

The Whistle

The Official Newsletter of The Ontario Association of Basketball Officials

Fall 2021

President's Message

We hope that this newsletter finds our membership and their loved ones, safe, healthy and excited for a return to something that approaches normal. Vaccinations and health measures have given us hope for society and ultimately sport to return to us soon. It has been an unprecedented time that has seen so much loss and hurt. We must be thankful to those who have been on the frontlines for our collective safety and well-being. Welcome back for the new officiating season.

OABO would like to welcome some new faces to the Board of Directors. Stacy Newbigging is now our Secretary and Mike Kim is our Interpreter. Both are keen to support our membership and the association. Please welcome them both to their new roles. As a result of the elections at the past AGM, there was a requirement to fill regional representative positions for both the north and west regions of OABO. We are pleased to have Joe Kemp returning to the Northern Rep role and welcome John McKibbon to the position of Western Rep.

OABO wants to congratulate and thank both Mike McPhee and Don Thorne on their retirement from serving on the OABO Board of Directors. Both men have served the membership tirelessly. We know you won't be far from gyms supporting officials as referee coaches and leaders in your local associations and provincially. We all wish to thank you for what you have done for OABO and for those things still yet to be accomplished.

As you know we have moved to a new AGM date, which this past year was in April. With Covid limiting our ability to meet in person, we held the meeting virtually. There were over 120 participants in the meeting, as our new structure allows for all members to cast a vote. It was nice to see interest from the membership to be part of the conversation and help shape the decisions made within OABO. We have decided to use the same format for our next AGM, which is scheduled for 8:30 am on Saturday April 23rd, 2022.

One of the consequences of doing business virtually is that we aren't able to meet as a group and enjoy the social aspects of AGM's past. OABO anticipates that by the fall of 2022, gatherings and meetings will again be commonplace. We are already discussing a fall 2022 education meeting that would also allow OABO to host the Wall of Fame Dinner and Awards Night that had become so popular and anticipated each year. We welcome anyone who would have interest in constructing a plan for this new event to reach out.

It has been difficult to think about officiating, let alone recognition awards for our deserving members. We would ask that you review the Awards page link on oabo.ca to get familiarized with the awards presented to officials by OABO, CBOC and IAABO. There are many



incredible people within OABO who should be considered for some of these awards. We would ask that you consider a close look at the CBOC Awards, Wink Willox and Ritchie/Nicurity Scholarships. Nominations for these need to be presented by OABO to CBOC by September 20, 2021. For these and any other awards, please contact Rick, who can assist with the process of nomination.

We wish to congratulate three OABO members on their well-earned international assignments. Nadine Crowley was assigned to both a FIBA Olympic Qualifier and the Olympics as Technical Director, Nate Saunders was assigned to a FIBA Olympic Qualifier and Christine Vuong was assigned to the U19 FIBA World championships. Congratulations to all Canadian officials, especially our Ontario trio.

There was a recent communication from Mike Thomson from CBOC, which requested that CBOC officials do not communicate with the FIBA office directly. FIBA has made it clear that the line of communication for any inquiries or interpretations should be through the provincial interpreter via the local interpreter and then to the national body, in this case CBOC. Should there be a need for communication to FIBA directly, that will happen via CBOC. Individual officials should not be emailing the FIBA officiating office directly.

As many of you already know, Ontario moved to Stage 3 reopening in mid-August. This regulation allowed for basketball and other contact sports to resume without playing modifications. A number of local associations have already assigned members to a variety of games and events. The province has strict public health measures attached to the regulations, which involve at site screening, contact tracing, masking and distancing. There have been some hiccups with a few facilities, but OABO associations have been diligent in ensuring their members comply with the regulations. We applaud members who have chosen to be available and service the games. It is a difficult personal decision managing your own level of risk and exposure. We also respect those members who are waiting to return to the game. We all need to make the decisions most appropriate for ourselves and our families.

Throughout the pandemic, OABO has been working with our insurer, legal counsel and our stakeholders to develop clear and practical protocols for return to play. As the regulations and legislation change, we have been ready for those changes. It hasn't been easy to stay out in front of a changing landscape. We have been trying to communicate direction and policy to our associations and members all along, just to have the laws change as we are ready to communicate to all of you. The latest provincial law change surrounds the implementation of a vaccination passport or similar construction, that will require individuals to prove they have been double vaccinated to gain entry into many facilities in Ontario.

OABO members will be required to provide proof of vaccination to gain entry into the gyms where we officiate. Some organizations have already implemented this in front of the



provincial law which takes effect on Sept 22, 2021. The OUA, OCAA, OBA and a number of school boards have already taken this stance and will not allow entry to facilities unless proof of vaccination can be provided by the individuals entering. We have also been asked by numerous associations how to navigate this inevitability for assigning our officials. Through consultation with our legal counsel we are asking that associations not collect any information regarding vaccination status of our members. It is the responsibility of the facilities in which we officiate to check that those entering have provided the proof to be allowed into the game site, not OABO or local boards.

This does create a problematic situation for associations and more importantly their assignors. Until the provincial law takes effect, there may still be some facilities operating under the Stage 3 Reopening Regulations and allowing people to enter as we have at the moment. Many schools and school boards have already implemented a vaccination mandate to gain entry for use of their facilities. Assignors will communicate to members which facilities require proof of vaccination to gain entry. The expectation that assignors will have, is that should an individual accept an assignment, those members are being honest about their ability to gain entry into the facility. It is critical that we as associations continue to be able to provide service to our clients and not have games scheduled and players and families traveling to competitions, only to find that the officials can't gain entry to the facility. As you can see, this situation will not provide many or any opportunities for officials who cannot gain entry to facilities as per the laws, regulations and policies of the organization whose games we officiate. This is the reality of the current stage of the pandemic response and is likely going to be the norm for some time to come. Officials need to be aware of this prior to the season and understand the potential conflict that might exist between individual choice or circumstance and the laws that will exist regarding entry to the facilities in which we are assigned. Each of us are required by law to be individually responsible to meet the current provincial legislation and regulations. This is the case for us as OABO members as well.

Since we restarted in August, we have received some correspondence with regard to the OABO Assumption of Risk form. This form was implemented at the direction of our legal counsel and insurance broker. The form is in place to provide a record that members understand there is a risk to them individually while participating in basketball officiating. This is no different than the forms we all have signed as parents regarding school trips and youth sports for our children, or when we have chosen to participate in sports or risky activities as adults. Signing the form does not remove insurance coverage for situations covered in our policy, nor does it remove the opportunity to litigate for injuries or damages occurred while officiating. What this does do is it provides acknowledgement of the inherent risks associated with officiating and provides a layer of protection for OABO. local boards and assignors who assign officials to games. In summary, by signing your form / document - No one is contracting out of their ability to protect themselves, giving up their rights etc - everybody is



simply acknowledging the realities of reffing / working in the Covid and basketball officiating worlds.

Some boards have asked us to provide the OABO insurance policy to them. We will be providing a summary of coverage to all local associations and members in the very near future. It will outline the game day protections for officials, the facility rental coverage and the operators and directors coverage for OABO and local boards Directors.

We want to thank everyone for their patience in getting you information about the OABO registration fees for members this year. The OABO Board has reviewed Arthur's budget proposals and settled on a model with two options:

Option 1 - Full membership: \$70

This fee will cover CBOC/CB fees, OABO insurance fees and operating expenses for OABO. This fee will allow members to officiate this season and access GamePlan for the CBOC exam when it is available.

Option 2: - Non-Officiating Membership: \$25

This fee will cover membership with OABO to join a local board, but not include the opportunity to officiate games or access a Game Plan account for education and examination purposes.

Those members who register at your local board's first registration meeting, submit the required documentation, pay the fees in full and have no outstanding discipline issues will be considered full members for this upcoming season. That means you are eligible to officiate this season, regardless of your membership status last year. There have been some questions raised about officials who did not register last year or write the CBOC exam. Last season is over, so we treat members the same way we have in the past. They are considered in good standing to begin the season and will write the CBOC exam during its scheduled period to remain in good standing.

These fees do not include any registration fees deemed necessary for membership in a local board. Those fees would be on top of the national and provincial fees listed above. Each local board sets their own board fees for the season. If a member wishes to be considered for dual membership in more than one local board, only the local board fee charged to all members, should be remitted.



Vice President's Report

I hope that all members and their families are keeping healthy. It's fantastic that we are getting back on the court to do what we all love and contribute greatly to the game of basketball in Ontario.

As we all know, basketball is a game of conflict, between players, coaches, officials and unfortunately sometimes between fans. As the ultimate arbiter of the game, officials must continue to work on their conflict resolution and temperature de-escalation skills. There will be times when incidents occur on or off the court that we must be diligent in addressing them at the time in a professional and capable manner.

With the restart of organized basketball in Ontario, the OBA "Fair Play Committee"(FPC) that I sit on as VP of OABO will be getting together as well in the near future to deal with significant incidents that inevitably will be reported to us. Remember that we, as officials, should never tolerate abuse of anyone that is part of a game that we officiate in and it's our responsibility to report incidents/behaviour that are extreme and threatening in a physical or verbal nature to our local assignor who will in turn forward to the FPC.

The following are some reminders/tips to help keep control and help in management of a game:

- Address bad behaviour by coaches and players early in the game. Don't ignore this behavior because you think it will go away by itself. It won't get better without dealing with it. Use the "quick engage", talk, warning, T procedure of progressive discipline.
- Don't let the game get rough. Especially early in the game make calls to diffuse physical, non basketball oriented behaviour. When subs enter, especially late in game, be aware that they could change the temperature and type of game so referee these players accordingly.
- Don't be afraid to call unsporting fouls as not calling U fouls that are warranted leads to rough play and the game "getting out of hand". Technical fouls and warnings are to be used to diffuse situations and not to inflame them.
- Get on the same page as your partner(s) and match calls at both ends of the court as coaches and players just want consistency.
- Keep filling out incident reports in a timely and accurate fashion as they are instrumental in helping to ensure that we deal with bad behaviour properly and make the refereeing environment better for all of us.
- Continue to work with table crews positively and don't tolerate their abuse by coaches.
- If, as an official, you are wearing another hat (i.e. coach, player, administrator, or parent) in a particular game be sure to conduct yourself accordingly and refrain from making a spectacle of yourself as your reputation and that of your local board is at stake. "Be held to a Higher Standard" and know that you do not somehow have



more rights as a coach/parent/player just because you happen to be an official as well.

- Lastly, stay cool, calm, and collected when everyone else “loses their minds” and be professional in how you act and interact with all basketball stakeholders.
- OBA's Policies & Procedures, including the Codes of Conduct and Fair Play Policies are found in the following link: [Fair Play • Ontario Basketball Association](#)

Our OABO Constitution Committee has continued to review the constitution to ensure that it continues to be up to date and relevant. Our committee recently discussed that we would like to add some new member(s) so please email or call me if you are interested in participating on this committee.

Enjoy this season and stay healthy on and off the court.

Sincerely,

John

Provincial Interpreter Updates

I wish to start off by thanking Mike McPhee and Don Thorne for their countless hours in their respective roles on the provincial executive over the past several years. Their contributions to the game and officiating have all helped make us better officials and we cannot thank them enough.

Basketball is now permitted to resume with Ontario entering into Stage 3 of the COVID Reopening Plan, which is exciting news that we have all been waiting for!

FIBA Training Documents

Many of us have not had a chance to officiate in almost a year and a half, so it will be essential for all of us to refresh ourselves on the rules and rule changes, which have been in effect since last October 2020, but without active basketball in Ontario we have not had a chance to officiate under these new rules.

Please find the following documents to help guide your training:

[FIBA Official Basketball Rules 2020 \(Yellow version\)](#)

[FIBA Official Basketball Rules Interpretations June 2021](#)

[FIBA Summary of Rule Changes June 2020 – Short version](#)

[FIBA Individual Officiating Techniques](#)

[CBOC National Points of Emphasis 2020-2021](#)

For the latest documents moving forward, please go to FIBA's website

(<https://www.fiba.basketball/documents>) or CBOC's GamePlan

(<https://gameplanbasketball.ca/>).



The following YouTube links are also provided by Mike Thomson, CBOC Manager – Officials Development, with the rule changes presentation and associated video clips. (The presentation can also be found on GamePlan under Tools → Videos → Video Category → 2. FIBA Rule Changes.)

YouTube videos:

[FIBA Rules Changes YouTube Presentation](#)

[Additional Complimentary Videos](#)

Rules Update Summary

Eight updates have been provided by FIBA effective October 2020 (last season):

1. *Article 5 – Players: Injury*
 - Clarifies when players who receive “assistance” require substitution
2. *Article 15 – Player in the Act of Shooting*
 - Introduces concepts that define “act of shooting” in two different circumstances – (1) when a player is a stationary shooter (example - a jump shot) and (2) when a player who becomes a shooter when in a continuous movement on a drive, catching a pass in the air or ending a dribble
3. *Article 33 Contact: General Principles*
 - Introduces a cylinder definition for the offensive player and clarifies legal actions and movement within that cylinder and clarifies who is responsible for an illegal contact when a defender enters the offensive player’s cylinder
4. *Article 35 Double Foul*
 - Eliminates the concept of “equal penalties” and introduces the concept that both fouls must be of the same category: personal, unsportsmanlike, disqualifying. Previously, the rule required referees to determine which foul might have occurred first and added confusion when one team was in the penalty situation and the other was not.
5. *Article 37 Unsportsmanlike Foul*
 - Two very minor rule wording updates (C-1 and C-3) and the other (C-4) for the purpose of correcting an inequity in the rule. For C-4 unsportsmanlike fouls, the concept of “offense” and “defense” has been eliminated from the C-4 rule – such that a new team control is not necessary for a UF C-4 to apply. The other criteria – illegal contact from behind or laterally and no other players (rather than defensive player) between the ball and the basket remain and are unchanged. The (new) requirement is simply that the illegal contact is on a player “who is progressing towards the opponent’s basket”.
6. *Article 49 Timer: Duties*



- “Text change” to clarify certain duties of the table officials and aligns with the generally used Canadian concept of how the table officials operate
7. *Appendix B – The Scoresheet*
 - Clarifies how a “coach” is penalized if they leave the bench area and is actively involved in a fight. The coach shall only be charged with one disqualifying foul.
 8. *Appendix F – Instant Replay System*
 - Will only affect national/international level basketball and not impact us at a local/provincial level as the vast majority of our games do not use IRS

OABO COVID Game Modifications

The [OABO COVID game modifications guidelines](#) effective Aug. 2, 2021 was recently emailed to each member. Please note that any enforcement of COVID-19 policies is to be performed by the site convener(s) and NOT officials directly. The previous CBOC Return to Play guidelines, which was released last summer, is now out of date given the ever-changing COVID landscape, but does contain additional non-mandatory useful safe practices.

Physical Fitness

[FIBA’s physical fitness guide](#) is provided which will help you safely train to be ready to officiate once again to avoid injury. We must all get in shape to referee basketball, and not use basketball to get in shape! With the extremely long layoff since our last game, we wish to ensure our bodies are prepared to keep up with the fast pace of play.

3x3 Basketball

3x3 is an exciting, new brand of basketball and it is anticipated that we will be officiating more of these tournaments in the future especially as this is now an Olympic sport along with traditional 5x5.

A Zoom training session on 3x3 officiating was held on August 10th. Special thanks to Kayla Herdman, FIBA 3x3 official, for helping deliver the training. For those who could not attend, the Zoom recording is available thanks to Peter McDonald at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3EphobwYtQ>.

I’m sure we are all eager to return to the court and I look forward to seeing you all officiating again soon.

Regards,
Mike Kim
OABO Provincial Interpreter



Posting for PSC member:

The OABO Professional Standards Committee (PSC) was formed to be the mechanism to handle complaints and grievances related to alleged unprofessional conduct of members covered under the OABO Code of Conduct. The committee is to consist of 7 members. One member of the current committee is no longer able to serve on the PSC. The other 6 members have agreed to stay in their roles on the committee. As a result of the vacancy, we are asking for OABO members who might have an interest to serve on the PSC, to forward an email to Stacy Newbigging (stacy.newbigging@gmail.com), including a brief outline of what skill set exists and reasons for wishing to serve on the committee. Deadline for submissions is Friday September 24, 2021.