



## Right Back at It! IAABO Hosts Fall Seminar in Trumbull, CT

IAABO hosted its first in-person seminar since the COVID-19 Pandemic, September 29 - October 3, 2021 at the Trumbull Marriott Shelton in Connecticut. Over 200 people heard from 20 presenters full of knowledge and information, welcomed a new class into IAABO Life Membership, played some golf, laughed along at a comedy show, and enjoyed spending time together after all the months apart. Without missing a beat, we were right back at it, doing what we love.

The first presenter of the weekend on Friday morning was the esteemed Alan Goldberger, IAABO Parliamentarian and renowned sports law attorney (Board 33, NJ), covering all the details of “Officials and their Duties,” and what our members need to know to be well-informed, safe, and successful. Dave Smith, Past President and an IAABO Co-Coordinator of Interpreters (Board 4, CO), provided tips, videos, and more on “Mastering Positioning and Coverages.”

“Traveling” is always an area of concern for officials and tackling one of this year’s Points of Emphasis was Board 33’s (NJ) Interpreter and Applicant Program Director Dick Hecker. Wrapping up the Friday morning session was the Assistant Chair of the IAABO Women’s Coordinating Committee and Board 6 (CT) Interpreter Charlene Shepard, sharing great videos and suggestions for officiating “Rebounding Contact and Coverage.”



To kick off the afternoon, collegiate officials Mike Preston, Interpreter for Board 255 (VA), and Mike Million, member of Board 214 (MD), looked at the men’s collegiate rules changes, points of emphasis, and areas of concern. CBOA Director Tom O’Connor discussed IAABO’s collaboration with CBOA and the work being done together for the good of officiating.

There’s so much more than how you officiate on the court that goes into “Being a Good Partner,” and John Rafferty, Interpreter for Board 95 (MA), shared some great insight looking at this topic from a new approach. “Exceptions” are omnipresent in the game of basketball and officials must know all of them to accurately rule throughout the game. Layne Drexel, IAABO Co-Coordinator of Interpreters and Board 11 (DE) Interpreter, provided a resource for all to learn the exceptions and not just the rules.

### A Year Unlike any Other

It’s certainly been a year unlike any other, and Kelly Callahan, Special Projects Consultant and Board 11 (DE) Secretary, considered the “Lessons from a Pandemic: What Life Taught Us about Officiating.” What better way to end a jam-packed first day than to talk about how we can bring in the next generation of officials to IAABO? Board 10 (CT) members Bhavin Parekh, Associate Director of (continued on page 3)

## A Shot in the Dark? Returning Again to Basketball Officiating in 2021/2022

After more than 18 months of global pandemic, followed by the development of effective vaccines, the focus of organized sports is the return to a full season of competition, mostly without the public health restrictions that short-circuited sports seasons at all levels. As of October 2021, basketball is on track for the coming season.

Still, as the start of the traditional basketball season comes into view on the high school, prep, independent and college levels, there remain questions as to protocols, precautions, and additional responsibilities of officials. With that in mind, let’s review some areas of concern that lie ahead for IAABO officials this coming season:

### Calling the Game 2021 2022 - 10 Things You need to Know

1. “A Shot in the Dark?” Local venue restrictions can affect an official’s schedule. Not only public health authorities, but sponsoring organizations are likely to continue to set conditions to be met for officials in their venue. Sponsors of competition generally have the right to control who enters their field house and the conditions for competition that relate to things like vaccinations and other qualifications. For this reason, officials will continue to face requirements as to vaccinations and testing.

2. “But We’re Independent Contractors.” Both “independent

contractor” officials and employed officials need to become fully aware of the terms of their engagements to officiate. Since the “contract” part of the independent contractor relationship requires an *agreement between the contractor/official and the organization* to call the game under certain conditions, it follows that independent contractors are free to decline assignments. IAABO officials who agree to work as *employees* to officiate will be apprised by their employers of the requirements of the job. And, in today’s climate, the terms of engagement of officials should be clearly set forth, in writing, *for all assignments*. Every game. Every level.

3. “Who, Exactly, am I Working for?” It is a quirky fact of officiating life that officiating assignments often *do not* identify the party for whom the official is working. For assigners, local boards, and the officials’ protection, this must change. Why is this so? See No. 4 below.

4. “Bored of Education.” Don’t be. Conferences, schools, leagues, and governing bodies will now need to designate *in writing* the party engaging game officials for all assignments – electronic or otherwise. These small pieces of “minutia” can impact any assigner or assigning IAABO boards. If the contract does not specify the engaging party, a natural assumption would be to “pin the tail on (continued on page 3)

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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

### Road to Trumbull

The long and winding road from Bethesda, MD to Trumbull, CT took two years with three virtual meetings in between. It was a road that led to your door (via Zoom), and IAABO proved we will never disappear.

During this persistent pandemic, IAABO worked diligently to keep its members engaged and involved. More than thirty presenters entered our speaker series and provided insight into all levels of officiating. Many valuable nuggets of information were passed on. Operations continued without interruption and plays presented through RefQuest+ were both challenging and informative. Breaking down video plays regularly made you feel like you never left the court.

After two long years, we assembled in Trumbull, Connecticut, for our Fall Seminar. It seemed like old times but with an asterisk. Meeting rooms were set up with adequate spacing and two oversized hospitality rooms were available on a limited schedule due to the packed agenda.

This seminar was about the business of basketball, and 20 presenters brought their "A" game. The information that is now available for interpreters is unparalleled and plentiful. The new programs, updated materials, IAABO University and the recently released Simulator should keep members busy and enriched as we anticipate going back onto the court.

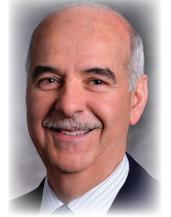
The Fall is our time for the preparation that will lead to better performance when the ball is finally tossed. Players, coaches and spectators will be anxious to engage and view competition. It is our responsibility to be the best that we can be at ALL times. No matter what the score or level of competition, the game matters to all participants. Our "A" game is the only game we should bring.

At this time, getting in shape both physically and mentally are our primary responsibilities. It's the time of the season to show how committed we are to the game we love and respect.

So "Welcome Back" to the same old place that you care about and "Cheers" for belonging to an organization where sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name.

Stay Well, Stay Connected, Stay IAABO.

*Felix Addeo*



## President's Corner

### Greetings from Maine!

It is apple pie season, and the end of fall sports. With that, there is an anticipation of the upcoming basketball season. Nothing will get the juices flowing like an IAABO Fall Seminar like the one that just took place. Over 200 interpreters from as far away as Arizona, Georgia, and South Carolina attended. It was sad that our friends from north of the border could not attend. It was an outstanding seminar with so many great presentations and new topics. Presenters were very well prepared. The seminar had no visible hiccups. Thanks to the IAABO staff!

The National Federation of High School rules committee made three minor rule changes this year. The co-coordinators focused on mechanics. Specifically, picking up secondary defenders for the lead on potential block/charge plays, and engagement of the trail on rebounding and off-ball coverage and positioning for the best angle. They provided excellent video to emphasize the opportunities. Now it is up to the interpreters to share with the membership.

The Life Membership Dinner on Saturday evening was really special. It had been two years since the last ceremony, and the five inductees - Bruce Anderson, Bob Lantzy, Steven Ellinger, Gary Pucino, and Bill Kinney, were all deserving and patient given the delay of the presentation. A Zoom meeting would not have been adequate for this honor.

There was a mini lesson for all attendees on an unusual topic, the pronunciation of the acronym of our organization. Thanks to Jeff Jewett, Arizona (via Maine) and Bob Lantzy, Colorado, for providing humor around this clarification. IAABO = Ī-Ā-BŌ or Ī-BŌ? I believe the former would be the correct pronunciation ©.

Everyone hopes for a normal basketball season, and with that, I wish you the best. Keep up the conditioning.

Barry Fuller  
 President IAABO Inc.



## Fall Seminar (continued from page 1)

Competitive Sports at UConn, and Mike Medina, Director of Recreation at Quinnipiac University, shared ideas on how to involve local collegiate recreation programs in recruiting new members to the association. It was a great session, providing lots of ideas and opportunities for all our boards.

For the perfect, relaxing end to a jam-packed educational day, Friday night was full of laughs for those who attended the comedy show featuring comedians Ace Aceto, Scott Higgins, and Mike Murray.

Attendees were back at it bright and early Saturday morning as Executive Director and Past President Felix Addeo tackled the very difficult and complex topic of “Sportsmanship.” For officials, “Pressing and Transition” can be very challenging, and Bob Benjamin, NH State Board (32) Interpreter and Board 122 (NH) Interpreter, provided members with excellent tips for tackling these tough situations.

There are a lot of references to the word “Backcourt” in the rules and case books. IAABO Co-Coordinator of Interpreters and Board 105 (VT) Interpreter, Dan Shepardson, broke it all down. With “Screening” being another point of emphasis for this season, Gary Sluck, Board 33 (NJ) Mechanics Chairperson, reviewed the provisions, the application, and the best ways to officiate this complex rule. Saturday morning’s session ended with TJ Halliday, Co-Coordinator of Interpreters and Board 20 (ME) Interpreter, reviewing the Crew of 2 and Crew of 3 “Block/Charge Coverage” and providing officials with the techniques necessary to be in the best position to rule on these plays.

### Women’s Collegiate Rule Changes, Contact and Communication

Returning for the afternoon session, the Women’s Collegiate Basketball Officials’ Organization’s (WCBOO – Board 801) Founder and Director of Education, Kerry Donahue, along with WCBOO’s Interpreter and NYSGBOA (New York State Girls Basketball Officiating Association) Interpreter (Board 119, NY), Sheri Zappala, shared with attendees the

mission of WCBOO and the women’s collegiate rules changes and points of emphasis for 2021-22. Jeff Jewett, Interpreter/Secretary for IAABO Board 71 (AZ), broke down the provisions of “Contact” within the rules and provided tools to help officials differentiate between incidental and illegal contact.

Without “Communication,” officials would be lost. Ray Vanacore, Assistant Chairperson for the IAABO Life Membership Committee and Secretary/Treasurer for Board 10 (CT), looked at all aspects of communication in the game for officials and how we can overall improve in this area.

Saturday evening was highlighted by the Life Membership Ceremony inducting the Class of 2020 who have been patiently waiting their turn throughout the COVID pandemic. Originally scheduled to be inducted in April 2020, it was worth the wait as the honorees shared an outstanding evening with family, friends, and their extended IAABO family. Congratulations are extended to Bruce Anderson (Board 30, MA), Steven Ellinger (Board 205, TX), William Kenney (Board 168, NJ), Bob Lantzy (Board 4, CO), and Gary Pucino (Board 84, RI) – the newest members of this esteemed club.

The weekend wrapped early Sunday morning with the debut of a new IAABO/NFHS partnership video highlighting the rules changes, editorial revisions, and points of emphasis followed by IAABO’s Co-Coordinator of Interpreters reviewing the IAABO Manual Changes for 2021-22.

With the conclusion of this session, our attendees started the journey home filled with insight, information, knowledge, and joy thanks to some outstanding educational sessions and enjoyable social events. It was great to be back in person doing what we love, and our interpreters can’t wait to share what they learned with all our IAABO members. IAABO wishes you all the best for a healthy, safe, rewarding, and successful 2021-22 season.

## Shot in the Dark (continued from page 1)

the donkey” when something goes wrong. And, of course, “the donkey” may well be the local board!

**5. “Waiving Hello to Liability.”** IAABO boards and officials need to be apprised at the time of assignment if there are any “waivers,” “indemnifications” or other wordy legal documents required to officiate. Signing such papers without knowing the contents can lead to serious legal consequences for officials and boards. Also, at the very least, IAABO boards and officials whose members are asked to sign any type of “waiver” or document absolving an organization of liability arising out of COVID-19 will want to consider whether the organization promises in the contract to follow and implement all recommended or mandated public health, governing body, and security guidelines for basketball games

**6. “Rules are Made to be Modified? Sometimes!”** Officials have the right to be apprised in advance of any and all rules’ modifications, new regulations, or special protocols officials are expected to enforce or administer while in the venue.

**7. “Refereeing the Venue.”** IAABO board officers—and others who assign officials—must be aware that some organizations may look to officials to decide issues relating to COVID-19 policies or regulations such as spectator limits, social distancing protocols in the venue, or enforcement of public health crisis regulations regarding the game. Clearly, these are not within the area of officiating responsibilities. For that reason, IAABO officials are cautioned not *to attempt to “referee” any COVID-19-related disputes between teams*. Nor are officials required to enforce or participate in administering any public health authorities’ guidelines, e.g., health checking athletes and others; participant questionnaires; or sanitizing surfaces; policing bench and table areas for compliance with distancing guidelines. Well drafted assignment documents may prevent unpleasant surprises for officials before the game. “Safe, Fair, and Fun.”

**8. “Safe, Fair, and Fun.”** Any rules modification or protocol that limits the authority of officials to suspend play if it would be unsafe

to continue a game may place game officials and their boards in legal jeopardy — “showcase tournaments, made-for-tv events and the like included.

**9. “We Will Give You One Check for the Season.”** IAABO board officers need to understand that “billing” a governing body, conference, school, or municipality for officiating services and then paying its member officials to officiate often increases its exposure to liability exponentially.

**10. I’d Have to be Unconscious - to not Remind all IAABO Officials to Enforce the Rules Regarding Concussion.** NFHS Rules 2-8-5 and 3-3-8 as well as the Appendices in NCAA rules codes provide that any player who exhibits signs, symptom, or behavior consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the competition. Your removal of the player is a call in the game — not the result of any “roundtable discussion” or “consensus building.” Removing a player is not a diagnosis. It is officiating the rule. IAABO Board officers also need to be aware that all state legislatures, the District of Columbia, and several localities have enacted laws governing concussion in sports. IAABO Boards need to advise members that the rules and the law must be followed – both for removal and for return to play - if permitted - later in the game.

### Conclusion - Separating Fact from Misinformation

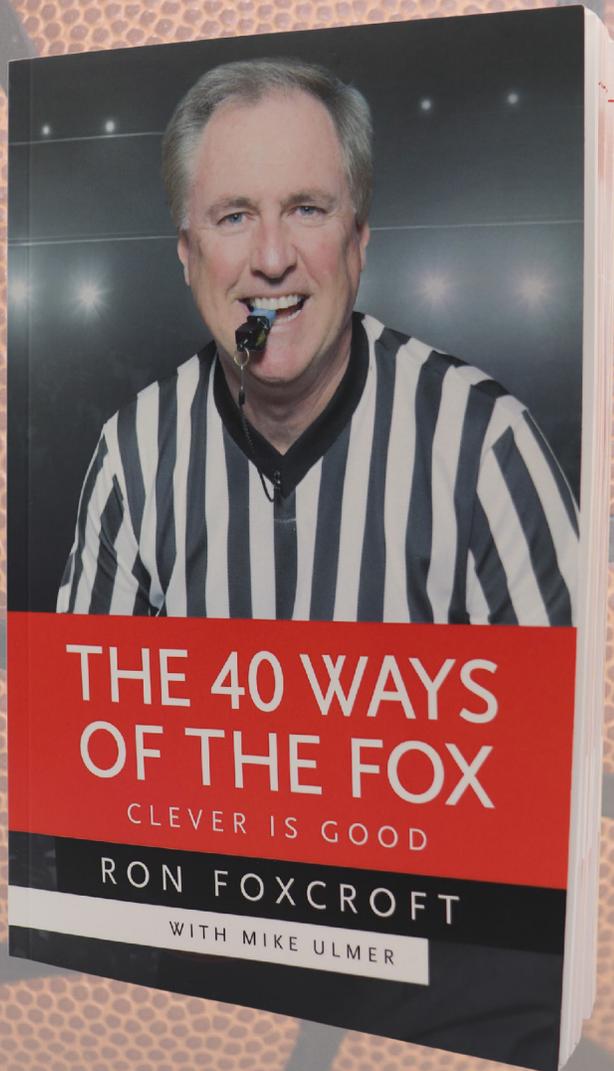
Now, in the post-COVID environment more than ever, officials need to remain aware of their legal rights and responsibilities every time they take the floor. Keeping the above guidelines in mind before the ball goes up will allow you to focus your concentration on getting the calls right. And that’s what IAABO officials are all about!



Alan Goldberger is a sports law attorney and recognized legal authority for game officials. He is a member of IAABO Board No. 33, New Jersey and is the IAABO Parliamentarian and the author of *Sports Officiating – A Legal Guide*.

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## “Island Time”

### How passion for basketball is making a lasting impact in rural Jamaica

It started with a casual conversation one night in between games at a men’s league in Philly. James, one of my favorite players in the league, mentioned he was going to rural Jamaica for a week to help run a youth basketball camp. I looked at the dates, but my work schedule wouldn’t allow it, so I put the idea on the back burner.

Fast forward two years and I was sitting in the Proactive Referee camp classroom, and camp director Mark Lindsay shows a video of his experience at a camp in Jamaica... and then introduces a guest speaker - guess who? My favorite men’s league player - to talk to our group. It was mid-June 2018, and by mid-August I was on a flight to Treasure Beach, Jamaica.

“We have no way of knowing the ripples in the pond that we create by the pebbles that we throw.” — Mitch Albom, Tuesdays With Morrie

I still remember it like it was yesterday... pulling into the BRED’S Treasure Beach Sports Park at the end of a gravel road; sticky in the mid-day August island heat, dizzy from the 2.5 hr ride south from the airport thru the bustling northern city of Montego Bay on rugged mountain roads, and finally reaching the south Jamaican coast. There was a big grass field inside a low chain-link fence lined with sponsor banners and on the far side two blue tennis/basketball courts. Hand-painted signs reading: “Respect, or don’t come to these premises” - “Team



Work” - a Dalai Lama quote: “Be kind whenever possible” adorning light poles and fence posts. Our driver from the airport and Treasure Beach local, named Randy, tells me as I look out: “This was just an empty cow pasture a few years ago.”

In March 2012, Philadelphia Men’s Basketball League (PMBL) founder Jake Kind and camp co-founder Zack Schwartz met with Jamaican farmer & community organizer Liz Solms and BREDS Treasure Beach Sports Park Chairman Jason Henzel. The mission was to utilize basketball as a vehicle to create social change for the youth of Jamaica through meaningful interaction and empowerment, eventually leading to the formation of the PMBL Treasure Beach Youth Basketball Camp.

The camp, run by nonprofit Friends of the PMBL, is a collective effort riding on the rails of Sport for Social Change. A grassroots idea and concept born of Philadelphia + Treasure Beach community collaboration has now grown into a reality and shared experience including over 4,000 youth, ages 5-18. It started small, growing each year, and in 2019 (the most recent camp due to Covid) the one-week camp registered more than 1,000 campers.

Upon my arrival, virtually everywhere I could see was covered with kids running in every direction, directed and prompted by “big kids” in bright green matching shirts — over 50 volunteer coaches from the U.S., Jamaica, and beyond. With nonstop sounds of basketballs bouncing and whistles ringing out, it was a remarkable scene. Camp Director Jake Kind wore a safari-style hat to temper the heat, bright green framed sunglasses, and his signature megaphone amplifying words to match the day’s theme of “Perseverance!!!”



The volunteer coaches pay their own way, collaborating with local Jamaican staff to bring the camp to life. Staff includes NBA/NCAA/HS referees and coaches, current/former players, Peace Corp volunteers, educators, tv and music producers, actors, doctors, life coaches, UFC fighters, trainers & many more dedicated staff from all walks of life. Each one brings unique skill

sets to share beyond basketball, setting up stations for speech therapy, woodworking, self-defense, nutrition and yoga.

Campers come from all over the island, many traveling far distances. Many show up without any shoes (let alone sneakers) or a change of clothes – to learn basketball fundamentals: dribbling, passing, shooting and physical fitness. Meanwhile, the campers focus on important foundational life skills: teamwork, mentorship, empowerment, commitment, communication, perseverance, and mental toughness.

The final day of camp each year is a nationwide tournament, pulling in amateur/professional Jamaican teams, plus a “Coaches” team. I have the pleasure of refereeing the games outdoors under the lights. It’s a celebration and festival, the atmosphere alive with music, food, and of course -- basketball. As I run up and down the court picking up secondary defenders, judging legality on verticality plays, and teaching a few of my young mentees the mechanics system and signals... I can’t help but think again, this was just an empty cow pasture a few years ago... now this.

Through fund-raising and donations, the kids are all provided 100% free daily transportation to/from camp, three meals per day, sneakers, socks, backpacks, jerseys, wristbands, and T-shirts. Funds also support basketball hoops, solar lighting, portable bleachers, and equipment for maintaining 50+ acres of sports parkland including a track, swimming pools, and playing fields.

“All it takes is one person to believe in you to change your life”

*Coach Jake Kind, PMBL Camp Director*

What I learned as a coach for two years is that it’s far more important to give and share in this world than to take or keep for yourself. Coach Jake reminds us, “All it takes is one person to believe in you to change your life”. And that was my goal each moment in Jamaica, to show a genuine passion and belief in those kids whose energy and smiles provide me with a lifetime of memories. Plus, a reminder that this game and craft we love brings people of all kinds together and can make a lasting impact.



At the most recent camp, kids who were originally campers had become coaches, running their own stations and leading their community. Author Mitch Albom, famous for his best-selling book “Tuesdays With Morrie” said, “We have no way of knowing the ripples in the pond that we create by the pebbles that we throw.” I look forward to throwing my next pebbles in Jamaica and right here at home.

**Get Involved:** <https://www.friendsofthepmb.com/get-involved>

**Vimeo Link:** <https://vimeo.com/363846703>



Aran Hart is a Collegiate and HS basketball official who was born and raised in Mendocino, CA and now resides in Lower Merion, PA with his fiancé Dr. Sarah Smith-Benjamin.



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## Missing the Goaltend

It's likely that every basketball official has missed a goaltending or basket interference ruling in their career. It's easy for that to happen because we don't necessarily "look" for that play in the normal course of a game. Suddenly, there's a kid way above the ring batting the ball away and you're caught unprepared and don't blow the whistle when a whistle was necessary.

Recently, as I waited to officiate, I watched the game before me in a fall high school varsity league. There was a 6'9" kid on one of the teams. A shot went up at the far end of the court, and he jumped, extended his arm a foot or more above the ring. The ball was above the ring, on its way down, with a chance to go in. He swatted the ball away. What would you rule?

The precepts of goaltending are basic, simple and clear. Rule 4-22 states, "Goaltending occurs when a player touches the ball during a try or tap for field goal while the ball is in its downward flight entirely above the basket ring level, has the possibility of entering the basket in flight and is not touching the basket cylinder...." Goaltending can also occur during a free throw, when "a player touches the ball outside the cylinder during a free throw attempt."

Knowing the rule, the above play is simple and clear: goaltending. The official, on the other hand, let play continue. The shooting team and the coach harassed him mercilessly as he came back down the court, and you could see him shaking his head, and verbally denying that it was goaltending.

Let's leave his behavior aside for the sake of this article, and focus instead on why he may have missed the activity and how to better prepare to get the goaltending ruling correct. In one word, "preparation" is the key. You must be mentally alert and ready for above-the-ring play.

We talk within IAABO repeatedly about pre-game conferences and preparing ourselves mentally for specific rulings during a game. But are we really ready? Missing a goaltend typically comes down to being surprised by the activity.

To better prepare for these situations, watch the teams during warmups. Gauge their athleticism. See who is going above-the-ring on layups, trying to show off their jumping ability. You know what I'm talking about. The dunk and the block are high-flying moves that kids love to demonstrate and flaunt. You'll see very quickly whether there is anyone on the court who can get up to the sky.

Armed with this knowledge, you now must take that onto the court. What does that mean? Watch guarding activity under the basket closely, and the leaping and blocking attempts. Focus your eyes and attention on those areas if you are the center official. The goaltend ruling is not the lead's turf. The lead is looking for the contact. The Center or Trail must make the goaltend ruling.

Watch ball flight closely. See if it is touched. Don't guess. Apply the three precepts – above the ring, downward flight, opportunity for the ball to go in the basket. It's simple You've got it.

The key is your preparation before play and your focus on the court. Pay close attention during warmups and wrap your head around above-the-ring play early, and you won't be defending yourself to the coach next time a goaltend sails by you. You'll be ready.

### The Perils of Basket Interference

The missed goaltending ruling in the above game could similarly have been a situation where basket interference was missed. Though basket interference isn't always based on above-the-ring play (which makes it a bit more complicated to ensure you rule correctly), your preparation and focus are again key.



Let's look at 4-4 in the rulebook for basket interference (BI). There are four articles. BI occurs when a player:

Touches the ball or any part of the basket (including the net) while the ball is on or within either basket.

- Touches the ball while any part of the ball is within the imaginary cylinder which has the basket ring as its lower base (Exception to 1 and 2, if a player has their hand legally in contact with the ball, it is not a violation if such contact with the ball continues after it enters the imaginary cylinder or if in such action, the player touches the basket. Dunking or stuffing is legal and not BI.)

- Touches the ball outside the cylinder while reaching through the basket from below.

- Pulls down a movable ring so that it contacts the ball before the ring returns to its original position.

Okay, yes, a bit more complicated than goaltending, but still easily manageable by your preparation and keeping a few extra thoughts in your mind. First, remember that BI can occur by an offensive or defensive player. Watch both sets of arms going up, not just the defense.

Know where the ball is relative to the ring. This means as the Trail or Center official keeping a key eye on hands going up into the basket/net area while the ball is near, on or above the ring. Be ready as the ball closes in, know when it is on the ring, stay with it if the ball bounces above the ring. If you see hand contact on the ball on or above the ring, you've got BI.

Article 3 is a slight curve and holds more potential for you to be surprised since typically a player will not purposefully stick their arm up through the ring from below. It happens by accident most of the time, so you don't look for this type of activity. But, since it is so unusual, you should be able to quickly discern the illegal activity.

The arm must go up through the cylinder from below and touch the ball outside the cylinder (Articles 1 and 2 address touching the ball on or above the cylinder and still apply here if the arm comes up through the cylinder from below). If a player from either team gets his arm up through the cylinder and contacts the ball, rule the BI.

Finally, Article 4 is also a bit of a curve. It is also a simple ruling. If either team grabs the ring and pulls it down, and the ring contacts the ball as it returns to its normal position, you have BI. It will look ugly. You'll wonder what the heck is going on. But if you keep in mind the ring has been grabbed, then it contacts the ball, rule BI with confidence.

Like goaltending, BI requires you to think ahead of the game and be aware for activity on or above the ring. Discuss in your pregame, focus your mind on the key provisions necessary to rule the play effectively, and make the decision. You won't have a lot of time to rule it right. Basketball is a speed sport, and your ability to react quickly and correctly on a consistent basis for goaltending and BI will go a long way towards advancing your officiating career.



Dave Simon has been an IAABO member since 1984. He currently resides in Merton, WI, and just finished his third year of observing high school officials in southeast Wisconsin.

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# 2020 IAABO LIFE MEMBERSHIP

*Presented to*



William Kenney  
Bd. 168, New Jersey



Bob Lantz  
Bd. 4, Colorado



The IAABO Executive Committee hosted the twentieth



The IAABO Class of 2020 flash their Life Membership rings that were so graciously provided by Fox 40 (Tri-Foxco).

Five high-achieving, long-term IAABO members were honored at the Life Membership Ceremony Dinner held in the Trumbull Marriott Shelton Hotel Ballroom on Saturday evening, October 2nd. The induction ceremony was a highlight of the Fall Seminar weekend.

The members of the Class of 2020 are Bruce Anderson (Board 30, Massachusetts), Steven Ellinger (Board 205, Texas), William Kenney (Board 168, New Jersey), Bob Lantz (Board 4, Colorado) and Gary Pucino (Board 84, Rhode Island). The event was held to induct the Class of 2020 whose members have been waiting patiently since their ceremony was postponed last April due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The induction to Life Membership is IAABO's highest honor reserved for those who have promoted and contributed to the growth, purpose, and ideals of IAABO and to the welfare of the game of basketball in an



Life Member Awards that was on display

# SHIP INDUCTION CEREMONY



th annual Life Membership Luncheon in Trumbull, CT.



Bruce Anderson  
Bd. 30, Massachusetts



Steven Ellinger  
Bd. 205, Texas



play at the luncheon in Trumbull, CT

outstanding way through service to their local area, district, and state boards for over 30 years.

IAABO Executive Director Felix Addeo hosted the event and introduced each inductee with old photos and a good dose of humor while highlighting the achievements in their officiating careers and personal and professional lives.

Each of the five inductees gave warm and heartfelt acceptance speeches thanking family, friends, and fellow officials for their support and encouragement over the years. It was an outstanding night of great food, drink, camaraderie, and fun as we celebrated these five individuals for all that they are and all that they've done for IAABO, officiating, and the game of basketball.

Congratulations to the Life Membership class of 2020.



Gary Pucino  
Bd. 84, Rhode Island

ROVED BASKETBALL



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## RULES COURSE



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- Modular design making it easy to fit the program into student schedules
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- 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

**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.**

# Fall Seminar 2021 – Trumbull, Connecticut



Tom Lopes (L), former Executive Director, IAABO, Inc. shares a moment with Felix Addeo, Executive Director, IAABO, Inc.



The New Hampshire and Massachusetts Boards presented a Foundation Chair in honor of Past President Dennis J. Murphy. Shown Left to Right, Dennis Ordway, Mike Pelletier, Tony Haley, Dennis Murphy, John Rafferty and Bob Benjamin.



IAABO Past President Dr. Ron Brown along with Donnie Eppley, Associate Executive Director, IAABO, Inc. and Roni Brown.



Tom Lopes, former Executive Director, IAABO, Inc. along with George Geatz, Bd. 204 MD Interpreter and IAABO Life Member playing pickleball in Ocean City, MD.



Dennis Millevoi, Bd. 194 NJ and IAABO Life Member along with Louie DeGeorge, Bd. 194 NJ member, IAABO Life Member and IAABO Past President, accepted IAABO Foundation Chairs. Dennis was presented the Foundation Chair by the New York State Boards and Shawn Donovan, Chair, Audit & Budget Committee. Louie was presented his chair by the Addeo Family. Shown in the photo (left to right) are Dennis, his wife, Carol, Sandy Amato, and Louie.



Tom Hanbach presents an IAABO Foundation Chair to Lee Pavlot, Bd. 51 NY Interpreter and IAABO Life Member. Lee was presented the Foundation Chair by the New York State Boards.



WNBA Official and IAABO Board 10 CT member Jeff Smith poses in front of the IAABO banner, "Without Us, it's just Pick-Up"



IAABO Executive Director Felix Addeo and his wife, Caroline, present a small gift to Mayor Laura Hoydick. Mayor Hoydick is the first woman to hold the office of Mayor of Stratford. She graciously took time out of her busy day to address the women of IAABO at the Spouse/Guest breakfast.



IAABO Past President Mike Hammond and IAABO Board No. 27 MA, Bob Sterling at the Fall Seminar in Trumbull, CT.



Tom Hanbach presents an IAABO Foundation Chair to Dennis Millevoi, Bd. 194 NJ and IAABO Life Member. Dennis was presented the Foundation Chair by the New York State Boards and Shawn Donovan, Chair, Audit and Budget Committee.



Statford Mayor Laura Hoydick along with the women of IAABO.



IAABO Executive Director presents IAABO Past President Louie DeGeorge, Bd. 194 NJ with an IAABO Chair. The chair was funded by the Addeo Family.

## Communicating with Partners, Coaches, Players – Part II

*(Editor's note: This is the second in a two-piece story on communication issues for basketball officials. Part I appeared in an earlier issue of Sportorials.)*

### Communicating with Partners

**Before the game.** Call, text, or email your partner(s) several days prior to the game. Confirm the game time, game site, and possible travel arrangements. Check the web sites of both schools to confirm the game time and location. Assignment secretaries do occasionally make mistakes. In addition, this can prevent you or one of your partners from being a no-show because of a schedule mix-up.

**In the locker room.** Have a thorough pre-game conference, particularly if you are working with a young partner or someone you have not worked with before. Discuss player and team matchups, primary and secondary coverage areas, problem areas, etc.

**On the court.** Eye contact, body language, crisp signals, and a strong voice are excellent ways to communicate and stay engaged with your partner(s). Occasionally it may be necessary to have a face-to-face discussion with your partner(s) to sort things out and get the play right. Dead ball periods during timeouts and between quarters are useful opportunities to communicate with your partner(s).

**During play.** At the risk of over-generalizing, only obviously incorrect out of bounds calls should be changed. The helping official must see the entire play and be 100 percent certain that the calling official is incorrect before offering to change a call. If you're only 95 percent confident, stay away. "I think the ball was last touched by white #24" is not acceptable. Instead, ask, "Did you see white #24 touch the ball last?" Don't ask, "Did you see the whole play?" The answer you receive may be "No, I only saw half of the play." Likewise, don't ask, "Did you get a good look at the play?" The answer you receive may be, "No, I had a bad look at the play, so I guessed." As the helping official, provide succinct information to the calling official and then let her/him determine whether to change the call. Above all else, remember that your primary objective as a crew is to get the call right. The better you communicate with your partner(s), the better you will work as a crew.

**After the game.** Communicating with partners following a game can be of tremendous help to young and inexperienced officials. Be positive in analyzing their performance and constructively discuss areas for improvement. Above all, never criticize a partner publicly. If you have a problem with a partner, it is best to deal with it privately. Social media is not the place to air dirty laundry.

### Communicating with Players

**Before the game.** Keep the captains meeting short and sweet. Note: They're likely not listening to you anyway. The captains' meeting is not the time to conduct a rules clinic. Talk to the captains; not at them. Empower the captains. Their position is one of leadership. Avoid statements such as "We're the referees tonight" and "We're going to work hard and get the calls right." The response when you miss a call might be "Hey ref, you lied."

**During the game.** Speak with any player who addresses you, even if they are not the captain. Solicit the captain's help if you encounter a problem player. Point guards control the ball and very often their team. In addition to the designated captain, point guards can be of help in controlling their teammates.

**Administering a throw-in.** Say, "Spot throw-in." Don't say, "Don't move." By rule, the thrower-in can move backwards. Use the correct rule book language. Don't say, "Don't move laterally." Too many syllables.

**Free throws.** Provide a great opportunity for communicating with players.

**Post play.** Your job is to officiate, not coach. If a player engages in marginal post play contact, a simple, "hands" once might be all that is necessary to let them know you saw the play. If you are saying "hands" multiple times throughout the game, the players obviously are not listening, and you are missing the point. Call the foul. The players will

eventually figure it out and adjust. If they don't, they'll be sitting on the bench. Foul calls are extremely effective forms of communication.

**Three seconds.** It is not necessary to tell the player(s) to get out of the lane. Simply blow the whistle and make the call. Like post play, the players will eventually figure it out.

**Taunting.** Penalize it immediately without warning. The players will get the message. Plus, you will have drawn a line in the sand. If unaddressed by the officials, taunting only gets worse as the game progresses; it does not get better. Failure to penalize the first taunting incident will lead you to more behavior judgment calls during the game.

### Communicating with Coaches

If you want to make the game better, there must be effective communication between coaches and officials. With coaches, there are three key principles – know what to say; know when to say it; and, know whom you can say it to.

**Before the game.** Be professional and businesslike. During crew greetings with coaches prior to the game, do not spend more time with one coach, even though you may have known the coach over a long period of time. Think about perceptions.

**During the game.** Keep conversations professional and brief. Do not initiate conversations or engage in unnecessary chatter. Avoid unnecessary communication with game participants that detracts from the game. Answer legitimate questions. Want to frustrate a coach? Ignore a reasonable question. Respond to concerns only when there is an opportunity to do so. Games are not times to conduct clinics. What to say if a coach questions a play? Try, "Here's what I saw" or ask, "What did you see?" Another approach might be, "If it happened the way you described it, then I missed it." You are simply acknowledging that you might be wrong – not that you were wrong. Tired of listening to a coach? Try, "I hear you," "I'll look," or, "Coach, I've heard enough." Using intimidation or putting a coach on the defensive is not an effective way to defuse a situation. Statements by coaches do not necessarily warrant a response. Ignoring a harmless statement or a simple nod of the head will often end the discussion. Ask yourself, "If I respond to this statement, will it do more harm than good?" Coaches will generally react positively if they believe you are willing to listen to their concerns. A simple, "I'll watch for that" often works wonders. Don't say anything that will come back to haunt you.

Having a problem with a player? Let the coach know of the problem and ask for the coach's help. Let the coach know that if they take care of the problem, there will likely be no penalty involved.

**After the game.** Don't seek out a coach. At the same time, don't avoid a coach who approaches you following a game and calmly asks a rule interpretation. If you told a coach you would check on a rule, do it. If the ruling was correct, explain it in a concise manner, using rule book language. If the ruling was incorrect, admit your mistake. Referees are not beyond making mistakes. Be honest and minimize the mistakes. It is okay to make mistakes; just be sure that you are making new mistakes. If you keep making the same mistakes, you will not improve – regardless of your good communication skills.

### Communicating with Table Personnel

**Before the game.** Be polite and treat them with respect. Make them feel that they are an important part of the game. Competent table personnel can be a tremendous help and often be the difference between a smooth flowing game and one filled with glitches. Discuss substitutions, when to switch the alternating possession arrow, dealing with score book discrepancies, putting up team fouls on the score board, when to turn on the bonus light on the score board, starting the clock on throw-ins and following free throws, etc. Keep table personnel engaged. If you only recognize the table when trouble occurs, you will not get a high mark for game management.

### Communicating with Yourself

Say what? Do you mean talking to myself? Yes! Self-talk can help

# Communicating with Partners, Coaches, Players – Part II

you anticipate plays and prepare you for the unexpected. When you are surprised by a play, most likely you will get it wrong. Examples of some self-talk situations so that you are not taken by surprise are free throw violations, goaltending and basket interference, time remaining on the clock and number of team fouls.

**Never**

**Get mad.** Shouting indicates a loss of control – of both yourself and the game.

**Lose your cool.** Regardless of what is going on around you, there is never a valid excuse for losing your cool. You are hired to maintain control of the game. You cannot do that if you cannot maintain control of yourself. Work on maintaining an even keel in emotionally charged situations.

**Use vulgarity.** In speaking with either a player or a coach. Following a technical foul for a player using vulgarity, it is not necessary to repeat vulgarity when responding to a coach’s inquiry, “What did he/she say?” Try instead, “You’ll have to ask your player.”

**Threaten.** Avoid “if – then” statements. “If you do that again, it will be a technical foul.” If a situation is serious enough to warrant a threat, it is likely serious enough to penalize without invoking the threat.

**Embarrass.** Never embarrass a coach in front of his/her players.

**Use sarcasm.** Resist the temptation. It often will be misconstrued.

**Hang around the table during a timeout.** No game assignments are

given out by table personnel. Plus, the scorer and timer are unlikely to tell you what a good job you are doing.

**Say.....**“It wasn’t my call.” A coach’s likely comeback, response, “Well, it obviously wasn’t your partner’s call either.” “You coach, I’ll referee.” A coach’s likely response, “Okay, when are you going to start?”

**Engage with spectators.** Nothing good can ever come from addressing spectators. Having a problem with a spectator? Have the home team’s game administrator deal with the issue.

**Conclusion:**

View your officiating career as a bank account. The more money you deposit by the more positive images you convey, the less of an impact a withdrawal has during the times that you screw up.

Work on the officiating intangibles and developing good communication skills. Use them to your advantage. When in doubt, it is best not to say anything. It’s impossible to misquote silence. To quote the infamous mobster John Gotti, “Don’t ever say anything you don’t want played back to you someday.”

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



# Hank Nichols - 2021 Naismith College Official of the Year



IAABO Official and Basketball Hall of Fame member Hank Nichols Selected as 2021 Naismith College Official of the Year

Atlanta Tipoff Club named Hank Nichols as the 2021 Naismith Men’s College Official of the Year for his contributions to the sport of basketball. He was recognized during the 2021 NCAA Basketball Regional Officiating virtual clinics, held in October.

Nichols officiated for more than 20 years in college, and worked 13 NCAA Tournaments, including 10 Final Fours and six championship games. He was also an official during the 1976 and 1984 Olympic games. For 22 years, Nichols served as the NCAA Coordinator of Officials, served as Secretary-Rules editor from 1991-1997 and was inducted into the 2012 Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame class.

“When I was informed that I was to receive the Naismith award as official of the year for this year from The Atlanta Tipoff Club I was completely surprised,” said Nichols. “As I reflected on this news I felt honored and humbled at the same time. To receive this honor as a result of my fellow officials efforts makes the award most meaningful. When my career is validated by my peers it is the highest tribute I could receive. My family and I will forever cherish this honor.”

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## The Science of Officiating - Ranking/Rating 2PO vs. 3PO

As basketball has gained in popularity around the world, the game continues to evolve. Advances in coaching, nutrition and training are producing stronger and more athletic players. The 3-point line, 24-second clock, semi-circle and changes in rules and interpretations have resulted in a steady evolution in play. The game is played differently now than it was 10 years ago. It is considered faster, with more possessions, and correspondingly more decision points for officials. Today's game places increased physical, perceptual, cognitive, and emotional demands on the officials.



*courtesy of fiba basketball*

to the play, referee the defense, be stationary when making calls, and see the whole play. They must stay with the play and make good decisions.

To accomplish the above, 2PO places a greater physical load on the individual officials versus 3PO. As well, 2PO has potential "blind spots" of coverage during play, and officials are more prone to making calls while on the move rather than while being stationary. The addition of a third official in 3PO addresses these concerns.



*courtesy of fiba basketball*

Is 3PO a more accurate and effective form of officiating though? 3PO has its obstacles as well. Its success depends on well-understood and applied cooperation, teamwork, trust, and whistle discipline. Let's see some empirical evidence as to which is more effective. What does science tell us?

This is the first in a series of articles that will report on findings of scientific studies about refereeing and/or related to refereeing.

A Czechoslovakian study by Petr Hrusa and Dagmar Hrusova\* published this year (2021) explored any difference in game objectivity between 2PO and 3PO. The premise being investigated was that 3PO provides greater objectivity (effectiveness). They analyzed 30 2PO games and 30 3PO games based on four criteria: the number of fouls, off-ball fouls, referee mistakes and the index of mistakes (ratio of mistakes to total fouls).

Without going into the mathematics, results can be classified as statistically significant or not. A statistically significant result is one that can not be attributed to chance. The results of this study indicated:

- an insignificant increase in the number (mean) of fouls called between 2PO and 3PO games
- a significant increase in the number of off-ball fouls in 3PO
- a significant decrease in referee mistakes in 3PO, and correspondingly
- a significant decrease in the ratio of mistakes to calls in 3PO

The above results all support the hypothesis of the study with one exception. It was hypothesized that there would be more fouls called in 3PO as there would be increased court coverage. This was not the case, as the mean foul count increased from 45 fouls per game in 2PO to 46 fouls in 3PO. I feel that the difference is accounted for with the average increase of approximately 1.5 off-ball fouls per game. The slight

increase in fouls per game was less than hypothesized. My hypothesis is that initially when 3PO was introduced, that there may have been a greater increase in the number of fouls called as there was greater coverage of potentially existing illegal actions. Now that 3PO has been established in these leagues, players are more cognizant of the increased coverage and have adapted accordingly.

The results indicate a significant decrease in referee errors and ratio of mistakes to calls. Those two indicators are strong support for the increased effectiveness of 3PO.

In the discussion of the results, the authors reported that the referees themselves reported that they felt less pressure and made better decisions in 3PO. It was felt that 3PO allowed for greater distribution of the game pressures and load among the three referees rather than with two officials.

Confidence is a mechanism for better coping with stress and minimizing negatively-impacted decision-making.

What the authors did not report on, but is supported in the results, was a larger range in the number of fouls called game-to-game in 2PO than in 3PO. The range in 2PO over the 30 games went from a minimum of 34 to a maximum of 65. The range in the 30 3PO games was a minimum of 36 and a maximum of 58. I propose that these results support the proposition that the additional official has a normalizing effect on the crew and number of fouls being called. Further, the better positioning and looks afforded the crew increase the overall accuracy of calls and no calls; the players understand this, and there is correspondingly less illegal contact. Less range and a lower standard deviation game-to-game indicates greater consistency game-to-game.

Utilizing 3PO rather than 2PO is dependant on multiple factors. For the client, there is a cost factor -- three officials cost more than two. For officials' organizations, there may be training, supply vs. demand or logistical considerations. If it is strictly a matter of accuracy and effectiveness, the results of this study support 3PO rather than 2PO.

Admit it, science is cool.

Hrusa, P., & Hrusova, D. (2021). Dependence of objectivity in basketball game officiating on the number of referees. *Journal of Human Sport and Exercise*, 16(2proc), S601-S609. doi:<https://doi.org/10.14198/jhse.2021.16.Proc2.45>



Tim Laurain is member of IAABO Board No. 211, York, Ontario, and is the OABO Provincial Supervisor. 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.



# FIBA

We Are Basketball

## Errata Notice

### 2021 IAABO Refresher Test

On Question 67, a section of the first sentence in question was inadvertently omitted. The question should read as follows:

67. During rebounding action, B-5 bats the ball and the ball enters the basket from below and rises above the ring while inside the net. The ball never comes out of the net and then falls back through the basket. The official rules a violation on B-5. Is the official correct?

# IAABO Lines

Condolences to: **Joe Duberstein, IND FL**, on the passing of his wife; Condolences to: the members of **IAABO Bd. 34**, Camden, New Jersey, on the passing of our member, **Dave Raymond**; Condolences to: **Mark Leeds, Bd. 119 NY**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Chad Lacon, Bd. 33 NY**, on the passing of his father; Condolences to: **Bd. 173 MO**, on the passing of our member, **Carl Madsen**.

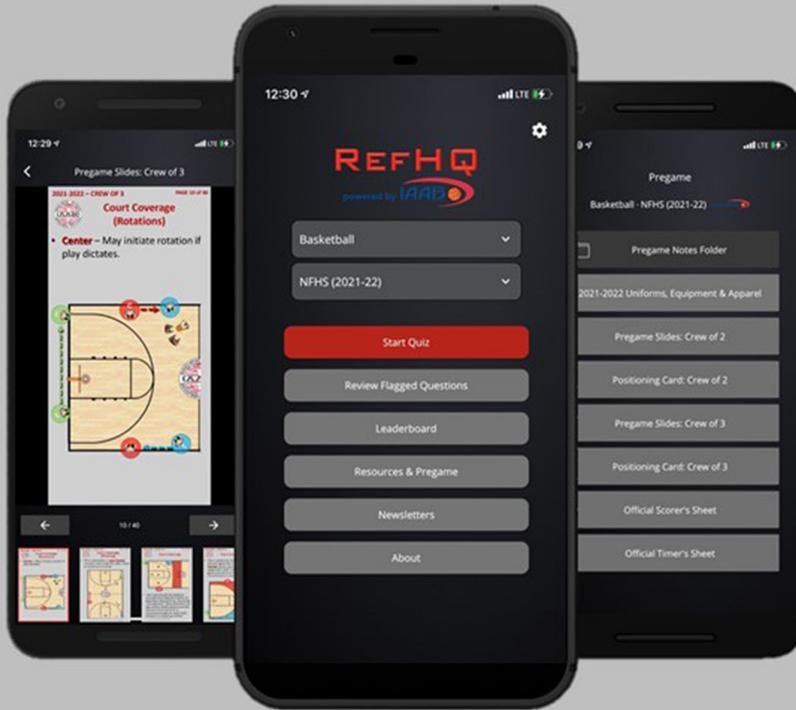
## Joe Chase Passes



Joe Chase was an IAABO Life Member and a member of IAABO Board No. 134, Southern Maryland, from 1971 until his death on October 13, 2021. He was very active in IAABO and attended many of the International meetings (Spring and Fall) and was a mainstay in the hospitality room. Joe always had a huge smile on his face and was willing to help anyone. He was an avid golfer and sports fan.



# REFHQ



**Rules**  
 Rules updated for NFHS, NCAA-M, NCAA-W, and FIBA 2021-22 Rules Books

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 New IAABO pregame content and resources: Free for all users

