



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2018**

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	President
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Jim Bomhof	VP Major
	Jenn Matheson	VP Minor
	Andree Davis	VP Field
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Michael Varanesi	VP Development
	Sonya Crossey	VP Promotions
	Stan Cockerton	Executive Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director
	Bruce Codd	Technical Director
	Fiona Clevely	Administration
With Regrets:	John Doherty	Past President
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2018**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:14 PM.

Chairperson's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy new year to the Board of Directors and staff.
2. The International Olympic Committee has provisionally recognized the sport of lacrosse. The process to enter lacrosse into the Olympics began around 2003 with a strategic plan to encourage as many countries as possible to organize nationally recognized competition. During the last 15 years, there has been a significant effort by the FIL to establish lacrosse in the wider sporting community through the formalization of constitutions, policies, unification of the international community, WADA compliance, and other prerequisites. Lacrosse is on track for inclusion in the Olympics, but is still approximately a decade away (out of the 100+ sports that are recognized by the IOC, only 60-70 actually compete in the Olympic Games). Realistically speaking, the next 5-6 years will be important in determining whether lacrosse might be included in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

To approve the previous minutes dated October 3rd, 2018.

M/ Jim Bomhof

S/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

VP Finance (George MacDonald)

1. NTR.

VP Junior – Major (Jim Bomhof)

1. Report submitted.
2. The Junior/Senior box lacrosse leagues welcomed two new commissioners at the 2018 OLA Annual General Meeting: Joe Hiltz will lead the Ontario Senior "B" Lacrosse League and Lindsay Sanderson will lead the Ontario Junior "A" Lacrosse League. They join Doug Luey (Major Series Lacrosse), Sue Powless

(Senior Women's Lacrosse), Dave Vernon (Junior "B") and Reg Holinshead (Junior "C"), with a commissioner's meeting scheduled for January to discuss the direction of the leagues. Thank you to Sharon McKeachie and Dean McLeod for their years of service.

3. The MSL and OJALL Entry Drafts are scheduled for January. The MSL Draft will be held on January 27th in Cobourg, while the OJALL Draft will be held on January 13th in Toronto.
4. With Ron MacSpadyen's assistance, the leagues will be utilizing online registration beginning this season. Teams have questioned whether there will be a savings in cost by moving to the online registration platform, but Stan responded that any savings are negligible (the savings of printing paper registrations is offset by the cost of licensing the software for additional associations).
5. The Board of Directors is concerned about the prospect of one owner (or ownership group) owning OLA multiple teams. Based on the concerns, it may be necessary to institute a policy about team ownership. Marion directed Jim to bring his recommendations to the January BOD Meeting.

VP Development (Michael Varanesi)

1. Report submitted.
2. There were many new initiatives in 2018 that deserve recognition. Congratulations to Bruce, Ron and Wendy for their hard work in promoting lacrosse during the 2018 season with the initiatives that were included in Michael's year-end AGM report.
3. The funding expectations and specifics for the Ministry's Quest for Gold program have not been communicated yet. Marion directed Michael to update the Board of Directors when information becomes available.

VP Officiating (Frank Lawrence)

1. The 2019 Minor Box Lacrosse clinic dates and locations have been set. The field and women's field dates are currently being finalized. Marion directed Frank to update the Board of Directors when that information becomes available.
2. The names of 11 OLA box lacrosse referees have been submitted to the CLA for consideration at the 2019 FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championships. The final names will be selected by the FIL. Ryan Fowler, a deserving official from Ontario, was not certified in 2018 but was still recommended because he remained involved in the OLA as a coach of a minor box lacrosse team. The Board of Directors felt that regular parameters should be in place to ensure that all individuals who are recommended by the OLA are committed to the OLA, including a regular amount of officiated games throughout the season.

To require a letter of intent from the eleven approved officials to stating their plan to officiate in the 2019 OLA season.

M/ George MacDonald

S/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

3. George asked about Andrew Ecclestone's year-end report, and whether the OLRA would like to write a letter to clarify his remarks.

To provide Andrew Ecclestone the opportunity to clarify the remarks included in his 2018 Year End Report in writing ahead of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Board of Governors meeting in March, 2019.

M/ George MacDonald

S/ Sonya Crossey

CARRIED.

VP Field (Andree Davis)

1. The four field leagues are meeting next weekend to reflect on the 2018 season and prepare for the 2019 season. Marion directed Andree to provide an update on the outcomes of this meeting at the January Board of Directors meeting.
2. The Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League has prepared a poster that they would like to be distributed to the membership to promote the opportunity to play spring field lacrosse. Marion directed Andree to work with Ron on this initiative.

VP Promotions (Sonya Crossey)

1. A meeting was held in Zone 8 to discuss promotional ideas for the 2019 season. Ron MacSpadyen and Bruce Codd were also in attendance. The meeting provided positive insight into the needs and efforts of the clubs within the zone. Additional meetings are being scheduled with Zone 5 and Zone 10, and the executives are encouraged to invite the people within their associations who are responsible for promotion, TRY Lacrosse, and other OLA programs that are aimed at increasing the number of registered players.
2. Ideas for the OLA's SAGM will be finalized ahead of the OLA's January Planning Meeting. Staff and Directors are encouraged to participate in presenting modules.

3. The Board of Directors discussed the importance of each Zone executive hosting its own planning meeting for the season. Marion directed Sonya and Jenn Matheson to prepare standardized planning meeting templates and meeting guidelines for circulation to each zone and club.

VP Minor (Jenn Matheson)

1. A conference call was held in November for members of Minor Council to bridge the gap between regularly-scheduled in-person meetings.
2. Shelburne Minor Lacrosse Association has formally applied to change its association boundaries from the township of Shelburne to the municipality of Melancthon. Zone 4 has approved this request. The Board of Directors discussed which other strategies were available to assist Shelburne.

To approve the municipality of Melancthon as the boundary of the Shelburne Vets Minor Lacrosse Association.

M/ George MacDonald

S/ Sonya Crossey

CARRIED.

Staff Reports

1. Bruce Codd is working with Rick Phillips to organize the 2019 Coaching Clinic dates and locations. There will be an effort to streamline the number of clinics, which will hopefully include a “super clinic” held in conjunction with the OLA SAGM.
2. Bruce Codd is working to development an interzone novice competition for the 2019 season. This initiative is currently in the very early planning stages, but the concept has been well-received. Marion directed Bruce to provide additional information when it becomes available.
3. Frank Lawrence asked Bruce to include a module focusing on the OLA’s Total Penalty Minute Policy (26/36) in this year’s coaching clinic.
4. Ron MacSpadyen discussed the status of the TRY Lacrosse program and the OLA’s Mini Game program. The Board of Directors expressed an interest in continuing to purchasing equipment for subsidized sale to clubs, which was outlined in the three-year strategy that was originally presented in 2017.
5. Ron MacSpadyen talked about the need for associations to utilize Bruce Codd and the OLA In-School program to grow the game. Not enough associations are doing this, and it’s a massive missed opportunity for new registrations. To illustrate this concept, Ron shared the video produced in conjunction with an

Introduction to Lacrosse document featuring Rob Dymment's school program that highlights how in-school introductory lacrosse programs translate into new registrations for clubs on a scale that is comparable to the TRY Lacrosse program. Schools should be used by each club, particularly where there are members within the educational community who might champion the introduction of lacrosse (the approach in the Rob Dymment video can easily be replicated across the province).

6. Fiona Clevely asked about the mandate for coaches to complete their Concussion Protocol Training. All non-playing bench personnel are expected to have completed the Making Headway e-Learning going forward. Bruce offered to provide additional information to the Board of Directors at the January Planning Meeting.
7. Stan discussed the acceptance of lacrosse into the 2021 Canada Games program. The main reason that lacrosse will be included is due to a strong lobby by the indigenous groups who led the effort. Lacrosse has not been part of the Canada Games since 1986, despite the fact that it is both a heritage sport and Canada's National Summer Sport, and it's inclusion is entirely due to the work of the indigenous leaders who contributed their time and energy. The 2021 Canada Games will be played in Niagara Falls, and the CLA will be looking for support during this event. Bruce spoke about the specific coaching challenges that may arise because of the pre-requisites necessary for coaching a team at this level.

Review of Business:

1. Marion advised the Board of Directors that the matters of the confidentiality breach and social media violations which were previously discussed have been resolved.
2. The Board of Directors discussed the status of the North Shore Kodiaks and South Shore Centurions, which are subject to review at the conclusion of each season under the interprovincial agreement with the FCQ. The Board of Directors were satisfied that progress is being made to address the issues that arose during the 2018 season. The FCQ associations will remain on provisional status for the 2019 season, at which point the interprovincial agreement will be reviewed in detail.
3. The OLA has received an invitational tournament application from the South Shore Centurions for the 2019 season. The FCQ agreement status that Quebec teams are permitted to compete in the OLA under the OLA rules. The Board of Directors clarified that the agreement specifies that zone games could be hosted in the province of Quebec, but does not permit for invitational tournaments to be scheduled outside of the province of Ontario. There will be

no tournaments granted outside the province of Ontario in the foreseeable future.

4. There have been efforts to form a proper zone boundary review committee. The proposed committee will include George MacDonald, Janet Murphy and Ron MacSpadyen. This initiative will be further discussed at the OLA Planning Meeting in January.
5. Jenn Matheson presented the Girls Box Committee Chairperson proposal, as well as some basic information about the position. This initiative will be further discussed at the OLA Planning Meeting in January.

New Business:

1. The Quinte Minor Lacrosse Association's application for OLA Membership was reviewed.

To approve the Quinte Minor Lacrosse Association, with the residential boundary of the City of Belleville, for provisional status beginning in 2019 and subject to review at the conclusion of the 2019 season.

M/ Jenn Matheson

S/ Andree Davis

CARRIED.

2. The OLA's Mini Game survey results were circulated, but not discussed.

To adjourn the December 11th, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

M/ Jenn Matheson

S/ Jim Bomhof

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34PM.