



For Immediate Release

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From Court to Community – NBA Referees Establish Non-Profit Foundation

Washington, D.C., July 20, 2005 – With the 2004-2005 NBA season now ended, the 62 active professional basketball referees have turned their attention away from the basketball court and towards the larger community. The referees, all members of the National Basketball Referees Association (NBRA), have supported a number of worthy causes over the years – individually, as a group, and sometimes with the additional support of the NBA. However, the referees have long wanted to establish an enduring organization to support their off-court community activities.

Today, the referees announced the formation of the National Basketball Referees Foundation, a non-profit organization created to support the NBRA's charitable, educational, and training activities.

The Foundation will offer training and development for basketball referees at all levels of play, provide educational scholarships for underprivileged students, sponsor professional seminars and conferences, and further the NBRA's charitable goals.

The Foundation is a natural step forward for the referees," stated Lamell McMorris, the referees' official spokesman. "They are an exceptionally generous, compassionate, caring and supportive group of professionals, and are always ready to lend a hand and lift others up. The Foundation will serve as a vehicle for them to plan larger events and pursue more difficult objectives."

For example, the Foundation is planning its first annual conference for the fall of 2006. The conference will offer training sessions on refereeing techniques and tradecraft, discussion forums on current issues affecting athletics and game officiating, business roundtables, and an opportunity for conference participants to gather together and socialize. The training is intended to supplement and build upon the routine training that referees receive from their leagues and conferences.

About the NBRA

The National Basketball Referees Association represents 62 active and 14 retired referees who officiate all of the games for the National Basketball Association. It was formed to unite all referees of the NBA, promote the game of professional basketball, and improve the quality of officiating in the NBA. The NBRA's official website can be found at www.probasketballrefs.com.