

# 49<sup>th</sup> Annual IACO Basketball Officials Clinic



**Saturday, November 7, 2020**

## Meet the IACO Officers



**Tom Hug**  
President



**Sal Vasta**  
Vice-President



**Laurie Jordan**  
Secretary



**Tim King**  
Treasurer



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## **2020 IACO BASKETBALL OFFICIALS CLINIC**

**Welcome to the 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic, and welcome to IACO's first ever basketball officials Zoom online clinic. Whether this is your first IACO Clinic or if you are a seasoned veteran of this annual event, we hope that you find today's program very beneficial in preparing you for future basketball seasons.**

**This year we will be following an exciting format which will allow the participant to choose the breakout sessions of their choice, based on experience level as well as topic/speaker preference. A total of twelve breakout sessions will follow the two opening sessions.**

**Our speakers for today represent more than 30 different state final appearances in basketball, seven certified Illinois High School Association basketball clinicians, and seven current assignors. The group also represents alliances with eleven different local officials' association groups.**

**I hope you enjoy today's power-packed clinic!**

***Joe Spags***

**Joe Spagnolo**

**IACO Basketball Clinic Chairperson**

## 2020 IACO BASKETBALL OFFICIALS CLINIC STAFF

### **Clinic Chairperson**

Joe Spagnolo, AOA, GCACOA, JBO

### **Chairperson Emeritus**

Fred Allman, SBO

### **Logistics Coordinator**

Sal Vasta, AOA, GCACOA, WBOA

### **Publicity**

Gary Grohoveña, COA, SSOA

### **Zoom Administration**

Laurie Jordan, IACO

### **Website**

Jason McKinney, AOA

### **Ambassadors**

Joe Fritsch, AOA, GCACOA

Ron Ritter, AOA, GCACOA, WBOA

Randy Wilson, AOA, GCACOA, WBOA

### **Speakers**

Steve Alexander, SOA

Fred Allman, SBO

Nick Cladis, AOA, GCACOA, JBO

Paul Schoessling, AOS, SBO

Mark Siekierski, SBO

Joe Spagnolo, AOA, GCACOA, JBO

Darrin Sortor, LOLOA

Vernal Turner, NLOA

Sal Vasta, AOA, GCACOA, WBOA

Andrew T. Williams, BOAC, CBO, JBO

Don Williams, AOA, SBO

### **IACO Officers**

Tom Hug, President

Sal Vasta, Vice-President

Laurie Jordan, Secretary

Tim King, Treasurer

## 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Schedule



### Clinic Schedule

7:30 – Officials Attending Clinic can log-in

7:55 – Welcome & Online Ground Rules

8:00 – Keynote Speaker: Fred Allman, IHSA Rules Interpreter

8:40 – “You Make the Call” Video Presentation, Joe Spagnolo

9:10 – **Breakout Session 1**

Room 1: “Professionalism in Officiating”, Sal Vasta

Room 2: “Officiating Safety Protocols”, Vern Turner

9:35 – **Breakout Session 2**

Room 1: “Making Officiating Work For You”, Nick Cladis

Room 2: “Flagrant Fouls vs. Intentional Fouls”, Darrin Sortor

10:00 – Ten-Minute Break

10:10 – **Breakout Session 3**

Room 1: “Basics of Legal Defenders”, Joe Spagnolo

Room 2: “Unwritten Rules of Basketball”, Mark Siekierski

10:35 – **Breakout Session 4**

Room 1: “Pre-Game with Partners”, Paul Schoessling

Room 2: “Getting Back to Basics”, Joe Spagnolo

11:00 – Ten-Minute Break

11:10 – **Breakout Session 5**

Room 1: “Advancement to Receiving Varsity Assignments”, Steve Alexander

Room 2: “Summer 2020 Video Review”, Fred Allman

11:35 – **Breakout Session 6**

Room 1: “Being a Good Partner”, Don Williams

Room 2: “Real Talk in Officiating”, Andrew T. Williams

*Participants can choose which breakout sessions they will attend based on experience level as well as topic/speaker preference. Descriptions of each presentation can be found on the next several pages.*

## 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Session Descriptions

### **Keynote Speaker – (8:00 – 8:40)**

#### **“IHSA Rules Interpretations for 2020-2021”, Fred Allman**

*Target Audience – All Officials will attend this session*

**Session Synopsis:** A review of new NFHS rules, editorial changes and points of emphasis will be discussed. Pertinent information from the IHSA will also be covered.



**About Fred Allman** -- Fred is a three-time state final official, who worked the state championships in 2001, 2002 and 2004. Allman serves the IHSA as State Certified Clinician and Rules Interpreter. Fred is the assignor in the Mid-Suburban League, DuKane Conference and the DuPage Valley Conference. Fred is a member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Officials Hall of Fame and has served the IACO Basketball Clinic as its Chairperson.

### **Opening Session Presentation – (8:40 – 9:05)**

#### **“You Make the Call” Video Presentation, Joe Spagnolo**

*Target Audience – All Officials will attend this session*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** This annual video evaluation of clips from the past 12 months, reviews basic rules and fundamentals. This traditional favorite segment always provides stimulating discussion.



**About Joe Spagnolo** -- Joe is the President of the Athletic Officials Association and a member of the IBCA Hall of Fame. Spagnolo is the assignor of Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic. Spagnolo is a Womens’ Basketball Observer for the Big East Conference and an IHSA Basketball Clinician.

# 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Mini-Session Descriptions

## **Breakout Session 1 – (9:10 – 9:35)**

### **“Professionalism in Officiating”, Sal Vasta**

*Target Audience – Beginning Officials with 0-3 years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 1)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** IHSA Clinician Sal Vasta discusses Professionalism on and off the court for officials. Topics include Fitness and Health, Rules Knowledge, The Do’s and Don’ts of Communication, Guidelines for Dealing with Unruly Spectators, and Being a Role Model.



**About Sal Vasta** – *Sal is a three-time state final official working the girls AA state basketball tournament in 2004, 2005 and 2007. Sal is a state clinician and the assignor of the DuKane Conference and the Girls Chicagoland Athletic Conference.*

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### **“Officiating Safety Protocols”, Vern Turner**

*Target Audience – Intermediate & Advanced Officials with several years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 2)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** Effects from the pandemic will affect the everyday future officiating. Vern turner will discuss protection, health, mandates, and liabilities are all spin-offs of today’s changes in society.



**About Vern Turner** -- *Vern is a three-time state final official working the boys 3A/4A state basketball tournament in: 2013, 2014 and 2019. Vern is a state clinician in basketball and the assignor of the Chicago Prep League.*



## 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Mini-Session Descriptions

### **Breakout Session 2 – (9:35 – 10:00)**

#### **“Making Officiating Work For You”, Nick Cladis**

*Target Audience – Beginning Officials with 0-3 years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 1)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** As a beginning official, there are many steps that one can take to make the officiating experience easier and more rewarding. Nick Cladis reviews topics such as communication, game preparation, comfortability and realism that will help newer officials attain their goals quicker and be a valuable part of your development process.



**About Nick Cladis** -- Nick is a two-time state final official, working the finals in 2012 and 2013. Cladis has been a licensed basketball official for 35 years and has served the Joliet Basketball Officials Association as its vice-president. Nick is an IBCA Hall of Fame inductee.

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#### **“Flagrant Fouls vs. Intentional Fouls”, Darrin Sortor**

*Target Audience – Intermediate & Advanced Officials with several years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 2)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** IHSA Rules Interpreter Darrin Sortor reviews one of this year’s NFHS Points of Emphasis in deciphering Flagrant and Intentional Fouls. There are unique distinctions between the two and these guidelines must be properly called as games become more physical and strategic fouling takes place.



**About Darrin Sortor** – Darrin is a state certified basketball clinician and serves the IHSA as one of six state rule interpreters. Sortor currently officiates both college and high school basketball and was selected to officiate the postponed 2020 IHSA Class 3A/4A boys basketball state finals.



## 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Mini-Session Descriptions

### **Breakout Session 3 – (10:10 – 10:35)**

#### **“Basics of Legal Defenders”, Joe Spagnolo**

*Target Audience – All Officials: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced  
(Breakout Room 1)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** A video-rich presentation showing examples of legal guarding position; freedom of movement; disruption of rhythm, speed, balance and quickness; verticality; and the different types of contact.



**About Joe Spagnolo** -- Joe is the President of the Athletic Officials Association and a member of the IBCA Hall of Fame. Spagnolo is the assignor of Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic. Spagnolo is a Womens' Basketball Observer for the Big East Conference and an IHSA Basketball Clinician.

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#### **“Unwritten Rules of Basketball”, Mark Siekierski**

*Target Audience – All Officials: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced  
(Breakout Room 2)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** Although the rules book and case book cover most of the regulations, the everyday unwritten rules of basketball must be followed to properly adjudicate the rules of the game. Here is an interactive review of the important pieces that appear between the lines of the rules.



**About Mark Siekierski** -- Mark is a three-time state final official, working the finals in 2008, 2009 and 2011. Siekierski is a Hall of Fame member of the officials wing of the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame. Mark also serves in the capacity of assignor for the Upstate Eight Conference and is an IHSA Basketball Clinician.

# 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Mini-Session Descriptions

## **Breakout Session 4 – (10:35 – 11:00)**

### **“Pre-Game with Partners”, Paul Schoessling**

*Target Audience – All Officials: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced  
(Breakout Room 1)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** There’s no better way to get everybody in your officiating crew to get on the same page than to have an effective pre-game meeting. Concepts and essential of being prepared and effective will be covered, so that your crew can be the best team on the court.



**About Paul Schoessling** -- Paul is a three-time state final official, working the Boys State Tournament in 2012, 2013 and 2016. Schoessling is an IBCA Hall of Fame inductee. Paul also serves the Suburban Basketball Officials as its Past President.

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### **“Getting Back to Basics”, Joe Spagnolo**

*Target Audience – All Officials: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced  
(Breakout Room 2)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** Officials are expected to be perfect with the things they already know and master the new changes each year. The problem is that bad habits start to increase when things we have been used to are not done properly. This presentation reviews the “set pieces” of basketball to make sure that all of us get back on the right page.



**About Joe Spagnolo** -- Joe is the President of the Athletic Officials Association and a member of the IBCA Hall of Fame. Spagnolo is the assignor of Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic. Spagnolo is a Womens’ Basketball Observer for the Big East Conference and an IHSA Basketball Clinician.

## 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Mini-Session Descriptions

### **Breakout Session 5 – (11:10 – 11:35)**

#### **“Advancement to Receiving Varsity Assignments”, Steve Alexander**

*Target Audience – Beginning Officials with 0-3 years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 1)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** One of the biggest goals for a lower level officiating is their advancement to securing varsity assignments. Assigner Steve Alexander examines the process and provides valuable tips and strategies in making you reach your goal.



**About Steve Alexander:** Steve is the assigner for the Southland Athletic Conference and the South Suburban Conference. Alexander was selected to officiate the IHSA girls basketball state finals in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Steve is an IHSA certified state clinician.

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#### **“Summer 2020 Video Review”, Fred Allman**

*Target Audience – Intermediate & Advanced Officials with several years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 2)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** A review of 11 recent video plays involving game situations, including how we, as officials, need to be professional and manage conflict.



**About Fred Allman --** Fred is a three-time state final official, who worked the state championships in 2001, 2002 and 2004. Allman serves the IHSA as State Certified Clinician and Rules Interpreter. Fred is the assigner in the Mid-Suburban League, DuKane Conference and the DuPage Valley Conference. Fred is a member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Officials Hall of Fame and has served the IACO Basketball Clinic as its Chairperson.

# 2020 IACO Basketball Officials Clinic Mini-Session Descriptions

## **Breakout Session 6 – (11:35 – 12:00)**

### **“Being a Good Partner”, Don Williams**

*Target Audience – Beginning Officials with 0-3 years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 1)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** There are three teams on the court at one time and the one that needs to be on the page the most are the officials. Don Williams reviews the expectations of working with your partners and what steps you should take to make yourself, and your partners, the best they can be.



**About Don Williams** – Don worked the IHSA state basketball finals in 2016, 2017 and 2019 – including working two state championship games in 2017 and 2019. Williams is a member of the Athletic Officials Association and the current President of the Suburban Basketball Officials.

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### **“Real Talk in Officiating”, Andrew T. Williams**

*Target Audience – Intermediate & Advanced Officials with several years’ experience  
(Breakout Room 2)*

**Mini-Session Synopsis:** Andrew Williams tells it like it is on a number of topics including constructive criticism, necessary sacrifices, mental awareness and adjustments.



**About Andrew T. Williams** -- Andrew is a two-time state final official working the Boys Class AA state finals in 2000 and 2001. Williams assigns high school tournaments and men’s college.

## IACO MEMBER LOCAL BASKETBALL OFFICIATING ASSOCIATIONS



### **Athletic Officials Association**

Website: [athletic-officials.com](http://athletic-officials.com)

IACO Representative: Ted Lepucki

Basketball President: Joe Spagnolo



### **Athletic Officials Service**

Website: [aosweb.org](http://aosweb.org)

IACO Representative: Raul Zaldivar

Basketball President: Josh Schroeder



### **Central Officials Association**

Website: [coaofficials.com](http://coaofficials.com)

IACO Representative: Jim Schwarz

Basketball Co-Chairmen: Mike Luzzi, Chuck McNellis



### **Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Officials Association**

Website: [gcacoa.com](http://gcacoa.com)

IACO Representative and Basketball President: Tim Dryer



### **Joliet Officials Association**

Website: [jolietofficials.myonlinecamp.com](http://jolietofficials.myonlinecamp.com)

IACO Representative: Charles Schaefer

Basketball President: Bob Horvath



### **Metropolitan Officials Association**

Website: [chicagomoa.net](http://chicagomoa.net)

IACO Representative: John Frye

Basketball Committee Chair: Candice Daniels



### **MIBTOnline.com**

Website: [mibtonline.com](http://mibtonline.com)

IACO Representative and President: Tim Kiefer



### **Northern Officials Association**

Website: [northernofficialsassociation.com](http://northernofficialsassociation.com)

IACO Representative: Darrell Schrag

Basketball President: Jerry Blum



### **South Suburbs Officials Association**

Website: [il-ssoa.com](http://il-ssoa.com)

IACO Representative: Gary Grohovena

Basketball Chairman: Mike Stenson



### **Suburban Basketball Officials Association**

Website: [sbobasketball.com](http://sbobasketball.com)

IACO Representative: Fred Allman

Basketball President: Don Williams



### **Western Basketball Officials Association**

Website: [wboaref.com](http://wboaref.com)

IACO Representative: Randy Liveris

Basketball President: Randy Wilson

## **AREA BASKETBALL ASSIGNERS**

Big Northern Conference – Don Cook / John Vito

Central Suburban League – Jeff Schwarz

Chicago Catholic League – Chuck McNellis (Boys only)

Chicago Public League – Marvin Sykes (Boys); Craig Jeffreys (Girls)

Chicago Prep League – Vernal Turner

DuKane Conference – Fred Allman (Boys); Sal Vasta (Girls)

DuPage Valley Conference – Wes Fritz (Boys); Fred Allman (Girls)

East Suburban Catholic Conference – Ken Maziarka (Boys); Jim Utterback (Girls)

Fox Valley Conference – Steve Bellmore

Girls Catholic Athletic Conference – Sal Vasta (Girls only)

Illinois Central Eight – Joe Ewers (Boys); Jim Knauff (Girls)

Independent School League – Wes Fritz

Interstate Eight Conference – Jim Knauff

Kishwaukee River Conference – John Vito

Lake Shore Athletic Conference – John Hodel

Little Ten Conference – Greg Burks

Metro Suburban Conference – Jeff Schwarz

Metropolitan Prep Conference – Ray Laseter

Mid-Suburban League – Fred Allman

Northeastern Athletic Conference – Rich Parsons

Northern Illinois Conference (NIC-10) – Doug Juhlin

Noble Athletic Conference – Jesus Perez

Northern Illinois Big Twelve Conference – Jim Knauff

Northern Lake County Conference – Steve Bellmore

North Suburban Conference – Jim Bernardi (Boys); Jeff Schwarz (Girls)

River Valley Conference – Joe Ewers

South Suburban Conference – Harry Bohn (Boys); Steve Alexander (Girls)

Southland Athletic Conference – Steve Alexander

Southwest Prairie Conference – Bob Horvath

Southwest Suburban Conference – Harry Bohn (Boys); Bob Horvath (Girls)

Upstate Eight Conference – Mark Siekierski

West Suburban Conference – Harry Bohn (Boys); Lamar Simpson (Girls)





- Promoting training and recruitment of sport officials
- Dedicated to training all levels of officials in the use of standardized techniques, mechanics and rule application in high school sports.



#### **FOOTBALL OFFICIAL TRAINING CLASSES:**

**Football 101:** 6 Weeks of training in the classroom and on the field. Geared for brand new, as well as first or second year officials. Multiple locations throughout the 8 county Chicagoland Area.\* July through mid-August. Watch our website for details posted in May.

**Football 201:** Geared for R and C, Varsity and Sophomore officials who have experience on a crew. Group discussions analyzing specific mechanic & rule philosophy. Meets 4-5 times in July & August. Check for locations posted on the website by June.

#### **FOOTBALL: IHSA CERTIFIED LEVELS 1 & 2 CLINIC:**

Clinic held in August. Details posted by June on [iaco-official.org](http://iaco-official.org)

#### **BASKETBALL OFFICIAL TRAINING CLASSES:**

**Basketball 101:** Classes start October. Geared for brand new, as well as first or second year officials. Details posted by August on [iaco-official.org](http://iaco-official.org)  
Held in multiple locations.\*

#### **BASKETBALL: IHSA CERTIFIED CLINIC:**

Clinic held in November. Details posted by September on [iaco-official.org](http://iaco-official.org)

#### **BASEBALL & SOFTBALL OFFICIAL TRAINING CLASSES:**

**Baseball 101:** Geared for brand new, as well as first or second year officials. Details posted in December. Classes generally held in January/February. Locations in north, west & south suburbs.\*

**[www.iaco-official.org](http://www.iaco-official.org)**

*\*Depending on circumstances classes and clinics will be held on-line via Zoom.*