



POST PLAY EXPRESS

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OWN YOUR DEVELOPMENT!

By Martha Bradbury, MABO Provincial Interpreter, CABO Secretary Treasurer

Development is something we talk about at all levels of officiating. It's always a challenge to figure out the best way to develop our officials. We're always looking for unique and interesting ways to do it while making sure the officials involved actually benefit from the situation(s). Certainly, the plans that CBOC has in developing referee coaches will help all officials with their progression. And not only that, but this will provide a consistent message across the country. We will all benefit from what's coming in terms of development and alignment!

The definition of development is "the process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced." Whether you are a veteran official or just starting out, development is key to helping you grow with the game. It's key to making us the best we can be on the floor from opening tip off to final horn. And it's key to making sure we give the players, coaches and fans the best performance every time we hit the court. So, what do you do to own your development?

Consider some of the things you can do in order to develop your level of officiating:

- Set personal goals;
- Attend a pre-season clinic;
- Attend a camp;
- Watch others officiate;
- Have someone come out and record you while you officiate;
- Get a mentor and ask them questions;
- Get an evaluation;
- Let your partner(s) know what you are working on in a game and get their feedback;
- Get your assignor to assign you to a higher-level game and challenge yourself;
- Take on officiating in another sport;
- Take yourself out of your comfort zone.

Any one of these things or a combination will definitely have a positive effect on your game. We should never become complacent and comfortable with just staying where we are in terms of our level of skill. In all aspects of life, we should look to develop and grow. As the game continues to evolve, so should we.

I was recently speaking to a new official (just finished her second year). We talked about the opportunities available to her in basketball officiating. It was evident that she did not understand what opportunities she had, but also what was expected of her in terms of development. It is imperative that the leaders in each province make it very clear what new officials need to do to develop so that they can take advantage of every opportunity available to them. Even something as seemingly simple as the importance of official evaluations was not clearly understood. Development needs to start happening as soon as someone becomes an official. If they are left to develop on their own, they pick up bad habits that are hard to break. Again, own your development!

I had the opportunity a few weeks ago to take part in a 7-person passing coverage clinic at the U Sports level hosted by the CFL. While it is a different sport, it is relevant to all officials of every sport. I took advantage of a clinic that was offered, even though I felt out of my comfort zone. This was a much higher level of football than I had done. But I knew, in order to grow and develop, I had to embrace the opportunity. What was great about this specific camp was that it was focussed on one key part of the game. So, getting several repetitions allowed me to really focus on one aspect of my game.

I believe the same kind of thing can be done in basketball. In terms of personal development, when you go out to a game to watch someone, identify which aspect of your game needs the most development. Focus on the officials on the court working that particular item. Pick the things you like and commit to putting them into your game. The next time you work a game, focus on that particular part of your game. Make sure your partner(s) know what you're working on and ask them for direct and honest feedback during and after the game. Make sure, when you request an official evaluation, to let the evaluator know what you have been working on. Ask for their direct and honest feedback.

Key after working on development and getting honest feedback is reviewing the feedback. Work on the areas that were identified as areas needing improvement as you work games. You will not improve if you don't own your own development. No one else is going to develop you. There are so many opportunities available from Spring Nationals to Summer Nationals to your FIBA card. But, if you don't own your development, you won't make it to the next level.

Development needs to be ongoing, regardless of where you find yourself in your career. Without development, the game is sure to pass you by. Don't wait! Commit to owning your development!

VIDEO: FRIEND OR FOE

By Jim Walsh, CABO Past President

It is not that long ago that all teaching of officials was done in person without the benefit of visual aids such as PowerPoint or video. The straight lecture approach would be supplemented by the human demonstrations of the power step or principles of verticality. Discussion frequently became debate as the various demonstrations would occur.

We now have the luxury of teaching with the assistance of FIBA-produced materials. We have the benefit of programs like Coach's Eye to record various plays during a game and play them back in post-game discussions.

Coaches have been trying to get officials to 'look at the video' for years. The rules permit video review in certain circumstances. However, neither U Sports nor the CCAA have permitted the use of court-side monitors at their national championships to assist officials in getting the calls correct.

At the conference or local levels, many games are webcast. Home teams frequently record their games. Recording of games is commonplace. Coaches pull clips for discussion but don't always show the whole play. Discussions out of context are not helpful and lead to unnecessary conflict.

I had the occasion this season to respond to a request by a coach in the AUS to review a situation that had occurred involving unsportsmanlike fouls and technical fouls that had been called during the same play. I reviewed the webcast feed. The only camera was at floor level and did not show the whole play. From that angle, my response was that the play in question had been correctly called. The coach then sent me the same sequence from his local feed that was shot from a higher angle and showed the entire play. After that review, it was clear that the officials had not been correct. The open discussion with the coach created a very good teaching moment.

Video clips can be of assistance in post-game discussions to illustrate the new traveling rule, block/charge situations, verticality and the like.

However, some officials have developed the habit of **NEEDING** video in order to accept post-game observations from referee coaches. Have we created a «Doubting Thomas» culture i.e. if it's not on the video then the RC observation will be dismissed?

Some officials appear to believe that video tells all. However, it is my experience that video does not capture the “feel” of a game. It does not capture teamwork. It does not capture the interpersonal aspects of a game. It rarely captures game control, atmosphere and feel.

Referee Coaches have a wealth of experience. Video is a very valuable tool that can assist RCs to be even better than in past years. Referee Coaches understand feel and atmosphere, game control, bench control, changes in momentum, and intensity. Video does not.

However, there is a number of officials who simply dismiss the feedback of RCs if there is no video that they can review to address the items identified from any given game. I have encountered experienced officials who are like “Doubting Thomas”. These same officials – who obviously have difficulty with trusting their RCs – are often the first to criticize a partner for not trusting them.

People have to remember that the video is a tool to assist us. Unlike professional ball, we will not likely have the luxury of multiple cameras from many angles that will review a play.

As long as officials understand the purpose of video review by RCs, as noted above, I believe video will be our friend. If video is used to develop arguments to counter feedback, then it would become our foe. I know which of those two choices that I prefer.

Camps in Canada

[Canada West Officials Camp](#) – May 11-13, Saskatoon

Pro Image Camp - Weekend of May 18th, Calgary