



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY DECEMBER 7, 2017**

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	President
	Michael Varanesi	VP Development
	Joe Hiltz	VP Field
	Jim Bomhof	VP Major
	Laurie Hansen	VP Minor
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Lynn Orth	VP Promotions
	Stan Cockerton	Executive Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director
Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director	
Observers:	Shelly Nobile	Zone 4
	Dave Wilson	Zone 9
With Regrets:	John Doherty	Past President
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Bruce Codd	Technical Director

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY DECEMBER 7, 2017**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.

Chairperson's Welcome & Holiday Wishes (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group, thanked everyone for attending and wished the staff and Board of Directors a happy holiday season.
2. Stan thanked everyone who assisted in the 2017 Annual General Meeting. Feedback received about the weekend has indicated that it was another successful event; both lunch and dinner attendance have increased annually since 2014.

To approve the previous minutes dated October 4th, 2017.

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Laurie Hansen

CARRIED.

VP Promotions (Lynn Orth)

1. Lynn has begun gathering data on how many clubs intend (or wish) to send more than two representatives to the OLA's Semi-Annual General Meeting and educational workshops. Lynn has received a proposal that would result in clubs being charged a flat rate to offset the costs of additional representatives attending. Marion directed Lynn to bring a financial proposal to the January planning meeting. Lynn has also begun soliciting topics and presenters for SAGM modules.

VP Officiating (Frank Lawrence)

1. Frank presented the 2018 clinic dates for men's field and box referee certification clinics. Online registration is set to open on January 15th, 2018 to accept officials for the clinic of their choice. Online e-learning and certification for Level 3 box officials will be a new option for 2018.
2. Frank thanked the Board of Directors for continuing to prioritize and support female officials in all three sectors. Female officiating ranks are growing exponentially each year, and are part of the Action Plan focus for 2018.

3. Frank announced that the Owen Sound Father's Day Tournament and Zone 9 Conradi Intermediate Tournament will serve as additional opportunities for Qualifier referee selections.

VP Minor (Laurie Hansen)

1. Laurie updated the Board of Directors on Tyendinaga's application for establishment as an OLA member club. During the October 4th Board of Directors meeting, Laurie presented Zone 5's letter of support to recognize Tyendinaga as a member club within the OLA for competition in 2018. Concerns were raised at that time regarding Tyendinaga's fulfillment of their compliance requirements and other responsibilities. Lynn recognized that Tyendinaga's most recent submission did not include confirmation of their incorporation status and completed club constitution. Zone 5's letter of support has approved Tyendinaga without any conditions for 2018. Frank asked why Tyendinaga's home games were held outside of the Tyendinaga reservation; Laurie responded that she would clarify the reason.

To approve the Tyendinaga Minor Lacrosse Association for competition in 2018 under the following conditions: a completed constitution, a confirmed incorporation status and proof of club AGM minutes are submitted to Lynn Orth prior to Wednesday February 28th, 2018.

M/ Laurie Hansen

S/ Michael Varanesi

CARRIED.

2. Laurie presented the Board of Directors with a new member application proposal from Strathroy Minor Lacrosse. Zone 7 has conditionally approved Strathroy on two separate votes; one of the major concerns is how games played in Strathroy will be officiated. In addition to Zone 7's concerns, the Board of Directors identified the following additional concerns: the size of Strathroy's requested boundaries, the fact that the house league portion of the proposal only offers one team per division, and the absence of qualified officials in the association for the divisions that are proposed.

To approve the Strathroy Minor Lacrosse Association for competition in 2018 on probationary status, provided a detailed plan to address the concerns of the Board of Directors is received no later than February 1, 2018.

M/ Laurie Hansen

S/ Jim Bomhof

TABLED.

3. Laurie presented a proposal to further develop the existing Try Lacrosse Program, which is a registration option open to all OLA clubs running introductory winter camps, clinics or skills programs targeted to recruiting new players to lacrosse and offered for free to participants. The proposal includes the following modifications to the program: extending the opening date back to January 1 of the calendar year, specifying that the registration option is free to registered participants provided that the club is not charging fees to participate, that any camps, clinics or skills programs are offered between January 1st and June 1st, that these programs are open to returning players already registered in club field or box programs, and that all participants are registered under existing OLA residence rules and approved by the club registrar prior to active involvement.

To approve the TRY LACROSSE Proposal for the 2018 season as presented.

M/ Laurie Hansen

S/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

4. Laurie shared that minor box zone directors have been asked to submit their roles and responsibilities documentation prior to the first minor council meeting of 2018. Laurie anticipates that this exercise will focus the minor box leadership team on goal-setting and action plans.

VP Major (Jim Bomhof)

1. Jim shared that the Fergus Junior "C" Thistles are requesting approval to have their ownership transferred from the Centre-Wellington Minor Lacrosse Association to the Elora Junior "B" Mohawks. This ownership change is partly related to the fact that Steve Kelly has been elected to serve as Zone 8 Director. Jim has advised both Fergus and Elora that all outstanding accounts must be settled prior to the approval of ownership transfer. Jim recommended the Board of Directors accept this proposal, with a deadline of January 31st,

2018 for all accounts to be settled in order for the transfer to be recognized by the Ontario Lacrosse Association.

To approve transfer of ownership request of the Fergus Junior "C" Thistles to the Elora Junior "B" Mohawks, provided that any outstanding financials are settled prior to January 31st, 2018.

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Laurie Hansen

CARRIED.

2. Jim presented applications received from two FCQ (Quebec Lacrosse) for inclusion in the Ontario Junior "C" Lacrosse League. The Ontario Junior "C" League Council has approved each team to compete in 2018 on probationary status. Jim stated that the most prominent issue related to these applications is that no one knows how skilled either of these teams might be. Additionally, each team is requesting that they be approved to register as FCQ members who are approved to compete in the OLA in order to avoid any interprovincial transfer levies (similar to RMLL teams from Saskatchewan and Manitoba). Jim recommended that the proposals be accepted on one-year probationary status, with the following condition: an interprovincial agreement between FCQ and OLA be established, signed by both presidents and executive directors, which includes parameters for insurance coverage of non-OLA residents, as well as insurance for players competing within the province of Quebec, and for the assigning of all officials, regardless of the game's location, to be overseen by the OLA VP Officiating.

To approve the applications of the Eastern Townships Extreme Eagles and North Shore Kodiaks for probationary participation in the Ontario Junior "C" Lacrosse League beginning in 2018, on the condition that an interprovincial agreement between FCQ and OLA representatives be completed prior to March 1st, 2018.

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Michael Varanesi

CARRIED.

3. Jim provided an update on the investigation related to the cancellation of the Akwesasne Senior Women's Box Lacrosse tournament in 2017. Participating teams are requesting compensation for submitted costs related to the

cancellation of the tournament. Jim is continuing to work to reconcile this situation with league representatives.

4. Jim reported that the Wilmot Junior "C" Wild are appealing the decision of the Ontario Junior "B" Lacrosse League to deny their bid to compete as a Junior "B" team in 2018. Jim has met with the Wilmot leadership team to facilitate discussion with stakeholders, including the Kitchener Junior "A" Braves, to help resolve the situation. At this point, Wilmot plans to resubmit their application for inclusion in the 2019 season.

VP Field (Joe Hiltz)

1. Joe announced that the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse League has submitted a U-17 All-Star team proposal to the Ontario Summer Games committee that is similar to the approach taken in 2016. Joe recommended that the OLA approve the proposal ahead of the 2018 Ontario Summer Games. Marion directed Joe to receive the written proposal from the OWFL and circulate it to the Board of Governors prior to the 2018 planning meeting before approval would be considered.

VP Development (Michael Varanesi)

1. Michael reported that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport has not yet confirmed the 2017-2018 Quest for Gold Program criteria or application process. Jeramie has been tasked with establishing a mailing list to receive contact information so that when an announcement related to Quest for Gold is made, the information can be communicated to interested parties as quickly as possible. Michael intends to meet with application committee members to review the previous criteria and application guidelines in the first week of 2018.

Staff Reports

1. Stan announced that the location of the Ontario Lacrosse Association offices will be reviewed in early-2018, ahead of the expiration of our current sublease agreement. An update will be provided at the planning meeting.

Review of Old Business:

1. Laurie shared that she is working directly with members of the revived Brockville Minor Lacrosse Association to re-establish operations for 2018. Marion added that financial accounts are still outstanding from Brockville's previous participation in Zone 5, and that documentation compliance requirements have not been met. The Board of Directors discussed whether the amount of outstanding debts of the previous group might be addressed, should Brockville apply as a new club their compliance requirements be met.

New Business:

1. Laurie presented the proposals submitted by the South Shore Centurions and the North Shore Kodiaks for competition in OLA minor box. Consideration was given to each association's application separately. The main concerns outlined by the Board of Directors regarding each application included the following: certification of referees, as well as knowledge and ability; the formation of select teams (also known as all-star teams) for competition against OLA club teams; whether or not the CLA would require interprovincial transfers each player to participate; how non-playing bench personnel (coaches and trainers) would be certified by the OLA; in which events each team would be eligible to participate (zone play, invitational tournaments and provincial championships); and what types of insurance would be available to non-Ontario residents who are not covered primarily by OHIP. Marion indicated that a formal interprovincial agreement, including responses to all the Board of Directors concerns, signed by the President of the FCQ and by the President of the OLA, would be required prior to approval being granted to either association. The agreement would also need to clearly state that all competition occurs under OLA rules and regulations, including registration expectations and suspension guidelines, except where allowances are made in advance. The Board of Directors recommended that the applications be forwarded to Zone 5's Executive, along with the outlined concerns, for response. Consideration to the applications approval status will be tabled until a response is received.
2. Ron presented a proposal related to the insurance levy charged by the OLA to each club under the Fee Schedule. Under the current structure, members under 18 years are subject to a \$10.00 fee, and members aged 18 years and older are subject to a \$12.00 fee. Ron's recommendation for blended insurance would result in each member's annual insurance levy be set at \$10.00, regardless of the member's age. This blended insurance rate would be applicable to all minor box, minor field and women's field members (excluding women's senior field).

To approve the establishment of blended insurance for all minor box, minor field and women's field members (excluding senior women's field) at a total cost of \$10.00 per member.

M/ Lynn Orth

S/ Joe Hiltz

CARRIED.

3. Ron presented a submission on behalf of the Durham Junior Lacrosse League which included a review of the 2017 season.

To approve the Durham Junior Lacrosse League as a developmental, sanctioned league as of January 1, 2018, subject to the submission of an annual \$500 program entry fee and the completion of hard copy registration. All players and referees are required to be members in good standing with the Ontario Lacrosse Association and applicable leagues, and must follow all OLA rules and regulations. Additional AGM votes for league and team representatives will not be awarded.

M/ Michael Varanesi

S/ Lynn Orth

O/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

4. Ron requested the establishment of a new email address, which is to be registered as *wheredoisplay@ontariolacrosse.com* and is intended to address any question or concern related to residency rules for all three sectors.

To approve the establishment of an email address directly related to solving registration questions or concerns, and up to \$500.00 of the registration budget line for expenses related to its annual operation, to be overseen by Ron MacSpadyen.

M/ Frank Lawrence

S/ Michael Varanesi

CARRIED.

5. Ron announced that the Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League will begin utilizing the MyLAX ranking system in 2018. The operation of the MyLAX ranking system will be overseen by Ron.
6. Marion circulated hard copies of the meeting dates of the 2018 Ontario Lacrosse Association Board of Directors and Board of Governors meetings. Marion directed Jeramie to post all dates on the calendar of www.ontariolacrosse.com, and to circulate the meeting dates by email to the Board of Governors prior to the 2018 planning meeting.
7. The Board of Directors discussed the outcome of its meeting with the Zone Directors and Field Commissioners, and decided upon next steps for the registration process in 2018. Ron presented the job descriptions of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's 2018 Regional Registrar(s) to the Board of Directors for review. Marion directed Joe and Laurie to communicate the specifics of the revised registration process, as a result of the meeting with the Zone Directors and Field Commissioners, immediately following this meeting.

To approve the presented job proposal for the title of OLA Registrar, to be posted immediately and until January 5th, 2018, which will result in the hiring of up to two additional staff members on contract basis to assist in facilitating the OLA's registration approval process. This position is anticipated to begin no later than January 15th, 2018.

M/ Laurie Hansen
S/ Lynn Orth
A/ Frank Lawrence
CARRIED.

To adjourn the December 7th, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

M/ Joe Hiltz
S/ Jim Bomhof
CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.