



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
SUNDAY SETEPMBER 17, 2018**

**HILTON MEADOWVALE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE  
NORTH STUDIO 2  
10:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

President's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and commented on the positive attendance.
2. A productive meeting was held between Marion, Jim Bomhof, Doug Luey (MSL), Sharon McKeachnie (Senior B), Dean McLeod (Junior A), Dave Vernon (Junior B), Reg Holinshead (Junior C) and Sue Powless (OWBLL), with a number of proposed changes to the junior/senior box program for the 2019 season. Suggestions include assessing the automatic fine policy and updating the fine structure, eliminating suspension "buy backs," providing a definitive answer on the characterisation of protected rosters and ratifying the permanent modification of the playing rules to permit the operation of the 30-second clock during all possessions, regardless of the floor-strength of the teams. A follow-up meeting has tentatively been scheduled for January.
3. The 2018 Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame Annual Golf Tournament will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Glen Abbey Golf Course in Oakville. Additional information about this event can be found at the OLHOF's website, or by contacting Chuck Miller or Wendy Cuthbert.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall accept the minutes of the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting, as presented.*

m/ Jenn Matheson

s/ Jim Bomhof

**CARRIED.**

Zone 9 Report (Dave Wilson)

1. The 2018 season was incredibly positive. Boundaries and registration issues have been mainly resolved.
2. Fort Erie's new executive are working hard to increase their membership and teams, and have expressed an interest in drawing on the support of promotional materials and opportunities offered by the OLA.

### Junior B Report (Dave Wilson)

1. The 2018 season was a fantastic success, with 300 games being played over the course of 17 weeks, and many of the playoff series requiring five games to determine the winner.
2. The pilot of operating the 30-second clock during penalties was received with overwhelming support. Game momentum increased, and supplementary penalties during short-handed play were reduced. Clubs in the Junior B league unanimously agreed that this rule should be forwarded to the CLA as a proposed rule change for the 2019 season.
3. Seven referees from the Qualifier program were introduced to regular season Junior B games to augment the limited referee pool. The Junior B Council thanks these officials, as well as the regular officiating staff, for their dedication to the sport.
4. Due to increased game fees, per diems and consistently elevated fuel prices, the cost to pay the officials for the 2018 regular season and playoffs was higher than normal, with a post-equalization average cost of \$155 per referee per game throughout 2018.
5. The Elora Mohawks emerged as the Ontario Championships prior to capturing the CLA's Founders Cup in Akwesasne. Kurtis Woodland led the scoring during the Founders Cup with 16 goals and 24 assists over the course of five games, while goaltender Landon Kells posted a .500 Goals Against Average. The championship title marks the sixth franchise title for Elora.

### Junior "A" Report (Dean McLeod)

1. *In Dean's absence, Marion offered her gratitude for his years of service to both the OJALL and to the OLA. It is noted that Dean has offered to assist his replacement through the transition period of up to one year, if requested to do so. Dean will continue with his other OLA responsibilities.*

### Senior Men's Field Report (Joel Firmin)

1. The 2018 regular season is underway. Centre-Wellington folded their team three weeks prior to the start of the season, which resulted in last-minute scheduling changes.
2. Toronto has pulled out of the CLA Ross Cup National Championship due to a lack of players able to commit to participate. Ontario is the only MA who cannot substitute players from other teams to fill their roster for this event.

### Zone 7 Report (Jenn Matheson)

1. The 2018 season was very successful for Zone 7 teams.
2. There are a number of new volunteers who are committed to becoming involved in executive positions, both within the associations and at the zone level. Jenn intends to step down as Zone Director, and a replacement director will be confirmed at the October Zone 7 AGM.

### Major Series Report (Doug Luey)

1. The Peterborough Lakers hosted a very successful CLA Mann Cup National Championship, ultimately sweeping the Maple Ridge Burrards to capture their 16<sup>th</sup> franchise title. Thanks to the OLA office staff for their support in assisting the host committee and attending the series.
2. The average attendance during MSL regular season / playoff games increased during the 2018 season, and LacrosseTV provided quality streaming options for viewers to tune in each week.
3. The teams of the MSL wish to pilot a three-official system for the 2019 season but are concerned with the lack of referees available in Ontario.
4. The teams of the MSL are concerned with certain proposed rule changes that are rumoured to be before the CLA for consideration. Doug asked Marion to be in touch regarding any proposed rule changes prior to the CLA's AGM in November.

### Junior "C" Report (Reg Holinshead)

1. The 2018 playoffs featured incredible action between a number of high-quality teams. In the Ontario championship series, Peterborough defeated Wilmot 4 games to 1 to capture the Meredith Cup.
2. The OJCLL attempted to broadcast as many games as possible using the JVI streaming platform, and the feedback that was received was very positive. Junior "C" Council actively encourages other leagues to consider this option to boost exposure.
3. The pilot of adding two teams from the FCQ to the Far East division will be reviewed prior to the 2019 season. The North Shore Kodiaks team, which competed in the OJCLL during the 2018 season, was entered into the Founders Cup as the representative team from Quebec.
4. Throughout the season, there were issues with certain teams arriving to away games with a less than suitable roster size. The OJCLL is attempting to find solutions to prevent this from happening in the 2019 season. That said, the overall quality of lacrosse and entertainment continues to be impressive, and several centres within the province have expressed an

interest in applying for new teams. Jim Bomhof will be notified of any associations who wish to apply for expansion franchises.

#### Junior Men's Field Report (Mark Schuetzkowski)

1. Several associations do not plan to enter teams for the 2018 season, and even more associations are "on the bubble." The fall field lacrosse season requires better promotion as too many people think that lacrosse ends with the Ontario Lacrosse Festival in August.

#### Zone 8 Report (Steve Kelly)

1. Zone 8's season ended spectacularly, with 9 provincial gold championship teams and an additional 9 provincial finalist teams. Teams throughout the zone were also seen congratulating each other on their respective victories and successes throughout the Ontario Lacrosse Festival.
2. There are two new clubs competing in Zone 8 (West Grey Rampage and Bruce County Bucks), who have just successfully completed their first season of exhibition play. The Zone 8 executive will continue to encourage these new associations throughout the 2019 season.
3. Referee abuse is being addressed with "silent night" events throughout the zone. The positive feedback from fans, players and referees is encouraging and plans are underway for monthly silent nights throughout the 2019 season. These type of awareness events have also noticeably reduced the amount of yelling in subsequent zone games, which demonstrates that these types of activities work.

#### Minor Field Report (Josh Briscoe)

1. U-9 field lacrosse is currently in deemed to be a development program by the Ontario Lacrosse Association. The OMFLL wishes to apply for full recognition of the U-9 by the OLA, whereby games are played on half-fields, using a 3' by 3' net and a 7-v-7 structure, with full provincial championships.

*The OLA Board of Governors shall approve the OMFLL's U-9 program as fully sanctioned beginning in the 2019 season.*

m/ Josh Briscoe

s/ Jim Bomhof

**CARRIED.**

2. The OMFLL has discussed a proposal whereby associations with an insufficient number of players to form a club team would be able to register players that could travel to a central location within the region to form teams for competition. Several questions arose from this discussion about the credibility of sanctioning this type of proposal.
3. To date, the OMFLL has not been invited to participate in Minor Council meetings.

#### Zone 4 Report (Shelly Nobile)

1. Despite some issues with discipline, Zone 4 teams are reportedly happy with the operation of the 2018 season. These issues will be addressed prior to the start of the next season of play.
2. Referee abuse has been addressed by scheduling zone executive members to randomly attend games throughout the season with a mandate to clear the stands if fan behaviour was found to be unacceptable. The message was quickly received by the small number of fans who engage in bad conduct, and the experience has improved for the players and referees.
3. There are a number of new volunteers who are committed to becoming involved in executive positions, both within the associations and at the zone level. Shelly intends to step down as Zone Director, and a replacement director will be confirmed at the October Zone 4 AGM.

#### Senior B Report (Sharon McKeachnie)

1. The scheduling of the recent commissioners' meeting, as mentioned in Marion's opening address, was a welcome opportunity for the junior/senior box lacrosse commissioners to discuss their concerns in a positive format with the OLA.
2. The OSBLL executive enjoyed another successful season of competitive, and the final seeding for playoffs was not determined until the final two games of the regular season, which made for an exciting finish. The Oakville Titans defeated the Owen Sound North Stars in five games to advance to the CLA President's Cup National Championship in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Although the Titans finished second in round-robin play, they were defeated in semi-finals and finished fourth overall in the tournament. The Oakville Titans were commended for being fantastic ambassadors for the OLA.

### Zone 5 Report (Mike McKay)

1. The inclusion of two associations from the FCQ brought Zone 5's total number of clubs to nine for the 2018 season. Although there were a few issues throughout the regular season, they were resolved at the zone level.
2. It is anticipated that the Zone 5 executive will remain largely unchanged for the 2019 season, which will provide continuity for the volunteers and associations. The search for a Zone RIC is ongoing, which does hamper the development of new officials in the area. Zone 5 has introduced an online video conference option to reduce the travel for volunteers to attend executive meetings throughout the season.
3. There will be a major focus in 2019 on the conduct of non-playing personnel and spectators to address negative behaviour that is harmful to the image of the sport.

### Zone 6 Report (Sonya Crossey)

1. The introduction of interlocking house league opportunities for Zone 6 teams was deemed to be a positive opportunity to introduce new players to the sport and will hopefully expand for the 2019 season.
2. Zone 6's associations do not intend to participate in the Lacrosse In Motion's 2019 Lacrosse Day in Durham due to operational issues.
3. The Zone 6 intermediate division was temporarily suspended during the course of the season while behavioural issues were addressed. Associations who coordinate intermediate teams are committed to ensuring a positive management of the intermediate division in 2019.
4. Zone 6 associations intend to remove their field lacrosse teams from the U-9 division of the OMFLL in favour of coordinating a zone development program for the 2019 season. Josh expressed concern that the OMFLL had not been consulted in this decision.
5. Zone 6 RICs Ben Kirkwood and Kyle Kropman were commended for their efforts in managing and mentoring the referees throughout the season.

### Zone 10 Report (Wendy Bennett-Costante)

1. Zone 10 has suggested that a zone registrar's meeting be held prior to the AGM to provide feedback. Ron MacSpadyen indicated that a registrar feedback session is being planned for October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
2. Wendy offered to prepare a survey for Frank Lawrence to circulate to the referees to determine referee retention rates for current and recent-past

officials. Frank responded that this type of assistance would be helpful in tabulating referee feedback.

3. An update on Zone Realignment continues to be asked by associations in Zone 10. At this time, there is no mandate to realign the zones.
4. An update was provided on the seven OLA initiatives that were identified at the beginning of the season. Ron indicated that a report would be prepared for the AGM detailing the results.

#### Review of Old Business:

1. Marion commented on the positive changes that many zones are making to attract new volunteers, and suggested that zones and leagues consider capping the terms of certain executive positions to ensure that new volunteers are encouraged to become involved on a regular basis. In some cases, no one wants to stand for election against an incumbent in case the existing executive becomes upset by the challenge, but change is ultimately a good thing because it invites new ideas.
2. Marion also pointed out that promotion is key to clubs who wish to operate a successful program. The OLA's promotional opportunities, including the Ontario Lacrosse Magazine, Try Lacrosse materials, 3-on-3 Mini Game, In-School Program and other advertising opportunities should be utilized by clubs to promote at the grass-roots level if registration numbers are expected to grow.
3. Jenn Matheson provided a summary of the Minor Council meeting from September 15<sup>th</sup>. Minor Council inquired as to the practicability of establishing call-in lines for hearings. Marion advised that it is important for members to attend discipline hearings in person, and that accommodations are made as often as possible to hold these hearings in locations that are suitable for everyone involved. Minor Council also suggested that Code of Conduct complaints are not being addressed in a timely manner, which hurts the credibility of the process. Marion indicated that she would look into any outstanding complaints.
4. Frank Lawrence spoke about the success of the pilot program for supplementary discipline to the head coach of any team exceeding the predetermined number of penalty minutes in a single game, and asked for support from the Zone Directors to forward the proposal to the Board of Directors as a permanent policy. The Zone Directors agreed to support this proposal.
5. Bruce Codd reflected on the positive season of Team Ontario camp tryouts, which were held in each zone in an effort to be as inclusive as possible. For the 2019 season, there is a plan to create "zone teams" at



the Novice division with the goal of establishing a mid-season tournament to create opportunities for players and coaches to participate at an elite level of play below the Qualifier entry age.

6. Ron MacSpadyen spoke about the serious conflict of interest that exists when OLA executive members who are also involved with “for-profit” organizations access OLA database information, and the need for the Board of Directors to authorize action against members who are guilty of this practice.
7. Jeramie Bailey provided a written report which requested Board of Governors Year-End Reports to be submitted no later than October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for inclusion in the AGM Convention Booklet. The OLA website has important AGM information which includes the deadlines for award nominations, lunch and dinner tickets, hotel rooms, etc. This information is fluid and updated regularly in the lead-up to the 2018 AGM.
8. Marion reminded the league commissioners that their policy papers are required to be submitted to the OLA office for filing.

#### New Business:

1. Sharon McKeachnie questioned why Ontario is the only CLA Member Association that is designated as Type 1 for competition in the President’s Cup National Championship. While Ontario competes in the tournament with allowance to pick up players from a lower category affiliated team, other MA’s representatives are allowed to pick up players from the same category, or to enter as an “all-star” select team in which all players in a given category are eligible. This designation puts Ontario at a disadvantage when it comes to fielding a competitive team at the national championship level. Sharon asked for the OLA to consider a proposal that would eliminate Type 1 designation from the CLA’s operations manual, which would permit the OLA’s representative to be categorized as a Type 2 or Type 3 team dependent upon the MA’s level of play.
2. Shelly Nobile announced that an initial exploration is being conducted on the feasibility of a “Senior C” league for players graduating from junior lacrosse programs who wish to continue playing but find it difficult to earn a spot or commit to the schedule of one of the OLA’s 12 senior-level teams. Preliminary suggestions include exclusive tournament play on weekends, with the requirement that a team must successfully compete in at least three tournaments prior to qualifying for provincial championship play, with modified period lengths and other adjustments to ensure that the operation of the league can be successful. Since Senior C divisions exist in other

provinces, Shelly believes that the OLA can successfully operate a league for players who wish to continue their involvement in the game. An important distinction would be that this proposed league would have no affiliation with any other senior division, and movement between leagues would not be permitted.

*The OLA Board of Governors permits the gathering of information related to the establishment of a Senior C league, with a detailed proposal to be presented to the OLA's Board of Directors for review.*

m/ Shelly Nobile

s/ Sonya Crossey

**CARRIED.**

*The OLA Board of Governors adjourns its September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.*

m/ Dave Wilson

s/ Jenn Matheson

**CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM.