



William {Bill} Brophy

Bill Brophy is an icon in the basketball community. His involvement in our sport has made him one of the most recognizable officials to walk into a gym. Having coached for 20 years, Bill would often referee his players' scrimmages. This experience led him to decide to join SJABO.

A NABO level 4 rating official, Bill has officiated thousands of games at all levels over his 30 plus years as an referee. From minor to highschool to the senior men's and ladies leagues, he continues to enjoy running the court. He has also done hundreds of NLBA Provincial Tournaments along with numerous SSNL, 4A, 3A and 2A School Championships.

He has found this experience very rewarding and goes on to say, "One might wonder how you would "enjoy" refereeing-a ref often encounters a cantankerous player, coach or even a fan". "Yet, if one takes the role seriously, it can be very gratifying". Bill says it also doesn't hurt that there can be a sizable cheque at the end of the season. He also adds, at the end of a good game, it is a fine feeling when a coach, player or a fan expresses appreciation for your fine, competent effort.

Bill has received a number of awards over his career:

- .1992-Presented with the High School Federation Distinguished Service Award.
- .2002-Awarded Honorary Falcon Award, {For his contribution to Holy Spirit School Sports}
- .2003-Awarded Basketball Newfoundland Distinguished Service Award.
- .2004-Awarded Coaching Service Award by School Sports, NL, {For exemplary service which best reflects philosophy of school sports}.
- .2005-Bill Brophy was inducted into the Newfoundland And Labrador Basketball Hall Of Fame in the Builder Category.

He still says to this day, "it is a wonderful feeling for him, when he walks into a gym and is greeted by former athletes he has coached over the years and when players express their appreciation that you are about to referee their game because, "you are one of the good ones, although they may not always feel that way by the time the game is over.

Bill has always loved basketball. The game has been a huge part of his life. It has given him the opportunity to travel all over Newfoundland and introduced him to many wonderful people. He says now, he is getting a “little long in the tooth”, but says, as long as he has two good legs, he will continue to referee and after all, why wouldn't he continue to pursue something he loves dearly.

For new officials starting out in their careers, Bill says:

Learn to embrace the game. Work hard and look the part. Always remember that you are, “not the show”. That belongs to the players. Don't be quick to administer technical fouls, but don't let games get out of hand. Be a professional.