

OABO Presidents Message

The first part of the season has flown by. There has been lots of fantastic success , some heart break, but a clear excitement for the remainder of the season.... Oh wait, this isn't a recap of the NFL season and my Bills.... [Don, just wait for that week 16 lost by the home town Patriots] (Editors' Note: Keep dreaming Rick!)

It has been a terrific beginning to the basketball season feeding off the frenzy of the Raptors championship defense. As most boards already know, there has been a huge swell of registrations in the OBA this season, so there will be no shortage of games for our members. The Fair Play Committee has worked hard to put forth concerns to the OBA Board of Directors and as a result, there is a very strong commitment to cleaning up behaviours that are negative and have no place in the game. Please make sure to be diligent in reporting any and all situations of unacceptable player, coach and spectator behaviour to your board and then to Don. The reports are invaluable for both addressing each issue, but also for the cumulative review and updating of policy at the OBA.

One of the discussion points at our last AGM was the importance of recognition of our members. It has been a common theme over the past number of years that very few local boards have been taking the opportunity to nominate their members for the OABO awards. To help address this, we have established the formation an ad hoc OABO Awards Committee. This committee will be chaired by Northern Rep Brian Seccareccia. The members will be responsible to contact local boards and discuss the OABO awards and possible appropriate members for nomination consideration. The goal for this group is to ensure OABO members deserving of recognition are nominated each year for the annual OABO awards. If you have an interest in being part of this committee, please forward a message to Don to indicate wanting to serve.

Rowan's Law has become a reality for sport communities in Ontario this year and as a result there are growing pains with the implementation of new policies and protocols. OFSAA-based games still have the same protocols we have been using for years. School boards have very specific and stringent expectations placed on staff to care for student athletes. The OCAA and OUA have specific protocols in place as well. What is new for us is the OBA policy which places the responsibility for removal-from-play on the head coach of the team. OABO and OBA have had a number of conversations about this new policy and are working together to gain greater understanding of law and how it relates to game officials responsibilities. We have had initial discussions with a lawyer to develop more clarity in how to inform our members with clear instructions in how to manage game situations involving potential head injuries. Player safety remains the first priority and both OABO and OBA feel strongly about this. As we navigate this process, we will update local boards and members on any new information or change to the protocols provided by Mike to begin the year.

Looking ahead, OABO will be planning a date and location for a Presidents' Meeting this coming spring. This year we are planning a morning session to address local board and OABO issues. The afternoon will be a facilitated session for all local board representatives, OABO executive team and our partner stakeholders. Details and agenda topics are being built and structured, so if you have a specific need or concern you would like addressed, please forward that along to Don for inclusion.

The Guelph Board will be the host board for the Fall AGM Weekend. Vince Bull and the rest of the host committee are working hard at putting together a terrific weekend of education, celebration and collegiality. As a reminder, Don circulated a preliminary draft of a rework to the OABO Constitution at last year's meeting. We would greatly appreciate if all local boards could take some time to review the document. Any feedback is valuable as we attempt to streamline our governance documents to conform with the impending "not-for-profit act" and find efficiencies in our policies and procedures. We would like to have a well-vetted final document to present for this year's AGM.

I am thankful to be part of this team and proud of the work we all do to serve our members. Remember we all are available to assist and only an email away. Take full advantage of the chance to enjoy the holiday season and enjoy the time it affords you to reconnect with friends and family. Be well, be safe and have a most enjoyable holiday season.

Interpreter's Report – Mike McPhee

It's Time to Get On the Same Page

The Ofsaa Girls' Championships have ended, and a new section of the season begins. The girls' event is the first time we get a snapshot of how officiating is being done across the province. It often shows that in many ways things are done pretty much the same from place to place. It also however, points out inconsistencies and errors.

There were no "new" rules that came out before the September Seminar, so the focus was on things we needed to improve upon namely Travelling, Contact, and specifically Hand Checking. It was clear at the Ofsaa that I attended, that some emphasis had been placed on Hand Checking as it was not an issue. Travelling is still an inconsistency, and a lot of our contact judgements penalize the defender in some way. I will detail some of them later.

At the end of October CBOC released the points of emphasis for 2019/2020. They were:

1. Illegal Contact

- A. Emphasis on Dribbler contact & contact on perimeter players off-ball
- B. Contact away from the ball –players being "jammed" or "bumped" on cuts to the basket
- C. Post Play –"points of contact"

2. Screening

- A. Ball screen defense –defenders displacing screeners...often into the offensive player
- B. Screener responsibilities (extension of elbows, width of screener's feet)

3. Game Control

- A. Bench Decorum
 - Including addressing substitutes and accompanying persons who stand & react to a good play and remain standing.
- B. Coach-Official Interaction

4. Unsportsmanlike Foul

A. Emphasis on C1 and C2 unsportsmanlike fouls.

Illegal contact and screening of the types mentioned seem to be fairly well enforced, as officials made consistent rulings in that regard. Bench decorum was not so consistent. Some officials dealt with it and some did not seem to notice nor deal with issues that arose. It would appear that the Unsportsmanlike Foul emphasis has been applied because one coach had the comment that “Way too many intentional fouls called this year across the province.” In the games I saw, the ones called were totally correct, and there were only 2 instances where one should have been called and wasn’t. Let’s all of us keep working on the CBOC points, so that the message starts to sink in.

Also that same October week, some IOT revisions were made. Unfortunately the Time-Out administration part of them got messed up. Someone decided that the practice of 2 officials blowing the whistle at 50 seconds should apply to all time-outs during the game. This was totally incorrect but was put in place by college and university crews. It wasn’t the National Interpreter that said it since when he returned from vacation he issued the following statement.

There seems to be some confusion in some parts of the country regarding the ‘Time-out Procedure in the Last 2 Minutes of the 4th quarter or overtime’, and the officials going to the team bench area at the 50-second horn – THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN THE IOT DOCUMENT PROVIDED IS ONLY APPLICABLE IN THE L2M, AND IS NOT TO BE USED AT ANY OTHER TIME IN THE GAME.

The unfortunate part of all of this is that for about a month the wrong procedure was used increasingly. Even more troubling is that despite my notices to boards and our Webex seminar coverage of the same procedure, an official at my Ofsaa said “We were told that both officials blow the whistle every time-out”, when we reviewed procedures at the opening meeting. It concerns me that people independently make interpretations that are erroneous. There is one National Interpreter; there is one Provincial Interpreter. Those are the interpretations that shall be followed.

Incidentally, my IAABO/FIBA handbook arrived today, and the procedure is clearly covered there. Sadly at my Ofsaa only one official had a manual with them.

Back now to the two issues from paragraph two.

Travelling: Consider the following 3 Basic Truths.

ALL Potential travel scenarios start with a CATCH (pass, end of dribble, rebound, and interception)

You CAN’T lift up your pivot foot and put it back down while still holding the ball.

You CAN’T lift up your pivot foot and then start a dribble; you must RELEASE the ball first.

In the instances where a player catches the ball while moving, the rules allow them 2 steps to stop AFTER THE CATCH IS MADE. We need then to think CATCH – ONE –TWO, instead of the term “zero step”. Get rid of it. It simply confuses things. Once a player stops all of the travelling scenarios that follow, are governed by the 2 basic truths about the pivot foot.

Contact Judgement - Errors we are making

Once a defensive player has established an initial legal guarding position, he/she may move to guard his/her opponent. He/she may not prevent him/her from passing by extending his/her arms, shoulders, hips or legs in his path. He/she may turn within his/her cylinder to avoid injury.

In this instance far too many fouls are called on a defender who moves to maintain position and is never beaten by the offensive player.

The principle of verticality (cylinder principle) applies also to post play. The offensive player in the post position and the defensive player guarding him/her must respect each other's rights to a vertical position (cylinder).

Too often a defender is penalized with an “illegal contact to the hand” foul, for raising the arms above his shoulders in the cylinder.

Any displacement by Offense or Defense is a foul. It is imperative to determine who is initiating the contact, offense or defense. If the offensive player is dislodging or “backing down” the defender by creating illegal contact, this is a foul and should be called.

In this case we have too many plays were a dribbler bumps the guard and displaces them (no whistle) then steps back and puts up a shot. Also too often a ball handler “backs down the guard” and is then rewarded with a foul call when the ball handler turns to shoot.

So there are 3 areas we can focus on as the long season of HS Boys and club ball moves forward. Let’s all of us make the effort to be consistent and be the same.

Lastly, best wishes to all over the holiday season.

TREASURER REPORT - Submitted by Arthur Wong

Hi Everyone,

I’ll be sending OFSSA cheques shortly . Local boards will start receiving statements in the next couple of weeks.

I wish everyone happy holidays and stay safe!

NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE REPORT—BRIAN SECCARECCIA

THUNDER BAY ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL OFFICIALS

Fall 2019 – Board Highlights

- We provided officials for all Varsity and Junior Varsity girls at the high school level in Thunder Bay, as well as select tournaments in nearby (within 600 km) communities. Our officials are in the process of completing the high school playoffs at the AA level in Thunder Bay, and at AA and A levels in nearby communities. (Approximately 155 games)
- We have kicked off both the local Masters and Mens league, which truly tests our officials' endurance and capacity. (Approximately 15 games to date and the schedule runs until April)
- We have completed the Lakehead University Exhibition season which included 11 games.
- Noel Parker has been hired to "the panel" in order to officiate the OUA season.
- Our group also supports the local Blaze and Junior Wolves program by providing officials. From our training program in the spring, we have 5 new officials amongst our ranks. They are eagerly learning the game and are all motivated to succeed. While our association has undergone a transition to much less experienced officials group, the basketball IQ and knowledge of our newer officials, significantly helps support their early success'
- The TBABO executive was able to work in collaboration with the Lakehead University Athletics Program to put together a presentation and a retirement gift to Peter Andros for marking his 50 years of contribution to Officiating Basketball (picture below)



Muskoka/Parry Sound- Submitted by Ray Chan

The 2019 High School Girls season was a great success. During the fall, with the High School Girls and Huntsville Men's League we officiated 85 games. I want to thank each of our association members for their hard work and dedication in providing quality officiating in our communities and ensuring our relationship with our partners in basketball remains strong. For past years our board have some challenge to recruit more officials. With hard work from our Executive team this year we have 6 new officials join our board. In November we had our AGM meeting to get ready for a busy winter and spring season. With the OBA, High School Boys, Men's League, Tournaments, Elementary School, Olympia Basketball Camp, and Rousseau Lake College we are projecting we will have over 800 games.

North Bay- Submitted by John Fong

It has been a busy fall for our officials as we have officiated the girls high school season and tournaments. Now that the girls season is done we are getting ready for the boys season. We are looking forward to the Art Gabor Tournament on December 6th and 7th. Canadore College has started their OCAA season and we have had exchanges with the Sault and Barrie for college games. We have also officiated some OBA games.

Sault Ste. Marie - Submitted by Chris Siegman

We would like to congratulate 2 members who were selected to the OUA panel - Dave Zagordo and Chris Siegman. This brings us to a total of 6 members on the panel. Our board was kept busy during the fall with the girls regular season and playoffs. We continue to use 3 person crews on the senior games to get more experience and assignments for our officials. Sault College hosted a Girls High School tournament at the end of September that provided many games for our officials. Sault College has started their OCAA season - their home games are filled mostly with local assignments, and some shared assignments with either Sudbury or North Bay. We have recruited 3 new officials for the upcoming basketball season.

Sudbury - Submitted by Chris Pakkala

In September we lost our leader Charlie Ketter as he passed away. A whistle in memory of Charlie with his initials on it was given to all of our members. Two generous donations in memory of Charlie will be used for new officials to attend OABO camps. A successful girls season which saw us officiate two girls high school tournaments and two NOSSA "AA" and "AAA" Regional Championships. The boys high school season started November 20th with the Laurentian Senior Tournament and it was a huge success. The Sudbury Five is holding a Senior Boys Tournament at the Sudbury Arena on January 17th—19th. Bishop Carter is holding a junior and senior tournament December 13th-14th while Lo Ellen Secondary will be hosting a junior tournament January 10th and 11th. We are also very busy officiating NBL, OSBA, OCAA and OUA league games. We have an increase in a number of new and young officials for this basketball season.

Timmins - Submitted by Pierre Thibodeau

Our season started early in October with the girls season. We are now in the boy's season as well as the men's and women's league and officiated some OBA Timmins Selects games. Our executive for this year is President, Interpreter, and Evaluator Pierre Thibodeau; Vice President Adam Pressault; Assignor Evan Colameco; and Secretary Angelo Lia. With the help of our neighbouring boards Sudbury, Kapuskasing, New Liskeard these officials Wayne Lozier, Stu Fairwell, Ryan Basso and Martin Breault helped us cover the Sister Fay Girls Tournament hosted by O 'Gorman High School.

Timmins officials travelled to various parts of the North this fall including Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, and Chapleau. We will be sending officials to North Bay to help them with the Art Gabor Tournament. Our next local tournament will be the Boys Gold Cup Tournament in December.

2019 OABO WALL OF FAME MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

Rob Ferguson (CBOC) and Rick Parnham Present the 2019 Wink Willox award to Ted Montgomery (TABO). Ted is accompanied by his wife Diane



A big night for Hamilton's Guy Cipriani who was presented with the OABO Honorary Life Membership and his 50 year OABO Service Award.



50 YEAR OABO SERVICE AWARDS



Peter Andros (Thunder Bay)



Rod Baird (Brant/Norfolk) with his wife
Roseanne



Don and Rick present 50 Year Award to Bert Cargo (Grey
Bruce) with wife Barb.



Gary Boguski (TABO) accompanied by his wife Deb received his 50 Year OABO Service Award from Rick (above) and the Dutch Decker Award (right) presented by Jaime McCaig



Don presents Jaime McCaig with his IAABO 2018 Canadian FIBA Edition Handbook Dedication Memento Plaque



From The Desk of the Secretary & D9 Rep

I want to start of my blurb for this edition by congratulating all our major award winners at the hall of fame. Pictures can be found within this edition. Welcome to our new East Region Representative Michael Kim.

Next I want to talk a bit about our Canadian FIBA Rules Edition Handbook. I don't think anyone is more frustrated than I am with the difficulties of getting this handbook to our members in a more expedited manner. Getting rule books after the girls High School season is just not good enough in my opinion.

When I received an official request from a local boards as to why the book is so late, the complaint was addressed by Tim Laurain. Tim is the co-chair for the IAABO Education Committee in charge of FIBA material including the IAABO FIBA Handbook.

Tim responded

"It is optimal to have the books at the start of the girl's season (September). That was the original plan for this year. Based on when materials come from FIBA. In the past, FIBA has released draft (yellowed) versions of the rules and interpretations late summer for Oct 1st final release. Being a World Championship year, they held off until after the Worlds and as of yet, still haven't released. The previous 2 years there has been complaints that the rules and interpretations were not the latest version when received by officials. As it so happens, there were several questions on the National Exam each of the last 2 years that had outdated/incorrect interpretations in the version in the handbook. Our plan then was to go to print after Oct 1st expecting FIBA to release any changes."

"The handbook includes other sections as well. One of the key ones is the 2PO manual as the online FIBA one is very out-of-date. Both CBOC and I have been waiting for the updated release by FIBA. This date keeps getting pushed back with the expected release being October. If that release happened, then the Canadian edition would have to be appropriately updated. Added delay. The decision was made to move forward without FIBA release. At the same time, CBOC was working on new material/updates. The Canadian Uniform Guidelines was just re-released 2 days ago after a initial late October release. Other late October releases from CBOC include Clarifications to IOTs (mechanics and procedures) and POEs."

"All updates (to this point) are now incorporated into the IAABO Manual. It is a balance between how early to publish and accuracy. It was a challenge this year. "

"The manual will be the most accurate version due to the delay. We are working at having it in official's hands for the last week(s) of the National Exam period. Later than wanted. Totally accurate as an exam reference."

"The process and timelines from this year will be reviewed towards meeting both accuracy and timeliness criteria as best as possible going forward."

And now you know the rest of the story.

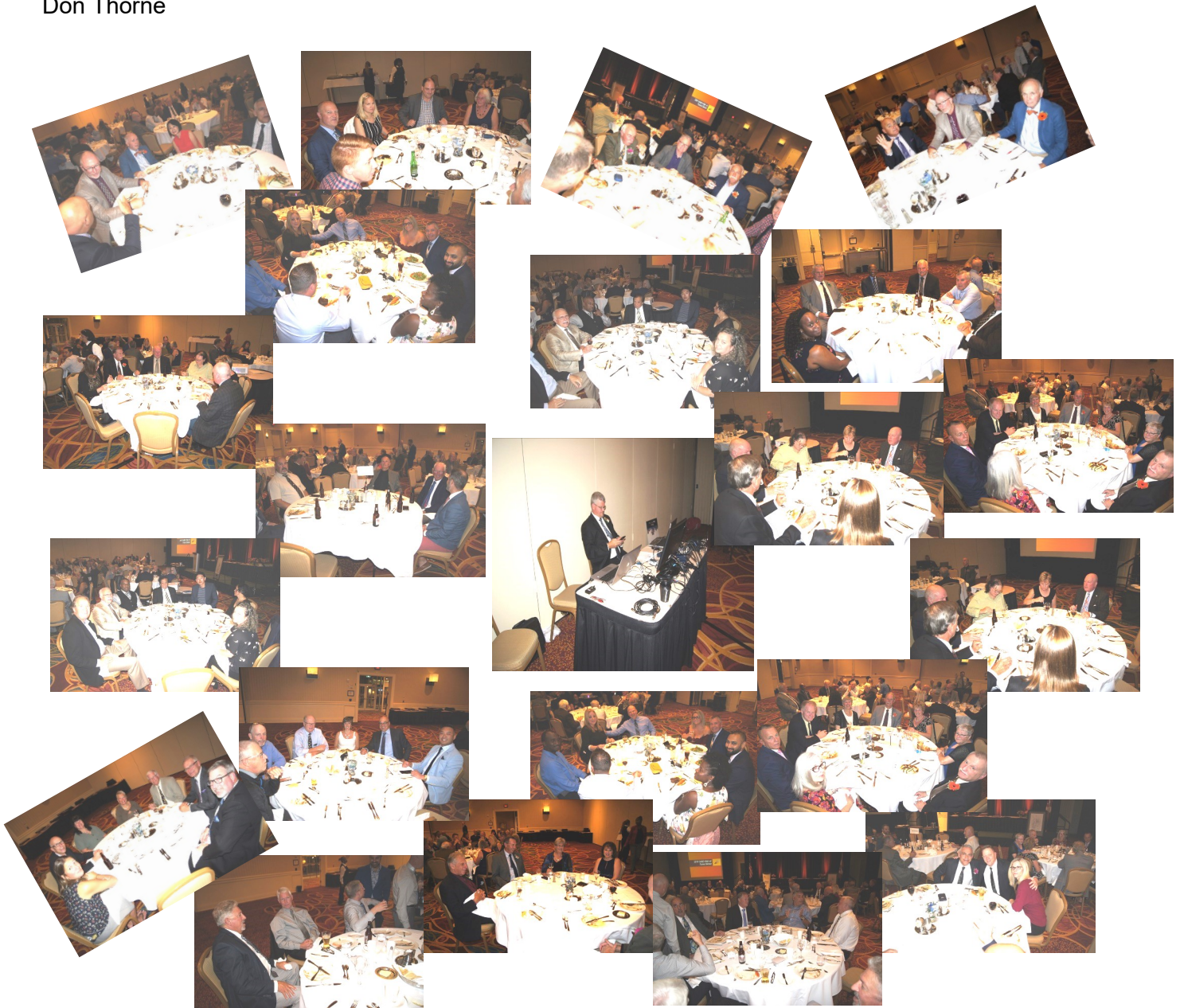
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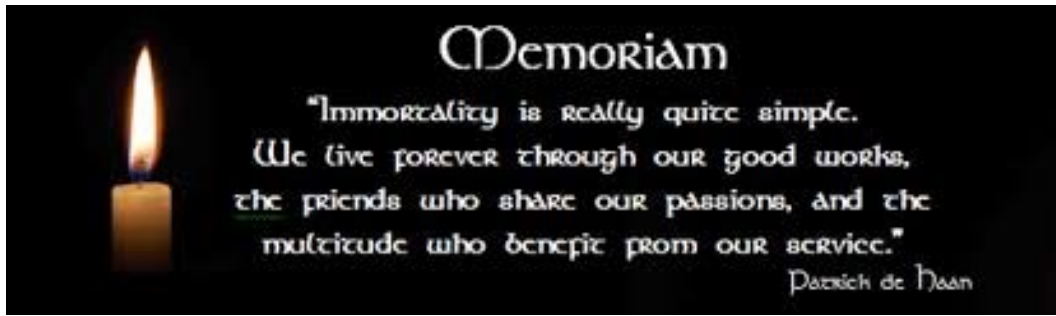
Our printer did an excellent job creating a first off for approval, printing and mailing 850 copies within 3 weeks.

This past AGM I was acclaimed to the position as Secretary. I formally announced that this term (2 years) would be my last term as your Secretary. So, if you are thinking about getting involved at the Provincial Executive Level I encourage you to start your planning now. Requirements are simple. You must be a Leaf fan and a New England fan (just kidding). You should be familiar with Microsoft Office applications, be logical and non-procrastinating. The key to this position is the ability to respond to email communications and requests. I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have and I will remind everyone of this again next year at this time.

In closing, I wish all members a Merry Christmas, enjoy this time of year with your family and friends.

Don Thorne





Condolences to :

- Rick Parnham and family with respect to the passing of Rick’s Mother (August 2019)
- The Sudbury Board with respect to the passing of their former President and OABO Life Member Charles Ketter (September 2019)
- Don Thorne and family with respect to the passing of Don’s Father (September 2019)
- The Toronto Board with respect to the passing of their member Robert Eshag (October 2019)

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