



# TipOff

Volume 8 Number 6  
April 2007

## President's Message

We're now at the end of another season with spring league well under way. I'm sure for most of us we take the time to assess our year, make commitments for summer camps (and summer vacations with family), and take advantage of the physical and mental break. Personally, this spring takes on an added significance as I wrap up my second, and final, term as President of the EBOA. In March we had the opportunity to host the 4A boys/girls, 2A boys provincials and the College Women's nationals in our fair city. Having had the experience of traveling to various tournaments, I know what an impact it makes with our fellow officials to be a good host. Word gets around. Officials enjoy coming to Edmonton because of the camaraderie and friendships we have developed. I have always enjoyed the opportunities to renew old acquaintances at such tournaments, and it truly adds to our experience as officials.

With a new executive just around the corner, and a new President to succeed me, I wanted to take this opportunity to share a special thank-you with the members that have served with me on the executive over the nine years I have been involved. Without a doubt, the strength and stability we have enjoyed as an association is in no small part a product of the fact that as an executive we worked together. We communicated to agree. Game fees and assignments continue to increase, the GO Centre commitment

supported by the membership, Provincial, National and International successes all have a part to play in the excellent reputation we have as the EBOA.

I would also like to share my gratitude with the membership for the overall level of support I have received. I have always felt as if my thoughts and ideas have been valued, and the level of attention and feedback from the various meetings and clinics has been sincerely appreciated. Obviously there will be many opportunities for me to continue to participate with clinics and such, however I would be remiss if I didn't express another thank you for the journey so far.

The EBOA AGM and elections on April 24 are followed April 29th by the ABOA AGM in Calgary. See the announcement in this newsletter for details. Now is the time that decisions are made that chart the course for the future years... participate, either by running or showing up to vote!

Take care everyone, I wish you all the best this summer!

See you at our AGM on the 24th at Louis St. Laurent.

Perry

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## Dates to Remember

April	24	Annual General Meeting & Elections Louis St. Laurent 7:00 - 9:00 pm
May	26	Golf, Awards and Paynight see page 2 for details



## Mark Your Calendar

### **SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2007**

#### ***For a fun filled affair***

For the last couple of years the EBOA has hosted an Awards Night in early May to recognize the accomplishments of many of our officials. And then two weeks later, the EBOA hosts a Golf Day and Pay Night.

This year, the EBOA Executive has decided to combine all three events for one fun filled affair.

#### **Golf Day**

Raven Crest Golf and Country Club  
Early Risers - Tee Times 8:30 AM  
\$49 for 18 holes (\$63 with cart)

251 153 Ave NE  
Edmonton, AB  
First come, first serve.  
There will be prizes!

RSVP to Melanie Gray  
mgray@epcor.ca by May 7  
if you want to golf.

#### **Awards and Pay Night**

Reed's Bazaar, Fort Edmonton Park  
Whitemud Drive and Fox Drive  
6:30 – Cocktails (Twoonie Bar)  
7:00 Dinner & Awards  
Pay Cheques to follow Awards.  
Spouses / Partners are welcome.

Evening is hosted by the EBOA.

RSVP to MELANIE GRAY  
mgray@epcor.ca by May 21  
(note if you're bring a guest)

#### **ABOA AGM:**

Sunday, April 29 @ 1pm  
In Calgary at ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL  
877 Northmount Drive, Calgary

ABOA elections this year for President, VP, Treasurer. If you travel from Edmonton with a driver and three passengers the EBOA will subsidize the trip \$100.00 to the driver of the vehicle.

## Junior Development

Overall a very good year for our younger officials; we had 30 Novices and 80 community league officials. Except for those who chose to retire early or could not/did not care to work many games, we managed to get everyone evaluated and observed. In many areas, great strides were made and were easy to see. This is not an easy game to officiate but most of the younger set in age and experience took up the challenge and did their best.

Unfortunately our attrition rate is about 80 percent a year. I would like to see at least 20 novices and 40 or 50 community league officials return next year to maintain continuity for development.

Next season will be a big challenge for us all with the returning to FIBA rules. My last count and although

not official, there are at least 80 differences, so it should be an interesting year. We have already prepared conversion courses for returning novices and community league officials as well as clinic plans for new officials.

For the novices if you want to officiate the spring leagues and are not doing so, let Gil or Tom know.

The race for the rookie of the year was a good one. It was eventually narrowed down to 4, then 3, then 2 and finally one. There were several very good first year officials to choose from. The winner will be announced on pay night.

Enjoy the spring and summer; see you at the AGM, if not - pay night and /or - in the fall

Fred Goldring

## Community Corner

We have had another very successful year of community league basketball. I would like to thank Shawn at EYBA for a very organized season and all the EBOA officials who stepped in to help mentor new officials.

Incidents have greatly been reduced. Thanks to all officials who have stepped up to give their best.

Every year there are more and more games of basketball but recruiting officials is still difficult. In spite of that obstacle, we had a great year. Thanks.

Lastly, it is time to start recruiting officials for next year. Tell your friends or anybody you think would make a good official. It all starts again in September.

Ed Harasem



## In The Know

Well another season of High School, College, and University basketball has come to an end, leaving those of us who haven't quite had enough yet, working at the various Spring Leagues around the City.

This year we had perhaps our largest number of Officials attend Provincial Championships, since I've been on the Executive. Twenty individuals represented the EBOA and I'm proud to say that we had an EBOA Official in the final game of every Provincial we had an appointment to. To my knowledge, this is a first. To add another feather to our Association's "cap", our appointments to the CIS Men's and the CCAA Women's National Championships, both worked a Semi-Final. Not only does this demonstrate the strength of our Board as a whole, it clearly shows that hard work and perseverance get results. I personally want to congratulate each and every one of you.

While I know many of you desire a break, I encourage you to consider attending a summer officiating camp. While a number of you already are, it would be nice to see that number increase. Camps are invaluable learning experiences, and there are many to choose from – be it beginner or advanced. Camps such as the "Canada West Camp" and the "Prairie Dog Camp" offer FIBA rules training, as well as 2 person and 3 person mechanics. Go to [www.stripezone.com](http://www.stripezone.com), look down the left hand column, and you will see the vast variety of camps being offered.

Lastly, I'd like to thank my evaluation team for their assistance this season. If you happen to be one of the few who has not been seen, we will be out during spring league. Saying that, please drop me an e-mail to let me know when and where you are working. Those of you who have not been seen and have no desire to, please drop me an e-mail indicating such so you are not charged for an evaluation this season.

Karen Lasuik  
EDO

## From Where I Sit

Fellow members, this is my final submission to the TipOff Newsletter as Secretary.

I have dutifully recorded meeting attendance this year based on the sign-in sheets at each General Meeting - and I will be forwarding the summary to the Treasurer for review. If you are assessed a meeting attendance fine and believe it was assessed in error, be sure to speak with the incoming Treasurer - we will review the situation.

As some of you already know, I've moved to the Rock (otherwise known as Newfoundland, Labrador). Thanks to all of you for your support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Secretary for the 2006-2007 season. The position does not come up for re-election until the 2008 AGM; so the procedure for replacing me will be by appointment from the Executive. If you are interested in getting involved in EBOA affairs as the Secretary, please indicate your interest to a member of the incoming Executive that will be elected later this month.



Special thanks to my dear basketball friends who were there to send me off at my Farewell in early April. I'll bring all those wonderful memories and some EBOA tradition to the officials in Newfoundland!

Respectfully submitted,

Richard  
EBOA Secretary

### Jr High

Junior High Season went well. I would like to thank all the officials who helped when needed. If it wasn't for them we would have had to turn back a lot of games.

Enjoy your Summer.

Tom



## Member at Large

The 2006-'07 season has almost come to a close. I am pleased to report that the EBOA received approximately 25 grievances against members. About 70% of the complaints/grievances came from EBA, while the rest came from highschool (16%), EYBA (4%), and members complaining about other officials (8%). For the most part, officials working games that had to deal with a great deal of conflict between coaches, players, or spectators (and there were a few) were very effective at advising me of the situations. Often times I would receive e-mails the next day, while sometimes I would receive phone calls at home. I understand on a couple of occasions the EBA Coordinator went directly to officials to ascertain what happened in games.

To those officials that were proactive - I thank you!  
To those officials that failed to respond or reply to my e-mails, and sometimes my phone messages, after having had to deal with issues in games - I am quite disappointed. I realize all of our lives can be very hectic nowadays, from spending time with family, to work, to other part-time jobs, etc. However, there is no reason why 10-15 minutes cannot be spent writing an e-mail, detailing the

situation so that it can be dealt with effectively, especially after having spent 1-1.5 hours working a game.

In order to show our clients (i.e. EBA, highschool, EYBA) that we take situations like these 25 seriously, over the summer I am going to ask the EBOA Executive to take a close look at situations like these, and attempt to develop a policy that will help motivate our Members in following up on incidents' like these in games.

In conclusion, with the thousands of games that Gil and Tom assign yearly, I am really pleased that we have to deal with a relatively small number of incidents. I hope next year we can show our clients that we are prepared to deal with their issues/concerns more effectively as an Association.

Regards,

Stephane Labonne  
Member-at-Large