



Post Play Express

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OUR FIBA LICENSED OFFICIALS ABROAD

Here is a list of Canadian FIBA licensed officials who had the opportunity to travel to various international events this past season:

Karen Lasuik, XXXI Olympics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Steve Seibel, XXXI Olympics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Maripier Malo, Qualifying women's tournament for XXXI Olympics, Nantes, France

Michael Weiland, Qualifying Men's tournament for XXXI Olympics, Belgrade, Serbia

FIBA Americas Centrobasket Championships, Panama City, Panama

Matthew Kallio, World U-17 Championship, Zaragoza, Spain

Scott Reed, FIBA Americas Men's U-18 Championships, Valdivia, Chile

Stephanie Nordlee, FIBA Americas Women's U-18 Championships, Valdivia, Chile

Nadine Crowley was also assigned as a commissioner to the Qualifying women's tournament for XXXI Olympics, in Nantes, France.

It was thought that it would be of interest for our readership to ask a few questions about their experience. Here are the responses of two people:

Stephanie Nordlee

How long were you away?

I was away 9 days.

How many teams were involved in the competition?

There were 8 teams involved in my tournament.

How many games did you referee?

I refereed 5 games

Please describe what went on as a preparation to the competition, once on site. (Pre-tournament meetings, instructions, beep test, etc.)

I had 1.5 days to adjust to my new scenery and get to know my fellow officials. Following this time period, it was straight to business. We had daily meetings, and took all meals together. We were given our tournament uniforms during this time, and team photos were taken.

Were there debriefing sessions after the games? How were these handled?

I had 2 post games directly after my games. Then, each morning, we would go through clips from the previous day's games.

How were the assignments given out to the crews?

Assignments were given out on an internal webpage that working officials were given access to.

What was the greatest difficulty or difficulties you encountered during that event?

For me, the greatest challenge in South America is my lack of Spanish. I have been working to learn more Spanish, but I am still very dependent on the bilingual officials to assist with communication with table officials, drivers, etc.

What is the fondest memory or memories that you brought back from the event?

For me, the best experiences are from the people and relationships I have had an opportunity to make. I was lucky enough to go back to this tournament with 5 officials I met last summer at a previous tournament. It was awesome to be able to reconnect, and the bonds you make with people on the international scene are indescribable.

Karen Lasuik

How long were you away?

July 27th-August 23rd

How many teams were involved in the competition?

There were 24 teams involved in my tournament.

How many games did you referee?

I refereed 7 games

Please describe what went on as a preparation to the competition, once on site. (Pre-tournament meetings, instructions, beep test, etc.)

5-day training camp, secluded, 3.5 hours away from Rio. Many different types of class sessions, mandatory physical training every morning, psychological training session with psychologist, team and group work.

Were there debriefing sessions after the games? How were these handled?

After every game, we debriefed with the Ref Instructors, along with the head of Officiating, Carl Jungebrand, when we got to the playoff round. This debrief consisted of revisiting plays....correct and incorrect calls, as well as positioning clips, teamwork, and "not to do's" and "to do's" that were good, such as examples of how to communicate correctly with coaches and players, as well as team work items.

How were the assignments given out to the crews?

Assignments came the day before via email.

What was the greatest difficulty or difficulties you encountered during that event?

Laundry facilities, location of venue from hotel for women's preliminary games.

What is the fondest memory or memories that you brought back from the event?

Comradery of 30 Officials from all over the world. Genuine spirit and enthusiasm of fans and volunteers. Host volunteers and their positive energy and willingness to go out of their way to make it an amazing experience for everyone.

Add any further comment that you feel would be of interest to the CABO membership.

Blessed to have this opportunity.

HOW'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP?

By Roger Caulfield

Coaches and officials both have a mutual passion for the game. It is only rivaled by their intense wariness of each other. Good communication and positive interaction with coaches lead to a successful game and a successful season. Communication between both parties should never be confrontational, but for the purpose of giving information and having the game flow smoothly. Today's coaches are being trained to be more professional in their conduct and are encouraged to ask questions during stoppage of play. Therefore, officials need not reply to statements, but only to questions. The officials' responses should be clear, concise, and relate to the coach's questions. Remember to apply the three P's : professionalism, politeness, positivity.

Coaches love to hear:

- I appreciate your comments. I'll discuss it with the crew.
- Good point. It will be discussed at the next time-out.

- I understand what you're saying and will deal with it.
- I'm listening and you have my attention.
- I'll take a closer look.

Coaches never like to hear:

- You're wrong.
- I was straight-lined.
- It's not my call.
- Get back in your box.
- It's not my area.

Officials have the ultimate weapon – the technical foul. The technical foul should be given when coaches use profanity, continuous negativity, demonstrative gestures, and when they undermine the integrity of the official. Of course, coaches often appreciate a warning when they have overstepped their boundaries.

If you are an official who gives lots of technical fouls, you may want to ask the question, “*Am I a firefighter or a fire starter?*”

A COLLABORATIVE VENTURE

By Bill Brophy, Member SJABO

The Nita Chambers (Sutton) Awards Fund Basketball Tournament was held from 2001 to 2012 in St. John's NL, at MacDonald Drive and St Paul's Junior High Schools. This event, held in the third week (Tuesday to Saturday) of December, featured 48 to 60 grade 7 and 8 boys' and girls' teams each year. The event's two main purposes were (1) to provide team competition opportunities and (2) to support the memory of Nita Chambers (Sutton) through the provision of Memorial University Varsity Basketball student-athlete financial awards. However, the tournament was also very helpful for several other important purposes including development of floor officials, minor officials training and the funding for facility/sports equipment inventory upgrades for the host schools, as well as increasing the endowment fund for the St. John's Association of Basketball Officials (SJABO) Award. Thus, the Tournament was very collaborative in nature and drew support from different cohorts of people in the form of facility availability, administrative support, staffing, and sponsorship.

The funding to meet the above financial purposes was provided by the event's net revenue (\$7,000 to \$9,500) each year. These funds were generated by tournament entry fees, spectator admission fees, canteen sales, sweep draws, and corporate donations. The type of collaborative approach utilized in this tournament could be very beneficial for other local officials' associations seeking opportunities for game experiences for novice officials in training as well as funding ongoing programs.

The host schools provided basketball courts (3) and accompanying facilities gratis, based on the importance of the event's many purposes as well as a share (30 % until 2009 and 70% after that year) of the tournament's profits. Administrative support was by provided by the host schools' physical education departments which included physical education teachers and school team coaches.

Services of floor and table officials were also provided gratis. The tournament provided a 5-game minimum schedule for each novice official as an integral part of a local fall introductory officiating course. The players' skill and speed level were generally optimal in terms of matching game assignments to novice officials' experience/ability. The event also provided valuable timing/scoring experience for student "table officials" in preparation for hosting regular season school games. SJABO and its members fully recognized the importance of the tournament, especially its charitable components and the officiating opportunities the tournament provided for potential members of the Association. The Tournament was conducted in four separate divisions and provided a schedule of 68 games or more each year, depending on the number of teams registered. Individual SJABO members volunteered to partner the novice officials taking part in the Fall Introductory Course.

For its member participation every year, the Association received a \$1000 donation from the tournament for its own award fund. Due to the number of games, selected assignments were filled by coaches/teachers/adult players, all of whom had a suitable officiating background. Each of the Memorial Varsity Men's and Women's Head Coaches, having had considerable officiating experience and whose players benefitted directly from the event, worked at least 6 tournament games each year, including Championship Games partnered by SJABO members.

Neither tournament team nor individual awards were provided with the exception of one new, quality brand "game ball" formally presented to the winning team in each division. The tournament volunteer staff included gate/canteen and sweep ticket sales personnel, the vast majority of whom were parents of players of the host schools or family members/friends/instructors of Nita Chambers (Sutton).