



Winter 2009

The Official Newsletter of the Ontario Association of Basketball Officials

President's Message *by Jaime McCaig*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

POST-REPORT ONTARIO BASKETBALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I attended the OBA AGM on Saturday, November 15 and here are some hi-lights from the meeting:

- I presented an Appreciation Award on behalf of OABO to Rob Wright for his service and dedication in his long term role as President of Ontario Basketball. He will be missed but I know will always stay involved in the game in some or many capacities. Please welcome Ken Urbach to the new position of President of Ontario Basketball.

- The OBA has moved their offices and are now operating at their new headquarters at 3 Concorde Gate, Suite 311, Toronto, ON. M3C 3N7 (North/East of Don Mills & Eglinton). Their phone numbers, fax number and Email address all remain the same.

- The 2009 Ontario Cup Provincial Championships Dates, Locations and Host Clubs are listed in this Edition of the Whistle.

- I attended an Educational Workshop on Trillium Funding presented by Doug Gore who is the Program Manager for The Ontario Trillium Foundation and also handles all Trillium Funding for Ontario Basketball. I have invited Doug to attend our Presidents' Meeting in May to present to all of your Presidents on how we fit into the eligibility of applying for grants so that we may in the future receive our own funding for development of officials.

- There are some FIBA Special Rules I want to make you aware of when you are officiating Club Ball Games

1. Please allow the wearing of T-Shirts with the official game shirt as long it

is the same colour as the team jersey. This is to be treated the same as the Federation rule.

2. Please use the following procedure for players in the lane spaces:

- If there are FIBA lane markings, then use them and follow the FIBA rules regarding free throws.

- If there are no FIBA lane markings, then use the Federation lines and have the first lane spaces vacant as with this year's Federation rule. Continue to use all the other FIBA rules regarding free throws.

3. Where games are broken into more than four periods, commonly 8 periods for purposes of equal playing time, every time the new period begins, use the alternating possession arrow. It is irrelevant which team had possession when the previous period came to an end.

4. Please allow non-FIBA numbers on game jerseys. This will be the last year it is allowed by Ontario Basketball.

5. If there are no shot clocks being used, then the NHSF closely guarded rules are applied.

- I was advised by Coaches in attendance that there are "rogue official groups" out there trying to officiate games. This is against the OBA constitution which states the officials must be certified by OABO. If you have issues in your particular region please notify me ASAP.

- It was requested by Club Teams that it would be very much appreciated that if Local Boards are going to raise game fees that they notify their client group in a timely fashion. They would like to be able to budget as far ahead as possible.

- The complaints regarding officials were down from last year as were the behavioural issues with parents and spectators.

- If anyone would like an electronic copy of the 2009 OBA Coaches Manual please let me know and I will send it to you.

OABO EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

- We completed our Fall Meeting. Our Winter Meeting is Sun. Jan. 25, Spring Meeting is Friday, May 1 and our Year End Meeting is Thursday, September 24. I would encourage all Local Boards who have concerns to put them in writing prior to the above dates and send all correspondence electronically to Don Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer for OABO.

LOCAL BOARD CLINIC REQUESTS.

- If you wish to make a Rules Clinic request for your Local Board please sent it electronically directly to Ted Montgomery, Provincial Interpreter.

- If you have an Evaluation request for a Local Board Tournament please sent it electronically directly to Bruce Covert, Provincial Supervisor.

- If you have a request for funding from Ontario Basketball to host a FIBA clinic within your Local Board or region please send it electronically directly to me. To date there has a FIBA Clinic hosted by York Region and I have been contacted regarding possible clinics in the North Region and Niagara District Local Board.





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implemented. This item will be on the Presidents' Meeting agenda in May and I expect to have a written report from Ted at our January 25th Executive Meeting.

13th ANNUAL LOCAL BOARD PRESIDENTS MEETING

• I have sent out invitations to all of our Provincial, National and International Partners to attend our Presidents' Meeting on Saturday, May 2nd. The morning session of 10:00 am to 12:00 noon will be dedicated to discussion with them on how we all work together to make the game a better place for all involved. The list includes:

- Ontario Basketball
- OFSAA
- OCAA
- OUA
- CABO
- Canada Basketball
- IAABO

It is my sincere hope that they will all find the time to attend and also find the time in the afternoon to join our FIBA session from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

* Please note that Brian and Dennis will be holding Regional Meetings for the North Region and Central West Region from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. I will also be in attendance to assist in any questions or concerns those Local Boards may have.

SECRETARY-TREASURER ITEMS

- All Local Boards have been sent a copy of the Certificate of Insurance they require from Don Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer.
- All Local Boards have received a copy of the AGM Minutes from Niagara Falls.

Jaime McCaig



PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

THE WHISTLE

• The publication deadlines and distribution of The Whistle are as follows. If you wish to submit an article for consideration please contact me directly.

EDITION DEADLINE for ARTICLES
DISTRIBUTION

Spring March 15/09 April 15/09
Summer June 15/09 July 15/09.

IAABO

- The IAABO Spring AGM will be held in Orlando, Florida from April 23rd to April 26th, 2009. Don Thorne and I will be attending the Conference
- The Fall Interpreters Meeting will take place in Cleveland, Ohio September 10 to 13, 2009.

OABO WEBSITE

• I have requested Tino Decastro, MSO to research a new front page for our OABO website as it is time for it to be spruced up. I have also asked him to research with the Manitoba Board permission to access their FIBA videos that are on line as they certainly have the most up to date videos including the recent Summer Olympics.

CABO

• The OABO Executive, through Bruce Covert and I, have expressed our frustration and concerns over not having received the Ted Earley, Wink Willox and Ritchie-Nicurity Scholarship Awards since they were announced on the 3rd weekend of September. I have offered what I think is a solution to the problem which is to assume the portfolio of Awards for our National Governing Body. I feel with the current Wall of Fame we have in place as an Association places us in good stead to assume this role for all Provinces. I did receive a response from Don Cline, President of CABO, that he too is concerned

over how this matter has been handled and will share my offer of assistance with the CABO Executive and let me know the outcome of their deliberations. I want to sincerely apologize to Sandy Bibeau, the Ted Earley Memorial Award winner and Rob Caporrici the Ritchie/Nicurity Scholarship recipient both of the Niagara Board on the delay of receiving the awards.

- I also want to clarify the fees for CABO and Canada Basketball. There are 2 separate fees, and payments are made directly to the 2 organizations.
- The CABO AGM is on September 18-20/2009 in St. John's, Newfoundland and I do plan to attend as President of OABO. OABO will be submitting a motion for discussion to have the FIBA Exam recognized by CABO as a non-proctored exam due to the impossibility based on geography of monitoring the exam in a proctored environment.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

• I have been advised by Tim Laurain, VP at our Executive meeting yesterday that the Constitutional Committee chaired by Tim comprised of Charlie Ketter-Sudbury, Bill Magnus-Ottawa, Pat Laing- Niagara and John Daugavietis -Durham are moving forth with a presentation targeted for the Presidents Meeting on May 2nd/2009.

• I have been advised by Tim Laurain, VP at our Executive meeting yesterday that he has received 13 responses from Local Board Vice-Presidents on their duties. It is my sincere hope that Tim will receive responses from all 32 Boards. I have asked Tim to have a full report ready for our January 25th Executive meeting.

• I have requested of Ted Montgomery, Provincial Interpreter a written Implementation Plan of the National Certification Program that was put in place by CABO. Each Province was requested to put in place a plan for this to be

Vice President, Continuing In 2009 *by Tim Laurain*

The first edition of the Whistle in 2009 gave us the opportunity to further work toward the goal of cost savings in the distribution of the Whistle. The Whistle was distributed electronically or via traditional mail depending on the responses from the Board Secretaries, thank you to them for their efforts. With this edition there will be a short follow-up to gauge satisfaction with the delivery and quality of the electronic product.

The New Year also brings the ongoing work of the Constitutional Committee more to the forefront. The Committee itself will be working on more revision but my request again goes out to all OABO members to submit proposals for revisions or other direction in what is felt should be looked at.

I still have to follow-up with several Boards who have not responded with the role and responsibilities the Vice President (if applicable) has within their Local Board.

Lastly, a thought as we step forward into 2009...

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." ~Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Tim Laurain

Provincial Supervisor's Report *by Bruce Covert*

OABO Summer Camps

This summer OABO will be running five development camps: JDP, MDP Boys' and Girls', BDP Boys' and Girls'. All camps will run in Toronto. This year Basketball Ontario is subsidizing most of the registration cost for two of the camps, the BDP Boys' and the all female camp.

By the end of January information on each camp and the registration form should be found on the OABO web site.

If you are interested in attending one of these camps please read the descriptions very carefully and apply to the camp that best suits your level of officiating. You might also want to check out the feedback from campers that attended a 2008 camp.

Each year OABO offers a number of camp scholarships. Information on these may also be found on the web site.

These camps are staffed by some of the top officials and clinicians in Ontario. If you are truly interested in becoming a better official an OABO summer camp is a great opportunity for you to do so.

OFSAA Boys' Tournaments

The following have been appointed as R/Cs.

A - Cornwall
Rob Ferguson

AA - Timmins
Dennis Herbert

AAA - Ottawa
Chester Graham

AAAA - Windsor
Doug Harris

Provincial Evaluators

The following recently indicated that they wished to remain on, or be added to, the Provincial Evaluators panel:

Sandy Bibeau	Gary Boguski	Rick Carbone	Frank Cecchetto
Guy Cipriani	Bruce Covert	Nadine Crowley	Mike Currie
Rob Ferguson	Craymer Forth	Mike Foubert	Chester Graham
Doug Harris	Brigg Harvey	Dennis Herbert	Ray Holder
David Jirik	Eric Kane	Charlie Ketter	Tim Laurain
Bill Magnus	Jaime McCaig	Mike McPhee	Ken Muir
Ray Samuels	Gary Schauer	Mario Suffoletta	Don Thorne
Dawna Townsend	Penny Wright	Shah Zafar	

Thanks to all.
Bruce

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Interpreter

By Ted Montgomery



Some Federation (High School) Pointers and Reminders

Here are a few matters discussed recently among Interpreters affiliated with IAABO.

When the coach is out of the box but not coaching, the coach needs to be advised that he or she must remain in the box during the game other than to make a request through the scorer regarding a possible correctable error. That “warning” is not a formal warning to be recorded in the scorebook as with the warning given by rule for delay of game. It is informal and must be communicated to the other official(s) in order to act on any subsequent violations of the coaching box rule.

There remains a problem with time outs exceeding the prescribed time. Officials must be more diligent in having the teams break their huddle on or immediately after the first horn so that they are ready to resume play when the second horn sounds. The second horn must not be used to break the team huddle. It indicates that play is about to resume. The way to handle delay is to use the resumption of play procedures that are set out in Rule 7-5-1. Urging teams to break their huddle or dragging players from the huddle is not the way to keep time-outs to the proper duration. See cases 7-5-1 A and B.

Teams that are hollering from the bench to influence officials or in an unsporting manner need to be attended to. Examples are counting seconds for five, three or ten second violations, but not for time remaining in a period, and shouting such things repeatedly such as “Dead, Dead, Dead, Dead, etc.” Teams should be warned to desist and penalized as warranted if their behavior is unsporting.

Lastly, there are a couple of errors in this year’s Case Book. On page 11, Case 2.10.1 Situation G (d) is incorrect. The clock has not started so the ball is not awarded to team B but to team A as in situations (a) and (b). On page 30, Case, 4.19.9 B is incorrect. The foul by A1 while the ball is out-of-bounds for a team B throw-in is an intentional foul for which the penalty is two free throws and possession of the ball for a throw-in at the point of the foul.

From the Desk of the Secretary/Treasurer by Don Thorne

I have to take a second to send thanks out to my assistants Tom Christie, Kevin Moore, Grant Varley as well to all the officials that I had the opportunity to work with at the OFSAA AAA Girls’ event hosted by Governor Simcoe SS in St. Catharines. I would also like to thank the Niagara Board of Officials for their hospitality. It is always a great experience to be involved in an event when the host team plays and wins the championship in front of a jammed packed partisan crowd. A job well done by everyone.

I would like to welcome Dennis Windsor (Peel) to the Executive Committee as your Central-West Regional Representative and also I would like to welcome back Brian Seccareccia as your Northern Regional Representative for his third term.

My article in the last edition of The Whistle introduced two new subsidy programs. One was for Local Board assistance with mileage to Article 16, OFSAA, and OCAA championship events. The other was Local Board

assistance with purchasing audio/video equipment for the purpose of educating and developing members. Details and procedures for both subsidies are posted on the OABO web site.

By the way, you will have to agree when I say Tino needs to be commended for the fantastic job he is doing with the fresh new look on the OABO site as well as keeping all information up to date.

Finally, a bit of business, I knew that with a small nudge here and there I would get all the board lists in by the end of November. I would love to say we are up in membership numbers but as of Dec 1 we had 1634 total members. This is down a bit from last year. On a good note, we actually have an increase in full members (including OABO Honorary) by 30 some odd people.

I hope your holiday season was a safe and festive one.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER REPORT By Tino De Castro

ALL materials have been sent out for the 2008-2009 season. I hope that receiving materials by email has been useful for most boards, it has allowed for the speedy delivery of exams.

I will also be emailing out to all Board Presidents future OABO evaluations from OFSAA, OCAA, and other OABO evaluated tournaments. Again this will allow boards to get this information in a timely fashion, which may be useful for the placement of officials within your board.

The website has proven to be challenging to say the least. I am presently working with our web server host to update the look of the site. The goal is to have a new look by the New Year. I encourage you to send me any ideas you may have or links to any sites that you feel may have some features that would be great to adopt.

Tino De Castro

IAABO Region Nine Representative Report

News and Views December 2008 *By Dennis Herbert*

Farewell 2008 - Welcome 2009

As the glitter of seasonal lights, both on outdoor and indoor facilities captivates our eyes, we want to be thankful, for the Joys of peaceful celebration. Many of us gather for family functions to wish all a Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Happy Hanukkah, Natalie Allegro, Feliz Navidad, Frohliche Weihnachten Kung His Hsin Nien Bing Chu Shen Tan, Hyvaa Joula, Happy Kwanzaa, Buone Feste Natalizia. May all of the IAABO family have a wonderful holiday this December!

Ring out the Old! Ring In the New! As your IAABO Region Nine Representative, I wish each and every member and their family a Happy New Year 2009. May we all be blessed with good health, financial prosperity and an abundance of good games!

What Makes IAABO Valuable to Basketball Officials?

Once you make the decision to become a basketball official, dealing in the amateur sport arena can be made that much easier for you if you chose to align with IAABO. In fact, some people even go so far as to say IAABO stands for 'I am a basketball official' (official designation is International Approved Association Basketball Officials). This current winter many IAABO boards encouraged their cadets and non-IAABO members to write the proctored, closed book, 50 question IAABO Rules Test. A passing grade of 86% gets you almost to the finish line- passing the mechanics/signals written test and being successful with a floor evaluation (usually a senior high school game- boys or girls) completes the requirements.

If truth be known, virtually all of Ontario's top notch officials at the high school, college and university level coursed through the steps of becoming 'recognized' by getting their IAABO certification. Confidence levels rise when you know you have passed that rules knowledge test.

And if your evaluator sees that you are able to handle the highest level high school ball with confidence and control over the players, coaches and game management, you're on your way!

Help your game- make IAABO part of your development. Establish yourself as a basketball official to whom assignors have no doubts about giving ANY assignments.

IAABO Crests - Honigs Signs with IAABO.

Attention all Ontario IAABO officials- Honigs has the exclusive rights to producing the IAABO crest on sport apparel and individual crest production. Honig's have signed a contract with IAABO which extends for the next three years- through to June 30th, 2011. Ontario's IAABO Local Board secretaries have been instructed to send to Mr. Herman Murphy, Honig's distributor in Ontario, a list of IAABO (currently registered, dues paid) members' names with their address and board number. Part of the agreement stipulates that: the IAABO crest will be included free of charge to those officials who purchase a starter package. Any official who has not purchased a starter package from Honig's can purchase the crest for \$10.00. Honig's will have available at all times during the term of this agreement a Cadet Order Form to be distributed to all Secretaries. This form will outline the crest program. Herman's email address is sales@honigs-canada.com. Honigs do have a website- www.honigs.com and the Hamilton area office phone number is: 1.800.560.6680 or local 905.560.6161. Please note that the IAABO office is no longer selling IAABO crests. 700 crests were sent to Honigs this past summer. Honig's Whistle Stop advertisement found in all issues of Sportorials does not show the Canadian - Honigs distribution address.

I look forward to serving you as IAABO Region Nine Representative in 2009.

Ontario Cup Provincial Basketball Ontario Tournaments

AGE CATEGORY	DATES	LOCATION	HOST CLUB	AGE CATEGORY	DATES	LOCATION	HOST CLUB
U10 Novice Girls	March 27-29	Chatham	Chatham Kent Wildcats	U15 Midget Girls	May 1-3	Toronto/Scarborough	Scarborough Basketball
U11 Atom Girls	March 27-29	Ajax/Pickering	Durham City Bulldogs	U16 Major Midget Girls	May 1-3	Kingston	Kingston Impact
U12 Major Atom Girls	March 27-29	London	London Ramblers	U17 Juvenile Girls	May 8-10	Kitchener-Waterloo	KW Lightning
U10 Novice Boys	April 3-5	Chatham	Chatham Kent Wildcats	U19 Junior Women	May 8-10	Kitchener-Waterloo	KW Lightning
U11 Atom Boys	April 3-5	London	London Ramblers	U15 Midget Boys	May 22-24	Mississauga	Malton Mavericks/Baller Sports
U12 Major Atom Boys	April 3-5	Kitchener-Waterloo	KW Lightning	U16 Major Midget Boys	May 22-24	Windsor	Windsor Valiants
U13 Bantam Girls	April 17-19	London	London Ramblers	U17 Juvenile Boys	May 29-31	Oshawa	Whitby Wildcats/Saints
U14 Major Bantam Girls	April 17-19	London	London Ramblers	U19 Junior Men	May 29-31	Kitchener/Waterloo	KW YBA
U13 Bantam Boys	April 24-26	Toronto/Scarborough	Scarborough Basketball				
U14 Major Bantam Boys	April 24-26	London	London Ramblers				

Northern Boards Season Highlights

by Brian Seccareccia

NORTHERN REPORT

The Northern Boards would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Charlie Ketter and his family on the loss of their mother.

It has been a very busy fall and winter for all of the seven Northern Boards. With Christmas fast approaching we are looking forward to a break to spend time with family and friends. Listed below are some of the highlights for each individual board.

Muskoka Parry Sound

Numerous tournaments and league play have kept the Muskoka officials busy in the last four months. The Muskoka Board has been active in searching for new members and as a result has some promising new recruits. Some of their members have travelled to other boards to help them with tournaments. One of these tournaments was the Provincial Girls Franco Tournament held in Sudbury. This fall saw the recognition of a very important member of their association. Ken Estabrooks received the OBA Merit Award at the Fall AGM Meeting held in Niagara.

North Bay

Congratulations are extended to North Bay for successfully hosting the Girls' A OFSAA Tournament in November. The 51st Tomahawk Boys Tournament took place on December 5th and 6th. Fifteen officials from various parts of Ontario including our President Jaime McCaig and Provincial Supervisor Bruce Covert helped out. Art Gabor who was recognized for 40 years of service with IAABO also worked a game to extend his streak of working at least one game in the tournament since it began.

North Shore

The North Shore Officials enjoyed officiating the Girls' AA NOSSA Regional Championship held in Espanola in November.

Sault Ste. Marie

Officials in the Sault had a clinic in September to prepare themselves for the upcoming Girls' and Boys' High School Season, and the Men and Women College Season. Locally they have been very busy as they have officiated 3 College Tournaments, 2 Girls' High School Tournaments and 3 Boys' High School Tournaments besides their regular season schedule so far this year. Congratulations are extended to Barb Tuomi who officiated the Gold Medal Game at the Girls' A OFSAA Championships held in North Bay (Barb is the first Sault female official to officiate a Gold Medal Game). The Sault has been able to recruit 3 new officials for the upcoming season.

Sudbury

Sudbury has experienced a robust High School Girls' season and is looking forward to a similar such season with the boys'. An applica-

tion for a sanctioned girls' OBA tournament is in the works for the first weekend in March and is expected to meet provincial approval. Craymer Forth was designated as RC for the Girls' OFSAA A Tournament held in North Bay. This is the first time that a northern official has been selected to RC such a tournament (Congratulations Cramer!!). Stu Fairwell was Sudbury's representation at this tournament. The girls' season went well and enabled Sudbury to bring a few rookie officials on line. They anticipate an elementary season that will rival last season with some 500 games to be played using FIBA rules and mechanics. Unfortunately there are still some high school conveners who feel they should be preparing players for NFHS rules without knowing what differences really apply. Sudbury is looking for methods to deal with former and active officials who presently coach. If there are any boards that have constitutional clauses in place to deal with behaviour on the sidelines and/or at meetings they would appreciate knowing. Sudbury officials have assisted other Northern Boards with tournaments and look forward to continue to do so in the future.

Thunder Bay

The Thunder Bay Board hosted the OFSAA AA Girls' Tournament in November. From all accounts the tournament was well organized and a success. Thunder Bay would like to thank the following officials who travelled to Thunder Bay to assist the host board:

Robin Holbrook and Kevin Greenwood (Windsor)
Marc Butuk (Owen Sound)
Paul Coley (Peel)
Kevin Osadchuk (Manitouwadge)
Gary Billings (Atikokan)

The following officials from Thunder Bay officiated during the tournament: Peter Doig, Steve Follis, Brad Holbrough, Markku Peuhkurinen, Al Poirier, Kathy Williams, Wally Peterson, Paul Rocco, Bob Main, Mika Pehkonen, and Rod Miller. Peter Andros and David Parsons acted as Assignor/Evaluators.

Thunder Bay officials travelled to Manitouwadge and Dryden to work in regional tournaments.

Timmins

The Timmins Board has been busy participating in tournaments in New Liskeard, Timmins and North Bay. Adam Pressault represented their board at the Girls' A OFSAA Tournament held in North Bay. The boys' season is well under way and Timmins is busy preparing for the AA OFSAA Boys' Championships and the Timmins High Gold Cup Tournament (one of the largest tournaments in the province). They are looking forward to being good hosts to the officials who will be travelling from out of town to work in the tournaments. John Elliot is back for a second term as President, Angelo Lia is the Secretary/Treasurer, and Paul Thibodeau returns as the Interpreter

OFSSA GIRLS'

OFSSA A Girls' ROSTER - North Bay

North Bay - John Fong
North Bay - Rick Cowden
North Bay - Butch Forbes
Guelph - Anna Maria Del Col
Toronto - Elissa Becket
Ottawa - Frances Enns
Grey Bruce - Kathleen Finlay
Durham- Melanie Gardner
Sault - Barb Tuomi
Muskoka - Carl Nelson
York - Jay Bernal
Sudbury - Stu Fairwell
Barrie- Brian Clarke
Timmins - Adam Presseault
Renfrew - Vic Navickas

R/C - Craymer Forth
Assistant - Paddy Byrne

OFSSA AA Girls'

This year the OFSSA AA Girls' was assigned Locally.

OFSSA AAA Girls' Roster - St Catharines

Niagara- Jim Spitali
Niagara- Aaron Belding
Niagara- Ben Tomiuck
Niagara- Ryan Bissonnette
Niagara- Joe Zaroda
Niagara- Nick Borich
Niagara- Kevin Werner

Niagara- Jeff Allen
Brant/Norfolk - Mark Baxter
Brant/Norfolk - Mark Dinsmore
Elgin - Dave Frank
London - Rebecca Richardson
K/W - Patricia Wyke
Toronto - Mary Neglia
Ottawa - Tamara La Fleur
Peel - Rohan Kinkead

R/C Don Thorne
Assistants - Tom Christie, Kevin Moore, Grant Varley

OFSSA AAAA Girls' Roster - Sarnia

Sarnia - Les Hoover
Sarnia - Andrew Taylor
Sarnia - Jason O'Reilly
Sarnia - Matthew Langille
Toronto - Pam Ferrante
London - Lynn Lambert
Peel - Nisha Wilson
Hamilton - Tina Coverly
Windsor - Daniel Golding
Kent - Blake Handsor
London - Dane Rice
Hamilton - Martin Bourgeois
Oxford - John Antal
Toronto - Tony Rowe
Guelph - David Phillips
K/W - Dennis Herakovic

R/C - Ken Muir
Assistants - Mike McMurray, Brett Oake, John Brown

CENTRAL WEST REGION *by Dennis Windsor*

Welcome to 2009. I hope all had an enjoyable Holiday Season.

As the Central West Regional Representative I have been appointed to serve as the eyes and ears of the Peel, Hamilton, Niagara, Guelph and Brant/Norfolk Boards. I encourage all the local Presidents and Secretaries in the CW Region to communicate any local Board happenings that can be shared with the OABO Executive and its members in upcoming editions in *The Whistle*.

The OABO Executive has set the following meeting dates, January 25th, May 1st and September 24th. If you would like any items added to the agenda for any of these meetings please do your best to forward the necessary details to me at least a week prior to the scheduled meeting dates. This will allow me to review your items and leave enough time for any clarification and or questions I may have.

I look forward to meeting all the Local Presidents at the Presidents' Meeting in May. On Saturday May 2nd at 8:30 am until 9:30 am I will be chairing a Regional meeting in Toronto City Hall. I will advise the

Local Board Presidents of further details as the date gets closer. In the mean time please mark your calendars.

The basketball season is in full swing. The Central West region will be kept very busy over the next few months with OBA tournaments set to take place almost weekly.

Good luck to all in 2009.

Dennis

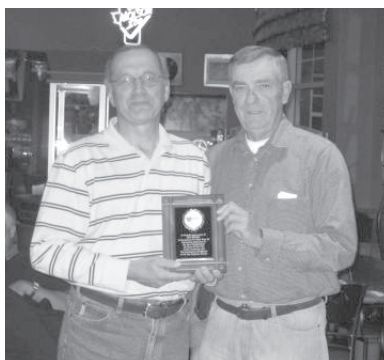
THE WHISTLE

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Articles or letters are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Geordie Montgomery at geordiecm@cogeco.ca



Lorne Buck Recieves an Appreciation Award from From Jacque Caron for his years of service, Lorne retired this past season.



Don Reidel recieves an Appreciation Award from Bay of Quinte Assignor Gord Smith for his years of service, Don retired this past season.



Jaime McCaig OABO President, Presents Don Reidel The OABO Merit Award.

Refereeing In Florida

For those of you who have the time to spend a winter in Florida and wish to continue your refereeing career I can only say...go for it!!

I will attempt to outline the steps you have to take to gain accreditation and how to make yourself known.

The first step is to go to the FHSAA [Florida High School Athletic Assoc.] Web site and determine which will be your home Assoc. www.fhsaa.org. Check them out on a search engine and phone the President and inquire about their need for officials, policies and practices meeting dates etc. It is good to make this initial contact and let them know when you will be arriving.

The State body, which governs all H.S. sports, is the FHSAA. To referee you must pay a fee to register, \$29 for the first sport and \$27 for each additional sport. [They also need softball and baseball ump's.] It has easy to follow steps on line to register and you can use Visa/MC etc.

After registration you can work your way through the process of accreditation.

1. You must watch an on line Rules Presentation...boring...but they ask you questions at the end to verify that you watched.

2. You then have to write an on line rules test [a. open book...no time limit...but can't referee varsity, or b. "closed book" 50 min. time limit...need 80% and you qualify for all levels.] Both tests are 50 questions T or F.

The key to passing this test is to get a copy of the NFHS "practice exam" at an Assoc. meeting and work your way through it. It is an excellent preparation.

3. Before being allowed to enter a gym you will have to pass a screening for sexual offenders, which usually just involves being fingerprinted.

The time format for refereeing in Florida should be as follows:

- Register in August
- Watch an on line rules presentation in mid October
- Do an on line test in late October.
- Girls' and boys' seasons run concurrently with the girls starting the second week in Nov. and the boys starting one week later.
- Finish date for the girls' regular season is end of first week in Feb. and the boys' one week later.

Playoffs follow but don't expect a lot at first other than the first round... Districts. The appointments from then on are handled by the State and are based on a ranking system and of course as in any place become very coveted and competitive. That is not to say unattainable...but probably

so the first year, until you can build up enough points by attending State clinics etc.

Maximum pay is governed by the State and each Assoc. must meet a set of criteria to be allowed to charge full rates per game. The local Assoc determines travel for each county. For us we get \$50 for a 2-man Var. game plus \$17 per person mileage. [JV 2 man...40 +17, 3 man Var. 45 + 17, 3 man JV 20 + 17] Our mileage is the same if I go around the corner to work or if we go 75 miles. However when going a long distance our booking agent tries to make sure we do a JV/Var doubleheader.

The actual officiating is done mostly at night from 6 pm onward. You must be at the gym ½ hour early and make yourself known to the home admin. or coach. The process on floor is more formal... on floor opposite table 15 min before game, pre game with captains, pre game with coaches, introductions, national anthem etc. However if you are a good referee in Ontario you will be a good referee here. The coaches are much more vocal but any ejection for a coach calls for a 2 game suspension and a \$200 fine to be reinstated. Player ejections [for other than 5 fouls] call for a coach suspension as well. So as you can surmise there is a level of control beyond what we see at home. Remember also coaches are paid in Florida so winning takes on a whole new meaning.

For me the experience has been very positive! I have met a lot of people and made many new friends and of course, who will pay me to get exercise and do something I love and enjoy?!

If any of you want to chat about this or get further info. I am available to help.

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Good luck and I hope to see you on the court!!

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