



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 Head Classifier is presented separately.

IWBF (and other) APPOINTMENTS

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

Sergio Giordano was invited to be a guest Referee Supervisor in September 2015 at the Men's and Women's European Championships in England and was selected to be a Supervisor/Evaluator of officials at the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Alexandre Lapointe was selected to officiate the Africa Zone Qualifier where he was chosen as the Crew Chief on the Men's Final.

Sébastien Gauthier was selected to officiate at the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Alexandre was selected to officiate at the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Frances Kremarik, Alexandre and Guylain Lapointe officiated at the Toronto International Challenge series for Women at the Mattamy Centre in Toronto along with two local officials.

Sébastien, Guylain and Alexandre officiated at the Toronto International Challenge series for Men at the Mattamy Centre in Toronto along with two local officials and a visiting IWBF official from France.

Guylain, a visiting official from Taiwan, a visiting official from France and two local officials officiated a July tournament at the Academy.

WBC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS and other OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Women's Nationals – Longueuil, QC – April 15 to 17

Six teams / one gym / 36 assignments

A/E – Sébastien Gauthier (PQ) and Sergio Giordano (AB)

Referees – Fred Gunn (BC), Joanna Wiegers (AB), Ardavan Eizadirad (ON), Mark Halpren (ON), Nathalie Asselin (QC), Ludger Blanchard (PQ), Antony Royer, (QC) and Pierre Tremblay (QC)

CWBL Open Finals – Kamloops, BC – April 21 to 24

Ten teams / two gyms / 69 assignments

A/Es – Sergio Giordano (AB) and Trevor Kerr (ON)

Referees – Kevin Bowie (BC), Fred Gunn (BC), Kerron Lewis (AB), Evan Picton (AB), Keith Uthe (AB), Ardavan Eizadirad (ON), Richard Greaves (ON), Frances Kremarik (ON), Ludger Blanchard (QC), Sébastien Gauthier (QC), Alex Lapointe (QC), and Guylain Lapointe (QC)

Junior West Regional – Saskatoon, SK – April 29 to May 1

Seven teams / two gyms / 56 assignments

A/E – Kristen Hutchinson (AB)

Referees – Jim Campbell (BC), Ryan Donaldson (AB), Evelyn Stol (AB), Joanna Wiegers (AB), David Jackson (ON), Jeff Van Eenoo (ON), and Pierre Tremblay (QC)

Junior East Regional – Charlottetown, PEI – May 13 to 15

Eight teams / one gym / 40 assignments

A/E – Jean Choinière (QC)

Referees – David Jackson (ON), Antony Nembhard (ON), Eric Chiasson (QC), Antony Royer (QC), Fraser Bykowski (NS) and James Oxley (NS)

Other events

National Team preparation games

Guylain, one visiting IWBF official from Taiwan, one visiting IWBF official from France and seven local officials refereed a series of games at the Academy.

Spitfire Challenge

This event, which used to be an annual fixture on the international scene, was resurrected this year and held on the last weekend of July. It was officiated by a visiting IWBF referee from France, a guest referee from USA and five local referees. It is hoped this event will continue in future years.

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.

It was my hope a clinic could be arranged in conjunction with a tournament which is held annually toward the end of October, but that was not possible this season. We do have one planned for the coming season to be held October 28 to 30 at the Academy and I'm sure other smaller clinics can be arranged for those areas of Canada that have WC basketball but do not have local officials. Please let me or the WBC office know of your interest.

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 same process was used by the A/Es at the other national events. The challenge now is to be able to store the clips in a manner that will make them available for anyone to use in the education process as well as the individuals for their own growth.

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 and expanded upon this season can be implemented soon.

As well, in order to create and build a library of clips which could be used in the training of WC referees and classifiers, if any individuals have game footage they would allow WBC to archive for educational purposes it would be appreciated.

We continue to add to a database of personal evaluations that I began several years ago and which, thanks to the office staff, 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 now should be able to better chart the growth of our officiating corps.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION

Since Vlad Eshenko no longer compiles the questions for the annual examination it was necessary for the remaining members of the Officials' Committee to fill the void. Sergio, Sébastien and I combined our efforts and amassed a base of questions that will be used in the coming year and perhaps later.

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.

2015 WBC EXAMINATION RESULTS
(89.36 correct answers)

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

2016 WBC EXAMINATION RESULTS
(92.63 correct answers)

PROVINCE	NATIONAL	PROVINCIAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
	87% or higher	77% or higher	under 77%	
British Columbia	13	0	0	13
Alberta	18	0	0	18
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0
Manitoba	0	0	0	0
Ontario	9	2	0	11
Quebec	12	0	0	12
New Brunswick	1	0	0	1
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0

Nova Scotia	2	0	0	2
Newfoundland	0	0	0	0
The Territories	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	55	2	0	57

As you can see from the preceding chart, the number of people who wrote the annual examination remained the same from last year and the marks were generally higher. Whether this was due to better preparation on the part of those taking the test or an easier test remains to be seen. There are a few observations which warrant further or closer examining. Alberta was +5 and BC was +3; whereas Ontario and Manitoba each were -3 in the number of writers. Also, there were five provinces in which nobody wrote the exam.

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 are in the national database and who know the current rules and mechanics of the game in order for the participants to be better served. 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.

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. If you are aware of people we have missed or who you think should be included on this listing, please send us a note. 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

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