



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2017**

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:26 PM.

Chair's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group, thanked everyone for attending, and wished those dads in attendance a happy Father's Day.
2. Marion announced that Doug Luey has accepted an interim commissioner position with Major Series Lacrosse. The league will continue to its search for a permanent replacement, and Doug will guide the new individual in the transition process.

*To approve the previous minutes dated April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

M/ Laurie Hansen

S/ Lynn Orth

**CARRIED.**

VP Finance Report (George MacDonald):

1. George recommended that Marion Ladouceur and Bruce Codd be set up with banking privileges.

VP Officiating Report (Frank Lawrence):

1. Frank stated that there is a very real shortage of referees in 2017. Over half of the current Qualifiers staff have been assigned to work games above their certification level to make up the number of referees needed to cover games, and one tournament has already been cancelled because referees could not be found to work it. Stan asked whether helmets were an issue, and Frank advised the Board of Directors that the referees are unhappy, both about having to wear helmets, and about how the CLA made this decision without speaking to referees from any of the provinces that it represents.
2. Frank advised the Board of Directors that a new national championship selection process has been initiated by the CLA, which contravenes the selection process used in Ontario. Referees are now required to apply directly

to the CLA in order to be considered for National Championships, which reverses the process of being selected by Ontario to represent the province. Stan offered to follow up with the CLA to determine how and why the process was changed.

3. Frank shared that he had been asked by the FIL to teach two clinics and assess referees during the European Championships in Finland in July.

*To approve the international travel request of Frank Lawrence to attend the European Championships in Finland.*

M/ Lynn Orth

S/ Laurie Hansen

**CARRIED.**

#### VP Junior – Major Report (Jim Bomhof):

1. Jim expressed disappointment in the cancellation of the Ontario Women's Box Lacrosse League's Senior Women's Akwesasne tournament. Frank stated that he was working with referees in the two weeks leading up to the tournament. Jim forwarded a letter that he received from the league commissioner to Marion, who will draft a response on behalf of the Board of Directors.
2. Jim stated that discipline issues in each of the five leagues have increased year-over-year. Stan asked about the nature of the incidents and Jim replied that the situations are spread out across the teams in each league (as opposed to a single team being responsible for the egregious conduct). Jim asked Frank to advise the referees that in-depth explanations are required to proceed with disciplinary hearings.
3. Jim circulated the 2017 Junior-Major Team Affiliation List for approval.

*To approve the 2017 Junior-Major Team Affiliation List.*

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Mike Varanesi

**CARRIED.**

#### VP Promotions Report (Lynn Orth):

1. Lynn updated the Board of Directors on her progress in ensuring club compliance during the 2017 season. There are no contentious issues to report; only the usual process of working with new representatives from each association to explain the requirements and expectations.

VP Minor Report (Laurie Hansen):

1. Laurie announced that the 2017 tournament season had begun. The tournament committee approved 56 tournaments in total to be held during the 2017 season. Laurie commended the dedicated efforts of the tournament committee: Cheryl Laplante, Lynn Withers, Chris Juniper and Fiona Clevely.
2. Laurie presented the results of a hearing involving a player who struck a referee with his stick during a game. The length of the player's discipline was determined, but Laurie requested for the Board of Directors assistance in deciding the set fine amount.

*To fine the association in the amount of \$100, to be contributed to the referee development budget line.*

M/ Mike Varanesi

S/ Jim Bomhof

A/ Frank Lawrence

**CARRIED.**

3. Frank asked for clarification on the outcome of the discipline process: how can the referees know that the Ontario Lacrosse Association has treated situations involving referee abuse seriously? Marion answered that consultation with the attending OLRA representative takes place to determine the most appropriate outcome, and it is up to that representative to communicate the results to the official(s) involved if necessary. Mike suggested that the outcomes of any discipline process be published online. Marion recommended that suggestions of this nature be considered during the off-season.

VP Development Report (Michael Varanesi):

1. Michael presented the list of Team Ontario chaperones for approval.

*To approve the 2017 Team Ontario Chaperones List, as presented.*

M/ Laurie Hansen

S/ Lynn Orth

**CARRIED.**

2. Michael shared that work on the following projects is still ongoing:
  - i. OLA House League Coaching Manual
  - ii. OLA House League Coaching Clinics
  - iii. OLA New Association Handbook (Fresh Start)

- iv. Lax on Wheels Program
3. Michael presented a variety of comments and themes that were compiled from the SAGM Luncheon's roundtable discussion. Michael asked for the Board of Directors to reflect on the comments as presented and then share short-term, midterm and long-term strategies with him prior to the next meeting.
4. Michael asked for an update on the revised Ontario Lacrosse Association website. Jeramie answered that work is ongoing, and that the site continues to be a priority.

#### Staff Reports:

1. Bruce identified areas where Team Ontario's 2018 tryouts process can be improved. Particular consideration should be given to OFSAA events, referee availability and geography.
2. Bruce reflected on the series strides made in regards to the 2017 coaching clinics. The next step for coaching clinics will be online registration for coaches.
1. Ron introduced the two names that had been hired as part of the OLA's Summer Student Internship: Tanner Thomson and Joseph Johnson. Both Tanner and Joseph have begun working in the office and are performing well in their roles.

#### Review of Old Business

1. Marion presented the results of the email vote in favour of Gareth McMahon competing for the Barrie Junior "C" Bombers for the 2017 season.

*To ratify the email vote of Gareth McMahon's Junior "C" eligibility request.*

M/ Laurie Hansen  
S/ Frank Lawrence

**CARRIED.**

2. Marion presented the results of the email vote in favour of permitting interlock house league play between Nepean and Gloucester.

*To approve interlocking houseleague between Nepean and Gloucester.*

M/ Lynn Orth  
S/ Michael Varanesi

**CARRIED.**

## New Business

1. Marion shared that she had been asked by the Brantford Minor Lacrosse Association whether there were rules relating to procuring turf in their arena. Stan advised that turf cannot be placed directly on top of an ice surface; there must be a subfloor if ice is kept in.
2. Michael advised the Board of Directors that extended delays in the scheduling of appeals has resulted in negative feedback from participants. Michael recommended that the process be reformed to ensure better guidelines. Marion responded that a committee to review the appeals process was struck at the May Board of Governors meeting.
3. Laurie presented a request from Tyendinaga to waive their Provincial Team Entry fees for the 2017 season. Marion advised Laurie to respond directly.
4. Laurie presented a request for the Burlington Pee Wee Girls team to extend the provincial entry requirement of 10 games and 1 tournament to July 9<sup>th</sup> in recognition of the fact that the division only has seven teams competing within Ontario. Marion advised Laurie to respond directly.
5. Frank asked Bruce to consider how to manage coaches within Ontario whose behaviour is considered detrimental to the image of the game. Bruce asked if the referees were unable/unwilling/uncomfortable to eject coaches from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. Frank responded that there is a power relationship between adult coaches and entry level referees which leads to intimidation. Bruce confirmed that he would speak to Rick about potential solutions to this problem.

## Closing Remarks (Marion Ladouceur):

1. Marion asked if there was any other new business to discuss.

*To adjourn the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.*

M/ Frank Lawrence

S/ Michael Varanesi

**CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:27PM.