



Post Play Express

Vol.9, No. 4, December 2017

THE PINK WHISTLE CANCER FUNDRAISING & AWARENESS PROGRAM

By Karn Dhillon, BCBOA Director of Administration

The BCBOA (British Columbia Basketball Officials Association since 2009) completed its 8th year of fundraising and awareness of cancer with its Pink Whistle Campaign. For two weeks every February, we've switched from our "traditional" black whistles to Pink Whistles as a part of our official uniform. With the support of our fellow officials, coaches, players and fans of basketball, we've managed to raise close to \$34,000 for the BC Cancer Foundation.

In 2009, I'd watched my sister (Amanjit), my nephew (Jeevan) and fellow officials (Bob Heavenor, Terry Garrett and Barry Dearing) in their respective battles with cancer. In business and in life, I've known that looking for the "silver lining" surrounding the clouds of doubt is always going to be more productive than wallowing in misery.

Just like with many things in life, when you look for a way to execute ideas and take new paths, you look to those who have been there before you.....(imagine that as we look to fellow referees for advice on how to make our game better on the floor). Our fellow officials in Alberta had recently started their awareness program for cancer. I touched base with a few officials there and was able to find a "framework" to help build our project.

As an employee at a local radio station in Vancouver, I asked favors of each of my fellow media contacts at other radio stations, TV stations and in print media who could help us rally with a positive message. Howard Tsumura of The Province Newspaper was the first one to jump on our bandwagon. Full page newspaper coverage gave rise to other radio stations and Global TV to cover things in depth. Soon we had ordered and distributed over 750 Pink Whistles to donors.

Referees use these Pink Whistles during games, coaches use them at practice, fans use them on their key chains in case of emergencies. The following season, our CABO members in Manitoba (MABO) and in Saskatchewan (SABO)

had heard of the momentum growing for **Pink Whistles**. Their respective provincial associations led by Rick Degagne paved the way for the rest of Western Canada to move the needle. The year 2017 in BC will also include the option for **Pink Lanyards** during awareness week

To each of you who will read this and share with your friends, and basketball families: *«We can't bring back those who have gone before us ~ those who fought their painful battle. But we certainly CAN DO all we can in their names.»*

ONLINE STREAMS ARE EVOLVING...ARE WE?

By Max Audette, Supervisor of Quebec

Sitting in one's living room and surfing on the net on a Friday or Saturday evening is not uncommon for many elite officials. With all the live streams available, you can simultaneously watch a U Sports game in Quebec, a CCAA match up in the Atlantic provinces and even a high school encounter somewhere out west in the country. This is a good thing for basketball, but it is also something on which we should reflect...

Unlike the NBA, during these broadcasts, there is no one able to defend our performance as officials. These broadcasts have live commentators expressing their opinion on decisions made by the officials and talking about their actions. Therefore, we must pay attention to the way we do things, the way we can be perceived.

Actions is the key word here. We may not realize it, but we are zoomed on the screen more often than we think. How often do we see the two or three referees adopt the same posture during time-outs ? One has his arms crossed, another holds his arms behind his back and the other has his hands on his hips. Sometimes, they can be observed giggling, laughing, making gestures. Body language speaks very eloquently about who we are. The sooner we realize that, the moment we step onto the court, we are scrutinized, the better it will be for us. Standing professionally, the way we walk, leaning on table instead of standing tall when interacting with the table officials, walking back to spot instead of a light jog, the way we go get the teams at the end of time out, all of these contribute to the image we project and to our credibility.

As officials, we want respect. We strive to be valued. We must earn it from game to game, from quarter to quarter, even from our departure to our return home. That starts with what we display upon arrival on site, but most importantly, when we step onto the court, and during the whole contest, until we leave for the locker room. No doubt that we must look like pros. The game needs it. We need it. Hustling on the court is not only for players. How do you go from Center to Center on the 3-men crew? How quick do you become the new lead in a 2-men or 3-men crew? Your quickness will speak a lot in favour of your commitment to the game.

Do the drill next time you watch a game. See if the crew stands the same way during the national anthem, during time-outs. See if the new Lead is welcoming the play or just arriving at the same time as the play. Of course, all of us are who we are as officials. We all have our personalities and our differences, but displaying quick and efficient officiating and implementing a team concept will just make us stronger.

Another thing that I witnessed too often is the shaking of hands on the court after a game. Imagine the typical fan watching a game and his team losing by 2 and the zooming of the TV after the game showing the referee on the court shaking hands with the winning coach or winning players. How would that look? Do you see this at higher levels? A one-liner, just like to a coach who wants to appear very friendly before a game, could be: «Coach, no disrespect, but not on the court; we must keep an image of impartiality here! People will quickly understand that.

The visual aspect of our work is one thing, but another crucial point is making comments on social media. For example, you compliment a team's win last night, and the next week, you referee the same team again and they win by a close margin because of a close call you made. What could the losing coach think if he had seen your comment? How professional is this? Like it or not, a referee one day is a referee every day. We must understand that neutrality is central to our job, our passion. Tweeting anything connected to our work may just cause trouble, not only to you, but for all of us. When one basketball referee makes a social media mistake, we all get hurt. Please think the next time you want to like or tweet on something...

On the other hand, one good thing about social media is that game tapes are now accessible quickly at many levels of play. You do not need to be a U Sports or NBL Canada official to watch your games. If you are a serious young official that aims at moving up, you should watch yourself at least once a week. Tapes don't lie and you can visualize your strong points as well as your bad habits as an official.

I am lucky to be part of a few mini groups via social media (all basketball officials of course) to receive and exchange emails (questions, clips, rules trivia...). True blue-blood passionate referees, we clip out sequences and then we discuss them and more. Information comes from BC all the way down to Halifax via Quebec, St-John's or Ontario. Sharing clips and emails is priceless to stay on top, but also to realize that we often encounter the same grey zones, or questions in certain areas. Frequent sharing amongst ourselves will enhance our consistency. That should be the goal for all of us. Build your own little crew to exchange clips, you will quickly see the benefits. Do not be shy to share your take, you will grow as an official, trust me. The officiating world in our country will also benefit from it.

The bottom line about social media is that it is there to stay and improve. I hope you are also there to stay. Now use it to improve !

BASKETBALL TRIVIA: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

(Note: All answers are based on FIBA rules)

1. What is the recommended width of the court?
 - a. 12 meters
 - b. 15 meters
 - c. 18 meters
2. The 3-point line is measured from
 - a. The endline
 - b. The center of the basket
 - c. The free throw line
3. By rule, what is the maximum number of seating places on a team bench?
 - a. 12
 - b. 14
 - c. 16
4. How wide should the boundary lines be?
 - a. 5 cm
 - b. 6 cm
 - c. 7 cm
5. What is the diameter of the centre circle?
 - a. 3.6 meters
 - b. 3.8 meters
 - c. 4 meters
6. How far from the endline is the line delimiting the team bench area?
 - a. 7 meters
 - b. 9 meters
 - c. 11 meters
7. The no-charge area extends on either side to
 - a. The front of the basket
 - b. The backboard
 - c. 0.5 meter behind the backboard
8. The 1st period begins
 - a. When the ball is legally tapped by a jumper
 - b. When the crew chief enters the circle to administer the jump ball
 - c. When the ball leaves the hand(s) of the crew chief on the toss for the jump ball

Answers: 1. b, 2. b, 3. c, 4. a, 5. a, 6. b, 7. b, 8. c.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



**HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS
IN 2018**