



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 6, 2018**

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION OFFICES
BOARD ROOM
10:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	OLA President
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Jim Bomhof	VP Major
	Laurie Hansen	VP Minor
	Joe Hiltz	VP Field
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Mike Varanesi	VP Development
	Doug Luey	Major Series Lacrosse
	Dean McLeod	Junior A
	Dave Vernon	Junior B
	Reg Holinshead	Junior C
	Sue Powless	Senior Women's Box
	Shelly Nobile	Zone 4
	Sonya Crossey	Zone 6
	Steve Kelly	Zone 8
	Dave Wilson	Zone 9
	Wendy Bennett-Costante	Zone 10
	Mark Scheutzkowski	Junior Men's Field
	Josh Briscoe	Minor Field
	John Mayo	Women's Field
	Andrew Ecclestone	OLRA
	Stan Cockerton	Executive Director
With Regrets:	John Doherty	OLA Past President
	Lynn Orth	VP Promotions
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Sharon McKeachnie	Senior B
	Mike McKay	Zone 5
	Jenn Matheson	Zone 7
	Joel Firmin	Senior Men's Field
	Bruce Codd	Technical Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 6, 2018**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM.

President's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending.
2. Rose Engemann passed away on April 26th. Rose was a long-time member of the Ontario Lacrosse Association, as well as a member of both the Ontario and Canadian Hall of Fame for her work in establishing the Spartan Athletic Club in St. Catharines.
3. The level of decorum at official OLA events has declined, which presents a concern. All members in OLA leadership positions should refrain from sending negative emails throughout the membership as they reflect badly on everyone. Prior to Board of Governors meetings, submitted reports are expected from everyone in attendance so that attendees may prepare thoughtful questions. At all Board of Governors meetings, reports and comments should be presented humbly, and those who are present are expected to listen respectfully.
4. The collective bargaining agreement between the Ontario Lacrosse Association and the Ontario Lacrosse Referees Association was recently finalized. This agreement is in effect for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 seasons.

The OLA Board of Governors shall accept the minutes of the March 4th, 2018 meeting, as presented.

m/ Josh Briscoe

s/ Sue Powless

CARRIED.

OLRA Report (Andrew Ecclestone)

1. Contract negotiations were carried out in an amicable manner.
2. The OLRA executive seeks an agreeable resolution to requiring referees to wear helmets that include ear pieces.
3. Junior and senior lacrosse clubs are to advise their members of the new game fees for the 2018 season, which are available on the OLA website.

Zone 10 Report (Wendy Bennet-Costante)

1. Zone 10 clubs appreciated the boundaries presentation that was prepared by Janet Murphy and Ron MacSpadyen, as well as the “flat-rate” cost for clubs to attend.
2. A meeting is necessary to resolve the finer details of the Sportzsoft online registration software. This meeting should include Ron, Fiona, and registrars and/or representatives from minor field, minor box and women’s field.
3. Zone 10 currently has eight participating associations and would like to discuss zone realignment, particularly around Newmarket and Milton.
4. Zone 10 has appointed an “Ideas Person” to generate concepts for grassroots promotion through Facebook Workplace. While the group was started by Zone 10, it is open to all associations who wish to offer ideas and/or learn from what is working in other associations.
5. A request was submitted for assistance with a \$925.00 entry fee for participation in the Carassauga Festival, as well as promotional items for a booth display. Although volunteers were lined up, resources were not made available and Zone 10 did not participate. Stan responded that the OLA could have researched this and responded if the office had been properly advised of the request.

Junior “A” Report (Dean McLeod)

1. Dean McLeod will be retiring as league commissioner after 36 years. The application process for the commissioner of the OJALL will be posted on the OLA website following the conclusion of the Ontario Junior “A” Lacrosse League finals.
2. The 2018 Minto Cup will be held at the Max Bell Arena in Calgary. This Minto Cup is expected to be operated remarkably well, given the amount of preparation that has been seen so far.

Zone 9 Report (Dave Wilson)

1. There was confusion generated by an OLA committee decision to permit Brantford to play 40% of their games in Zone 9 and 60% of their games in Zone 10 without inviting Zone 9 representatives to attend the committee meeting. George responded to say that the committee had reviewed Brantford’s request to relocate to Zone 9, but determined that the request had been submitted too close to the beginning of the season to permit for the full request to be granted until the 2019 season.

2. The Zone executive has been contacted by a lawyer whose relative is involved with the St. Catharines Minor Lacrosse Association to advise the Zone that a court injunction has been planned to prevent SCMLA from signing players outside of their municipal boundaries while releasing local resident players. At the time of this meeting, there is no further information or details on the situation, but the Zone 9 executive intends to monitor the outcome.

Junior “B” Report (Dave Vernon)

1. The Ontario Junior “B” season has begun with a higher than normal number of penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct. Extra discussion with certain teams will take place to curb this undisciplined behaviour.
2. The teams of the Ontario Junior “B” Lacrosse League are still concerned that the CLA’s 2018 Founders’ Cup has not been properly organized. The most significant concern is whether the referees will be able to enter the United States to officiate the tournament. The OJBLL “entry cheque” will be taken to Halifax for the CLA Semi-Annual Meeting at the end of May but the transfer of the funds will not take place if the situation is not resolved.

Zone 8 Report (Steve Kelly)

1. Two new clubs will begin operation of house league programs this season: Bruce County (Port Elgin) and West Grey (Town of Durham).
2. Zone 8 has invested \$2,500 into referee supervision for the 2018 season. Senior officials will attend games to work with new referees and offer feedback to improve officiating and build on the concepts and mechanics discussed in the referee certification clinics. Zone RIC Ryan Wilson has received initial support from referees within Zone 8. In addition, each centre in Zone 8 has agreed to host a “Silent Night” to call attention to referee abuse.

Junior “C” Report (Reg Holinshead)

1. Similar to the OJBLL, the Ontario Junior “C” season has also begun with a higher than normal number of undisciplined penalties. One game resulted in a combined total of over 300 penalty minutes between the two teams. Wendy Bennett-Costante suggested that the OJCLL consider instituting coach suspensions for excessive penalty minutes. Frank Lawrence suggested increasing the length of suspensions as opposed to increasing the amount of the fines. Steve Kelly suggested that perhaps it is necessary for leagues above minor lacrosse to consider adding a third official on the floor. Stan Cockerton suggested that referees may be willing to make

stronger calls if their decisions are supported by the OLA's commissioners through supplementary discipline.

2. Another concern is the number of clubs who have an insufficient number of volunteers to function, which raises the likelihood of burnout and is a threat to the long-term viability of these clubs. Reg is working with "at risk" clubs to ensure that there are a healthy number of volunteers involved in each operation.
3. With approval from VP Major Jim Bomhof and the OLA's Board of Directors, the OJCLL has welcomed two teams from the FCQ into competition for the 2018 season. Each team has already posted their first franchise victory in OLA competition.

MSL Report (Doug Luey)

1. Major Series Lacrosse wishes to extend an invitation for all Board of Governors to attend a game throughout the season. Doug can be contacted for details.
2. MSL has a redesigned website which is generating plenty of interest in the league. (<http://www.majorserieslacrosse.ca/>)
3. A new initiative called Lacrosse TV is planned to offer fans the opportunity to watch games online.

Zone 6 (Sonya Crossey)

1. Player registration has remained consistent year-over-year, but many clubs are not advertising registration or utilizing available promotional materials this year which is a missed growth opportunity.
2. Clarington, Oshawa and Whitby have applied to operate an interlock house league program. A full report on the success of this endeavour will be provided at the conclusion of the 2018 season.
3. Due to rising costs, the "Lacrosse Day in Durham" has been reduced to a single-day event for 2018.
4. Zone 6 RIC's Ben Kirkwood and Kyle Kropman have outlined a plan to use three referees on the floor an addition to providing written evaluations for entry level referees.
5. The OLA's 3-on-3 Mini Game program is an exciting new platform for the clubs that are operating it.

OWBLL Report (Sue Powless)

1. The OWBLL's regular season will begin the first week of June. Teams will be playing "tournament style" to relieve the pressures of travelling for single games on the players and the officials.

2. OWBLL has a redesigned website which is generating plenty of interest in the league. (<http://site1516.goalline.ca/>)

Zone 4 Report (Shelly Nobile)

1. There have been multiple player registrations that were rejected for geographical reasons, but the OLA office has resolved each issue individually and everyone is now properly registered. There are also some clubs from outside Zone 4 who have been suspected of tampering with Zone 4's players (including actually filling out the release request on behalf of the players). Laurie asked all Zone Directors to remind their clubs that tampering of player registrations can result in disciplinary action.
2. Multiple paperweight and tyke programs have begun utilizing the OLA 3-on-3 Mini Game format and the response from players and parents has been overwhelmingly positive.
3. In previous seasons, players who were registered under prior versions of MR2.08(c) were allowed to choose their home centre based on the "8km rule." The current ruling may cause that same player to be required to play for a different centre, despite the prior version of the regulation stating that the player would be given the choice. Ron MacSpadyen responded that the rule in effect at the time of the initial registration governs the player.

OWFL Report (John Mayo)

1. The OWFL league has increased its team registration to a total of 84 teams (up five teams from the 2017 season). The 2018 season begins in mid-May in Oshawa.
2. In an effort to develop stronger officials in anticipation of the 2019 U-19 World Lacrosse Championships in Peterborough, the league will be investing up to \$10,000 in referee mentoring programs for the 2018 season. A portion of the funding will be dedicated to encouraging first year officials to participate every weekend as timekeepers, scorekeepers and technical officials, while senior officials will be on hand to advise and instruct.

Minor Field Report (Josh Briscoe)

1. The first two weekends of the season were cancelled because of inclement weather. Schedules have been revised to accommodate the teams competing at U-11 divisions and above, but this has resulted in the outright cancellation of many U-9 games (this determination was made because the U-9 division is not ranked as part of MyLax). Joe Hiltz asked whether the games in U-9 would be rescheduled and Josh answered that the

current plan is to reschedule this division during the Provincial Championships at the end of the season.

2. The OMFLL has planned some initiatives to invest in the future of the minor field program. Discussion took place about the honorariums that are paid to league executives, which are agreed upon prior to each season by the OMFLL Council.
3. OLA registered box and field members will be eligible to participate in a Turkey Shoot tournament which will be hosted by the Zone 8 executive.
4. The OMFLL intends to partner with the You Can Play program for the 2019 season. You Can Play works to ensure safety and inclusion for all who participate in sports, including LGBT athletes, coaches and fans. You Can Play believe sports teams should focus on the athlete's skills, work ethic and competitive spirit, not their sexual orientation and/or gender identity).
5. The fall U-9 OMFLL program will use 3' by 3' nets and will divide the field into thirds (three games on the field at one time). The fall U-11 OMFLL program will divide the field into halves (two games on the field at one time).
6. Members of the OMFLL executive intend to communicate with members of the OMHA executive to review the try-out schedule for hockey teams who currently conflict with the OMFLL season. Marion asked Joe Hiltz to assist in these discussions and report back to the Board of Directors on any progress that is made.

Junior Men's Field Report (Mark Schuetzkowski)

1. There was a lack of communication regarding the referee contract discussions between the OJMFL and the OLRA, but the league has now begun budgeting for its officiating program for the upcoming season.

Senior "B" Report (Sharon McKeachie)

1. Brooklin Merchants, Ennismore James Gang, KW Velocity, Oakville Titans, Owen Sound Northstars and Six Nations Rivermen will compete in the 2018 OSBLL. The Council has mandated a balanced double home and away schedule for all teams in the league. The top four teams will proceed to playoffs, and the Ontario OSBLL champion will represent Ontario at the Presidents Cup in Nanaimo, BC.

Review of Old Business:

1. Marion reiterated that all members are expected to submit reports in advance of their attendance to maintain the flow of each meeting.

2. Stan announced that Glen will be adding a note to the OLA's Criminal Record Checks policy that will clarify the process for submissions going forward.

New Business:

1. Jim Bomhof advised the Board of Governors that the five junior and senior leagues have requested permission to operate the shot clock during all possessions, including penalty kill situations, for the 2018 season. Dean commented that although the teams in Junior "A" have made this request, they recognize that the CLA will mandate that the playing rules be followed during national championship games. Stan said that the office will ask for an interpretation from the insurance company prior to approving this type of change to the playing rules.
2. Sonya Crossey advised the Board of Governors that an abilities program for parasport players will be held on Friday evenings at Rickard Arena in Clarington.
3. Stan Cockerton announced that the CLA has finalized an agreement to include men's and women's lacrosse events as part of the Canada Summer Games.

The OLA Board of Governors adjourns its May 6th, 2018 meeting.

m/ Laurie Hansen

s/ Shelly Nobile

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.