



Edmonton Basketball Officials Association

Tipoff

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

With a few weeks left in the basketball season, we are coming down to crunch time in the Edmonton area. This is the most exciting time of year – everything is on the line each and every game. Wow – what excitement!

In this article I wanted to make note of our longest standing tradition (now called Brew Night as Molson House has closed its doors), as well, share some perspectives with everyone from one of my mentors Bill Denney from British Columbia. Before that, first a word about Brew Night.

As you may have heard, Molson Canada has decided to close the doors to its bottling plant in Edmonton, at the same time, closing the doors on its multi-purpose facility called “Molson House”. To replace the long-standing tradition, the Executive has lined up Brewster’s to facilitate one of the most enjoyable social events of the year (please check out the Vice-President’s message for more details). As many of you know, it is this time of year when we all get together and celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues by celebrating their appointments to Provincial and National appointments. The Executive is most proud of the crop of EBOA members who have accepted the opportunity to represent the EBOA at Provincial and Nationals this year. Their knowledge of the rules, hard work and commitment will be great additions to their respective tournaments. Good luck to everyone!

It should also be noted that our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2008, at Louis St. Laurent. If you, or someone you know, is interested in running for an Executive position, please ask them to contact Alan Ward, who is the Past President, and is responsible for recruiting interested members. At this year’s Annual General Meeting, the Executive plans on presenting updated EBOA Bylaws and policies for the members’ consideration, and it would be great to see everyone participate in this process.

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BREW NIGHT

FEBRUARY 26, 7:00 PM

**Brewster’s Oliver Square
11620 104th Avenue**

Food will be provide but drinks will not. Minors are welcome to attend as this is a private function.



DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY	26	Brew Night Brewster’s Oliver Square 7:00pm (formerly Molson Night)
MARCH	13-15	Alberta Schools’ Athletic Association Provincials
	28-29	Minor Provincials (hosted by Basketball Alberta)
APRIL	22	EBOA Annual General Meeting
MAY	31	Awards and Pay Night



FROM THE PRESIDENT • CONT'D

Finally, as we are in the home stretch of the season, I wanted to leave everyone with four points to consider in advance of each and every game.

1. **Ninety Percent Of Officiating Is Being A People Person**

Know how to handle people. Remember that listening is an important skill. If you're asked a question, answer it. Treat everyone at the game with the same respect you want from him or her.

2. **Keep Safety Number One**

The rules not only empower but also require officials to penalize rough play. Even if a potentially dangerous situation is not specifically covered in the rules, an official is obligated to make whatever correction is necessary to ensure player safety.

3. **You Have An Obligation To Hold Yourself To A Higher-Than-Normal Ethical Standard**

How you behave away from the court is as important as how you act on the court. Poor decisions or bad behaviour in everyday life can eradicate all of the good will and good impressions you earn when you're officiating. Integrity is defined by how you act when you think nobody is watching.

4. **Officiating Builds Skills For A Lifetime**

The qualities that make a great official are also the qualities that make a person a good employee, spouse, parent and friend. Teamwork, loyalty, sacrifice, study, decision-making, fair mindedness, accountability and honesty are just a few of the positive skills and qualities that can be learned, developed and implemented through officiating.

I wish everyone well – if I don't have a chance to see you in person – have fun and enjoy the run to the end!

Stephane Labonne
President



IN THE KNOW

Much too often we put on our reffing gear, hit the court, and go through the motions of officiating, after a long day at the office. We like to believe that no one is going to notice – from the players, to the coaches, to the fans, to our partners. Such, however, is not the case.

Once we walk out the door of the office and in to the tranquility of our cars, we should begin the mental preparation necessary to do a good job at the game we're heading to. What should we be thinking about? Rule issues we might be having, team match-ups and importance of the game, perhaps weird plays or situations that have arisen that we want to handle differently if they come up again....these are all good things, but what about the crew or partner you're working with. Often, we don't give much thought to this, when in reality, you're only as good as the weakest member on your crew. So how do you get the best out of yourself and your partner(s) every game?

CREW MAKE-UP

Whether you're the R, the U1, or the U2 in a three person game, we should all strive to be a leader on the court, and work towards bringing less experienced officials up to your level.

Here are some tips to think about on how to be a good leader:

- Work towards gaining respect of your partners.
- Take a "what can I do to help you" approach.
- Learn about your partner as a person, and allow them to learn about you.
- Respect your partners and treat them as equals; they will return this respect.
- Add value to help your partner's game – give them your best advice.
- Demonstrate professionalism and poise, from your attire, to your attitude.

Great leaders don't try to win – they lead people so they win together.

Finish the season strong, and be a good leader!

Karen Lasuik
EDO



IN THE FILM ROOM

Available from the EBOA Resource Library:

Show Strength On The Court Lonnie Dixon, NCAA Official

For more than 25 years, Lonnie Dixon has officiated basketball at many levels, both nationally and internationally. Lonnie is an established NCAA Div. I men's official, working in the Mountain West Conference, Big XII, Sun Belt, and several other conferences.

Lonnie has also been selected to work several NCAA tournaments, advancing as far as the Sweet 16. He possesses a professional demeanor that has been integral in his advancement up the officiating ladder.

If you are looking to work the best games in your high school association or college conference, Lonnie provides the fine points that are critical to your success. With just one listening, you will learn insightful and proven techniques that have helped Lonnie become one of the most respected officials in the nation.

Here are the topics that Lonnie will share with you:

- Great techniques to showing strength at all times
- The importance of mechanics and rules knowledge
- How your personality impacts the perception you portray on the court
- Your signals must be a clear communication tool
- Great officials know how to referee "dead ball" situations
- Your appearance has a bigger impact than you think
- Keys to getting in the right position to see the whole play

To access this DVD and many others, send an email to Leo.Mangano@woodgroup.com

Preparing For Camp & The Four Seasons of Officiating Dave Libbey, NCAA Official

For more than 28 years, Dave Libbey has officiated NCAA Division I, has worked eight Final Fours, and since 1987 has advanced to at least the third round of every post-season NCAA Tournament. He has worked the finals twice. He has worked the Pac 10, West Coast, Big West, Conference-USA, and Big 12 conferences, and worked the Junior Men's World Games in Edmonton in 1991.

In this presentation, Dave covers a lot of ground that will get you prepared to attend an upcoming officiating camp. If you are new to the camp environment, his information is invaluable. If you are a veteran of camps, Dave will share with you how to maximize the learning and exposure opportunities. This is a presentation like no other — the knowledge is immediately applicable to your officiating career!

There's more! Dave also thoroughly discusses The Four Seasons of Officiating. This portion of the video is an all-encompassing view of a basketball official. The four seasons include: Off-Season, Pre-Season, Into the Season, and End of Season. During each of the seasons, Dave shares the essentials that you must be doing to stay sharp and ahead of the pack. "As a clinician and instructor David Libbey is simply the best. His knowledge, insight and passion will help every official who is willing to take the time to improve their game!" - Jake Steinbrenner, ABOA Evaluation Chairman

To access this DVD and many others, send an email to Leo.Mangano@woodgroup.com

The complete list of all DVDs is available on the EBOA website "Library".

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Well, here we are folks February is almost behind us. The golf clubs will be out in no time. We still have a month or so of community league ball, so let's finish the season strong. We are looking for strong community league officials for both the minor provincials at the end of March and the EYBA spring league, which starts April 7th and goes until June sometime. Community league officials 16 years old and older are encouraged to keep officiating in the spring league.

There will be a Spring Clinic, watch the website for details.

There is no charge for community league or novice EBOA officials but attendance at the clinic is mandatory. Games will be 6 - 10 PM Mon to Thu and some day games on Saturdays.

We just about evaluated all the new officials this year, it has been a chore but there are only a handful left to do. If you were missed let me know.

Fred Goldring
Junior Development Officer