



Edmonton Basketball Officials Association Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2008, 7 pm at Louis St. Laurent High School

1. Call to order - **the meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
Moved by F. Goldring, Seconded by A. Ward to allow the guest speakers from the GO Community Centre to speak first. Passed unanimously.

Ken Flesher and Bob Butlin provided an update on the work underway relating to the Go Community Centre. The facility will be located in south Edmonton at the University of Alberta South Campus. Contributions will come from all three levels of Government, as well as public donations. The 220,000 square foot facility is attempting to address demand for new community-based basketball, volleyball and gymnastics facilities in Great Edmonton. The Edmonton Grads Basketball Centre, Ortona Gymnastics Club and Edmonton Volleyball Centre Society have formed a unique partnership to build and operate the non-profit facility.

When complete, the GO Community Centre will be a world-class facility for all Edmontonians. Located under one giant roof, features of this innovative facility will include 4 tripe gymnasiums, 12 basketball courts or 30 volleyball courts, as well as a state-of-the-art gymnastics centre.

3. **Adoption of 2007 Annual General Meeting Minutes**
Moved by S. Yackabowski, Seconded by D. Buffie to postpone the adoption of the Annual General Meeting minutes from 2007 to the September Regular Meeting. Passed with 1 Member opposed.

4. **President's Report**

The 2007-'08 season is almost behind us (of course with the exception of a number of tournaments/events such as the Jasper Place Spring League, EBA playoffs, the Great Canadian Shootout, Annual NBA Hoop-it-Up 3-on-3 tournament, etc), and so it is time to reflect on the season that was, and begin to prepare for what is in store for the Association in 2008-'09.

Your Executive has been working hard this year on achieving the objectives of the Association. A few of the highlights include:

- Developed and implemented guidelines and policies for the EBOA Discussion Forum.

- Developed a Memorandum of Understanding with Basketball Alberta regarding the Annual NBA Hoop-it-Up 3-on-3 tournament clarifying the roles of Basketball Alberta and the EBOA.
- Developed and implemented another successful education and development training program.
- Officials attending Provincials and Nationals performed very well.
- Exchanges were successfully coordinated between Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Fort McMurray.
- Developed the EBOA Resource Library.
- Implemented an increase in game fees.
- Effectively managed complaints from leagues through the Member-at-Large.
- Continued to effectively manage the Associations' finances (surplus of approximately \$5,000).
- Initiated consultation with membership – much more planned for October and November.
- Completed review of EBOA bylaw (special thanks to D. Buffie, F. Goldring, J. Byrne, K. O'Leary and A. Ward), including a new structure for policies.
- Developed a Code of Conduct for all EBOA members.

Opportunities for 2008-'09 include:

- Development of a web-based complaint tool.
- Policy Development:
 - Records retention policy
 - Travel policy
 - Honorary Life Member policy
 - Assignment policy
 - Awards policy
- Executive minutes available on the website.
- Continue to consult with membership on ways to improve processes, policies, etc.

Thank you all for your dedication to the EBOA, as well, for the efforts you have put fourth in each and every game officiated this past season. I wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing all of you in September.

5. **Development and Education Officer Report**

Provincial/National Appointments

Well done to all who went to a Provincial or National this year.

Out of 19 officials who went to Provincials, 15 worked either a semi-final, or a medal game.

Congratulations to D. Sorensen and L. White who had very strong performances at their respective National Championships, and to S. Yackabowski who worked the Boys Final at the Arctic Winter Games.

Provincial Intentions for Upcoming 2008-09 Season:

Please send an e-mail to myself, CC Gil, by first September General meeting.

Summer Tournaments

The Executive will be considering officials for the following summer tournaments:

Alberta Summer Games – Medicine Hat – 2 spots

Midget Nationals – Kamloops – 2 spots

Juvenile Nationals – PEI – distance may keep us from getting an assignment.

Great Canadian Shoot Out – June 26th-30th

Officials will be observed and provided feedback as part of their membership at this tournament.

Resource Library Update

FIBA video seems to be the biggest hit.

Sporadic usage...would like to see more officials taking advantage of it.

Upcoming Season Plan:

- Looking to add 5 new DVD's
- Revamping the website page with better descriptions and reviews.
- Display Table promotion at meetings.

Evaluations

Did not have an opportunity to evaluate everyone this season due to a number of people cancelling assignments, or observers would show up thinking certain individuals would be there and they were not.

Members need to take more ownership themselves and contact Cam or myself in order to be evaluated, particularly when the season is winding down and you have not been evaluated. It is part of your membership fee, so take advantage of it.

Those not evaluated this season will not be charged for an evaluation.

Scholarships

4 - \$250.00 Scholarships Available this year.

Website will specify the type of letter you need to submit to be considered.

6. Junior Development Officer Report

This was quite a year. We were down a number of officials within the EBOA resulting in a very busy year for most of us. This year the EYBA encountered many gym and scheduling changes which drove E. Harasem and me crazy. Thursday and Fridays were always busy arranging evaluators and fitting them in with their own schedules.

We had 40 novice officials and 73 community league officials. We conducted 4 community league clinics, a last chance clinic for Junior and above officials, an EYBA Spring League Clinic as well as a clinic for the St Albert Community League.

We managed to get evaluations done on all but one official, thus a very high success rate. A number of officials quit and there were a number of coaches who did not want to be evaluated. For some reason this year a lot of games were in Beaumont which made it difficult to get to.

I would like to thank B. Sexsmith, B. Dunn and A. Celino who along with me did the bulk of the evaluations as well as B. Adamoski, B. Pollard, A. Ward, K. Kwiatek, A. Goth and H. Vink who managed to squeeze evaluations in despite their busy officiating schedules.

There were some very good novices to come out of this year's crop. Many were assigned games out of the realm of first year officials and did very well. We hope they all come back next year. A number of community league officials blossomed also but as in previous years, we face an 85% attrition next year.

I also wish to thank those who worked with the novices and community league officials. Much of their success is due to the likes of you who gave them a helping hand and a lot of encouragement.

Never the less it was another good year, I enjoyed myself and all the challenges the job encounters. My term is up and I am going to seek re-election for another term so I ask for your support once again.

7. **Member at Large Report**

The year proved to be very interesting as it was my first year in this position. We started out the year with both K. Lasuik and me attending the EBA start-up meeting. I believe this helped to set some parameters for both parties in dealing with difficult/confrontational situations. In two situations, leagues made decisions to suspend members based on the actions related to player/parent conduct or Coaches inappropriately addressing our officials. So our leagues have been very effective in dealing with issues.

EBA

As most complaints came from EBA, my criteria for dealing with officiating concerns was to look for trends in the official's actions. Just because I received a complaint, does not mean that the official was contacted. If we had several complaints consistent in nature and team biases were not a concern, I then would deal with the official directly. We had very few 2nd or 3rd complaints about an official. Most of these came late in the season and as such I would suggest that the Member at Large for next year talk with these officials prior to next year to address these issues. I believe in many cases it is the number of games to which we are agreeing to officiate in an attempt to help out our assigners that is the root cause of these complaints. I believe in some cases we are going to the games with a less than perfect attitude. The number of leagues we service should be a discussion for next years Executive.

In summary for EBA we had approximately 25 complaints and about 5 compliments. Based on the number of games at the EBA level (1,600) this is 1 complaint for every 64 games or 1.5% of our games. Over all I believe that his speaks well of our efforts for this League.

High School

Very few issues arose from high school games. We received some comments from a coach about officials, and a letter was forwarded off addressing his concerns. In fact in all cases the emails I received had been forwarded from officials to give me the “heads up” I had asked for at the opening of the season.

Jr. High School

We received some complaints regarding officials at this level, again as many of these issues had repeats late in the season. I will be suggesting a discussion with several officials at this level. Again I must stress I believe that this is as a result of doing too many games.

EYBA

Ed dealt with any issues arising from EYBA.

3 Strike Policy

Early in the season several issues arose in dealing with situations that as the Member at Large and as an Executive we felt that our Bylaws did not provide sufficient clarity to deal with these issues effectively. These issues were discussed at length at Executive meetings and in conversations with Executive members. In the end it was decided that 2 things need to be done to help deal with these issues. First was that we need to develop a Code of Conduct as to how we expect our members to behave. Secondly in the interim we would approach these issues with a 3 strike policy that is to say, we would issue 2 warnings regarding behaviour and on the third warning actions would be taken. I strongly believe that our Proposed Amended By-laws and our Code of Conduct will allow us to point specifically at an issue and say “No your actions are not appropriate conduct for our members” and allow us to deal with these issues better.

Other Issues

As part of my verbal report I will be addressing these issues.

Summary

As Member at Large this year I want to thank the members for keeping me well informed on issues that arose in their games, Thanks to that I was never caught off guard to a situation in a game and in some cases we told EBA what happened in their games. Proactive as to reactive is always better so thank-you. Much of my job deals with conflict resolution, sometimes are very hard to satisfy all parties, finding a compromise in many cases is what I am striving for. I have attempted to do this effectively, this year and as such have left some people unhappy with the outcome of events. In the end I attempted to ensure all parties have been treated equally and the rights of each member have been protected and that our Association has been protected.

8. Assignor Report

The demands for our services continue to grow, however our recruitment and retention is not keeping up. Although we signed up several new members, our net position for the year was 22 fewer officials than the previous year. Clearly, this trend can't be allowed to continue. This year, for the first time in my tenure as assignor, I had to call a high school and tell them no officials were available for their game. Our Assistant Assignor faces this same type of call many times a week in our busy season from January to February.

We have plenty of officials, but the key element is AVAILABILITY! We all have jobs and families and other commitments, so the demand on our time is sometimes prohibitive.

Our tournament weekends have generally been filled to capacity. If we maintain our level of membership, we will be able to continue to fill that need. There doesn't appear to be any increase in tournament play. It's been pretty constant for several years.

Many of you will recall seeing the pleading e-mails I sent over and over again. I offer a sincere 'Thank You' to those members who responded and helped me solve those problems.

In retrospect, I feel EBOA continued its tradition of providing excellent service to its clients. Thank you all for doing your part.

9. Community League Assignor Report

We had another successful year at the COMMUNITY LEVEL. I would first like to THANK all the community officials who did such a great job and covering all the extra game slots. Ref incidents were also way down this year, GREAT JOB!

I would like to thank all the EBOA officials for making the MENTORSHIP program a great success as well. I would like to thank F. Goldring and his evaluators for keeping an eye on all of the community officials. Also thanks to F. Goldring and all his clinicians for all the great clinics. Thanks to A. Ward and B. Sexsmith for filling in at the last moment at the last clinic. I would like to Thank T. Vasquez for working closely with me on weekends so that we could fill not only his tournaments but also all my community games. Lastly the PROVINCIALS again went extremely well. I want to thank all the officials who worked for me, for Tom at the Native Games, for Gil on EBA playoffs and for the people who went to Ft. Mac.... all on the same busy weekend; you made EBOA look good.

EBOA did an outstanding job. I just want to share a few accolades: B. Sexsmith and F. Searle did some mini games for me at the provincials.....total experience between the two of them: 80 years..... Thank You Gentlemen.

I have a letter to share with you from B. Stankowski, coach of Bow River Bantam 1 Boys team that represented Calgary at the Provincials:

“I felt it necessary to send this message to congratulate all in Edmonton for a job well done!!! I watched many Bantam and Midget games over the weekend and noticed that games were geographically sound, organization was awesome, awards/t-shirts/medallions were classy, games were on time, scorekeepers did a great job, and I FOUND YOUR REFEREE QUALITY TO BE FANTASTIC. I must mention 4 individuals that officiated bantam games which were fair, consistent, compassionate, and most importantly called many infractions. (crucial to skill development, especially at the provincial level).

These were referees: L. Giesinger, S. Taylor, S. Hanrahan, and A. Hanrahan. The ABA or ABOA are lucky to have sound people working with them. Please pass this on to the necessary committees, etc. Great Job...Edmonton!! B. Stankowski.”

Lastly, my speech would not be complete if I didn't mention for the last time this season.... START RECRUITING REFS FOR NEXT SEASON ALREADY!!!!

10. **Junior Assignor**

During the course of the season we missed a few games, a few tournaments. That is par for the course. But when K. Heine (our treasurer) crunched the numbers and told me we were close to what the numbers where last year, I was elated. That means we covered just as many games, it would be safe to say with less officials.

The only reason we missed a few tournaments because due to what was scheduled the same time as the busiest weekend for Gil. So, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for a terrific Junior High Season.

Moved by L. Mangano, Seconded by J. Irvine to accept all of the Officer's Reports as presented. Passed unanimously.

11. **Financial Report**

J. Byrne presented the financial report on behalf of K. Heine.

Moved by J. Rudd, Seconded by K. Kwiatek to accept the financial report as presented. Passed unanimously.

12. **Old Business**

13. **New Business**

Proposed Amended EBOA Bylaw

K. O'Leary and J. Byrne presented the proposed amended EBOA Bylaws.

Moved by J. Byrne, Seconded by J. Rudd to rescind the current bylaw and replace with the proposed amended bylaw.

Amendment 1: S. Yackobowski proposed an amendment, Seconded by J. Steinbrenner to Section 4.5 to say ``Any disciplinary action within the last twelve months.`` Amendment failed.

Membership then voted on original motion to rescind current bylaw and replace with the proposed amended bylaw. Passed unanimously.

Amendment 2: Moved by J. Byrne, Seconded by K. O`Leary to amend the new bylaw with the positions of Treasurer, Assignor, Assistant Assignor, and Community League Assignor, and that these positions be appointed by the Executive, rather than elected by the membership, and without voting powers.

The membership discussed amendment 2.

At the request of the membership, S. Labonne asked the Mover and Seconder if they wished to withdraw the motion from the floor. It was agreed, and consent was given by the membership. *Amendment 2 withdrawn.*

Moved T. VandeValk, Seconded by R. Mah, that the Treasurer be an appointed position by the Executive for a one-year term with nonvoting powers. 5 Opposed.

K. Heine will serve as Treasurer for a one-year term.

14. Election of Officers

- a) Secretary- Nominees: D. Buffie, K. Ross, S. Yackobowski. S. Yackabowski withdrew. **K. Ross declared Secretary.**
- b) Treasurer – as per above
- c) Assistant Assignor- Nominees: K. Kha and T.Vasquez. T. Vasquez withdrew. **K. Kha declared Assistant Assignor.**
- d) Junior Development Officer – Nominees: A. Celino, F. Goldring, S. Yackabowski. S. Yackabowski withdrew. **F. Goldring declared Junior Development Officer.**
- e) Member at Large - Nominees: D. Buffie, J. Bryne, A. Celino, B. Weston, S. Yackabowski. **J. Byrne declared Member-at-Large.**

Moved, C. Magnan seconded by F. Goldring that all ballots for the Election of Officers be destroyed. Passed unanimously

15. Other Business

- a. Presentation by GO Centre Committee – see above.
- b. Code of Conduct – postponed until September General Meeting.

16. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 PM