



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Lynn Orth	VP Promotions
	Jim Bomhof	VP Major
	Marion Ladouceur	VP Minor
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Michael Varanesi	VP Development
	Stan Cockerton	Executive Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
With Regrets:	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Chuck Miller	OLA Past President
	John Doherty	OLA President
	Joe Hiltz	VP Field
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2016**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:26 PM.

Chair's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. Stan provided an update on John Doherty's health; John is expected to be discharged from the hospital within a week and on the road to recovery throughout the rest of the season. Stan advised the Board of Directors that correspondence related to the President should be forwarded to Marion Ladouceur and Jim Bomhof until further notice. The Board of Directors expressed best wishes for John's recovery.

To accept the previous minutes dated April 8th, 2016.

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Michael Varanesi

CARRIED.

VP Finance (George MacDonald)

1. NTR.

VP Development (Michael Varanesi)

1. Michael announced that the OLA Development Committee has partially completed a House League Coaches Manual (expected to be finalized for the 2017 season), a "Fresh Start" booklet for new associations (work in progress) and a revitalized Lax On Wheels program (expected to be relaunched in spring of 2017 ahead of registration sessions).
2. A Team Ontario strategic planning meeting is planned for September in order to both review the hiring process for coaches and team personnel, and to expand the Team Ontario Organizing Committee for the future.
3. The Team Ontario Junior Women's Box Championships have been cancelled because of lack of interest from other provinces. Five female players from the Team Ontario Junior Women's Box program have expressed interest to play for the Team Ontario Senior Women's Box team. Michael did not have the names of the five players with him, but had indicated that he had previously verified

that all of the players were registered with the Ontario Lacrosse Association.

To approve the five Team Ontario Junior Women's Box players to play for the Team Ontario Senior Women's Box team.

M/ Michael Varanesi

S/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

4. Michael notified the Board of Directors that three of the players from the Team Ontario Junior Women's Box program suffered undue expenses as a result of the cancellation of the team. These players travelled to attend the central try-outs dates from Thunder Bay, only to be told upon arrival that the team had been cancelled. Given the circumstances of this particular situation, the Thunder Bay Lacrosse Association submitted a funding reissuance request on behalf of the three players for the Board of Directors to consider.

To approve the Thunder Bay Lacrosse Association's reissue request as presented.

M/ Michael Varanesi

S/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

VP Major (Jim Bomhof)

1. Jim explained that a situation had arisen involving a goaltender from the Newmarket area who was released from his Midget team after the Junior transfer date. Barrie's Junior C club was interested in signing the goaltender but required Board of Directors approval to proceed. Documentation from Newmarket Minor Lacrosse Association President Paul Schnabel, Barrie Junior C President Beverly Bravener and Junior C Lacrosse League Commissioner Lisa Cartman was presented for consideration.

To approve the one-year conditional release of goaltender Anirudh Kilambi from Newmarket to Barrie, whereby the playing rights will be returned to Newmarket for the 2017 season.

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Lynn Orth

CARRIED.

VP Minor Lacrosse (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion shared a complaint letter that she had received from a Kahnawake team who attended the Northumberland tournament. The complaint involved the alleged behaviour by Oshawa parents during a match. Marion has forwarded the complaint to Zone 6 Director Sonya Crossey for follow-up.
2. Marion reported that she had been informally asked to review the playing rules related to the Tyke division; specifically, the suspension of the “5 Seconds” rule was reportedly being abused by teams to gain a competitive advantage over their opponents. Marion asked Frank Lawrence to consider which options might be available to keep the game moving.
3. Marion disclosed that she (along with Lynn Orth and Michael Varanesi) had attended a meeting with the Mississauga Tomahawks Lacrosse Executive which had a reasonably positive tone. The MTLA Executive acknowledged some very serious mistakes and apologized on behalf of their membership. The Board of Directors discussed the on-going situation within the Mississauga Tomahawks Lacrosse Association and decided that it would be necessary to ensure that the MTLA took responsibility for the actions and conduct of its executive members.

To approve the forfeiture of the Mississauga Tomahawks Lacrosse Association’s \$1500 performance bond to the Ontario Lacrosse Association. In order for the Mississauga Tomahawks Lacrosse Association to register a team with the Ontario Lacrosse Association, a fresh performance bond of \$1500 must be posted.

M/ Lynn Orth

S/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

VP Officiating (Frank Lawrence)

1. Frank reported that the number of officials has continued to decline this season. In 2016, 668 box referees were certified (down 47 from 2015), 151 men’s field referees were certified (down 1 from 2015) and 68 women’s field umpires were certified (down 8 from 2015). There are many factors that cause officials to leave the game (school, work, playing, family life, non-enjoyment, etc.) but the largest issue continues to be unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Frank announced that a junior-major playoff meeting has been scheduled for June 21, 2016 at the Toronto Rock Athletic Centre. The most important topic for discussion at this meeting will be the difference between major penalties and match penalties, and which factors to consider when calling a match penalty.

3. Frank stated that the CLA has quietly published a directive stating that all lacrosse officials will be required to wear helmets during the 2017 season. This has not been discussed with anyone from the officiating sector in Ontario, and was defeated by the box sector at a recent CLA meeting. Frank expressed concern that making this policy mandatory in Ontario would cause a further decline in the number of certified officials in a given year, including some veteran officials who had opposed this measure when it was first rumoured before the recent CLA meeting. Frank asked if the Board of Directors would support the OLRA making helmets optional for referees for the 2017 season, and the Board of Directors agreed that it would support the OLRA's decision.
4. Frank presented the list of referees who have been selected to represent Ontario during the 2016 Israel box lacrosse season. Should the Board of Directors approve these names, they will be brought to the upcoming Referee Development Committee Meeting for approval.

To approve the international travel request forms of Neil Macdonald and Ryan Dutkus to represent the Ontario Lacrosse Association during the 2016 Israel box lacrosse season.

M/ Frank Lawrence

S/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

VP Promotions (Lynn Orth)

1. Lynn shared that she is still working with Wendy on the constitution revision process. There is also a document being created that will determine the context for considering distance between each centres which will be used by the Zone Realignment Committee.

Staff Reports (Stan Cockerton)

1. Stan updated the Board of Directors on the status of the Technical Director position, which has remained vacant throughout the spring and summer. Many of the TD responsibilities were picked up by Peter Flook, who deserves recognition for going above and beyond. Stan also commended Chuck Miller for filling in during John's absence; Stan noted that "the sense of teamwork among the staff and the directors is truly inspiring."
2. Stan explained that there are still no serious proposals for a new office location being considered, but there is a possibility that the OLA will relocate to a

second-floor office space within the same building. That said, the OLA office will definitely be moving out of Suite 306 by the end of 2016.

3. Stan shared a player sponsorship request that was forwarded to him by John which appealed for money to be given to a player from Ontario who had been selected to play for Team Canada. The Board of Directors reviewed the sponsorship request. Marion asked if the OLA had ever sponsored a player from Ontario who had been selected for Team Canada. Stan answered that the OLA had never funded individual players to represent Ontario, particularly given the fact that the majority of Team Canada's players were from Ontario.

To approve the Team Canada player sponsorship request as presented.

M/ Lynn Orth

S/ Michael Varanesi

DEFEATED.

Review of Business:

1. NTR

New Business:

1. Frank presented the names of the individuals who had been nominated to act as the Referee-in-Chief of each of the junior-major National Championships held within Ontario.

To approve Brent McCauley as the Referee-in-Chief of the 2016 Mann Cup, Terry King as the Referee-in-Chief of the 2016 Founders Cup, Roger Nurse as the Referee-in-Chief of the 2016 Midget National Championships of Canada, and Blair Ferguson as the Referee-in-Chief of the 2016 Pee Wee National Championships of Canada.

M/ Frank Lawrence

S/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

2. Stan shared two Code of Conduct allegations submitted against an executive member of the Mississauga Tomahawks Lacrosse Association. The Board of Directors discussed the merit of the allegations and whether the behaviour of the respondent would warrant an investigation under the OLA's Code of Conduct.

The Board of Directors finds that the two submitted complaints, related to behaviour that alleges an ongoing breach of the OLA's Code of Conduct and Harassment Policy, are with merit and warrant a hearing to be held at the earliest opportunity.

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

To adjourn the June 8th, 2016 Board of Directors meeting.

M/ Michael Varanesi

S/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51PM.