



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
APPROVED BASKETBALL OFFICIALS, Inc.**

"One Rule, One Interpretation"

June 6, 2020

Dear IAABO Members:

I have always felt that the IAABO basketball world that I have been in for 47 years is a microcosm of life itself. After all, the intent of the Basketball Rules are:

- 1) To provide a balance of fair play
- 2) To provide equal opportunity between offense and defense
- 3) To provide equal opportunity between the small player and tall player
- 4) To provide reasonable risk minimization
- 5) To create an atmosphere of sporting behavior and fair play
- 6) To emphasize skill without unduly limiting freedom of movement

What is pure about these rules should be true about the lives of our citizens.

As I assumed the role of President of IAABO in 2008, I concluded my comments with the following:

"The only thing I remember about psychology is the Gestalt theory which states that the whole is the sum of its parts. This psychological theory applies to IAABO. IAABO is made up of 15,000 members all of whom contribute to its greatness. Without 15,000 "others", this great organization would not hold the respect it does in the sports arena. We are the sum of the parts. IAABO will continue without Felix Addeo. But without its members, there is no IAABO" (*Sportorials July /August 2008 Vol. 59, Num. 405*).

No person should fear for their life or receive unfair treatment because of the color of their skin. But the reality is there are times that African Americans do not feel comfortable or safe moving around this country. We need to make it clear that we stand in solidarity in support of justice and equality.

To our members, particularly our African American members, who may be experiencing a myriad of feelings during these unsettled times, we encourage you to reach out to an IAABO member to let your feelings be known and to discuss what you personally may be going through. Open dialogue is the door to learning and understanding that leads to the house of healing.

With the treatment of human lives, we need to have: ***One Rule and One Interpretation.***

As the lyrics go in the Dionne Warwick song: ***For good times and bad times, I'll be on your side forever more, because that's what friends are for.*** You can count on IAABO being there for you.

God Bless all of the members of IAABO and I pray that, together, we may experience the peace and harmony that should be at the core of our rights as human beings.

Sincerely,

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