



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
SUNDAY MARCH 6, 2016**

**HILTON MEADOWVALE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE  
SOUTH STUDIO 3  
10:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE**

In Attendance:	John Doherty	OLA President
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Marion Ladouceur	VP Minor
	Joe Hiltz	VP Field
	Mike Varanesi	VP Development
	Lynn Orth	VP Promotions
	Andrew Ecclestone	OLRA President
	Sharon McKeachnie	Senior B
	Dean McLeod	Junior A
	Dave Vernon	Junior B
	Lisa Cartman	Junior C
	Sue Powless	Women's Box
	Glen Flippance	Senior Men's Field
	Mark Scheutzkowski	Junior Men's Field
	Peter Debrone	Minor Field
	John Mayo	OWFL
	Shelly Nobile	Zone 4
	Tanya Thompson	Zone 5
	Sonya Crossey	Zone 6
	Jenn Matheson	Zone 7
	Nicole Roe	Zone 8
	Dave Wilson	Zone 9
	Wendy Bennett-Costante	Zone 10
	Stan Cockerton	Executive Director
	Chris Driscoll	Technical Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
With Regrets:	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Chuck Miller	Past President
	Jim Bomhof	VP Junior - Major
	Jim Brady	Major Series Lacrosse

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SUNDAY MARCH 6, 2016**

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM.

President's Welcome (John Doherty)

1. John Doherty welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. He shared a selection of compliments that he received regarding the operation and execution of the 2016 OLA SAGM. He also spoke positively about the OLA's participation in the 2016 CLA SAM, which was held in British Columbia in February, and the direction that the CLA looks forward to implementing. John provided an update on the on-going contract negotiation between the OLA and the OLRA; this has been a very progressive arbitration process that govern the officiating sector for the 2016-2017 seasons. John also thanked each of the Board of Governors for their participation ahead of the 2016 season.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall accept the minutes of the March 6, 2016 meeting, as presented.*

M/ Dave Wilson

S/ Sharon McKeachnie

**CARRIED.**

2016 Financials (George MacDonald, Stan Cockerton)

1. George presented the 2016 Ontario Lacrosse Association budget, which is a "break even" budget. This budget includes a three-year trend, which forecasts a positive perspective.
2. George pointed out that, as a result of the rising production/ mailing costs, only two copies of the Ontario Lacrosse Magazine are budgeted to be published in 2016. The high quality of the Ontario Lacrosse Magazine means that Ron may address the membership to determine the future publication schedule. Dean MacLeod asked how the magazine's mailing list is compiled. Ron responded that the magazine is addressed to the youngest members in each household up to a maximum of four individuals,

and that repeat copies are free to be distributed/shared with non-lacrosse people in an effort to grow the game.

3. Stan Cockerton announced that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport has agreed to extend the 2015 funding amounts through until 2016. This means that the funding lines of the budget did not have to be adjusted, and that the Ontario Lacrosse Association will remain viable in its current form.
4. George pointed to the declining insurance rate (\$1 decrease), which is a result of the Ontario Lacrosse Association maintaining a claim-free relationship with our insurers for an extended period.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall accept the 2016 operating budget, as presented.*

M/ Tanya Thompson

S/ Shelly Nobile

**CARRIED.**

#### Zone 4 Report (Shelly Nobile)

1. There have been recent changes in the Zone 4 Executive, which offers fresh perspective for the 2016 season.
2. Zone 4 has arranged for a goaltender's clinic to be held for all Zone 4 goalies (cost to be paid by Zone 4). A "coaching clinic" is also planned to supplement the information provided in the coach's certification clinic, with content aimed at house league and community development coaches to build up a strong coaching program.
3. In order to avoid any confusion, Shelly Nobile plans to attend each of her association's meetings to ensure that the proper messages are being disseminated. This will continue until Shelly determines that each association is in good order.
4. Shelly has begun working with Mike Varanesi to plant a lacrosse association in the Parry Sound area. This is an ongoing situation.

#### Senior B Report (Sharon McKeachnie)

1. The St. Catharines Saints Senior B Franchise has officially announced that they will cease operations immediately. The Senior B Council has determined this to be a permanent decision; Council will examine the Saints finances to determine whether or not its executive may remain members in good standing. A dispersal draft has been held for all players who are not currently listed on the CLA's Suspension List. John Doherty

affirmed that any players who were suspended as a result of discipline administered at the 2015 Presidents Cup Championship are considered suspended indefinitely by the Ontario Lacrosse Association.

2. John Doherty asked Sharon to express the Board of Governor's concern with certain franchises not being viable beyond a small number of years. John noted that any new franchises in the Senior B league need to be inspected closely to determine their chance for long term success. Sharon reported that Kitchener-Waterloo has applied to join the Senior B League with competition beginning in 2017. Sharon recommended that the Board of Governors accept Kitchener-Waterloo's application, based on its comprehensiveness.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve Kitchener-Waterloo for entry into the Ontario Senior B Lacrosse League, with competition beginning in 2017.*

M/ Sharon McKeachnie

S/ Glen Flippance

**CARRIED.**

#### Zone 5 Report (Tanya Thompson)

1. Tanya reported that many veteran executive members have indicated that they will be returning to their roles ahead of the 2016 season.
2. Peter Debrone has reached out to Zone 5 to invite participation of far-east field lacrosse teams in the OMFLL. At this point, it is too late to organize teams for the 2016 season, but 2017 is being considered as an opportunity for expansion (along with teams in the OWFL).
3. Zone 5 will publish an e-newsletter to provide its members with news and information that pertains to its members.

#### Junior A Report (Dean McLeod)

1. A Minto Cup meeting took place in Vancouver, where it was decided that the Minto Cup will return to a four team format in 2017.
2. Dean notified the Board of Governors that the Junior A Council has requested that it be given an opportunity to determine the length of suspension when a participant is assessed a game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty. John Doherty replied that this request goes against established practice. Dean also announced that the Junior A Council wishes to provide video replay where available to assist in determining the length of any suspension. John Doherty replied that any

discussion surrounding the use of video replay would need to be presented as a result of a commissioners meeting and in a written proposal, including a detailed analysis of the number of clubs who have access to video replay at their home games, to VP Junior – Major Jim Bomhof for consideration.

#### Zone 4 Report (Sonya Crossey)

1. With the addition of the Cobourg Kodiaks in the MSL, Zone 6 now has three Senior A teams which its membership can support.
2. Zone 6 has noticed an increase in house league registration as a result of removing contact from all house league programs. Sonya recommends this step for associations who are struggling to attract house league members as an alternative for parents who express reservations about the sport of lacrosse.
3. The clubs within Zone 6 have requested that the Team Ontario program provide a breakdown of their budget and financial statement to the voting membership at each Ontario Lacrosse Association Annual General Meeting. Mike Varanesi expressed support for this request in the interest of building better relationships between the minor associations and Team Ontario.

*The Team Ontario program shall provide a detailed breakdown of its operating budget and financial transactions to the voting membership annually, in conjunction with the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Annual General Meeting.*

M/ Sonya Crossey

S/ Shelly Nobile

**CARRIED.**

4. Whitby Minor Lacrosse Association has received a letter respectfully requesting the club to remove to any Native American imagery associated with its uniform. Sonya is monitoring this situation to determine the best course of action.
5. Markham Minor Lacrosse Association has expressed interest in relocation its franchise to Stouffville. John Doherty replied that, should Stouffville wish to join the Ontario Lacrosse Association in place of Markham, the proper course of action is for Markham Minor Lacrosse Association to cease operations, and for Stouffville Minor Lacrosse Association to apply for membership as a new association.

### Junior B Report (Dave Vernon)

1. At the 2016 CLA SAM, representatives from the Alberta Lacrosse Association have put forward a motion that would ban the use of wooden sticks by players competing in national championships. This proposal was unanimously defeated, and the use of wooden sticks was affirmed by the membership as having historical significance to the game of lacrosse.
2. The Orangeville Northmen will host the 2016 Founders Cup Junior B Championship of Canada; a committee of individuals have been hard at work to prepare for this event.
3. Bench personnel who participated in 2015 without submitting their Criminal Record Checks are now suspended from participation due to non-compliance. John Doherty asked how many coaches were placed under suspension as a result of non-compliance. Dave agreed to communicate this information with Glen Flippance.
4. As a result of the AGM's Junior B Council meeting, the executive committee now includes a Chairman of the Board which will liaison between the Junior B executive and each team's owner/representative. The first Junior B Chairman of the Board is Sean O'Callaghan.

### Zone 7 Report (Jenn Matheson)

1. With the retirement of long-time Zone RIC Ron Earnshaw, Zone 7 has introduced two new Zone RIC's to administer the officiating program: Stephan Bosco and Emily Branton.
2. Zone 7 is experiencing a noticeable increase in the number of girl's box registrations.
3. Zone 7's executive has expressed interest in reviewing the costs associated with travelling to the SAGM. While there are many people from the zone's associations who wish to register, the cost of travel, hotel and registration is prohibitive to general attendance. Ron MacSpadyen invited Jenn to submit a written proposal for consideration.

### Junior C Report (Lisa Cartman)

1. Despite the folding of Hamilton Junior C Bengals, the Ontario Junior C Lacrosse League has maintained its 16 teams with the franchise expansion of the Brantford Junior C Warriors.
2. The Oakville Hawks ownership has been transferred to the Oakville Buzz franchise (previously owned by the Oakville Minor Lacrosse Association) and have been renamed the Oakville Junior C Buzz.

3. Wilmot has announced that they will host a “Spring Shootout Showcase” on April 30<sup>th</sup> to kick off the 2016 season.

#### Zone 8 Report (Nicole Roe)

1. Zone 8's associations have committed to concentrating efforts on both paperweight and girl's box programs ahead of the 2016 season. Seven of the nine associations within Zone 8 plan to offer a girl's box lacrosse program for the 2016 season, and all nine associations plan to offer paperweight opportunities.
2. A committee of Association RICs, led by Zone RIC Ryan Wilson, will be responsible for developing a referee supervision program that is modelled after the Zone 10 supervision program.
3. Guelph Minor Lacrosse Association is in the process of restructuring their executive; the Zone 8 executive has offered assistance through the transition process.

#### Senior Women's Box Report (Sue Powless)

1. The Ontario Women's Box Lacrosse League has expanded to include teams in Arthur and Clarington. With the growing rate of girl's box lacrosse, OWBLL expansion is likely.
2. Peterborough is currently suspended from OWBLL due to outstanding fines in the amount of \$1500.

#### Zone 9 Report (Dave Wilson)

1. Welland Minor Lacrosse Association is in the process of restructuring their entire executive; the Zone 9 executive has offered assistance through the transition process.
2. Duane Jacobs has been nominated as the president of Six Nations Minor Lacrosse Association.
3. Zone RIC Adam Dickson has moved to Chicago; he will be replaced by Roger Nurse and Paul Herrington for this season
4. The boundaries of associations within Zone 9 are currently being examined. Ron MacSpadyen asked to be included in any boundary meetings.
5. Criminal Record Check compliance has arisen as an issue for some associations within Zone 9. The zone executive has requested a review of the process which will be presented to Glen Flippance for review.
6. The Zone 9 executive has purchased a number of lacrosse sticks from the CLA for use during in-school promotions.

### Senior Men's Field Report (Glen Flippance)

1. The 2016 Provincial playoffs will be held during the last weekend in October. Glen will work with Mark Schuetzkowski to arrange an all-star game of graduating U-19 players who will compete in a showcase game during this weekend.

### Zone 10 Report (Wendy Bennett-Costante)

1. Zone 10's executive has raised issues with MR 2.12(a). Wendy suggested that, in order for this rule to be appropriately corrected, representatives from minor box lacrosse, OMFLL and OWFL should meet to determine the appropriate course of action before any amendment is proposed.
2. Wendy has received emails regarding questions surrounding tournament compliance, policies and procedures, an outline of the process by which decisions are made, and the list of appealable/non-appealable offenses. Representatives in Zone 10 wish to see this information more clearly laid out in the interest of transparency.

### Junior Men's Field Report (Mark Schuetzkowski)

1. The 2015 executive has agreed to continue their roles in 2016.
2. The OJMFL is interested in growing its membership; an outreach program is planned to attract more participants over a 3-5 year period.
3. Mimico has submitted an application to re-join the OJMFL in 2016. Letters of support from the Mimico Lacrosse Association and the OJMFL executive were read to the Board of Directors. Mark Schuetzkowski is in favour of Mimico's re-entry into the league.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve Mimico's re-entry into the Ontario Junior Men's Field Lacrosse League for competition in the 2016 season.*

M/ Mark Schuetzkowski

S/ Lynn Orth

**CARRIED.**

### Minor Field Report (Peter Debrone)

1. OMFLL will use Sportzsoft for registration in the 2016 season. So far, the registration process has went very well; the most positive feature is the ability to identify all graduating players for promotional opportunities with the OJMFL.



2. Turf allocation is currently an issue as an increasing number of sports associations compete for turf availability. Mississauga is currently unavailable, but Kitchener may be able to host games.
3. Where possible, entry level referees will be assigned as timekeepers and scorekeepers in the U-9 division. Assignors have also been instructed to utilize the three-official system wherever possible to increase the number of officials who are comfortable with international mechanics.

#### Women's Field Report (John Mayo)

1. John Doherty introduced and welcomed John Mayo to the group.
2. The 2016 OWFL Executive is entirely comprised of new members who bring positive energy and outlook to the sector.
3. In 2016, approximately 75 teams will compete in 16 associations (Huntsville is the latest addition to the OWFL).
4. The OWFL executive plans to introduce a new approach to allow more flexibility to teams playing (with Ron's guidance, the sector will move away from a balanced schedule and toward the mylax rankings algorithm). There will also be an effort to work alongside the women's box program to share schedules and examine conflicts so that participants are able to compete in both sectors.
5. The OWFL has met with representatives from the Team Ontario program and are excited to introduce the possibility of Team Ontario to the OWFL.
6. The OWFL Provincial Championships will be played in conjunction with the Ontario Lacrosse Festival in the Durham Region. The OWFL will select six U-17 all-star teams to showcase the sport as part of the Ontario Summer Games, which will eliminate the disruption of pulling U-19A out of the Provincial Championships.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse League to enter six U-17 All-Star teams into the 2016 Ontario Summer Games.*

M/ John Mayo

S/ Frank Lawrence

**CARRIED.**

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse League to adopt the myLAX Rankings algorithm for use in the 2016 season.*

M/ John Mayo

S/ Frank Lawrence

**AMENDED.**

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve both the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse League and the Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League to adopt the myLAX Rankings algorithm for use in the 2016 season.*

M/ Peter Debrone

S/ Mark Schuetzkowski

**DEFEATED.**

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse League to adopt the myLAX Rankings algorithm for use in the 2016 season.*

M/ John Mayo

S/ Frank Lawrence

**CARRIED.**

#### Ontario Lacrosse Referees Association Report (Andrew Ecclestone)

1. Strides are being made to modernize certain areas of the OLA / OLRA Collective Bargaining Agreement to reflect what currently occurs. Mark Schuetzkowski requested that, once completed, the Collective Bargaining Agreement be circulated to all league commissioners.
2. The 2016 OLRA AGM was held on February 21<sup>st</sup> in Mississauga. Two executive positions were contested, and by popular vote, Tom Moxam was elected Treasurer and John Szabo was elected Communications Coordinator.
3. 82 OLRA members are currently listed as non-compliant. For 2016, returning officials will not be permitted to attend a certification clinic without first complying with the CRC direction. Charles Hillier has been a fantastic Privacy Officer for the OLRA.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve Charles Hillier to act as the OLRA Privacy Officer for the 2016 season.*

M/ Andrew Ecclestone

S/ Glen Flippance

**CARRIED.**

4. The OLRA Executive identified the following three areas for improvement in regards to the CRC Policy. This discussion was tabled for further consideration.
  - a. The CRC Handbook does not provide direction for “charged, but not convicted” individuals who submitted their CRC and were then charged with a crime which would constitute a Level 2 or Level 3 offense.
  - b. Members have been suspended without appeal, but the CRC Handbook specifically mentions an appeals process
  - c. A policy of this sophisticated nature requires a better process for its membership, including a full CRC committee of active/engaged participants to review these types of situations.

Review of Old Business:

**1. No old business to review.**

New Business:

1. Lisa Cartman requested that the coaching database be forwarded to each of the league commissioners.
2. Ron MacSpadyen introduced the “SterlingBackcheck for OLA Members” partnership, which includes a 24 hour, \$27 criminal record check that is available to members of the Ontario Lacrosse Association. Ron confirmed that Sterling’s Vulnerable Sector Search is accepted by Youngs Insurance as sufficient.

*The OLA Board of Governors adjourn its March 6, 2016 meeting.*

M/ Andrew Ecclestone

S/ Dave Wilson

**CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.