

Travel, Memorable Experiences and a Global Community of Friends Keeps Chris Yap Officiating the Game

For Vancouver's Chris Yap, being an Official for the sport of squash is so much more than meets the eye. Now retired, in her past professional life, Yap was a transportation specialist, balancing her work with her active avocation as an Official in the sport.

Like so many squash players, Chris Yap first placed a racquet in her hand twenty years ago while attending the University of Alberta.

But for the past 15 years, this Squash BC member has added a whole other layer to an active squash lifestyle through focus and dedication in officiating and referring the game. Today she is recognized by the global squash community as a National Level Official and Assessor and Squash BC is proud to have her in the ranks of its membership.



We all know that officiating is not the first area of sport that one gravitates to. "Making those hard calls in front of arm-chair referees when a call is not liked or in front of anxious sport parents can be challenging" says Yap.

But she explains that the rewards far outweigh that aspect of the field.

"The Officials community is a great community. I travel and I have friends around the world and this has given me so many memorable experiences" she says.

But that is not all. Being responsible for an outcome of a game builds a host of personal and professional benefits that are invaluable. "The ability to make sharp decisions, hard calls and manage matches gives you a unique skill set that is highly transferable to other areas of your life" Yap enthusiastically explains.

Over the past year alone Yap has officiated in six major tournaments including the Hong Kong Junior Open, the US Junior Closed, the US Women Collegiate Championships at Yale, the West Coast Junior Tour Championships in San Francisco and the US Junior Open in Boston.

Among some of her officiating career highlights, she says are the Pan Am Junior and Senior Squash Championships in Philadelphia, World Masters Championships In Edmonton, the 2019 World Junior Championships in Malaysia and the 2020 Tournament of Champions charity event at the legendary glass court at New York's Grand Central station

So if officiating is not your first choice as a volunteer activity – perhaps it should be.

