

# SPORTS

## How to Avoid the Double Foul on Block/Charge Plays

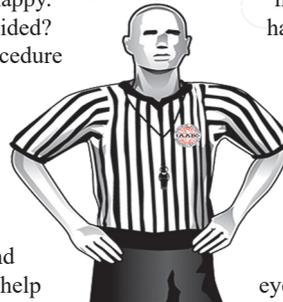
A player drives into the lane and contact ensues with a defender. You have worked hard to get into the proper position and have a great angle to see the whole play. You observe the contact and immediately blow the whistle and confidently signal a blocking foul. Just as you finish signaling, you notice out of the corner of your eye that your partner across the court is signaling a player control foul.

You suddenly have a sinking feeling that you have a significant problem. Confidence quickly turns into confusion and you know that this ruling is most likely going to make both teams unhappy.

So how do these situations occur? How can they be avoided? And if they do occur, what is the proper ruling and procedure following this double whistle situation?

In most situations where this occurs, both officials on the play were very quick with their signals and did not make eye contact with their partners before signaling the type of foul.

In today's game, many officials appear to be in a hurry to signal. These officials seem to think that being quick and emphatic with their signals will display confidence and help



“sell the call.” However, it is this very approach to signaling that can lead to these types of messy situations.

The IAABO manual requires officials to signal in a manner that is calm, unhurried, under control, and clearly outlines the proper site of foul procedures. After an official properly displays the stop clock signal, the very next step in the process is to make eye contact with their partner(s). This step is vital, as once you are sure your partners do not have a ruling on the play, that is when the ruling official should step toward the offending player and verbalize the color and number and then verbalize and signal the type of foul that has occurred.

This procedure, as outlined, is far from flamboyant and is quite boring. Yet, many top officials have mastered this procedure and never have had to rule a double foul on a block/charge play.

Even if officials use the proper site of foul procedures, there will still be times when double whistles will occur on block/charge plays. But if each official is disciplined and only displays the stop-the-clock signal when they make eye contact; now they can get *(continued on page 3)*

## IAABO Helps Members of Colorado Fires Recover

IAABO Board #4 of Colorado and other boards around the country are helping members recover from the December 30, 2020 Colorado fire that ravaged approximately 1,000 homes in suburban areas between Denver and Boulder. IAABO members Mike McCrudden and Dalton Lukasik tragically lost their homes during the hurricane-like winds that whipped frenzied fire across the area. Other IAABO members also had damage from the blaze.

At the time of the writing of this article, over \$12,000 had been raised by IAABO contributions to help Mike, Dalton and the others as they work to reestablish their lives. “Everybody has been overwhelmingly generous. Our family appreciates every bit of the financial and emotional help. One day, I hope I can reciprocate for others in similar circumstances,” McCrudden said.

“I want to give a shout out to Area 9 (of Board #4) directors for their support and organizing a GoFundMe page. They’ve been flexible with my



time off and helped me get reestablished with officiating apparel and equipment. They gave me the option to officiate or sit out, and I’ve chosen to officiate because it’s something to look forward to. It gives me a sense of normalcy, and I love it,” Lukasik said.

### Fifteen Minutes Before the Fence Burned

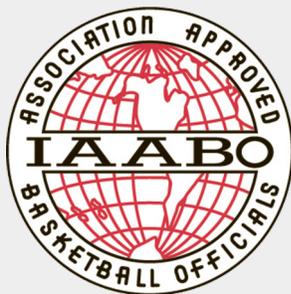
Five minutes made the difference in Mike and his family’s life. That’s how long he and his two sons had to get out of the house safely after notification that the rapidly spreading blaze had reached their neighborhood.

He received a home pre-evacuation notice, and five minutes later it became mandatory, McCrudden, a Board #4 member for seven years, said. “The winds were gusting 50-115 mph. Our two boys were home, and we threw everything essential together that we could with the mindset that we would be back in a few days – lock box with essential papers, laptop, socks, shirts (and most importantly, the two 80 lb. dogs). We left in 15 minutes. The *(continued on page 5)*

## The Tip Off

**Block/Charge** - Page 1  
**Colorado Fires** - Page 1  
**Director's Court** - Page 2  
**President's Corner** - Page 2  
**Life Long Learning** - Page 3  
**Fox 40** - Page 4  
**Smitty** - Page 6  
**Proposed Amendments** - Page 7  
**Nominating Committee** - Page 7  
**IAABO Junior** - Page 8  
**Spring Meeting** - Page 9  
**WCBOO** - Page 10  
**Joe D'Orazio** - Page 11  
**IAABO Gear** - Page 12  
**Watch and Learn** - Page 13  
**RefQuest** - Page 13  
**Foundation Notes** - Page 13  
**Science of Officiating** - Page 14  
**Members Area** - Page 15  
**IAABO Lines** - Page 16  
**RefLife** - Page 16

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 Approved Basketball Officials, Inc.  
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### Statement

The International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of basketball officiating, through the proper training of applicants by visual and written aids; constant supervision by board proctors and dissemination of rule changes and interpretations.

## Director's Court

### *And the Beat Goes On*

One of the things February is known for is American Heart Month.

Many of us officiate to stay in shape. After all, physical activity lowers your risk for heart disease. Medical journals emphasize physical exercise, healthy eating and reducing stress as things to consider for heart health. In the words of the recently departed Meat Loaf: "two out of three ain't bad."

While officiating provides for physical exercise and we can be mindful of our own eating habits during basketball season, most of us increase our stress levels by partaking in this avocation. Yes, stress is a major part of being a basketball official. We need to manage family and work matters along with punctuality and weather conditions, and then go out and officiate the perfect game. No stress reduction here.

As we progress toward the end of the season and tournament time, games become more meaningful to the participants and each game has the feel of a one and done. Officials need to be as sharp at the end of the season as they were at the start of the season.

So how do you manage the stress in this complex environment? One solution is to stay with the basics of proper eating and sleeping, rules study and video review, mechanics and signals, and overall readiness for what is to come.

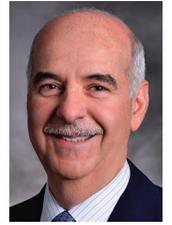
The heart of all of your resources is right here at IAABO. Feasting on a steady diet of RefQuest+, Inside the Lines and all other materials and presentations provided are what is needed to carry you through the balance of your schedule.

While the heart is the major organ, it is the circulatory system that keeps things functioning at a high level. The more the official circulates, the more knowledge and experience is obtained. If your heart is really in what you do, you can serve this game and IAABO in many ways. You can aid in this circulation by being an example of preparedness and serving as a mentor, observer, and recruiter for new young blood.

If you are reading this issue, we know where your heart is and IAABO is your home for all of the resources needed to become a successful basketball official.

Stay Well, Stay Focused, Stay IAABO

Sincerely,  
*Felix Addeo*



## President's Corner

Greetings from Maine!

It is tournament time. March Madness is big deal. Most of us who know someone who can officiate at this level have a sense of pride that one of our own has reached the pinnacle of amateur sports officiating. Although this makes us feel good, we should feel good about the accomplishments that we all make at the local level. After all, we are primarily a high school organization with new growth in both the men's and women's collegiate organizations. If you have passed your floor test, or moved from JV to varsity assignments, these are milestones of proving your work effort in pursuing your avocation. Congratulations to you for making such progress.

Please remember the giving back piece of the organization, and what part you can play. Volunteering in benefit tournaments is one way you can give back. Maybe it is leaving your check on the table for a Unified game that you just officiated or donating a check or two to the Officials versus Cancer program. These acts are proof of our organization's commitment to making amateur sports a better community. I thank you for your participation. You will feel good about the act.

It has been my honor to serve as president of IAABO for the past year. It happens to be the 100th year of IAABO. One hundred years says many good things about the organization. The stand-out piece of the success formulae is the leadership year over year. For a not-for-profit organization to survive for 100 years and to continue to grow in the "value ad" category is amazing. The leadership that we currently have is constantly looking to improve the business side of the organization while offering more and better tools to the membership on the educational side of the organization. I know that both sides of our are stronger now on year 100 than they have ever been. The future looks even better.

Lastly, when the dust settles from the current season, take time to reflect and set new goals for the next season. Hopefully, there will be officiating schools in operation this summer; there is no better way to move your officiating career forward.

Thanks for all of the support I have received from the executive board, the executive director and the associate executive director, and my local and state boards.

And thank you for what you do!

*Barry Fuller*



## Block/Charge (continued from Page 1)

together to decide how the play should be ruled instead of having to rule a double foul.

Double (and triple) whistles should be discussed in the pre-game conference. The general rule of thumb in a 2-person game is to allow the official to take the ruling if the play is coming towards them. In most cases, this will be the Lead official taking the ruling. When this occurs, the Trail can simply drop the stop clock signal and allow the Lead to make the ruling. Even if the Trail would have had a different ruling, no one in the gym will ever know because no signal was given by the Trail.

However, if you and a partner have both already signaled fouls on players from opposing teams, you will have no choice but to rule a double foul.

Here are three different scenarios where officials quickly signaling have caused a double foul and how the penalties would be enforced.

**Situation 1:** A-1 is dribbling when contact occurs on the torso of B-1. One official signals player control, the other official signals blocking.

**Ruling:** Team A has team control when the foul occurred. Each player will be charged with a personal foul and Team A will receive a throw-in nearest to the spot the ball was located when the foul occurred. (4-19-8, 4-36-2a, 10-7 Penalties 1c)

**Situation 2:** Shooter A-1 releases the ball on a successful try and then contacts B-1. One official signals a player control foul, the other signals blocking.

**Ruling:** The double foul occurs after a release of the try. The goal shall

count, each player is charged with a personal foul and the non-scoring team will receive the ball and have the ability to move along the end line on the ensuing throw-in. (4-19-8, 4-36-2b, 10-7 Penalties 1c)

**Situation 3:** Shooter A-1 releases the ball on an unsuccessful try and then contacts B-1. One official signals a player control foul, the other signals blocking.

**Ruling:** Each player will be charged with a personal foul and play will resume with an Alternating Possession throw-in, closest to where the ball was located when the foul occurred. By rule, the ball retains the status of where it was last in contact with the floor or a player. In this case, the ball location will be considered the spot on the floor where the try originated. (4-19-8, 4-36-2c, 10-7 Penalties 1c, 4-4-3)

The very best way to handle these situations is to avoid them altogether. By using a slow, deliberate site of foul procedures and making eye contact before signaling, you will limit the times that this situation may arise. However, officials should have a clear understanding of the double foul rule and how these penalties are administered, just in case a situation like this arises.



T.J. Halliday is a 37-year member of IAABO. He currently is a Co-Coordinator of Interpreters for IAABO, Inc. He has presented at the IAABO Fall seminar every year since 2008 and has contributed to several IAABO educational videos and other educational materials.

## Life Long Learning

I have been drawn to officiating since childhood. In November, I wrote about it in a post entitled, "You Are Who You Are." When I failed to make the varsity basketball and baseball teams in high school, I turned to officiating to stay close to the game. I continue to officiate to this day; it is something that I love to do. I am a proud member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO), Board 105 in Vermont.

On Sunday, January 23, we had our mandatory mid-season meeting via zoom due to the current surge of the omicron variant. Dan Shepardson (Shep), the interpreter for Vermont and member of the IAABO Executive Board, led us through many instructional videos. He emphasized positioning, pointed out where we should be looking, and offered us suggestions for each. He has an advantage as an educator and leans on his background in teaching. Shep rarely talks at us, offers us plenty of think time, and is generous in terms of waiting to be sure there are no questions.

Like you would expect of a good teacher. I've known this about Shep since I started officiating in Vermont. And on this Sunday, he went even further.

Shep is an active official, working high school varsity and collegiate level games. He talked about a call he had in a game a couple of weeks ago. It was a non-call from his perspective, although there was contact between the defender and the shooter as the shooter came down. The call, or in this case, the non-call, was still on his mind.

The facility had videoed the game, so Shep sent it to Donnie Eppley. Eppley is a Division I Official and the Associate Executive Director of IAABO. Eppley put the video out to all of us officials in a "You Make the Call" format. I had viewed it myself and didn't even realize that Shep was on the floor in that video as one of the referees. I can't even remember how I voted, though Shep got word from Eppley that about 60% of the responses were that a foul call was warranted on a play that Shep had as a non-call.



Dan Shepardson

I have long admired Dan Shepardson, the human and the official. I know he served in our armed forces, he's been in education for his entire career, he has an encyclopedic knowledge of the rulebook, and was inducted into the Vermont Principals' Association Hall of Fame in 2017. Last year, I got to work a junior varsity game and was entirely intimidated to know I would be on the floor with him. Shep put me right at ease, reminding me that we both had whistles around our necks, and we would work as a team.

At halftime, and when the game was over, he asked me for feedback on his work on the court. Me! A guy with a fraction of the court time as him. With that experience, I shouldn't have been surprised when he shared with all of the Vermont officials last weekend that he still wasn't sure his call was correct. From my perspective, Shep could

be confident in his non-call, and yet, he remains open to the fact that he still has areas he needs to improve on.

His openness about how he felt about that call continued to resonate with me throughout the week. So much so that I approached him at a game and told him how much I appreciated his vulnerability and honesty about his non-call. He smiled, patted me on the back, and said, "We are all still in search of the perfect game."

Spoken like a true educator and lifelong learner!



Dr. Brian G. Ricca has been a basketball official since high school when he missed the cut for his varsity team. Since moving to Vermont, he has been a proud member of Board 105, consistently for the past five years. When he's not wearing the stripes on the court, he's watching his sons play basketball, next to his wife of almost eighteen years. He serves as the Superintendent of Schools for the St. Johnsbury School District.

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## Colorado Fires (continued from page 1)



winds were hitting 80 miles per hour when we tossed everything into our three cars,” he said.

Ten to fifteen minutes after leaving, McCrudden’s wife got a text that his back fence was on fire. It was that close.

Luckily, Mike’s daughter lives eight miles south of him. He and the boys headed there. After a month of staying with his daughter, Mike was able to land a three-bedroom townhouse (rental) in late January, and is settling in.

Mike and his two boys (both in their mid-late 20’s) went back to the house at 7:30 p.m. that evening (six hours after evacuating) in hopes that the house would still be standing and could grab a nozzle and hose to wet things down. “We parked the car at Avista hospital which is directly behind my house and walked through the open field (approximately 200 yards) to reach the house. We found that all the houses in the neighborhood were burned down to the cement walls in the basement (and house content was still burning below ground level),” he said.

He found out later that the entire neighborhood of approximately 60 houses in his neighborhood burned to their cement foundations (with the exception of three at the top of the hill). “It is what it is,” McCrudden said.

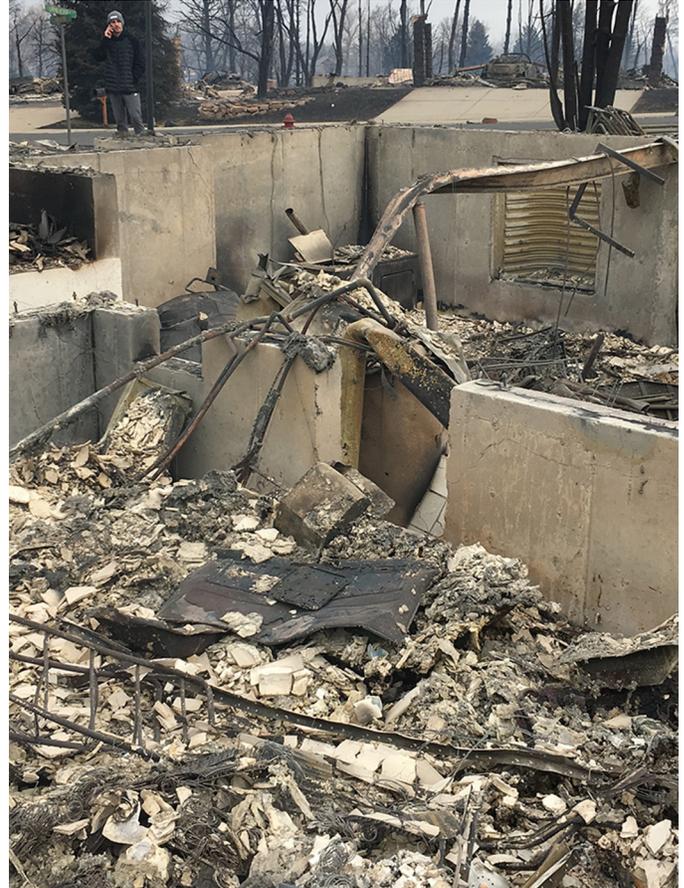
“It was all the winds. If there hadn’t been any winds, we probably wouldn’t have even lost a couple of homes. It’s the worst fire disaster ever in Colorado in terms of home destruction, worse than any seen in the Rockies,” he added.

Despite the sadness, Mike was able to put a good face on his circumstances when it came to officiating: “I was able to save my little bag with the whistle in it. I also saved my 2021-22 rulebook.”

### Saving Dogs

Dalton rented a home with some friends and was out skiing at Breckenridge when the fire hit the area. He was shocked when he got the call from one of his roommates explaining the dire situation. They were in the process of evacuating and wanted to assure Dalton they had his two Australian Shepherd dogs safely with them.

“I didn’t quite understand the scope until later in the day. It wasn’t



just a couple of homes that were burning. It was a thousand. It was eerie driving back from the slopes – big glowing embers were visible from the town over. All the streets were blocked by emergency vehicles. I couldn’t get close enough to find our house. The next day I found out it had burned to the ground,” he said.

The wildfire shocked Dalton. “You have a six-month plan or a 12-month plan, and all of a sudden, you’re living a two-day plan. You have to build back up. Officiating basketball has been great thing to help keep me grounded,” he said.

Dalton has found his local community and family hugely supportive as he reestablishes his life. His dogs are getting extra care and he recently was fortunate to sign a lease on a new rental between Longmont and Boulder. His relatives helped with the rental hunt, and the leasing agency waived pet fees for him.

“There’s been a lot of emotional support. It’s the stuff you can’t replace that hits you the most,” he said.





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**I200-WFSL-607**

**I200-607**

# Notice of Proposed Amendments to IAABO Constitution

The proposed amendments below to the IAABO Constitution have been approved by the Constitution Committee and the Executive Committee. Pursuant to the notice provisions of Article XI of the Constitution, these amendments will be presented to the International Assembly for adoption at the Spring Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland, on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

## Art. IX – Executive Committee

### Sec. 2. Qualifications

**Presently reads:** In addition to the officers, twelve (12) members of the Association shall be elected to the Executive Committee, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 1 of this Article as follows: (1) One (1) member shall be elected from each of the ten (10) geographical regions set forth below; (2) Two ‘At Large Members’ shall be elected as follows: One (1) At Large Member shall be elected at the 2018 International Assembly meeting – designated ‘At Large A’; and One (1) At Large Member shall be elected at the 2019 International Assembly meeting – designated ‘At Large B’. NOTE: An ‘At Large Member’ means a member who does not reside within any of the ten (10) Geographical Regions. Any member of the Executive Committee not in attendance at two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without cause shall be replaced by election at the next meeting of the International Assembly.

The geographic regions are as follows:

1. State of New York
2. Commonwealth of Massachusetts
3. State of New Jersey
4. Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia
5. State of Colorado
6. States of New Hampshire and Vermont
7. State of Maryland (except Montgomery County)
8. State of Connecticut
9. All Provinces and Territories of Canada
10. State of Maine

**Proposed amendment:** In addition to the officers, twelve (12) members of the Association shall be elected to the Executive Committee, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 1 of this Article as follows: (1) One (1) member from each of the ten (10) geographical regions set forth below shall be elected; (2) Two ‘At Large Members’ who do not reside within any of the ten (10) geographic regions shall be elected. Any member of the Executive Committee not in attendance at two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without cause shall be replaced by election at the next meeting of the International Assembly.

The geographic regions are as follows:

1. State of New York
2. Commonwealth of Massachusetts
3. State of New Jersey
4. Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia
5. State of Colorado
6. States of New Hampshire and Vermont
7. State of Maryland (except Montgomery County)
8. State of Connecticut
9. All Provinces and Territories of Canada
10. State of Maine

**Rationale:** Removes references to the ‘At Large A and B’ Executive Committee representative positions as well as references to 2018 and 2019. These references were used as guidance when the Association transitioned to the new two At Large Executive Committee representative positions. As the two current At Large Executive Committee representatives are in place and in the Executive Committee election cycle, these references are no longer necessary.

## Art. X – Committees

### Sec. 1 – Standing Committees

**Presently reads:** The following shall be the standing committees of the Association:

1. Audit and Budget
2. Board Relations & Policy
3. Constitution
4. Life Membership
5. Membership Development
6. Rules Examination
7. Officials Education & Development
8. Women’s Coordinating

**Proposed amendment:** The following shall be the standing committees of the Association:

1. Budget & Finance
2. Board Relations & Policy
3. Constitution
4. Life Membership
5. Membership Development
6. Rules Examination
7. Officials Education & Development
8. Women’s Coordinating

**Rationale:** One of the stated purposes of the Audit & Budget Committee in the Board Relations & Policy Manual is the preparation of a proposed budget in consultation with the Executive Director. The committee has never had any audit responsibilities as that term is used in an accounting context. This amendment deletes the term ‘Audit’ from the committee’s name and replaces it with ‘Finance’.

Steven Ellinger is the chair of the IAABO Constitution Committee and the secretary-treasurer of Houston Board 205 (TX).



## IAABO Nominating Committee

Letters of Nomination for the IAABO Executive Committee should be submitted to the Committee Chair Dennis Murphy, 11 MacGregor Court Unit 203, Londonderry, NH 03053.

The information may also be emailed to: [murphy.dennis.j@gmail.com](mailto:murphy.dennis.j@gmail.com). The nominations must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 4, 2022. This is also the last date that the nominations may be emailed. Attention and consideration will be given only to those nominations that meet these practices and procedures.



Valerie Light, Bd. 6 CT Member, Nominating Committee



Dennis Ordway, Bd. 118 NH Member, Nominating Committee



Dennis Murphy, Bd. 117 NH Chairman, Nominating Committee



Charlene Shepard, Bd. 6 CT Member, Nominating Committee



Jim White, Bd. 12 DC Member, Nominating Committee



## INTRODUCING JUNIOR IAABO

## RULES COURSE



### FEATURES:

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- Engaging questions and video clips designed to make students think and incite discussion
- Rules-based explanations with narration
- Teacher's Guide and quizzes

### CURRICULUM:

- Modules 1-12 cover violations (traveling, out of bounds, palming, etc.)
- Modules 13-22 cover fouls (block/charge, illegal screen, pushing, etc.)
- Modules 23-27 cover miscellaneous topics (AP arrow, time-outs, etc.)
- Module 28 covers basic floor mechanics, positioning and court coverage
- Modules 29-30 cover uniforms/apparel and coach/player communications

**To inquire about participation in the Junior IAABO program, please send a message to [info@iaabo.org](mailto:info@iaabo.org) or call (717) 713-8129.**

# 2022 Spring Meeting

## 2022 Spring Meeting Ocean City, Maryland



The 2022 IAABO Spring Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, Ocean City, Maryland, April 7-10, 2022. The meeting will be hosted by the IAABO Executive Committee. They have put together a well-planned program, including golf at the Ocean City Golf Club, the annual Life Membership Luncheon, spouse's breakfast, access to the outlet stores, a

nice hospitality suite with refreshments and food, a 3-mile boardwalk, and many other activities at the resort.

Hotel accommodations are first rate at the Holiday Inn, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 410-524-1600. Please visit the IAABO website for the registration link for the hotel to receive the IAABO discount, as well as to register for the meeting. All delegates must be registered with the IAABO office electronically via the IAABO website for the meeting.

All members of IAABO are encouraged to attend as there is no fee.

## 2022 Annual Spring Meeting Schedule Ocean City, Maryland

### Thursday, April 7, 2022

6:00 PM Executive Committee (Closed Session)

### Friday, April 8, 2022

- 8:15 AM Welcome
- 8:30 AM Audit and Budget Committee
- 9:15 AM Rules Examination Committee
- 10:00 AM Constitution Committee
- 11:00 AM IAABO Board Rules - A 2020 legal View
- 1:00 PM Nomination Committee
- 1:30 PM Women's Coordinating Committee
- 2:00 PM Board Secretaries Roundtable (Insurance Matters, Database, Membership, etc - Q&A)
- 3:30 PM Board Relations & Policy Committee
- 4:00 PM IAABO Foundation Meeting

### Saturday, April 9, 2022

- 7:30 AM Executive Committee (Closed - If Necessary)
- 8:30 AM Executive Committee (Open)
- 9:00 AM Membership Committee
- 9:30 AM Officials' Education and Development Committee
- 10:30 AM Life Membership Committee
- 12:00 PM Life Membership Luncheon

### Sunday, April 10, 2022

8:30 AM General Assembly Meeting, Elections, Awards

## 22nd Annual IAABO Life Membership Luncheon Saturday, April 9, 2022 - 12 Noon Holiday Inn, Ocean City

No. of registrant(s) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50/person = \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Registrant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Board No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send check and form to: IAABO, P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013-0355  
Make check payable to: IAABO, Registration Deadline: April 1, 2022

## Spouse/ Guest Breakfast Friday, April 8, 2022, 9 AM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Each IAABO members is entitled to one guest (spouse/significant other). Additional guests are invited at a cost of \$25.00 each.

Send check and form to: IAABO, Inc., P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013  
Registration Deadline: April 1, 2022

## Golf Registration Thursday, April 7, 2022 - 8:00 AM Registration 9:00 AM Shotgun Start Ocean City Golf Club <http://oceancitygolfclub.com> \$100/Golfer (lunch buffet and gift)

Foursomes who wish to play together should be specified on the registration form. Make full payment for the foursome listed below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

List Members of Foursome:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Send check and form to: IAABO, Inc., P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013  
Registration Deadline: April 1, 2022

## Can WCBOO Help Solve the Shortage of Basketball Officials?

Being an education board of IAABO - Board 801, WCBOO is in a unique position to help attract new officials to the game of women's basketball. The most important features of WCBOO are the Education Team and the training offered to our members. WCBOO members come from over 20 states and three countries. They attend monthly virtual clinics known as the "In Season Series." Attendance has been great.

The WCBOO Education Team has never been in the same room, yet works like a well oiled machine. Most of the team belong to local IAABO boards and are willing to give credit to someone who has helped them become successful. This is a compilation of stories from the team. You probably have a similar story, and it is WCBOO's hope that you connect with these stories and use them to further recruit and train officials in your local area. If you have a recruitment tool or technique that you or your IAABO board uses and want to share it, email [info@wcboo.com](mailto:info@wcboo.com) and we'll write a follow-up article about the great things that IAABO officials do to help each other.



### Stephanie Barksdale

Stephanie Barksdale, Board 801, had a tough game in the early stages of her officiating career. Feeling down about things, she spoke to her mentor, who sprang into action. She brought her secret pasta sauce to Stephanie's apartment and gave Stephanie a memorable film breakdown session - which Stephanie still remembers to this day.

Stephanie finds days off in her schedule to attend the games of friends and mentees. She learns from every game she attends. More importantly Stephanie's goal is to share something that the officials will take away as well. Stephanie has great people skills and she talks to work study students who she interacts with at games. She asks if they are interested in officiating and informs them to contact the conference coordinator who will put the student in touch with Stephanie. As a result of her effort, Stephanie recently met a young lady in Georgia who just started officiating high school basketball and is now excited to begin a career in Women's Basketball Officiating.



### Sheri Zappala

Sheri Zappala, Board 119, was trained by her mentor and former Women's Collegiate Basketball official, Ernie Rudloff, also of Board 119. Following in her mentor's footsteps, Sheri recently taught live Zooms in WCBOO's inaugural IAABO University Women's Collegiate Edition Rules Course. Sheri became the voice of the pre-recorded learning modules, which are part of the course. Sheri met with the class weekly and answered every rules question the participants had. Additionally, as rules interpreter of the New York State Girls board, Sheri sends out weekly plays, which help officials adjudicate game situations correctly. Sheri likes to keep the officials engaged and thinking throughout the

basketball season.

Sheri serves as WCBOO's Interpreter and values being an example to show younger female officials that "women can be in charge too!" She is also the instructor of her local New York State board new candidate's class.

Sheri tries to take the new female candidates under her wing and mentor them as much as possible. She has conversations with them, walks them through the process of becoming an official, and invites them to attend her games so that they can see how things are done. She explains the reasons for correct calls, incorrect calls or no calls. She is available for them especially when a situation occurs in their game or if they have a rules question.



### Carl Small

From the very first referee class that Carl Small, Board 41, took, he knew he wanted to improve as an official, but also to teach and help other officials improve. Carl worked with Kerry Donohue, Board 801, to teach an introductory class - Basketball Officiating Basics. Carl's enthusiasm was so contagious that he was invited to become the Head Instructor. Carl never hesitated and he advanced the course, calling it *The Basketball Officials Proficiency Course*. It successfully drew many high school officials who wanted to enter the women's collegiate officiating pipeline.

A member of the WCBOO Education Team, Carl also worked alongside Sheri Zappala in teaching the inaugural WCBOO IAABO University Women's Collegiate Edition Rules Course. Additionally, Carl works with Sheri as an instructor of his local New York State board new candidate's class.

Carl is part of a group chat called, "The Referee Room." They share plays, talk about rules and mechanics and cover everything that has to do with officiating. Carl speaks to high school teams about the rules of the game and reminds the players about the benefits of officiating.



### Al Battista

Al Battista, Board 12, acts as mentor, advisor, and confidant to the WCBOO Education Team. Al is very generous with his time and he is the master of mechanics during WCBOO's In Season Series. Plays are presented during the session and rules and thought processes are reviewed. Then Al takes over and discusses positioning and drills which officials can do during their free time.

In person, Al helps officials by doing drills with groups on outdoor courts or in gym areas. He has 35 drills which he reviews with the officials.

Al is the Interpreter of IAABO Board 12. The board gives out flyers in recreation games to parents and they also advertise on Instagram. As



## Can WCBOO Help Solve the Shortage of Basketball Officials?

Interpreter, Al hosts Zoom sessions and clinics on courts with officials. Al's influence has been far reaching and he has Zoom sessions with officials from around the world. Matchup Officiating is Al's education group whose purpose is to promote the growth of basketball officiating through training. Al's expanded use of technology allows members to access rules quizzes, video plays, and camp and clinic notifications on a centrally located group page. Al writes and emails articles such as, *100 Officiating Tips*, in his newsletter, *The Match-Up*.

Al was encouraged by his Dad to stay in officiating.



### Rich Fetter

Rich Fetter, Board 801, offers assistance whenever he meets new, young officials. He speaks about situations, breaks down plays with them and provides advice that is helpful both on and off the floor.

During preseason scrimmages Rich tells graduating seniors to consider becoming an official.

At captains' meetings, he asks if players are seniors and invites them to enter the field.

Rich serves as a board member on his local women's collegiate board. He provides feedback and observes games. He is an expert at using Synergy Sports and DVSPORT to view plays. He educates new officials on best practices to use with DVSPORT and also how to use it when there is an in-game monitor review situation.

Rich is part of the Northeast Study Group which started as a small group of 40-50 officials and now has grown to over 200+ officials from all over the country. Weekly sessions during the preseason are held where veteran officials talk through different topics each ranging from minding your "business" to monitor reviews, to preseason exam prep.

Officiating relationships have made all the difference in Rich's career. He was invited to an education and try-out camp suggested by one of his collegiate coordinators. He met officials from his local area and they became mentors. He was hired and moved up the collegiate ranks to Division I because of the influence of these people who became Rich's closest friends outside of basketball.



### Julie Goupille

Many of IAABO's female members can relate to Julie Goupille's experience. Julie was the only female official on Board 150 for a very long time. Women who officiate often have to juggle family and basketball games at the same time. They also are used to being the only woman in the room at meetings and games. It took Julie a while to achieve

higher level game assignments, but she earned her board members' respect and considers them like family. Julie is not looking for special treatment because she is female, and she wants all women to have a fair opportunity at earning advanced games. She feels it's important to help and respect all women officials especially because there are so few women in officiating. Julie gives a lot of credit to the band of brothers on her board who helped her through some pretty tough moments. One should never underestimate how powerful some positive encouragement in officiating can be.

### Joe Vaszily



Joe Vaszily, Board 801, has been one of the leaders of the Northeast Study Group for the last 10 years. The group's goal is to provide pre-season training and video breakdown for officials as they prepare for the upcoming season. They strive to make it better each year, including the use of breakout rooms this past Fall to provide smaller groups and more conversation about plays and situations.

Joe makes himself available to many officials over the course of the year to give feedback on plays they have had in their games and situations

off the floor, including difficult winter travel.

Look out for more upcoming events from WCBOO. Our Education Team will be meeting soon to plan our next In Season Series, which will be held on Sunday February 27th at 8:00 PM Eastern Time. We welcome our special guest, Brian Casilonova, from the American Cancer Society to this meeting. Brian will provide information about Officials vs. Cancer and answer any questions you may have. Watch your email for more information. See you then.



Kerry Donohue serves as the Director of Education for WCBOO and is an observer of officials for multiple conferences. Through the assistance of IAABO, Kerry has been able to achieve her vision of providing top notch education to Women's Basketball Officials. Kerry presented at the IAABO Fall Seminar in October 2021 for the first time.

## Life Member Joe D'Orazio Passes



Board 130 is deeply saddened to report the passing of their longest tenured official, Joe D'Orazio, on December 25, 2021.

Joe joined IAABO in 1959 and celebrated his 50 year service award in 2009 (making him a member for over 62 years). Joe is also a Life Member of IAABO, their highest honor. As a long time member of Board 130, Joe was a past president and Honorary Life Member. He also received our two biggest honors, the John Mulkern Award and

Charles Cook Award. Joe could always be found at a local high school or volunteering at many of our camps. He has mentored countless members of Board 30 to help them break into the varsity ranks with numerous league commissioners.

Whether it was Wil Hixon and Bob Licare in the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tournament finals or Jim Calhoun and Jim Boheim in the Big East, Joe D'Orazio approached every game he officiated the same.

"You go out there to officiate a game, the coaches and players know who you are," said D'Orazio.

"It's your presence on the court. If they see you know what you're doing and you're working at it and you keep control, they all respect you." Haverhill's D'Orazio recently was enshrined into an elite fraternity as a 50-year member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials.

During his officiating days, D'Orazio worked from the local high school ranks all the way up to top college leagues like the Big East, Ivy League, ECAC and Patriot League. "I had Patrick Ewing from high school at Cambridge right through college,"



## LIFE MEMBER

said D'Orazio, who officiated from 1959-89. "I did a lot of big games. I did the biggest game Merrimack College ever had, playing Sacred Heart at North Andover when Merrimack had Dana Skinner and Eddie Murphy. They turned away about 500 people that day. Sacred Heart beat them in overtime. What a tremendous game."

Ironically, it was D'Orazio's fiery nature as a player that led him to officiating.

"After high school, I played a lot of semi-pro basketball. I guess I used to question a lot of the officials' calls as a player," said D'Orazio.

"One day, Lyle Connors, a very good referee, and Walter Kimball, who was the director of the YMCA, asked me why not try and officiate."

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## Watching and Learning From Other Officials

Watching video is an excellent way to evaluate your mechanics and court positioning. Ever have an observer point out a positioning or mechanics flaw followed by your denial of that shortcoming? Did your subsequent review of the video show that the observer was correct?

There's another way to improve and assess your positioning and mechanics. Attend games in your area and watch some of the better officials. If possible, contact one of the officials in advance and request to sit in on their pregame conference.

When watching the game, take notes. Observe the various positions officials are in when making particular calls. Do they initially start out in a dependable position with a good view of the play? Do they make position adjustments to always be in a good position to see through the players? After initially starting out in a good position, do they then make subsequent re-position adjustments to maintain that same good look as the play changes and develops? Officials should strive to create their own angles with which to view a play. Don't let the players create those angles for you.

Basketball officials can also learn from officials in other sports. If getting to an initial starting position and then moving to maintain that position is difficult for you, observe boxing referees. Boxing referees? They are continually moving to see through the fighters and only in very rare occasions will they get stacked or straight-lined. Seeing through a dribbler and defender or seeing through opposing players going up for a rebound will put you in a better position to rule on incidental or illegal contact.

Pay particular attention when fouls and violations are called. Is the official too close to the play? Too far away? Does the official make calls outside of her/his primary coverage area? Being too close or too far away from a play and then making a ruling has nothing to do with the look or angle an official has when viewing a play.

Does administering a jump ball pose a problem for you? Unless a game goes into overtime, you will only get one opportunity to observe the jump ball toss. There are several ways to effectively toss the ball. Watch officials who use a two-handed toss. If that technique does not work for you, try a one-handed toss. If the players are stealing the toss on the way up, try a quick toss. Or, perhaps tell the players, "I'll toss it on three". Start counting "one", "two", and then toss the ball before you get to "three".

Observe how officials handle rough play. How do they deal with irate coaches and unhappy players? Focus on their communication and responding skills. Talk to them after the game to gain insight into what the coach or player said and how the official responded. One takeaway from every interaction with a coach or a player is "was there anything I could have done differently?" Considering options to handling those interactions differently can either reinforce a successful interaction or

cause you to think of a different (i.e., better) way of handling it the next time. Utilizing effective communication skills and utilizing different techniques is an on-going learning process.

Do the officials maintain control of the game? Do they manage the game instead of manipulate it? How do the officials handle unpopular calls? Do they maintain their composure when coaches or players are losing theirs?

While it is very helpful to learn from veteran and respected officials, it is not a good idea to imitate them. What works for another official with respect to communicating with players and coaches may not necessarily work for you. Different experience levels, varying degrees of acceptance, and different personalities are all factors which enter into the credibility equation. Using some of the different techniques you observe, try them when the opportunity presents itself in your upcoming games. If something you've observed works for you, make it a part of your officiating personality. If it doesn't work, chunk it and try a different approach next time.

Learning from other officials' mistakes is a great way to speed up your individual learning curve. What better way to learn and improve by watching the mistakes of others? Besides, no matter how long you officiate, you will never make all of the mistakes by yourself.

Summer leagues and off-season games are excellent opportunities to try new techniques. Do they fit your style and personality? Are they appropriate for the level you are working? If so, make them a part of your game. If not, keep watching and observing. You can never stop learning.

Steven Ellinger is the chair of the IAABO Constitution Committee and the secretary-treasurer of Houston Board 205 (TX).



## Foundation Notes

The IAABO Charitable and Educational Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) has granted two additional awards to IAABO, Inc. to further its mission of providing educational, training and developmental materials to all of its members. In December, the Foundation awarded IAABO a \$7,000 grant to purchase a one-year license for RefQuest+ for all registered members. Then again, in January 2022, an additional award of \$5,250 was received for the purchase of the annual license for the Coach Paint program. Along with the \$1,000 grant to fund two female officials' attendance at the next Fall Seminar, the amount received by IAABO from the Foundation in this fiscal year totals \$13,250.

According to Associate Executive Director, Donnie Eppley: "The benefits for our members through the use of RQ+ video collaboration are immeasurable. The support of the Foundation, has made this possible".

Co-Coordinator, TJ Halliday says: "Coach Paint is a powerful tool that allows IAABO to take training videos to another level for the benefit of our members. The software allows us to insert coverage areas, display cones of vision and even allows us to move officials within the clip to display proper positioning and position-adjustments. The software features the ability to "zoom in" and insert various "highlighting" effects to ensure the viewer is focused on the main teaching points of the video clip."

The Foundation is a registered, not-for-profit corporation and operates under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation accepts donations and grants to help support its initiatives. To make a donation or for more information about the Foundation, please contact Peter Carroll, President of the Foundation or any of the eight additional Trustees listed on page 23 of the IAABO Handbook.

# The Science of Officiating

## Continuing Insights In Communication and Player Management Part 2

*“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”*

- Benjamin Franklin

In this installment of The Science of Officiating, we continue to review research published in 2014 by Cunningham, Simmons, Mascarenhas and Redhead: “Skilled Interaction: Concepts of Communication and Player Management in the Development of Sports Officials.”

We previously discussed the four core themes the research identified for officiating communication and player management.

Personal qualities involving an official’s personality characteristics, traits and the “it” factor that promote effective and efficient communications.

One-way Communication involving effectively communicating your decisions, directing players and positive impression management.

Situation Monitoring involving reading and interpreting player actions and intentions and judging game context.

Skilled Interaction in effectively adapting to different players and situations and applying the appropriate varied responses and proactivity effectively.

The research further identified the prevalent mechanisms in place to train and develop these core themes in officials.

### Experiences

The study identified on and off the court experience as a prime learning process. This holistic view encompasses experiences as an official, in our work and personal lives. Key concepts cited as key to best developing through experience included skill transfer and deliberate practice and experience.

Skill transfer is the application of skills used in one area of our lives to other areas of our lives. The more relevant the outside experience to officiating, the greater the skill transfer. Being a former player brings basketball knowledge and an understanding of game context that is transferable to officiating. Teaching and policing were among occupations that were cited by the research as potentially more relevant than others to officiating. The on-going one-way communication, situational monitoring and skilled interaction practiced by teachers and police officers are transferable skills.

Individuals learn and develop at different rates even if the type(s), frequency and length of experiences are similar. This is partially attributable to the personal qualities we discussed in the previous article. There are individual differences in aptitude and motivation, but the research points to the process we employ to learn as the primary determinant. Employing deliberate experience and deliberate practice were identified as key to developing optimally through experience. Being deliberate is being systematic and purposeful.

Consider you decide to “shoot around for an hour” versus going to the court with the goal and a plan to specifically improve your 3-point shooting. You set a tablet up to record you as you shoot. You shoot 25 shots from a spot on the court and then review your performance, noting possible discrepancies in form on missed shots. You then take another 25 shots from the same spot, adjusting for any identified discrepancies, and review those. You then proceed to another spot and repeat the process. Which process would you expect improved results over time?

Deliberate experience and practice incorporate three success factors for learning cited by the research: feedback (formal and informal) and reflection. Planning for experiences, seeking feedback and reflecting upon experiences make them more deliberate and effective learning tools.



Being a reflective learner involves making your learning a more conscious process. It helps you to become an active learner by asking questions and thinking critically about your own ideas.

-Deakin University

### Collaborative Learning

Collaborative learning is a group forum where officials interact in structured and unstructured discussions. The research recognized the importance of learning from others by sharing and assimilating experiences as a primary benefit. Secondary benefits identified included 1) a sense of belonging through a shared collegial setting 2) increased self-worth and 3) provision of and interaction with role models.

### Commitment to Learning

A strong indicator of an official’s development, as well as being essential to that development, is an official’s commitment to learning. Attending education and training sessions was identified as important to development. Employing deliberate practice and practicing reflection are forms of that commitment. The study recognized the role of being an active learner to “actively seek knowledge, techniques and strategies inside and outside sport” as increasing an official’s chances of improving, communication, body language and conflict management skills.

### Formal Instruction

Formal instruction was seen as an effective and important convention for teaching whistle use, signals, procedures and positioning. It was seen as less effective in teaching “soft skills” of player management. Some aspects of one-way communication and image management are seen as more appropriately trained via monitoring situations (observation) and corresponding interaction (feedback). In our previous discussion of the research, “a feel for the game” and “the x-factor” which impact the four core themes of official’s communications are hard to define and as such, hard to train. This is particularly, true in formal “classroom” settings.

### The Roles of Sport (Officiating) Bodies

The research identified three main roles of sports bodies in facilitating officials’ development as skilled communicators 1) maintaining coaching and mentoring standards 2) providing self-development opportunities and skills training in group settings.

Several specific strategies were discussed including 1) targeted seminars and training 2) matching game assignments to skill level 3) matching less experience with greater experience and 4) providing structured mentoring.

### Coaching and Mentoring Standards

Several sports identified a priority to increase the quantity and quality of qualified referee coaches. Keeping the referee coaches “current” and developing their skill and consistency in coaching, and facilitating officials’ development is an important factor. The move to a “coaching” model of development versus evaluation and teaching requires organizational support, tools and requisite soft skills in the coaches.

Mentoring was specifically cited to provide important technical and social support to developing officials. At the same time, having enough qualified, motivated and available mentors was seen as an obstacle. An additional obstacle was seen as inconsistent or lacking a recognized and consistent organizational framework of operation for official’s development.

### Self-Help Opportunities

Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.

- Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu

## The Science of Officiating

The research identifies the importance of providing self-help opportunities for officials. These included providing officials information on available training and resources and developing specific training modules. Areas to be targeted included interpersonal communication body language and conflict management.

Referee coaches can have an important role in facilitating the self-help opportunities for officials. The greatest impact of referee coaches being the facilitation and promotion of self-review strategies and independent learning for officials. This includes providing the tools and knowledge that support and promote self-initiated game review and analysis.

### Skills Training in Groups

Skills training in groups was reported as delivered in multiple formats: camps, seminars, and pre-tournament. FIBA has officials in country for intensive pre-tournament training for all major tournaments.

Skill training in groups provides collaborative training as well as consistency of subject matter. With video analysis, role-playing, simulations and reflective practices, these are seen as effective delivery modes for communications and psychological-skills training (i.e., coping and arousal regulation).

Conclusions From the Research: That Was Then, Where Are We at Now?

The study identified training delivery was primarily focused on one-way communication and impression management while at the same time, highlighting the importance of situation monitoring and skilled interaction.

Both one-way communication and impression management remain as fundamental components of delivered training. At the same time, there is a greater focus on situation monitoring and skilled interaction. An example of this is the Canadian Basketball Official's Commission (Canada's officiating body) now includes a module on Soft Skills in the NOCP 1 (introductory officiating community level) requirements. The NOCP 2 level includes Skilled Interaction for Basketball Officials and Effective Communication for Basketball Officials.

Since the publication of the study, officiating bodies have gained a better understanding on how to optimally train higher order communication competencies such as reading and interpreting player cues, skilled interaction and contextual interaction in officiating. The focus on emotional intelligence in our everyday lives is being translated to the court. There remain barriers to delivering the optimal training in the optimal way. The pandemic has moved much of the training delivery by officiating organizations online which allows greater access to training developed by your own sports body and others. The design, development and delivery of efficient, effective and cost-effective communications skills training remains challenging for officiating bodies in an online format. It is costly to develop officiating specific interactive online self-paced training.

Officiating bodies are making better use of game video and audio to analyze interactions. Officials are sometimes "mic'd" up or wearing a "ref cam." The non-verbal communication can be observed, and the verbal listened to. The interactions can be analyzed, discussed and reflected upon.

Online training sessions are made more interactive using group chat, voting options, whiteboards, breakout rooms and other. This provides collaborative learning and reflection. Role plays can be designed into the sessions. This is not the same as being there in person, but provides deliberate practice and experience. Virtual training for officials is being realized; that will be the next best thing to being there.

The paradigm has shifted such that many recommendations discussed in the practical implications of the research are now standard rather than the exception. More time is being spent on developing situational monitoring and skilled interaction. There is focus on the whole set of

skills involved in communications and interactions and their application and integration. The training has evolved to a more learner-centric model that embraces and encourages reflection as a prime mechanism for learner development.

Training for referee coaches, educators and mentors is being implemented to provide the requisite skill training to better support the officials. The processes are being reworked to align with the learner (official) centric paradigm.

### Ask Not

The research identified four broad skill sets of officiating interaction and player management (personal qualities, one-way communication, situational monitoring and skilled interaction), which in turn are comprised of sub-skills. It then identified mechanisms for the development of those skills and provided some recommendations for officiating bodies going forward.

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

John F. Kennedy inspired a nation with the above words.

On an organizational level, "What can you do to support your officiating body in the development and delivery of effective officiating interaction and player management training?"

It could be in the administration, design, delivery or being an active positive participant.

On a personal level, reflect on, "What can you do to support yourself in developing your officiating interaction and player management skills?"

It starts with you. Be engaged, be active, be deliberate and be open. Take what you learn off the court and apply it on the court and vice versa. Think outside the box/off the court. I just Googled free courses on approachability, assertiveness, having difficult conversations, reading body language, emotional intelligence and other topics around personal interactions. Free courses came back from major online providers like Udemy and Coursera along with educational institutions such as Harvard.

Catch you on the other side of the conversation.



Tim Laurain is a member of IAABO Board No. 211, York, Ontario. He is also a Consultant, Officiating Development and the Assistant Committee Chair, IAABO Educational Committee. You may contact him @ [timlaurain@rogers.com](mailto:timlaurain@rogers.com) if you have any comments, feedback or questions.



# IAABO Lines

Condolences to: *Bd. 128 NH*, on the passing of our member, *Bob Thatcher*; *Rick Pina, Bd. 168 NJ*, on the passing of his mother; *Bd. 36 NY*, on the passing of our member, *Rick Conley*; *Chuck Iorio, Bd. 119 NY*, on the passing of his brother Lou Iorio; *Thomas Hanbach, Bd. 50 NY*, on the passing of his father-in-law; *Bd. 117 NH*, on the loss of our member, *Mike Morgan*; *Ken Tocci, Bd. 54 MA*, on the passing of his father; *Bd. 44 MA*, on the passing of our member *Salvatore Dominic "Sal" Ciuffetti*.



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