

**2015 CABO EXAM  
10 MOST DIFFICULT QUESTIONS**

**Background:**

641 ABOA members wrote the exam. This was an increase from the 579 who wrote last year. This represents an increase of just over 10%. However we had 826 people registered so as always the ABOA executive is concerned about the discrepancy between the number registered and those who actually write. We recognize that there may be a few people who initially indicated an interest in officiating this year and subsequently opted but a 185 people doing this seems somewhat unlikely. **If a person did not write the exam and they are being assigned games it is essential that they are registered for insurance purposes.**

Officials who did not write the exam are not eligible for provincials and if they are in their first year of officiating they cannot be designated as a Level 1 official in the NOCP system. Officials did not write the exam and have previously been at Level 1 cannot be moved to Level 2 until they write the exam next season. As well officials being enrolled as a Level 1 or moved to Level 2 must meet the minimum exam score requirements as set out in the NOCP program. Local boards cannot move officials to Level 3. The process involves approval by the Provincial Interpreter and only after a minimum of 2 game observations by 2 different provincial evaluators. Level 4 is a national designation and can only be given at an approved event by members of the national evaluation panel.

The average score in Alberta was 80%.

Please note the question numbers on this document will not match the individual exam writer report as the questions were randomized on the exam.

1. *On a field goal try by A-1, the ball is bouncing directly above the ring when B-1 touches the ring. The official rules basket interference. Is the official correct?*

**No Article 31.2.4 - 37.9% correct**

Once the ball touches the ring Team A players may legally attempt to direct the ball into the basket or Team B players may legally knock the ball away and prevent a score. The mere touching of the ring has no impact on either of these situations and is legal.

If a Team A player grasped the ring and in the judgment of the official caused the ball to enter the basket or if a Team B player grasped the ring and in the judgment of the official prevented the ball from entering the basket then interference would have occurred and play would be stopped and points would be awarded or cancelled depending upon which team committed the interference. The key thing here is grasping the ring and causing something to happen to the ball as result. The mere touching is inconsequential.

2. *A4 is called for a disqualifying foul and must leave the game and the gym. Before leaving the court A4 verbally insults the official. The official then assesses a Bench Technical foul to the Team A coach. Is the official correct?*

**No Interpretation 38-1, 38-2 - 42.6% correct**

I went over this during the pre exam webinar. By rule a player who is disqualified (ejected) cannot cause further penalties to be assessed against the coach. This is different than a player who receives a 5<sup>th</sup> foul and can no longer participate but remain on the bench. If after receiving his 5<sup>th</sup> foul unsporting comments are directed at the officials and a technical is called this is assessed as a bench technical. The player even though he is no longer allowed to

participate remains a part of the bench and as such his comments/ behavior are open to sanction.

3. *A1 is in the act of shooting when A2 fouls B4. The ball is then released and enters the basket. Shall the goal count?*

**No Article 10.4 - 57.9% correct**

This is a question that was designated by the exam writers as a level 1 question. It was thought to be rather easy so when more than 40% of the writers get it incorrect it should be of concern to local educators. If A2 sets an illegal screen allowing A1 to begin to gather the ball to shoot would it be fair to allow the attempt to be completed? Obviously not. There is no "continuation" on team control fouls if the ball is still in the shooter's hand.

4. *Dribbler A2 comes to a two foot stop, A2 then attempts a pass to A4. The pass is not touched by any other player on the court. A2 then picks up her own pass. The official calls a double dribble. Is the official correct?*

**Yes Art.24.1.2 – 60.2% correct**

I received some inquiries about this question. People thought the question was designed to see if the writer thought that the scenario described was a travel and therefore encouraging people to answer no. This is not consistent with the goal of trying to assess rule knowledge. Asking if an illegal play is a travel or a double dribble isn't as important as testing if an official understands that a player cannot pass the ball to themselves. For clarification it is not a travel as by rule travelling involves the illegal movement of the pivot foot. In the question the player comes to a two foot stop so they have not designated a pivot foot. However even if they had come to stop and designated a pivot foot once they release the ball on a pass they no longer have a pivot foot because they are not in possession of the ball. It is an illegal or double dribble violation because by rule a player cannot after ending a dribble make a pass or fumble the ball and be the first to touch the ball.

5. *Before A-1's final free throw is released; B-1 enters the lane followed by A-2. Both were in a marked lane space. The try is unsuccessful. The official penalizes only the first violation. Is the official correct?*

**No Article 43.3.3 – 63% correct**

If opponents on the free throw lane enter before the ball is released and the try is unsuccessful both violations are penalized and play would be resumed by using the possession arrow.

6. *A1 steals a pass by B1 near the centerline and A1 has no defenders in front of him as he is dribbling to the opponent's basket. Finishing his fast break A1 starts his act of shooting when B1 contacts his arm from behind in an attempt to block the shot. Officials call an unsportsmanlike foul on B1. Is this correct?*

**No Interpretation 37-10 – 64.9% correct**

The question indicates that the foul occurred during the field goal attempt. By rule the breakaway or "clear path" situation has ended once the shot attempt began. The concept behind the automatic unsporting foul on breakaways is to prevent teams from committing fouls that prevent scoring attempts. A scoring attempt is taking place in the question so an unsporting foul isn't warranted unless there is excessive contact which isn't indicated in the question.

7. *A1 releases the ball on a shot from the 3-point area. The ball on its upward flight is touched by an offensive player who is within Team A's 2-point area. The ball continues its flight and enters the basket. Team A is credited with 3 points. Is this correct?*

**Yes Article 16.2.1, Interpretations 16.2 – 67.7% correct**

Again I spent considerable time discussing on the pre exam webinar this scenario as well as other related situations. On a field goal attempt the initial decision on the point value will be the location of the shooter. If the ball is touched by a player from either team while the ball is on its upward flight and then enters the basket the touching of the ball is ignored and the point value remains unchanged. Admittedly this scenario seems a bit unlikely but if it should happen as described a 3 point field goal is the correct ruling.

8. *A1 in the act of shooting for a field goal is fouled by B1 simultaneously with the game clock signal sounding to end the first period. A1 is awarded two free throws. Does the ensuing interval of play begin once the free throws have been completed?*

**Yes Interpretations 8-2 – 70 % correct**

This question is designed to test if officials know when the two minute interval starts. Remember once the interval starts all players on the score sheet are considered to be players and so once the free throws are completed the interval begins and any illegal action by a player is penalized against him. For example technical fouls are charged to the player regardless if they were on the floor at the end of the quarter.

9. *After completion of a timeout, a substitute comes out of the huddle onto the playing court, having reported to the table but without being beckoned onto the court by the officials. The officials do not allow the substitution. Are the officials correct?*

**No Articles 4.2.3, 19.3.7 – 70.2% correct**

A question designed to test an official's understanding of the substitution procedures. During a timeout a substitute becomes a player when they report to the scorer. However once the timeout is over a substitute may only enter the game when the officials beckons the substitute into the game making them a player.

10. *A1 has control of the ball in his frontcourt. B2 is injured and the officials stop the game with 4 seconds left on the shot clock. When play resumes, should the shot clock be reset to 14 seconds?*

**Yes Article 29.2.1 Interpretations 29/50-15 – 70.5% correct**

When defensive players are injured and play is stopped the procedure involving the shot clock will depend upon the location of the ball at the time of the stoppage and the amount of time left on the shot clock. In this question Team A has the ball in the frontcourt with less than 14 seconds on the shot clock so they are given a front court reset to 14. If there were more than 14 seconds the game would be stopped but the shot clock would remain unchanged. If Team A had possession in their backcourt the game would be stopped and the shot clock set to 24 seconds.