



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 7, 2017**

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

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	OLA President (Chairperson)
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Jim Bomhof	VP Junior - Major
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Laurie Hansen	VP Minor
	Mike Varanesi	VP Development
	Sharon McKeachnie	Senior B
	Lisa Cartman	Junior C
	Sue Powless	Senior Women's Box
	Glen Flippance	Senior Men's Field
	Josh Briscoe	Minor Field
	John Mayo	OWFL
	Shelly Nobile	Zone 4
	Nicole Roe	Zone 8
	Dave Wilson	Zone 9
	Wendy Bennett-Costante	Zone 10
	Stan Cockerton	Executive Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
With Regrets:	John Doherty	OLA Past President
	Lynn Orth	VP Promotions
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Joe Hiltz	VP Field
	Mark Scheutzkowski	Junior Men's Field
	League Representative	Major Series Lacrosse
	Dean McLeod	Junior A
	Dave Vernon	Junior B
	Mike McKay	Zone 5
	Tina Manning	Zone 6
	Jenn Matheson	Zone 7
	Andrew Ecclestone	OLRA President
	Bruce Codd	Technical Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director

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MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM.

President's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending.

The OLA Board of Governors shall accept the minutes of the March 5th, 2017 meeting, as presented.

M/ Glen Flippance

S/ Laurie Hansen

CARRIED.

Zone 9 Report (Dave Wilson)

1. Dave outlined that Zone 9's executive has received correspondence from the OLA Office that some registration forms were incorrectly processed at the zone level. Stan Cockerton asked Dave to follow up with him directly to resolve this matter.
2. Dave explained that Zone 9's executive was concerned that published timelines related to hearing notifications were not being adhered to, which resulted in a discipline decision against the zone's executive. Dave asked if Zone 9 would be eligible to appeal the decision of the committee; Marion answered that an appeal would be granted under the circumstances. Shelly Nobile indicated that other zones were interested in the outcome, given that similar issues had been experienced across the province.
3. Dave indicated that he would remain present to maintain quorum, but did not wish to further participate in discussion.

Senior Men's Field Report (Glen Flippance)

1. Glen announced that the OSMFLL had finalized its roster of players who would represent Ontario as the "Toronto Lacrosse Club" to take part in the 150th Celebration of Lacrosse in Montreal on June 17th. Marion asked if all players on the roster were registered players with the Ontario Lacrosse Association in the previous OSMFLL season; Glen answered yes.

Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse Report (John Mayo)

1. John shared that the OWFL's league registration numbers had increased by 7% year-over-year, which resulted in six additional teams being added to the schedule. The OWFL season will begin on the Victoria Day weekend in May.

Junior C Report (Lisa Cartman)

1. Lisa reported that the season has begun without any issues. Initial impressions suggest that league parity is increasing, particularly with teams in the west division.

Zone 8 Report (Nicole Roe)

1. Report submitted.
2. Zone 8's executive are currently participating in call-outs to previous players who have not returned to stem the declining registration numbers.

Minor Field Report (Josh Briscoe)

1. Josh announced that the 2017 OMFLL's season was underway with some new challenges:
 - a. An average of 9-13 discipline hearings result after each weekend. Frank asked what types of infractions were resulting in discipline; Josh responded that the majority of penalties were assessed for unsportsmanlike conduct, abuse of officials and fighting. Frank asked for a copy of the suspension history to be submitted at the conclusion of the 2017 season.
 - b. An increasing number of teams were defaulting on their games early in the season. Glen asked what types of reasons were given for the defaults; Josh responded that common themes were player injuries, players participating in hockey games/try-outs, inclement weather and the aforementioned discipline issues. Glen suggested that teams who default in two games within a season are ineligible for provincial championships. Josh indicated that the OMFLL executive was currently mulling over options to ensure that all games in the schedule are played.
2. Josh shared that, despite these challenges, there were also some positive situations occurring in OMFLL: Guelph's U15A and U17A division championships would be covered by Rogers TV which will increase exposure to viewers within the region.

3. Josh requested clarification from the Board of Governors regarding the process using to enforce rulings against associations who improperly register players who they are not eligible to claim. Shelly responded that the intention of the rule was to prevent any registering club from either accidentally or intentionally tampering; in either situation, the onus is always on the club registrar to confirm each player's registration eligibility at the time of registration. Marion directed Josh to draft a memo, with assistance from Laurie, which will be communicated in writing to all association presidents that this ruling will be enforced in 2017 and beyond.

Zone 4 Report (Shelly Nobile)

1. Shelly reported that Zone 4's clubs are reporting a decrease in registration numbers. The biggest struggle for registration has been a lack of understanding surrounding registration rules. Shelly suggested that a special meeting be held in February with all of the club registrars and zone registrars in attendance to ensure that everyone has an intimate understanding of the rules and regulations prior to the season.

Senior B Report (Sharon McKeachnie)

1. The 2017 season will begin shortly, with six teams competing. The 2017 Presidents Cup will be hosted within Ontario by the Can/Am league's Six Nations Slash team.

Senior Women's Box Report (Sue Powless)

1. Sue announced that the OWBLL's 2017 season will be comprised of two tournaments and three league days, and will culminate in a provincial championship weekend to be held during the second weekend of the Ontario Lacrosse Festival in Oshawa. With the Board's approval of Clarington, the league will be comprised of six teams.

The OLA Board of Governors shall approve the application of Clarington to join the Ontario Women's Box Lacrosse League, beginning in 2017.

M/ Glen Flippance

S/ Laurie Hansen

CARRIED.

2. Sue shared that one of the mandates of the OWBLL's executive is to increase the presence and exposure of female officials participating in OWBLL games. Frank agreed to assist Sue in achieving this goal.

Zone 10 Report (Wendy Bennett-Costante)

1. Wendy reported that many clubs within Zone 10 (and across the province) are no longer prioritizing house league programs within their association. Discussion occurred amongst the Governors on this topic; the consensus a decline in house league programs contributes directly to a decline in registration overall.
2. Wendy presented concerns on behalf of Zone 10 related to the length of time it takes for the OLA Office/Board of Directors to deal with issues. Wendy requested that, going forward, consistent messages be relayed so that everyone knows what to expect.

Review of Old Business:

1. Jeramie presented the OLA's Accessibility Standards Policy, which was established in late-March. The ASP has now been added to the Policy section of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's website.

New Business:

1. Josh requested that Ron recirculate the 2017 Festival budget to the Board of Governors once it has been finalized. Stan indicated that the CLA was continuing to monitor the MA's who had expressed interest, but not commitment, in the 2017 Minor Box National Championships.
2. Wendy asked if a player was eligible to play for a team while awaiting an appeals release hearing. Stan responded that each situation should be decided on a case-by-case basis that considers the timing of the situation, but that eligibility permission would need to be granted by the VP of Minor Box.
3. Stan asked for volunteers to form a hearings review committee. The following names were volunteered:
 - a. Jim Bomhof
 - b. Josh Briscoe
 - c. Stan Cockerton
 - d. John Doherty
 - e. Glen Flippance
 - f. George Macdonald
 - g. Chuck Miller
 - h. Sue Powless

Closing Remarks (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion thanked everyone for attending and adding value to the organization. As the face of the Ontario Lacrosse Association, the Board of Governors are tasked with promoting positive messages regarding the game. With the 2017 season upon us, it is imperative that the Board of Governors present a unified and cohesive message: our involvement is always for the betterment of the game.

The OLA Board of Governors adjourn its May 7th, 2017 meeting.

M/ Sue Powless

S/ Shelly Nobile

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 PM.