aids; constant supervision by board proctors and dissemination of rule changes and interpretations.

Director's Court

Accountability

Accountability is defined as an obligation or willingness to accept responsibilities and to account for one's actions. It requires an individual to explain actions or decisions. Accountable people answer for their actions and provide explanations for why or how a result occurred. In our avocation of officiating basketball games, we understand what being accountable is. We have an obligation to possess solid knowledge of the rules, proper positioning and signals, excellent communication skills, and sound judgment. And we must employ all of these instantaneously and in real-time.

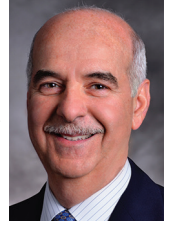
Accountability is most often associated with being responsible to someone else. But individuals can also choose to set standards for themselves and demonstrate the ownership necessary for achieving desired outcomes by goal setting. Accountability tends to convey results of past actions and deemed reactive. These accounts often detail rationale, justification, and even excuses for outcomes that occurred. A more initiative-taking approach to accountability stems from a person's ability to influence events and outcomes before they happen. The key to this approach is preparedness. The more prepared you are, the more outcomes will be justified and the more accountable you will be to others and yourself.

Through IAABO University, prospects are introduced to the online educational and training programs necessary for learning the theoretical requirements to enter this avocation. IAABO Academy continues with the development and continuous instruction of our members. IAABO provides additional materials for our members in the areas of rules, mechanics, positioning, and professionalism. The primary materials are published in a Handbook that contains a Rules Guide, as well as full-color Crew of Two and Crew of Three mechanics manuals. IAABO also produces an online Crew of Two educational program that covers all areas utilizing this system. A Crew of Three online program is scheduled for release in June 2024.

An old song by the Rascals begins with the lyrics: "How can I be sure, in a world that's constantly changing?" With the ever-changing world and intense responsibilities placed on officials, the only way you can be sure is by utilizing the educational and instructional materials produced by IAABO. You also need to tap into the vast experience of members in your local board to guide you in this process.

Stay Prepared, Stay Accountable, Stay IAABO

Sincerely, *Felix Addeo*



President's Corner

Greetings,

I hope this note finds you all well. Some very sad news is heavy on my heart today: our longtime member and former president, William "Bill" Varno, passed away on April 15th. Bill was incredibly dedicated to IAABO, always putting it first in his life. He was a true friend to everyone and was not one to back down when debating something he had strong convictions about.

Bill was a mentor to many, always ready to offer advice and guidance. He set a great example as a leader within our IAABO organization. Without Bill Varno, I would not be where I am today; I would not be the current President of such a great organization. Bill was such an integral part of our group.

Rest in peace, Bill. Please give our regards to Mary up there. We'll miss you dearly.

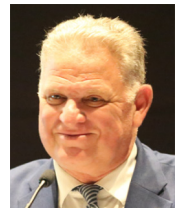
Now, it's time to start gearing up for next season. Sounds crazy, right? Well, I've found as I've gotten older that preparing for the season gets tougher and more time-consuming. Taking it step by step has really helped me; perhaps some of you could benefit from that approach as well.

Many of us still have a strong desire to officiate despite our advanced years and slowed reflexes. Don't be afraid to acknowledge that when it is the case. We can still mentor younger officials by working lower-level games with them. Our experience and knowledge are invaluable to those moving up in their officiating careers. Sometimes our pride can cloud our judgment, both individually and as a group, so it's important to stay humble and open to learning. A great deal of pride and satisfaction comes from watching someone you've mentored go on to have a successful career – sometimes even more successful than you had.

Alongside mentoring, we should also focus on recruiting new members to IAABO. If each of us brings in just one person, we can easily double our membership!

Remember to cherish every moment with your loved ones. Life is short, so let's make the most of it and take nothing for granted.

Sal Caputo



Junior IAABO (continued from page one)



Ben Sawyer, formerly of Bd 111 and current official in North Carolina, speaks to Junior IAABO officials Rico Washington and James Ritter.

Spending hundreds of hours reviewing over the abundant material, Julie and the committee came up with a course that is flexible and user-friendly, making it easily adaptable to students' busy schedules.

Both Julie and Scott highlighted that the critical piece is in the approach used to capture the attention of the Junior IAABO cadets. Scott recounts, "The very first 'hook,' on slide three, asks the cadets whether a player who is out-of-bounds for a throw-in when their toe touches the boundary line has committed a violation. I asked my group, 'Was the player legal?'" After challenging the students' knowledge and encouraging some discussion, the

next slides explained the rules to the students. They then understood that the player was still out of bounds. "It is that 'ah-ha' moment that captures their interest because it challenges what they *think* they know about the rules," according to Julie and Scott.

From there, Junior IAABO took off in Maine. What started with a program of five students in 2021 has grown to include almost 40 young officials to this day. From Belfast to Windham, Presque Isle to Bangor, there are officials who have participated in the program and are still working in AAU leagues. While some have shuffled off to college to focus on their studies, others are still playing high school basketball.

One Junior IAABO official in particular, Jayden Shoppee, a senior at John Baptist Memorial High School in Bangor, is preparing for her first season as a fully certified IAABO official. Her beginnings came in 2022 and she credits Dennis Farnham in Old Town as her first instructor and mentor. As his only student, she was able to learn how to officiate at her own pace. Having played basketball her whole life, she found herself drawn to officiating and actually talking to officials about her interest. She comments, "I always loved helping in clinics for small children in my free time and thought that officiating youth recreational games would also allow me to be on the court with them and help them further."

Ms. Shoppee also reaffirms Mr. Cornoyer's sentiment, "This has developed my knowledge as a player substantially, as I was able to better understand the rules...it has also allowed me to answer questions my coaches or teammates have about a call."

Brynne Sawyer, a graduate of Belfast Area High School in Belfast and current college student, was one of Scott's students. Brynne's father Ben Sawyer, at the time a three-year IAABO official, not only helped get her interested in basketball officiating, but has helped in her development, working games with her. Ben is still officiating, but has moved to North Carolina, working for a local association not affiliated with IAABO.

Brynne also started in the Junior IAABO program in December 2021 and has enjoyed her journey so far. She has stated her biggest challenge is being taken seriously. "I am five feet tall and a woman, so when I officiated some travel basketball games, many of the players would argue my calls, but would not do the same when my dad would make calls," she states. However, she quickly adds of the immediate benefits she has reaped, "Officiating has helped me as a student because it forced me to work on my communication skills in a number of new environments. Even when I was frustrated while officiating, I had to speak with respect and think before I spoke."

Shoppee also comments on the positives and the confidence gained as an official, "I have been able to take my experience officiating and reflect on my role as a student...I tend to be a quick learner and can be trained easily, I received many compliments in this regard." Both Shoppee and Sawyer have shared the idea that they have benefitted from better time management skills because they have had to fit in officiating with playing basketball and all of the other social aspects of being students.

Of course, one would think that a junior official would have a monumental task of overcoming the "intimidation factor" of handling coaches and fans. Scott was able to put the HS students' minds at ease, as he identified the elephant in the room and immediately explained to them that although it is initially intimidating, he would have their backs. In his proposal to the YMCA sports director, he requested two non-negotiable terms:

1) He would be the assigner, as he would be able to identify the proper level of officiating.

2) He would institute a "Zero Tolerance" policy for unruly fans that would apply to all. Any outburst toward the officials would be an automatic ejection from the facility.

He uses the term "adulting" as the lesson to teach the young officials. No empty threats are given and his support brings one less worry of fan intimidation. Scott is at all the games sitting behind the scorer as a deterrent to fan negativity and evaluating the officials to provide them instant feedback after the games.



First Junior IAABO class in Belfast, Maine. Back row L to R: Madison Shorey, Gary Gale, Rico Washington, James Ritter. Front row L to R: Brynne Sawyer, Ethan Abbott, Audra Faulkingham, Madison Goodwin

Sawyer and Shoppee have commented on the most difficult calls as being those involving judgment. Sawyer adds, "The hardest call to make, I think, would be a block vs. a charge. Sometimes it is very clear, but a lot of the time it is just a mess." Meanwhile Shoppee states, "Many calls are about judgment and being ready to face all the disagreements that will follow as fans, players, or coaches believe their team can't do anything wrong."

Both Julie and Scott have deemed Junior IAABO a success in Maine. The idea is even making it to Vermont, as a group is testing the curriculum with middle school students. Schools in NY and extra-curricular programs in D.C. have also yielded new young officials. Scott says, "We have had rave reviews and compliments from coaches and fans about how great the junior officials have done, and they think it's a great idea that we need more of in Maine and all other sports too!"

Anytime you can get community involvement by garnering an agreement with the YMCA on their basketball leagues is a win-win. Since the Y was offering to pay officials anyway, the opportunity was worked to cover games and providing one of the best high-paying jobs a youth can get. "Each official was paid \$25, saving the Y some money, which made them ecstatic...all while promoting IAABO."

Scott sees the program growing, but not just for basketball. "Soccer has it approved state-wide to use 16-year-olds for middle school officials." he concludes. "I see no reason why it can't follow suit for all other sports. And across the country, not just Maine."



Joe Maurer, Odenton, MD, has been officiating since 1994. He serves on the IAABO Education and Development Committee and is the current assigner of Board 23 in Central Maryland.



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Player's Disposal (continued from page one)

net and falls to the floor. I see nine seconds on the clock.

Bounce, bounce, bounce. I'm readying myself for a quick whistle, anticipating the necessary foul the trailing team will need to commit in an effort to regain possession. But, I now realize the ball is sedentary on the ground. The inbound team is clearly delaying inbound the basketball. As the clock approaches five seconds, a player from the throw-in team finally picks up the ball with less than five seconds left. His coach is screaming "Don't inbound it!" The coach of the trailing team is exploding, screaming at my partner, the Lead official, "You didn't start the count!" I'm sure some other colorful language was also included.

The horn blares, indicating the game is over, and I recognize that the winning team deliberately delayed inbound the ball, allowing approximately four seconds to tick off the clock before any attempt was made to retrieve the ball and start a throw-in after the made goal. My partner never started his count. Oh boy!

As my partner now recognizes his error, he quickly confers with the irate coach, runs to the table and directs the timer to put 5.5 seconds back on the clock. He quickly provides his rationale to me and then returns to his position as the Lead official on the end line.

The coach of the throw-in team is now going ballistic. He is upset that we have put time back on the clock. He is yelling at me and clearly does not understand the rule. He is arguing that the official's count cannot begin until the player picks up the basketball. I try to explain that the player does not have an indefinite amount of time to pick up the basketball and the count should have started.

At this point, my partner blows his whistle, hand in the air, indicating that the ball is about to be placed at the team's disposal, readying himself

to begin his five-second count. And, of course, the thrower waits until the official has reached four before releasing the ball. The horn goes off, and the game is over.

While my partner who was the Lead official on the play should have started his count once he recognized that the leading team was deliberately delaying the game, these decisions are difficult to ascertain in the moment, particularly for the first time as a new official. And, as the Trail official, I should have recognized this, and bailed my partner out by blowing the whistle and indicating delay-of-game. This would have quickly stopped play with likely eight seconds remaining and afforded the trailing team a reasonable opportunity to regain possession, either by stealing or stopping the clock by fouling.

Given that that did not happen, we should have taken the time to consult together, then bring the coaches into the decision, rather than move quickly to adjust the blunder and resume play. Our response only gave the appearance that we were not working together and were not confident in our decision and the rule.

For 31 minutes and 49 seconds we had officiated a strong game, demonstrating competency, professionalism, and confidence. But it only takes a second and lack of clock awareness to translate or success into a perception of ineptness. It's this type of blunder that you hope you learn from as a new official early on, to ensure a better result the next time around.



Brent Harrington finished his third season as an IAABO official and is a registered member of Board 52 in Westchester/Putnam County, NY.

Life Member, Past President Norm Van Arsdalen Passes



Norman Charles Van Arsdalen, 96, of Princeton passed away on Friday March 29, 2024, at Brandywine Living in Haddonfield, NJ. Norman was born in Milltown, NJ to Isaac Voorhees Van Arsdalen and Marguerite Sohl, on August 19, 1927. He married the love of his life, Thelma Marie Svendsen (Teddie) on August 13, 1949, and they celebrated their 72' wedding anniversary in August 2021 prior to her passing on January 7, 2022.

Norman graduated from New Brunswick High School June 21, 1945. Too young for military service, he joined the United States Maritime Service July 6, 1945, sailing on a coal-carrying steam ship to North Africa. After returning and taking a semester of college classes, he was drafted and inducted into the US Army: C Battery, 13th Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Division, on September 10, 1946. He received the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal-Japan, and an Honorable Discharge. While serving, his swimming prowess placed him on the Army All-Japan swim team.

After the Army, Norman returned to the Panzer College of Education and Hygiene receiving a Bachelor of Science in Education in August 1949. He married Teddie the next day. He was recognized later for Distinguished Professional Leadership with the Award of Honor from the Panzer Alumni Association of Montclair State College. He was hired by the Princeton Township School system as a Physical Education teacher for the 1949-1950 school year and retired from the Princeton Schools in 1989 after 40 years of continuous service and numerous roles. A Portrait feature in the Princeton Packet in 1965 suggested, "Ask for 'Mr. Van', They Know Who He Is," noting that "the name not only refers to a teacher but is a mark of affection and respect." He loved teaching Phys Ed; loved coaching soccer, basketball and baseball (and occasionally track, golf and softball); and he loved all the kids. During his tenure in the school system, he obtained a Master's degree from Rutgers University and at times served not only as a teacher and coach but also as the Athletic Director and finally as a Vice-Principal in charge of discipline at Princeton high school. After his retirement, a Princeton Packet "Guest Column" authored by two former students, Richard C. Woodbridge and James W. Firestone, wrote that, "There aren't many people who make a profound impression on a person's life—but Mr. Van did." They further noted that, "The most remarkable thing about Mr. Van is that he not only taught basic values, he lived them." He

had a deep and lasting impact on hundreds of students, many of whom returned after graduation just to see him and express their gratitude.

Many the world over know that Norm had a passion for sports and particularly a passion for officiating or refereeing football and basketball. Locally he concentrated on high school football for 35 years and nationally and internationally on collegiate level basketball for 33 years. He was known for fairness, integrity and impartiality by coaches and players alike. He was recognized by his peers for these same traits, as well as for excellent judgment and a complete understanding of the game, rising to the upper echelon of officials on and off the field and/or court.

Norm's refereeing experience included many memorable events and opportunities. While refereeing the Thanksgiving Day rivalry between New Brunswick High School (his alma mater) and South River High School (his wife's alma mater), his unsportsmanlike conduct call against the South River Band for blowing their horns while set up in the end-zone, after being warned not to do so as the New Brunswick team worked their way down field to that same end-zone, got national recognition, not to mention making for an interesting Thanksgiving dinner.

On the basketball court, Norman refereed in all the national tournaments and venues including the NCAA tournaments, the NIT and the Holiday Festival in Madison Square Garden, The Palestra, several conference finals and the Olympic Trials. In 1966, he accompanied the University of Kentucky under Adolph Rupp to Israel for the International University Basketball Championship. He had the honor of refereeing the Heidelberg, Germany team versus the Tel Aviv, Israel team, the first ever sporting event for a German team on Israeli soil. Other international opportunities included tournaments in Greece, Iran, El Salvador and Japan.

After putting away the striped shirts, he remained active in local and national sports associations including the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), the New Jersey Football Officials Association (NJFOA), the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association (CBOA), and the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO). He served on many committees of these associations, as the rules interpreter, as a mechanics instructor, as an assigner and reviewer of officials and as President. He has received numerous awards and honors including induction into the Princeton High School Hall of Fame, the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame, the National High School Sports Hall of Fame and Life Membership in the Officials Club of the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame.

Stoic or stoic: Applying the Three Stoic Disciplines to Officiating

The adjective “stoic,” is often connotated with a lack of expression, or a look of seriousness. A stoic official from this sense may be labeled as rigid, unapproachable, or unwilling to communicate; but there is another form of the word stoic that officials can embrace, becoming less stoic, and more of a “Stoic.” In other words, an official who is calm, poised, and in control, who responds well to pressure, external noise, and internal emotions. The capitalized “Stoic” derives from Stoicism—a school of ancient philosophy dating back to early third-century BC, where one achieves happiness through the pursuit of virtue. The belief is that events themselves do not cause our frustration, stress, and despair, but rather our interpretation of events. Stoicism is about separating what is in your control from what is not, and focusing solely on those parts that are in your control (Holiday & Hanselman, 2016). In his Discourses, Stoic philosopher Epictetus referred to this as the “chief test of all” (p. 447). Stoicism involves the study and practice of how to respond to life’s daily challenges and the adversity that comes one’s way. Contrary to the misconception, Stoics are not emotionless, unfeeling, or cold. They acknowledge their feelings and emotions, reflect on them, and redirect them in a positive way (Pigliucci, 2017). Stoicism is based on three disciplines: Perception, Action, and Will. These disciplines applied to our preparation, performance, and reflection can help us become better sports officials.

Perception

The discipline of Perception is how we view and interpret the world and what goes on around us (Holiday, 2023; Holiday & Hanselman, 2016). For example, things themselves are not positive, negative, good, or bad. Using our opinions, we put those labels on the people and places we encounter, and the events that happen to us. Stoics strive to control their perceptions by seeing things just as they are. Have you ever entered a game with a preconception of how the game will go, only to see it go the opposite of what you expected? We spend time in our pregame conferences discussing the tendencies of the teams, players, and coaches, but we must also prepare for our games based on what we can control. Our pregame discussions should focus on rules, mechanics, coverages, penalties, and how we will handle atypical situations. Ever felt anxiety going into a new environment, a higher-level assignment, or a game with coaches you have not met? How about the fear of failure, thinking you may miss an important play or kick a crucial ruling? We bring these feelings of fear and self-doubt upon ourselves by projecting our thoughts into the future instead of focusing on the present moment (Hanselman, 2021). As the Stoic philosopher Seneca said in his letters to Lucilius, “We suffer more often in imagination than in reality,” (p. 18). The good news is that fear and self-doubt are part of being human, and therefore predictable and manageable. When we define and embrace fear, we can defeat it (Harden, 2023; Holiday, 2021).

Action

The Stoic discipline of Action is what we do in response to our perceptions (Holiday, 2023). Stoics do not merely talk about their philosophy; they are action-oriented. Stoics measure success by their own progress instead of external outcomes. The original Stoics pursued arete—the Greek word for excellence. Excellence as a Stoic and an official comes from improvement and self-discipline—our actions on and off the court or field. In our physical preparation, we must consider our nutrition and commit to a training routine. In our technical preparation, we must continually learn from those who came before us, consistently study rules, and objectively review our game video. We get better by doing “a little a lot, not a lot a little” (Cain, 2013, p. 199). In our mental preparation, we can visualize what will happen on the court or field. Mentally visualize positive situations, but also negative situations. The Stoics called this practice premeditatio malorum, translated as the premeditation of evils—visualizing what can go wrong so that we are prepared for it when it occurs (Holiday & Hanselman, 2017). As Holiday

(2021) said, “Foresee the worst to perform the best,” (p. 30). Journaling is another fundamental Stoic practice that can serve as a useful technique for officials. Journal one or two goals before each game. Write down your mantras and positive affirmations to remain present and confident when you step onto the court or field. Once we are out on the court or field, we must get into the proper position, make the necessary adjustments, and look in the right spot in the correct sequence, while trusting our partners and the system.

Will

Last is the third Stoic discipline of Will—how we handle what we cannot change. Think of mental toughness, resilience, and persistence. There is a Latin phrase, amor fati, translated as “a love of fate” (Holiday & Hanselman, 2016, p. 332). This means that we accept what happens to us, embrace it, and even develop a sense of gratitude toward it (Holiday, 2023). We always have the choice: to grow and improve from our experiences or allow them to defeat us. Marcus Aurelius wrote in his Meditations, “be tolerant with others and strict with yourself,” (p. 64). When the players and coaches push back, we must remain strict with ourselves by upholding the standards of the game according to the prescribed rules. Tolerance does not mean we cave or appease by ruling incidental contact a foul, or obvious illegal contact to be legal. We can use our communication skills to diffuse until the coach or player does not allow us to do so. Then, we must have the courage and fortitude to penalize unsportsmanlike conduct. Former NBA Crew Chief Jason Phillips recently stated on a podcast that penalizing unsporting behavior comes back to focusing on what you can control without worrying about the rest. He suggested that we think about the repercussions associated with not addressing unsporting behavior instead of thinking about the repercussions for addressing it.

Think about the times we miss a play or make an incorrect call with hundreds, or even thousands of fans screaming at us. We still have the choice: dwell on it and miss the next play, or recover from it, and correctly rule on the next play. We must have a plan for the latter; a strategy to recover from the mistake. It should incorporate a physical flashpoint, a mantra or self-talk phrase, and an intentional breath. For example, one may look at the American Flag and repeat to themselves, “next possession,” while breathing in through the nose and out through the mouth. Reflect on when your crew’s performance did not meet expectations. You can self-loathe, blame others, and allow the disappointment to fester into your next game. Or, with the discipline of Will, you can revert to your journal, document what you did well in the game, what you can do better, and how to remediate the mistakes. Pair this journal entry with your postgame film review to improve for the next game. As aspiring officials, we have outcome goals. We either strive for that playoff assignment, or to get hired in a higher-level league or conference. But remember, advancement in officiating is often based on external factors that we do not control. Despite our outcome goals, we must always remember to prioritize the process; and more importantly, enjoy it. If the outcome goal comes to fruition, it should be a bonus.

Conclusion

Perception, Action, and Will. The ability to control one’s thoughts, opinions, and perspectives; behaving and responding with discipline and courage; and persevering in the face of adversity and failure. When we apply these Stoic disciplines to our officiating, we will be calm, poised, and in control. Not an official criticized as stoic, but an official called a Stoic.

References for this article can be found on page 16.



Martin Spencer, from Chester County, PA, is a NCAA men’s basketball official at the Division 1, 2, and 3 levels. Martin works full time as a Behavior Consultant at a Career and Technical High School, and has a Master’s degree in Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum.

Ready for the Countdown

Five, four, three, two, one. Blastoff!

No, it's the five-second count. And, if you are like most basketball officials, you count one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand until you get to five seconds and penalize the violation for closely guarded. Not like a rocket ship countdown exploding from earth.

How often do we start the five-second count correctly? Are we accurate in our counting of five seconds? What are the requirements to start and end the count?

We've found at IAABO that we start the count late at times. Let's begin there and what constitutes closely guarded to begin the count against the offensive player, either dribbling or holding the ball.

Rule 4-10 states: "A closely guarded situation occurs when a player in control of the ball in the player's frontcourt is continuously guarded by any opponent who is within six feet of the player who is holding or dribbling the ball. The distance shall be measured from the forward foot/feet of the defender to the forward foot/feet of the ball handler. A closely guarded count shall be terminated when the offensive player in control of the ball gets head and shoulders past the defensive player."

A lot to digest there, but also simple precepts to accurately start the count. First, the offensive player MUST have control of the ball. Second, the player MUST be in the frontcourt. Third, determine what constitutes six feet.

The last requirement is dicey. You must have a very strong sense of what constitutes six feet in your mind, and instantly apply that on the court.

Each official needs to have that measurement ready. Last year, I had a game where a headband was too wide. After the game, I refreshed the rule in my head and measured exactly three inches (the width allowed for a headband) with my lead finger. Now, I apply that finger any time I see a potentially wide headband. The system works for me. Find yours.

For six feet, I use my height as a barometer and imagine myself laying on the floor between the offensive player and the defender. I have prepped this over the years so I have a strong familiarity with the distance. Recognize you will NOT be perfect on this. You need to approximate the distance close to six feet.

There are some "visual cues" you can take by looking at the playing court. For example, the distance between the free throw line and top of the semi-circle is exactly six feet. The same goes for the distance between the division line and outer edge of the center circle, which is also exactly six feet.

In other words, know the difference between seven feet and five feet.

That's another way for you to prepare. Have a range in mind, and when it gets to the middle of that range, you know you are at six feet, and begin your count. Look at the offensive and defensive players' feet (not their arms, shoulders or torso) to establish that initial count.

A weakness I've seen this year in officials is counting way too fast. I've caught myself doing that in years past. We get wound up in the game, our minds move quickly, and we over-penalize the offense by ruling too quickly in terms of getting to the five-second limit. It is a good idea to give yourself a little extra time before blowing the whistle to ensure you haven't counted too quickly.

The count continues as long as ANY defender maintains the six-foot legal guarding position during the dribble. That means defenders can switch to maintain position.

What constitutes the dribbler getting their "head and shoulders past the defender" to terminate the count? You must make that judgment, so pay close attention to a dribbler attacking the basket and moving into their mode to shoot the ball. If you see this type of action, you are typically safe in terminating the count because a try is about to be launched.

The count also ends when the ball handler shoots or makes a pass.

There is a phrase that the ball handler may "hold, dribble, hold," meaning hold the ball for 4.9 seconds, then put the ball on the floor and dribble for 4.9 seconds, then again hold the ball for 4.9 seconds with no five-second violation. In this situation, switch arms on your visible count. As soon as the hold or dribble ends, go to the opposite arm and begin the new five-second count.

On the closely guarded dribble, there are a couple of nuances regarding an interrupted dribble.

- Rule 9-10, Article 2 states: "A closely guarded count shall not be started during an interrupted dribble."
- Rule 9-10, Article 3 states: "A closely guarded count shall be terminated during an interrupted dribble."

Remember that the closely guarded count goes away during an interrupted dribble. Easy to remember.

Keep these tips in mind and your five-second counts and rulings will rise in accuracy.



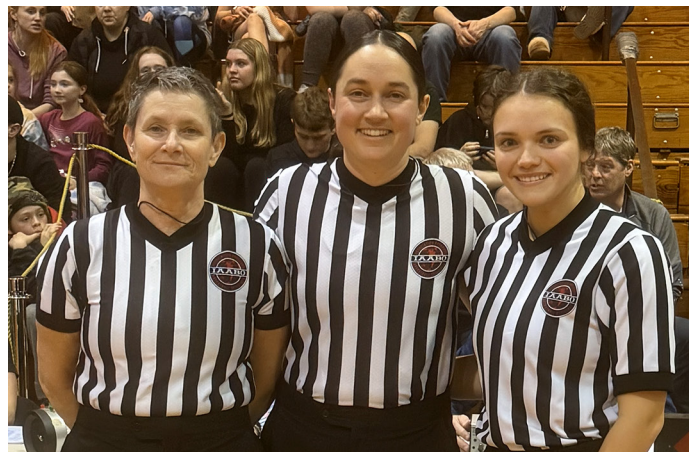
Dave Simon has been an IAABO member since 1984 and written for Sportorials for more than 35 years.

Board 105 Family Affair



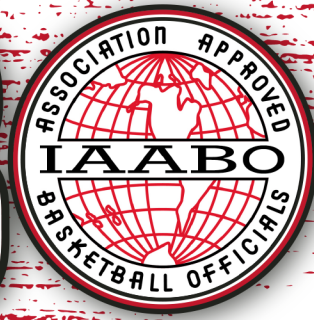
(L to R) Jordan Blais, Joe Blais and Jade Blais worked the Twinfield vs. BFA Fairfax boys varsity game on 2/16/24. It's believed to be the first time three officials, parent/children have worked a varsity game together in Vermont.

Board 105 All Female Affair



(L to R) Alejandra Barrenechea, Deva Steketee, and Gabrielle Cicio worked a girls' semi-final game on 3/4/24. This is the first time an all female crew worked a semi-final in Vermont.

IAAB



MEMBER BENEFITS

Services and Benefits

- Dedicated office staff
- Dedicated members' area on the IAABO website
- General liability insurance
- Excess medical and game fee reimbursement insurance (optional - fee)
- Transfer privileges
- Partnership with Smitty Officials' Apparel for exclusive officiating merchandise

Publications

- IAABO Handbook including:
 - IAABO Rules Guide
 - Full-color Crew of Two Mechanics Manual
 - Full-color Crew of Three Mechanics Manual
- Sportorials – IAABO's own bi-monthly publication
- Inside the Lines – Minimum of 20 newsletters emailed directly to members

Materials

- Digital membership card
- Pre-game conference card
- Scorer's, Timer's and Shot-Clock Operator's cards
- Positioning checklist
- Apparel document

Video Tools

- RefQuest – Online video discussion board and play analysis
- Video Play Book
- Online simulation exam

Educational Opportunities

- IAABO Academy – Presentations given by national clinicians
- Annual rules interpretation seminar
- Training scholarships
- Regional clinics and technical assistance from a diverse group of clinicians
- Regional officials' schools

BENEFITS



BOARD BENEFITS

Administrative

- Dedicated office staff
- Online IAABO management registration system
- Directors' and officers' and theft recovery insurance (optional)
- Annual business meeting with Secretaries' Roundtable

Learning and Development

- Annual rules interpretation seminar
- Four Co-Coordinator of Interpreters
- Interpreters' conference calls
- Ready-made PowerPoint presentations on a wide variety of topics
- Speakers' bureau
- Comprehensive rules course training manual for local Interpreters/trainers

Gold-Standard Educational and Recruiting Programs

- IAABO University
- IAABO Academy
- Junior IAABO
- Women's Collegiate

Testing Tools

- IAABO University rules exams
- Floor exam forms (Co2, Co3)
- Observer forms
- Manual exams (Co2, Co3)

Recognition

- Years of service
- Life Membership
- Other special recognitions

Guiding Principles

- Know your throw-in spots in the frontcourt and the backcourt.
- Know when a team can move along the end line.
- Know when a team is allowed to have all players out of bounds during an endl ine on a throw-in.
- Before administering a throw-in or free throw, “sweep the floor.” (Make eye contact with partners, check the table for subs)
 - During rebounding activity, avoid ruling incidental contact to be illegal.
 - Work hard to obtain an open view between opponents. If you are straight-lined, position-adjust to get an open view.
 - On double whistles, make eye contact with your partner, have voice acknowledgment with your partner, and then give preliminary signal if/when necessary.
 - Know the difference between incidental and illegal contact. This could change at different levels of play.
 - Continuous motion occurs when a foul is committed by a defensive player against an offensive player when the offensive player is in the act of shooting.
- Once the gets below the free throw line extended, let plays start/develop/finish.
 - When going from Trail to Lead, find your clock(s) and then find the defender that can hurt you the most in your Primary Coverage Area (PCA).
 - Any official may call any illegal action that is observed if they have an open look.
 - Do not fraternize with coaches, team personnel on and off the floor. Stay out of hospitality rooms.
 - Do not have excessive conversation with players, coaches, trainers, media, spectators, or scorer’s table personnel.
 - In the Trail, don’t over run or over walk the play. Stay attached to the sideline and then to work your angles.
 - In the Center Position get to the free throw line extended when there is no pressure in the backcourt and be ready to officiate the play.
 - In the Lead Position, officiate defender to defender, find the the secondary defender(s) as quick as possible.
 - In the Lead Position, find reasons to rotate. (Ball location, Off Ball Competitive match-ups)
 - When reporting a foul, have a cadence to the table, indicate the proper signal, and use the correct signal for the type of foul that has occurred.
 - Discussion with your fellow officials will be done in a conversational manner with no gesturing. Interact with your partners in a respectful, professional way.
 - Do not stop the game to warn bench personnel.
 - Do not talk to coaches when the game clock is running.
 - Know your Team Fouls.
 - Know where play will resume.
 - Go over injury and blood scenarios.
 - When a player is dribbling and attacking the basket, officiate 70% defense and 30% offense.
 - When a player is holding the ball officiate 70% offense and 30% defense.
 - Demonstrate Poise on the floor.
 - Have Excellent Crew Dynamics.
 - Have Excellent Substitution Awareness.
 - Review last second shot scenarios.
 - Review hard foul situations.
 - Don’t not turn your back on the players.
 - When the ball is dead be alive.
 - Remember this motto: Game, Partners, Self.



Al Battista is a member of IAABO Board No.12, District of Columbia and has been an IAABO member since 1978. He is the Board Interpreter and is also a Regional Scout for the NBA.

2024 Fall Seminar

25th Annual

IAABO Life Membership Ceremony

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Crowne Plaza: Albany - The Desmond Hotel

No. of registrant(s) _____ @ \$50/person = _____

Name of Registrant(s) _____

Board No. _____

Send check and form to: IAABO, P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013-0355
Make check payable to: IAABO, Registration Deadline: August 30, 2024

Spouse/Guest Breakfast

Friday, September 13, 2024, 9 AM

Name: _____

Board Number: _____

Number of Guests: _____

Note: Each IAABO members is entitled to one guest (spouse/significant other). Additional guests are invited at a cost of \$25.00 each.

Send check and form to: IAABO, Inc., P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013
Registration Deadline: August 30, 2024

Golf Registration

Thursday, September 12, 2024

8:30 AM Shotgun start

Registration - 7:00 - 8:00 AM

Schenectady Municipal Golf Course - <https://smgc.golf/>
\$100/Golfer

Foursomes who wish to play together should be specified on the registration form. Make full payment for the foursome listed below:

Name: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

List Members of Foursome:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Send check and form to: Jim Toomey, 200 South Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12208
Registration Deadline: August 30, 2024

Seeing Games from Both Sides of the Lines

After years of experience as a coach and an official, I believe that working on both sides of the sidelines has helped me improve in each role I have served. These experiences have helped me be aware of what the other person in the contest may be feeling and thinking, whether wearing suits on the sideline and looking for a timeout or carrying cards in their pocket and calling a penalty kick. At times, I wish my counterpart could stand in my shoes and have that awareness too.

I started officiating early on and was introduced to calling games by two of my coaches who also blew the whistle. While at Springfield College, I played soccer for the Division II Chiefs and among the courses I took as a physical education major were officiating classes for both basketball and softball. I quickly became certified to work games in Massachusetts and since then have worked baseball and basketball in a number of states at levels ranging from three years at Class A minor league baseball to high school and college basketball. For many years my primary job was as the Head Men's Soccer Coach, Associate Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher at the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. While my family and my duties at the Merchant Marine Academy often kept me busy, I continued to officiate basketball. I firmly believe that officiating has made me a better coach and coaching has made me a better official.

I have been fortunate to work with some terrific mentors and assignors who have always stressed how important it is to be prepared and professional. Anyone who has worked with me in basketball knows I believe in a thorough pregame conference to make sure we are prepared for every aspect of the upcoming game. Even when working with a veteran crew, it is always important to remind each other of key elements. I have always been bothered as a coach when an official comes running from their car near kickoff for a soccer match. Even though I understand that unforeseen things may come up to make them late. I know there is no way a proper pregame meeting has taken place, and the official may not be in the right frame of mind to work that match.

As a soccer coach, I noticed when an official spends an extended period of time chatting with my rival coach during pregame warmups, especially when I was on the road and not familiar with the referees. This does not necessarily mean that I was going to get the short end of the stick from that official, but it did make me wary and wonder if I would be treated fairly. When officiating basketball, I am very conscious to greet each coach in the same manner and not have side conversations with coaches or those in the stands, even at the risk of seeming standoffish to those I may have known for a long time. The perception of potential favoritism is a poor way to enter a game.

No matter what level of basketball I am working, I always try to approach every game as the most important one that will be played that night. It is that important to every player/coach/fan who has a stake in that game, whether it is for first place or between two cellar dwellers. Coaching in a blowout, some of my soccer players may see more playing time than usual, and I want all officials to call the game fairly until the final whistle. As officials, we may need to remind each other that we get paid for the entire game, so it is mandatory to keep hustling, working hard and calling a fair game, even when the verdict has already been decided.

Coaches at times can be emotional and not see the game on an even plane. This can be because of all the time and effort put into preparing for that contest. We coaches hate to see anything get in the way of our goal of a victory, including rulings which may not go our way. Officials need to understand this emotion and give the coach some leeway because of this strong desire to win, especially when odd situations may occur. Calm communication from both parties can be the most effective route to help in these instances. Coaches must be able to keep themselves under control, set a proper example for their players and separate emotional views from reality.

As an official, I am truly bothered when a coach states, "You have it

in for me!" Does he really think I care who wins a game between the blue and white teams? Coaches need to understand officials are working hard and have no stake in who gets the "W." Officials should get away from the coach at times and not linger where they may hear something they shouldn't. For an official or a coach, sometimes the best medicine to remedy a situation is to stay away from one another for a time.

Although as coaches we may live or die with every play and call, officials also take pride in their work and learn to live with what happened. In the locker room following a game or in video the next day, officials should talk with one another and examine what occurred. If I miss a call in a basketball game, I feel terribly about it and try to "coach" myself and/or my crew as to how the situation can be avoided in the future. Officials do care, and not just because their assignors hold them responsible for their actions, but because they want to be flawless from day one and keep improving.

I've had coaches say after a game, "My ratings will get you!" Coaches should rate officials after all contests. When my fellow coaches complained about officiating, I usually asked if they rated the officials in all their contests. That should be a habit. Make positive comments when called (even after a loss) and write negative comments after wins, rather than just complaining about decisions that "cost us the game."

Professionalism is probably the most important shared quality in both an excellent coach and a strong official. Seeing things from the other perspective can be a good trait in helping one succeed, and living life on both sides of the line can be a great advantage. Coaches and officials are committed to sharing games and striving to improve sports they love through well-executed athletic contests. Though coaches are more invested in a specific outcome than officials are, respect and recognition of each other's viewpoints is a win-win.



Michael Smolens served as the Head Men's Soccer Coach at the US Merchant Marine Academy for 27 years. The winningest coach in program history, his teams reached the NCAA "Sweet 16" twice and the "Elite 8" once. Smolens is a longtime IAABO Board 41 high school basketball official and also a college official in Met-NY CBOA.

Board 4 Fifty-Year Awards



Congratulations to 50 year recipients Gary Montel and Dick Shuster, Board 4, Colorado. They were recognized on Saturday, March 9 at the Colorado State championship games at the Denver Coliseum. (L to R), Gary Montel, Dick Shuster, Bob Lantzy (IAABO Vice President), Bethany Brookens (Associate Commissioner CHSAA).



May 1st-May 15th

May Product Launch

Free Shipping on orders over \$99

Visit iaabostore.com to check out our new product line and best sellers. The store is open for a limited time so be sure to get your hands on our May collection before it's too late!

Sport Tek Shorts:
\$12.99



Nike Crew Neck:
\$52.99



Port Authority Rope Cap:
\$52.99



Officials vs. Cancer in Colorado – Wildly Successful!



Chad in action as the Trail

“The stories I really could share are what keeps me going.”

Chad Dubs has had quite the basketball officiating career. The accolades from the hardwood pale in comparison to the wonderful work he is doing to support Colorado’s efforts for IAABO’s leading charity, Officials vs. Cancer.

As a member of Colorado IAABO Board #4, as well as the Colorado Springs Basketball Officials Association (CSBOA), Chad is officiating in his 17th season. He really started to hit his stride in 2017 when he was recognized as winning the Gene Bunnelle Outstanding Service Award for Board #4 and the Bill “Chief” Ruberry Memorial Award in the CSBOA. Then in 2019, he had a chance to work the Colorado 2A Boys State Championship game. Along the way, he has logged several playoff games in the high school and junior college ranks.

Along with these impressive honors, Mr. Dubs is also responsible for leading a largely successful philanthropic campaign across the state for Officials vs. Cancer. With an individual donation on behalf of his supporters of over \$44,500 raised to date, he has continued to build a support network of generous people willing to help with this drive, with financial backing paired with inspirational determination.

Born in Alliance, a small town in the panhandle of Nebraska, Chad lived on cattle ranches and attended a one-room schoolhouse. His family eventually would move to Three Forks, Montana, a small town in southwestern part of the state. There he completed his school career, culminating with his college degree at Montana Tech in Butte, MT. Employed professionally in construction management, he has had jobs across the country, from working on well-traveled bridges in DC to overseeing all earthwork operations for a large general contractor in the Colorado/Mountain States Region.

His tenure as top fundraiser began with an initial donation of a game fee back in 2010. As time grew on, Chad had many family members fight cancer. Both grandfathers and his father were diagnosed with prostate cancer. His grandmother and aunt beat cancer and others in the family have also had the disease. Having that hard realization of the impact of cancer in his immediate family and the high-risk category it placed him in greatly changed his outlook. It made him want to find a way to support the fighters through fundraising and sharing information on ways to help.

He began in 2011 by sending simple letters with self-addressed stamped envelopes to family, friends, and coworkers. This outpouring of support led to \$1,500 in donations by simply asking! As technology has advanced, he has leaned on social media, email, and text messages to aid his effort. He has also teamed up with the American Cancer Society to develop websites with donation links and by utilizing mobile payment apps. He is sure to follow up with hand written thank you cards to show his gratitude for the donors’ generosity. Just like his initial donation of \$50, small donations add up quickly. Through his connections, he has nurtured several key supporters for over 13 years.

Chad is quick to compliment the network of people who are there to help with a simple ask. He has the tremendous support of folks in his corner especially his wife of over ten years, Mary, who helps with invitations, thank you cards, and motivation. There are many others who provide words of wisdom and encouragement. The support over the years has been overwhelming – it has also led to being named the Officials vs. Cancer chair of the entire state of Colorado. In 2023 alone, Colorado raised \$21,585.24!

Highlighting the campaign is an annual event in Calhan, CO, called Calhan vs. Cancer. The Calhan high school team hosts a cancer fundraising week, culminating in a night of basketball games featuring local rival high schools. The school communities rally to watch their teams play and to support this cause. It is a great time of fun, friends, and fellowship. It also gives the officials a chance to break out their pink in support. Calhan traditionally raises multiple thousands of dollars for this cause including \$3,004 this year - kudos Katie Parker and Team!

The stories and camaraderie is what keeps him energized. He has learned that the officials groups in Denver and Colorado Springs will take pink buckets to games during Officials vs. Cancer Week to encourage “passing the bucket” through the crowd. They enjoy the support of cheerleaders, young children, and school administrations for encouragement. Some folks in Denver have created a bucket that resembles a pink whistle. And in Colorado Springs, the officials have donned pregame shooting shirts with messages of support from fighters, survivors, and lost family and friends. The officials really take things to the next level with pink and black jerseys, pink whistles, pink socks, and even pink hair spray!

Chad has noted that so many folks around the game share the common bond of knowing people close to them that have been in the fight, survived, or have lost their lives to this disease. One of his favorite stories is a time when an elderly woman approached the officiating crew prior to a game to tell them she was a survivor. Upon learning this information, one of the crew members gave the woman his warmup shirt. The joy it created for her and her family was inspiring!

He truly hopes everyone can find something to be passionate about, create hope for others, and make a difference. This journey all started with a simple ask.

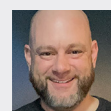
Chad lives with his beautiful wife, Mary. His stepchildren are Kaylyn and Jayce. They also have three kids of their own: Kynlee, 8 and Kyndel, 5, and a Jaxon, almost 3. He also has a granddaughter, Preslee who will be turning 6 this year.



Kent Mattson, Chad Dubs, and Darin Alexander with their pre-game shooting shirt



Chad with his family on vacation!



Joe Maurer, Odenton, MD, has been officiating since 1994. He serves on the IAABO Education and Development Committee and is the current assigner of Board 23 in Central Maryland.



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43rd Year of IAABO Officials' Schools



This summer, IAABO will be hosting summer officiating schools with the goal of “professional improvement” at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania. Improving as an individual is a must if you want to have a successful career as a basketball official. Over the past ten decades, the many and varied continuous education materials and officials’ schools, which IAABO provides, has assisted thousands of new and veteran officials learn and hone their skills.

IAABO Schools are designed to provide officials who have a wide variety of ability and experience with the individual attention to meet their specific needs. The focal points of each school are the review of rules, mechanics, signals and professionalism. Each official can expect to receive quality instruction in the classroom and on the court. At IAABO Schools, officials receive instant feedback, including video, which can be incorporated into their officiating immediately.

The Director of the IAABO Officials’ School is Donnie Epley, Director of Membership & Technology and Division I Basketball Coordinator for the Horizon League. He will be assisted by select IAABO Co-Coordinators.

IAABO Officials’ Schools are dedicated to improving the officiating skills of the men and women who enroll. The program will be designed to benefit those who wish to embark upon a career in officiating as well as those who seek refinement of their skills. Classroom sessions cover all aspects of officiating with lectures, film, workshops and testing. During the afternoon and evening sessions, all officials will officiate games.

Those attending the school will be housed in college dormitories and all meals will be served in college dining halls. Each official will receive a certificate denoting completion of the course of study provided by the IAABO Officials’ school. Only National Federation Rules and mechanics will be taught and used.

Tom O’Connor to Retire from CBOA April 27



As Tom O’Connor approaches retirement from his position as Executive Director (ED) of the CBOA (Collegiate Basketball Officials Association), it’s no surprise that he would rather talk about CBOA -- its mission, growth, importance -- than about his accomplishments the past 15 years as its ED. For those who know him, Tom focuses on contributing back to the game of basketball, not on himself. But, knowing it’s time for him to step back and enjoy his grandchildren, O’Connor will exit his position April 27.

Joining IAABO as a young guy, then the CBOA and ECAC (Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference), O’Connor experienced the growth of the three officiating organizations and participated in enhancing their development. He took the reins of CBOA in April of 2009 from his predecessor Tom Lopes.

With a membership of 400, the CBOA focuses as an arm of IAABO to train and develop high school officials for DII and DIII collegiate level officiating. It is an active college group member of IAABO, operating as Board #800, and only accepts college members, who typically have dual IAABO membership.

An IAABO member for 53 years, O’Connor had his share of big games and moments on the basketball court. His memories include state high school tournament games, 42 years as a CBOA member, an NCAA DIII men’s championship game, and an Elite 8 NCAA DII men’s game. At the DI level, he worked in what is now the America East Conference.

When O’Connor joined CBOA, the association worked hand-in-hand with the ECAC. CBOA trained officials for the ECAC. ECAC then broke away with multiple assigners. In 1991, O’Connor became an area representative for eastern New England (there were 11 area reps at the time). He then became an officer, and in 2002 was elected CBOA President.

He began assigning for ECAC, then Lopes resigned from CBOA to take over IAABO, and O’Connor moved

over from ECAC to take the reins as ED for the CBOA. This year is CBOA’s 75th in existence. There have been five EDs during that time. Its geographical footprint includes New England, Pennsylvania, D.C.-Baltimore, New York and New Jersey.

Working with Video Technology

O’Connor found that two of the biggest issues he faced was the separation of ECAC and CBOA, and working with the evolution of video technology for officials. Years ago, ECAC and CBOA were one organization. When the two separated, there were different assigners for collegiate games based on geography. That presented challenges regarding CBOA’s mission to provide value to young collegiate officials, adapting to multiple assigners and keeping CBOA staff. O’Connor feels one of his greatest achievements was transitioning the ECAC to individual assigners and adapting to that type of environment.

“Tom Lopes did a great job leaving us in a good financial position. When the conferences decided to leave the ECAC, we had to deal with operating under our own auspices,” O’Connor observed.

Regarding technology, O’Connor said that video was “really starting to come into the DI level” in 2009, and part of his role was to embrace that and how to use it effectively for the DII and DIII staff. “Now video is exploding at all levels. The DI consortiums use the officials coming through our organization partly because they have this additional video training and feedback,” he said.

In choosing to step down as ED for CBOA, Tom cited the desire to spend more time with his grandkids and “aging out of the position. The position needs someone with tremendous technology skills. It should be either an active official or one who has recently retired from the court. It’s time for new blood and ideas. I’ve made a contribution, but we need fresh blood to move the organization along. I’m in my 70’s now and will be around for an administrative/historical perspective. It’s hard to believe it’s been 15 years. In the last year I’ve been looking for the right time to retire.”

Whoever is hired for the ED position, O’Connor believes technology will continue to be the most critical issue. “I believe in video. The sooner younger officials adapt to it, the better they will be for it. When you see the 1-2% of plays on ESPN, you find the video backs up the officials most of the time. That’s the value of video review,” he said.

O’Connor said younger officials need to be committed to education and the rules. “There is tremendous pressure on officials to get the plays right. We’re trying to get the officials the tools for their success,” he said.

Tom will not look over his shoulder. Instead, he said that if the next executive director would like his advice, he will be glad to share his experience.

“Some people leave their jobs after a negative experience. That’s not true for me because at my age, I’m in good health, and have some other distractions that led to my decision. I lost my wife a few years back, and now I enjoy spending more time with my grandkids and being a larger part of their lives,” he said.

“I missed some opportunities to spend time with my kids due to officiating and don’t want that to happen as a grandparent,” O’Connor said. He related a comment that when his adult offspring complain he spends more time with his grandkids than he spent with his kids when they were growing up, he jokingly replies, “That’s because I like them better.”

His grandkids provide O’Connor with a fresh, young perspective on the world, one that helped fuel his desire to retire as ED for the CBOA, but also that helped him look forward to what is needed for CBOA to continue successfully training and developing college officials for the betterment of basketball: “To keep the organization going, we need young, fresh viewpoints and their perspective working on the court,” O’Connor said.

CBOA and its membership will miss Tom O’Connor, but know his wisdom and experience are still available to the next generation of college officials.



Dave Simon has been an IAABO member since 1984 and written for Sportorials for more than 35 years.

Life Member, Past President William Varno Passes



William was born in Schenectady to the late Edward and Rosalie Varno. William was predeceased by his loving wife of 60 years, Mary Jane Varno. Also predeceasing William were his siblings Margaret Brown, James and Robert Varno and Rosalie DeSorbo.

William was a graduate of St Columba's High School. He served in the Army from 1959-1961. His career with the Daily Gazette spanned 47 years with him retiring as Pressroom Superintendent.



Bill Varno, President, IAABO Foundation along with Past President Ron Brown, Bd. 4 Colorado, presents a Foundation award to Past President David Smith, Bd. 4 Colorado.



Bill Varno and his wife Mary Jane.

William also had a love for basketball. This started by officiating high school and college games. During his career he became involved with The International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO). He became a lifetime member of this association as well as becoming President on an international, state and local level. He served as chairman of the IAABO Foundation, a non for profit whose objective is to provide training and education to future and current referees.

He served as secretary and treasurer to IAABO Board Number 36, served as president of College Basketball Officials Organization and was a member of The Upstate Basketball Hall of Fame. William and Mary Jane formed many special friendships through their involvement in these organizations.

William was also a honorary member of The Schenectady Permanent Firefighters Association.

William is survived by his brothers Thomas, Rev. John and Edward Varno. His is survived by his loving nephew Edward J. Varno as well as a host of many other nieces and nephews.

William and his family are grateful for the support and care provided by his Hospice Nurses, friends and personal aides.

Calling hours will be held Monday April 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Daly's Funeral Home 242 McClellan St. Schenectady NY. A mass of christian burial will be 4/23 at 10 a.m. at St Kateri Tekawitha 2216 Rosa Road Schenectady, NY followed by burial at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to IAABO Foundation, c/o Tom Reese 1825 Gabblehammer Rd Westminister MD 21157.



Bill receiving the Russ Beisswanger CBOA Leadership Award in 2007.

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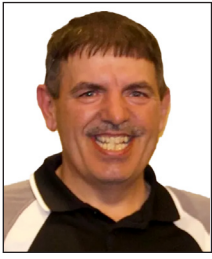
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IAABO Lines

Condolences to: *Bd. 34 NJ* on the passing of our member, *Frank Thiel*; *Board 33 NJ* on the passing of our member, *Guy Borges*.

Longtime Official Don McGillicuddy Passes



Don McGillicuddy

The Watertown girls basketball team was putting the finishing touches on a 47-29 tournament win over Old Rochester when tragedy struck.

Veteran official Don McGillicuddy was in the process of making a call with 37 seconds left in the game when he collapsed. School trainers and medical personnel in the stands immediately responded and they were able to initially revive him.

En route to Mount Auburn Hospital, according to fellow official and childhood friend John Rafferty, he suffered a second heart attack and despite several attempts to revive him, they were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead.

Those who know McGillicuddy spoke of his passion for officiating. One of those was his close friend Larry Kelleher. A former Tyngsboro High athletic director and principal who spent more than three decades as an MIAA basketball tournament director, Kelleher spoke with McGillicuddy a few hours earlier.

Added longtime referee and league assignor of official Rich Antonelli: "Donnie was a great ref and a super guy. He loved to referee and golf, those were his passions."

Rafferty grew up with McGillicuddy in Lowell and remained friends through the years.

"Donnie grew up in a tough neighborhood, but was gifted with a warm personality," Rafferty said. "He had a desire to do better for himself and saw that way through sports. I went to Lowell and he went to Greater Lowell where he played basketball and baseball.

"He was a city kid through and through and never lost that work ethos which drove him to excel in golf (McGillicuddy was a member at Long Meadow Golf Club in Lowell) and refereeing. He was always happy to share in his good fortune and help people in any way that he could."

McGillicuddy gravitated toward officiating and eventually joined IAABO 95 Lowell where he was a member for the past 24 years. Rafferty said that McGillicuddy loved being around people and mixing it up with his gift of gab, yet was able to do so in a way which endeared him to everyone, even coaches.

"Donnie has been a ref my entire coaching career," said Westford Academy girls basketball coach Russ Coward. "When I first started as a head coach in 2008, I was a little hot-headed at the time, but Donnie was great. He was always willing to communicate with the coaches. He would always listen to you and if you would tell him to watch for something, he would always respond and, in that regard, he was great."

McGillicuddy had two children, Wayne and Erica. Wayne McGillicuddy is the head football coach at the Brunswick School in Greenwich, Conn., and credits his father for being a major influence in his life.

"He's the best," an emotional McGillicuddy said. "I wouldn't be in the position I am in without him. He's my best friend and my right hand man."

"Donnie is a good guy and a very good referee," Kelleher said. "He really loved this time of the year. In fact, we were talking earlier in the day and he was excited about doing the game and was already looking forward to doing another tournament game in the next few days."

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