



ABBTO Conference Report 2008

Saturday 30th August

Welcome

Mick Howell welcomed all delegates to Conference. He outlined the fact that there would be 3 phases of rule changes over the next few years; some this season, some in 2010 and further ones after 2012 Olympics.

Emphasis of this year's Conference would be on cooperation and communication.

New Rules and Interpretations

Neil Wilkinson gave a FIBA power-point presentation outlining the new rules and citing several examples and interpretations of each. This power-point presentation can be found on the EB website in the 'Officials' section.

Rules Test

All officials attending Conference sat a FIBA rules test which was marked and later re-distributed to everyone. This test and the answers can also be found on the EB website.

Rule Investigation group work

Table Officials then broke away into a separate lecture room for some presentations with a Table Officials' emphasis. (CO, JT, LKT)

A set of questions to provoke use of the rule book to back up answers was then given. This proved a popular element of this year's conference and provoked 3 questions that we asked for clarification from FIBA as the rule book either didn't make clear or gave two answers. (As Richard Stokes was unable to attend Conference this year we were advised that referees and table officials could ask FIBA for clarification through phone calls).

a) If a player scores accidentally in his own basket the points are given to the *on-court captain*, not just the captain who may not actually take part in a game.

We then agreed that in this rare situation we would ask who the on-court captain was at an appropriate break in play as we are not usually informed, as we should be, when the captain goes off as to who has taken this role on.

b) Who 'blows' 3 minutes before first and third periods of play? Referee blows 3 minutes before the start of the game and the timekeeper blows 3 minutes before the start of the second half

c) Should the 24 second clock be re-set if it hits the ring for anything apart from a genuine attempt at a 'basket'?

This question caused much discussion and concern as we were told by several referees at conference and before, that it had to be a 'bona fide' shot. This was confirmed by a FIBA test that had appeared on a FIBA website. Several table officials voiced concern at being expected to make decisions about what was and wasn't a shot again.

Since Conference this issue has been cleared up once and for all! The shot clock is reset every time the ball hits the ring as per article 50 in the 2008 FIBA rules book. This presentation, with its updates following discussions etc will be available to be seen on the ABBTO and EB websites.

Standardising Good Practice

This was another session that was well received. (CO, JT, LKT)

Good practice was discussed as slides of questions and scenarios were presented.

Further discussions also occurred around people's experiences and queries.

This presentation will also be available on both ABBTO and EB websites.

Breakout groups

A joint session with referees followed with 4 mixed groups led by FIBA referees who showed video footage of game situations. (Chris D, Ian P, Keith W, Dale A)

The best way to handle these situations was then fully discussed.

Unfortunately, table officials were not involved in the feedback for these sessions due to timing constraints. This was noted and will be avoided at future Conferences if possible.

ABBTO AGM

The 2008 ABBTO AGM followed. (PF, JH, CO, LKT)

Full minutes will be on the ABBTO website when approved.

Officers' elections results:

Chairperson: Patricia Fairclough

Assistant Secretary: Claire Ormandy

Members Officer: Andrea Livesey.

Conference Dinner

Mary Clark award was presented to Ian Pollard

Bill Taylor Award was presented to Vicky Pallot

Steve Lallamont award was presented to Tim Brown

Sunday 31st August

Referee and Table Officials communication and teamwork

A joint session run by ABBTO (CO, JT, LKT) and FIBA referees (KW, DA) on what to look for on scoresheets and the duties of table officials and the signals and mechanics we use for domestic games. Questions and answers followed. Initial feedback from this session was very good, both from a content point of view and the fact that we were seen to be working as a team.

Rules Quiz

Table officials went to their own lecture hall for a yes/no rules quiz. (JT, CO, LKT)

A quick fire round of questions and answers which again will be found for people to use on the ABBTO and EB websites.

Conference Review and Networking

This was a table officials' feedback session, general discussion time and any other business. (PF, JT)

Feedback about conference both good and bad was given and discussed. This information will be fed back to EB.

Also two more 'volunteers' for ABBTO were introduced: Sean Nockles who will be compiling an ABBTO newsletter and Alison Muir who will be acting as FIBA and EB liaison.

Suggestions were then sought as to content and possible formats for the newsletter.

The Assistant Secretary will type up all feedback and suggestions and forward to Sean.

Weekend feedback and dispersal

Mick Howell thanked all delegates for attending and asked us all to fill in the EB feedback forms on-line. He reported that he thought this format had worked well and would be the basis for future Conferences.

All delegates were given CDs of conference presentations for use in feedback situations in their regions.