

## **Mr. John J. Walsh**

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 2007 as an “Official”

John Walsh is perhaps the best ambassador NABO have ever had in Newfoundland and Labrador for officials in this province. His tireless work and contribution is known throughout the country. His dedication to promoting and developing of new officials and the professionalism in the way he has always conducted himself on and off the court is and has always been an inspiration to everyone.

### **Participation as a Builder:**

- Served as a member of the executive of the Newfoundland Association of Basketball Officials (NABO) for a period of 19 years between 1984 – 2005.
- Served as Vice President and then as Supervisor. Began service as an executive member in 1984 as Vice president, and except for a period of two years, served on the NABO executive every year until his resignation in 2005 in an effort “to encourage new blood and provide greater opportunity for other to have the experience of serving on the NABO executive.
- 13 years of provincial Supervisor: Served for a period of thirteen consecutive years as Provincial Supervisor of NABO (1992 – 2005)
- Official’s Certification Program: As Supervisor, was primarily responsible for the growth and development of basketball officials in the province and for their certification.
- Conduct of Officials: Was also responsible for conduct and discipline of all NABO officials as it pertained to provincial and national competition, and to ensure that NABO officials conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner during all aspects of competition – both on and off the court.
- Floor Ratings: Was responsible for ratings of all basketball officials in the province for a period of thirteen years, and for maintaining a current file and database on all officials pertaining to their development as basketball officials.
- CABO Liaisons for tournament assignment: Was CABO liaisons and primarily responsible (in conjunction with NABO executive) for nominating officials to all CABO officiated tournaments, including Men’s and Women’s Atlantic University Sport and Canadian Inter-Collegiate Sport Basketball Championships, CCAA competition, Canada Games, Junior Nationals and all other national tournaments sponsored by Basketball Canada, the AUS, and CIS where CABO was asked to provide officials.



- NABO evaluation and rating system: Developed and implemented a completely new evaluation and rating system for basketball officials in the province that is still being used today, and which prescribes a strict criteria for the progressive development of officials that is based on rules knowledge and practical performance of officials in a game / tournament situation.
- New level for national certification and university panel officials: This new evaluation and rating system established a six tier system, and introduced a new level five category for national certification and identification of candidates into the university pool.
- NABO evaluation board: Introduced the concept of a provincial board of evaluators for NABO to assist with the development and evaluation of officials, developed an evaluator's manual, and hosted two pan provincial evaluator trainings seminars to ensure better access and consistency in the rating process throughout the province.
- Recruitment of officials: Assumed primary responsibility for the recruitment and retention of basketball officials in the province as provincial supervisor, and before resigning from the executive, chaired a NABO recruitment committee and developed a new recruitment policy for NABO that has yielded outstanding results in identifying and mentoring new officials over the past few years.
- NABO awards program: Was responsible for developing and implementing a NABO awards program to recognize the service and contributions of longstanding NABO officials.
- Three person basketball officiating: Worked closely with NLBA and NABO executive to help introduce the concept of three person basketball officiating into some of the senior NLBA championships as a means to introduce the three person concept, and to give our elite officials (and players) an opportunity to be exposed to three person officiating.
- Female officials: Championed initiatives to identify and recruit female basketball officials, and to encourage their development as elite officials in this province – (and so much still needs to be done in this area). Implemented a clause in the AUS Women's Basketball Agreement, whereby a percentage of officials who work this tournament MUST be female officials.
- Scholarship Committee: Chaired the NABO scholarship committee for thirteen years as provincial supervisor, and brought forward recommendations and nominations for the executive's consideration to award scholarships to deserving officials.
- Still remains involved with working as an assigner / evaluator to provide feedback to the university pool officials who officiate the MUN Sea~Hawks men's and women's basketball games.
- Continues to work as an assigner / evaluator for provincial tournaments, providing feedback to officials, and completing evaluations on officials who have requested to be re-certified.
- Works on special projects at the request of NABO (most recently NABO liaison for the CIS Women's Basketball Championships hosted by MUN).

- NLBA achievement award: In June 1997 was presented with the inaugural NLBA achievement award for “his outstanding contribution to the growth and development of basketball in the province”
- NABO achievement award: In January 2006 was presented with a NABO achievement award for outstanding contribution to basketball officiating in the province.
- NABO Honorary Life Membership: In Jun 2006 at the NABO meetings (AGM in Corner Brook), was bestowed an honorary life membership by NABO in recognition of service and dedication to basketball officiating in this province.
- 13 years CABO National Council: Served for a period of 13 years (1992 – 2005) as a member of the National Council of the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials.
- Strong NL Lobby: Represented Newfoundland and Labrador’s interests at the national table on all issues pertaining to basketball officiating and officials development.
- New national tournament allocation formula: Lobbied for improvements to the national tournament allocation formula that would see better (and more widespread) representation of officials from all provinces representing CABO at all national and CIS men’s and women’s championships.
- New AUS allocation formula: Secured a much improved and more representative allocation formula for the assignment of basketball officials to both AUS men’s and women’s basketball championships. This was done against great opposition by NS officials who, up to this point in time, basically controlled the allocation of officials and received a disproportionate number of assignments. This resulted in a strike situation and withdrawal of service by NS basketball officials at the AUS men’s basketball championships in 1999 – a huge turning point, but which eventually led to convincing the AUS (and the NS officials’ association) of the merits of NABO’s argument, and a new allocation formula was eventually achieved.
- Three person officiating crews (men): Was involved in initiatives on behalf of AUS officials (and NABO) for the implementation of three person officiating crews in AUS men’s basketball competition – regular season and playoffs.
- Contracts between NABO and MUN: Negotiated many contractual agreements between MUN and NABO for provision of services for the Sea-Hawks men’s and women’s AUS basketball schedule; including travel allowances (for the first time) that would allow some of NABO’s university pool officials from outside the Avalon Peninsula to officiate games and to be compensated for their travel to game assignments on university weekends.
- Selected AUS basketball officials contract negotiator: Was selected to be the AUS officials’ representative (representing all officials in NL, PEI, NS and NB) in negotiating the last two consecutive contracts between the AUS and basketball officials for their men’s and women’s championships – both were four year agreements.
- New AUS assigner / evaluator agreements: Secured a commitment from the AUS (and all four participating officials’ associations) to have the AUS championships

- use an assigner / evaluator from each of the four participating provinces (for the first time) on a rotational basis for both men's and women's championships.
- A / E's from various provinces: Fought to improve the presence of the assigner / evaluator from various provinces at CABO tournaments and this resulted in a significant increase in opportunities for provinces like NL (and other smaller provinces) for our provincial assigner / evaluator to work at these national tournaments.
  - Three person crews AUS women: Managed to successfully secure an agreement on behalf of AUS officials to implement three person officiating crews for all regular season and playoff competition for AUS women's basketball in 2005 – a move that had been strongly resisted for years by the AUS, despite the fact that the AUS was the only conference not to utilize three person crews into its regular season and playoff schedule.
  - Equity and inclusion: Became a strong advocate for equity and inclusion on a number of fronts both provincially and nationally – including the need for more (and improved) opportunities for female officials, both provincially and nationally.
  - CABO awards program: In 2001 was awarded the prestigious J. A. “Wink” Willox Award by CABO after being nominated by the NABO executive. The Willox award is a national award, which honours officials for their contributions to basketball officiating as an elite basketball official (at the provincial level) and as a builder over a period of time.
  - Refereed basketball for 31 years in total; but only 21 as a member of the Newfoundland Association of Basketball Officials.
  - Began refereeing basketball while teaching and coaching at St. Bon's and Brother Rice High.
  - He refereed locally, provincially, and nationally
  - Joined NABO in 1984 and immediately began service as an executive member.
  - Received an “A” rating in 1988
  - Worked NLBA provincial championships for 21 straight years, sometimes officiating in a number of provincial tournaments, but mostly Division 1 and 2 men's championships.
  - For several consecutive years refereed more than 100 games a year on the local and provincial circuit, but in later years that was reduced from between 40 – 60 games per year due to family and work commitments.
  - Also worked as an assigner / evaluator in at least one tournament each year for almost all these 21 years, and continues to do so today.
  - Was a member of NABO national pool for 16 years and was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work at the national level, but turned down many more national appointments than he had taken due to family and work commitments.
  - Was assigned to work the AUS men's championships at the Metro Center in Halifax on several occasions, for him, these were the highlight of his officiating career. In fact, his last game as a basketball official was at the AUS men's finals in March 2004.
  - Retired while still a member of the national pool, an active member of the university panel of officials doing a full schedule of games, provincial supervisor

of NABO, and member of the national council of CABO – leaving the game exactly as he had wanted, while he felt he was still contributing both as a builder and as a floor official.

- Was a very respected floor official known for his fairness and integrity, and for putting forth the same full effort regardless of the level of the game.
- Was a huge proponent of fitness and conditioning as an integral part of an official's responsibility, and remains committed to this principle to this very day.