



## **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT – TECHNICAL**

The following is a synopsis of activities and involvements by our Canadian officials during the past year; but, by no means are the mentioned individuals the only ones who keep the participants playing by the rules. Without the many local and provincial level officials in our ranks, we would be unable to provide the service we do.

Classifiers are another integral part of this portfolio and the report from the Classification Committee follows this document.

### **IWBF (and other) APPOINTMENTS**

**Sergio Giordano** recertified at the IWBF Referee Instructor and Referee Supervisor Clinic which was held in conjunction with the U30 tournament in March. He also was a Referee Supervisor in Worcester, England at the European Championships which ran from late August until early September of 2015.

**Sébastien Gauthier** became an IWBF Instructor/Supervisor in Toronto in March at the first ever tournament for prospective U30 referees. He was also selected to officiate at the ParaPan Asian Games and the ParaPan American Games.

**Guylain Lapointe** was selected to be a Commissioner at the ParaPan American Games.

**Frances Kremarik** was attending university in London, England last year and while there worked the first ever British women's all-star game and the men's final in their national championships. She also worked a Euroleague preliminary round tournament in Italy and the Willi Brinkmann Cup in Spain.

**Alexandre Lapointe** was invited to the IWBF U-30 clinic in Toronto and to officiate at the Americas Zone Championships for Women and the ParaPan American Games. At the ParaPan Games he received his full IWBF license.

**Ludger Blanchard** was invited to the IWBF U-30 clinic in Toronto.

**Vlad Eschenko** conducted a local clinic for Alberta Wheelchair Basketball Officials in November 2014 in Edmonton and evaluated Alberta wheelchair basketball officials at local tournaments. He traveled to the South Pacific early this year and conducted wheelchair basketball officials' clinics in Melbourne, Australia and Tokyo, Japan by invitation. While in Japan in April he assisted as a guest evaluator at the National Championships for Wheelchair Basketball Officials in Tokyo.

I was the Venue Results Manager and Supervisor of Table Officials for the ParaPan American Games and remain as President and Assigener for OWTO. As well I mark, record and compile the responses from the annual examination so the committee can create a list of post season event candidates and possible IWBF Zone License candidates and track the development of our referees.

Our IWBF complement now consists of Alexandre Lapointe and his father Guylain, Sébastien Gauthier, Frances Kremarik and Mario Boutin as referees and Sébastien Gauthier and Sergio Giordano as Referee Supervisors.

## **WBC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS and other OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

### *Canada Games – Prince George, BC – February 14 to 21*

**A/E – Jean Choinière**

**Referees** – Kevin Bowie (BC), Fred Gunn (BC), Kerron Lewis (AB), Evan Picton (AB), Joanna Wiegiers (AB), Ludger Blanchard (PQ), Alexandre Lapointe (PQ), James Oxley (NS)

### *Women's Nationals – Calgary, AB – April 15 to 17*

**A/E – Sébastien Gauthier (PQ)**

**Referees** – Waseem Husainy (BC), Kristen Hutchinson (AB), Kerron Lewis (AB), Evan Picton (AB), Kathy Ross (AB), Ludger Blanchard (PQ), Ardavan Eizadirad (ON)

### *CWBL Open Finals – Scarborough, ON – April 24 to 26*

**A/Es** – Trevor Kerr (ON) and Guylain Lapointe (PQ)

**Referees** – Fred Gunn (BC), Keith Uthe (AB), Ardavan Eizadirad (ON), Richard Greaves (ON), Mark Halpren (ON), Ludger Blanchard (PQ), Eric Chiasson (PQ), Sébastien Gauthier (PQ), Alex Lapointe (PQ), Pierre Tremblay (PQ)

## **CLINICS**

Informal clinics were held in various locations by our Officials Committee members as a means of teaching our newer officials the nuances of the WC game as compared to the AB version of basketball. It is my hope that more formal sessions will be organized in the near future in some of the areas of the country which do not presently have representatives on our list of arbiters.

For various reasons, not the least of which are the level of play and frequency of tournaments at this venue, the WBC Academy would be an ideal location to hold a refereeing clinic. Since the Academy

plans to host an annual tournament very early in each season and prior to most jurisdictions beginning their league play, this would be an obvious opportunity for the first clinic of the season for referees and classifiers.

## **EVALUATIONS**

Sébastien Gauthier used real time video evaluation when performing his A/E duties at the Women's Championships this year. Not only was this form of evaluation more direct and meaningful for Sébastien but it was extremely well received and appreciated by the referees who were working those games.

The following weekend, however, during the CWBL Finals it became obvious that if we are to continue using this approach an investment in hardware and software is going to be necessary. After several discussions and with that investment as a goal, Sébastien has been coordinating with Wendy, our Executive Director, regarding the logistics of making this happen for the coming season.

Evaluating someone else in a fair and constructive manner is difficult, but trying to objectively appraise and analyze oneself is impossible. Listening to what someone else has to say about your performance on the court can be helpful, especially if you respect that person's opinion; but seeing video of what you can improve combined with the assessor's comments will provide better long-term results. That is why we hope the approach we began last season can be implemented soon and before the end of season events.

As well, in order to create and build a library of clips which could be used in the training of WC referees and classifiers, the request I made in my report last year remains for any individuals who have game footage they would allow us to archive.

We continue to add to a database of evaluations that I began several years ago and which is now housed and maintained in the WBC offices. Providing the philosophy and approach of our evaluators remains relatively constant from event to event and year to year, we should be able to better chart the growth of our officiating corps.

## **ANNUAL EXAMINATION**

Once again, Vlad compiled the sample questions that are sent to him from the other members of the committee and created the exam which is written by all WBC officials and usually several others from outside Canada. This takes a great deal of time and we thank him for his efforts.

I created a format to simplify the recording of and tabulate the results from the annual examination so that it would produce data some of which is presented below.

There were some new names among those who submitted their answers but the total number of test takers (57) was only up slightly from previous years. Nobody from outside Canada officially wrote the examination. I feel confident there were others who used our exam as a refresher but did not submit

their answers for marking. Of the 57 Canadian referees, 43 or 75.4% of them passed our national requirements, 7 or 12.3% passed the provincial requirements and 7 or 12.3% were accepted as local referees. 14 of the 43 national level officials (32.6%) had perfect scores. These numbers are important because the Officials Committee selects from the “national” list to create the crews for each of the national championships. Other criteria such as experience, home location and previous evaluations are considered when making the final selections. The aim is to have referees from across the country officiate together and to learn from experienced evaluators so that we may continue to provide the top level leaders of which WBC can continue to be proud.

## 2014 WBC EXAMINATION RESULTS

PROVINCE	NATIONAL	PROVINCIAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
	87% or higher	77% or higher	under 77%	
British Columbia	7	0	3	10
Alberta	13	2	0	15
Saskatchewan	2	0	0	2
Manitoba	0	0	0	0
Ontario	9	1	0	10
Quebec	13	0	1	14
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	3	1	0	4
Newfoundland	0	0	0	0
The Territories	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	47	4	4	55

## 2015 WBC EXAMINATION RESULTS

PROVINCE	NATIONAL	PROVINCIAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
	87% or higher	77% or higher	under 77%	
British Columbia	8	1	1	10
Alberta	12	1	0	13
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0
Manitoba	2	0	1	3
Ontario	10	2	2	14
Quebec	9	2	1	12
New Brunswick	0	0	1	1
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	2	1	1	4
Newfoundland	0	0	0	0
The Territories	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	43	7	7	57

Our members in the provinces and clubs can employ whomever they wish to arbitrate their games, but it is strongly advised that the officials they choose be people who know the current rules and mechanics of the game and are in the national database. Perhaps the best test of this is whether they have written AND passed the current WBC exam. By examining the preceding chart which is based on the examination marks you can see the areas of the country which need to improve their results in order for the participants to be better served.

## **A SINCERE WORD OF THANKS**

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Vlad Eschenko for his many years of service to the Officials Committee. He is not leaving the committee but he has decided to step down as the exam coordinator and creator. His leadership in this area will be missed and the many hours he spent annually creating the WBC examination will be noticed by the rest of us on the committee.

## **WEBSITE**

The Officials and Classifiers sections of the WBC web site were updated last year as part of the redesign. Although the sections were correct at that time some amendments undoubtedly will be made as each season progresses. We have been successful in attracting some new “blood” to the ranks (several of whom are under 25 years of age) so I am hopeful, if we are able to keep these individuals, we will have the succession range we need. For these individuals to remain effective and interested they must work games; for them to develop and reach their potential they must gradually work more competitive contests and receive constructive evaluations from more experienced evaluators. That is our goal moving forward.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Although there were budgetary constraints this year which modified methods we have used in the past, most initiatives were successfully completed. However, as we move forward we should keep in mind five actions which are ongoing if we want to maintain our position on the world stage.

1. Hold a classification clinic each season. This could be within the context of one of the WBC-sanctioned events or it could be organized within the context of a provincial event.
2. Invite classifiers to local and/or provincial events. These opportunities will give the classifiers valuable experience and will assist players, coaches and officials in their growth also.

3. Hold an officiating clinic each season. The clinic could be an introduction to the WC game for new officials or a refresher for experienced officials. Please note the comments in the "CLINICS" section of my report.
4. Conduct a coaching seminar. This seminar could be held in conjunction with a provincial or national event for coaches who have some experience or as a stand-alone event in a specific geographical area as a means of attracting new individuals
5. Maintain a philosophy that bringing together classifiers, referees and coaches from across Canada as often as possible to interact with their counterparts from other parts of the country will foster a system of consistency in our game and further the development of not only these integral members but the participants themselves.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Kerr', written in a cursive style.

Trevor Kerr