



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2019**

**HILTON MEADOWVALE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE
SOUTH STUDIO 3
11:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	OLA President
	Jim Bomhof	VP Major
	Jennifer Matheson	VP Minor
	Andree Davis	VP Field
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Michael Varanesi	VP Development
	Sonya Crossey	VP Promotion
	Joe Hiltz	Ontario Series
	Shelly Nobile	Senior Series
	Sue Finnen	Women's Box
	Lindsay Sanderson	Junior A
	Dave Vernon	Junior B
	Reg Holinshead	Junior C
	Scott Morrison	Zone 4
	Dr. Beth Pollock	Zone 5
	Paula Kearnan	Zone 6
	Jerry Kavanaugh	Zone 7
	Steve Kelly	Zone 8
	Mary Sticca	Zone 9
	Wendy Bennett-Costante	Zone 10
	Mark Scheutzkowski	Junior Men's Field
	Josh Briscoe	Minor Field
	Stan Cockerton	OLA Executive Director
	Jeramie Bailey	OLA Promotions Director
With Regrets:	John Doherty	Past President
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Ryan Wilson	OLOA President
	Joel Firmin	Senior Men's Field
	John Mayo	Women's Field

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2019**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 11:01 AM.

President's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and remarked on the positive attendance.
2. The season was difficult. Thank you to the Board of Directors, in particular Jim Bomhof, for taking on additional responsibilities and maintaining order.
3. The 2019 Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame Annual Golf Tournament will be held on October 5th, 2019 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 5th, 2019 meeting, as presented.

m/ Andree Davis

s/ Sue Finnen

CARRIED.

Junior B Report (Dave Vernon)

1. The 2019 season was incredibly positive. For the first time ever, four teams were tied for first place in one division at the conclusion of the season. There was standing room only for the OJBLL Provincial Championship series between Akwesasne and Six Nations. All five games were necessary to determine the winner.
2. The 2019 Founders Cup championship left a lot to be desired. Without proper oversight, the standard of national championships appears to be falling. A better working relationship between the host committee and the CLA would improve the experience for everybody. The Brampton Excelsiors are set to host the 2020 Founders Cup as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations, and the standard of expectations will be high.
3. A number of situations occurred between teams and officials this season, which is unsettling. These issues must be properly resolved to prevent future altercations.

Zone 9 Report (Mary Sticca)

1. There were 90 officials in Zone 9 this year, but only 60 of them were returning. With over 600 games occurring in the zone, there were more than a few nights where it was difficult for the RIC to cover the number of games.
2. Prior to changes made by the OLA in relation to GM28's, fans and bench staff were a recurring issue. Increased discipline measures have set an appropriate tone and should not be deviated from when the OLA reviews the Automatic Minor Discipline Policy during the off-season.
3. Club reps are required to be in home arenas during games. Going forward, Zone 9 is considering having these club representatives check in with the officials at their dressing room prior to the game so that the officials can identify who can assist if the need arises. Zone 9 is also recommending that "Silent Night" be mandated as part of Lacrosse Week in Ontario for the 2020 season.

Senior "B" Report (Joe Hiltz)

1. "It was an interesting first year as commissioner."
2. The Six Nations Rivermen won the Ontario Championship before going 8-1 through the Presidents Cup tournament to capture the national championship. The event was hosted in Kahnawake, and was a very exciting event to be part of.
3. Utilizing a three-official system is an incredible benefit to the game. Difficult situations are diffused through presence, and the teams responded well to the league's mandate of the system during playoffs. The OSL wishes to implement this mechanic for the 2020 season.
4. Ontario will submit a bid to host the Presidents Cup in 2021. The location has not been determined yet.

Minor Field Report (Josh Briscoe)

1. Changes made to the 2019 spring season were incredibly well-received. U9's inaugural provincial championships featuring a 7v7 format were highly successful, as were the U11's division. Scaling down the field of play and goal nets has resulted in quicker action and increased skill development. The OMFLI intends to continue with this format.
2. Interns were appointed to promote the league and the sport of lacrosse in Ontario. Each intern covers Instagram and Twitter, posting scores and stories at the conclusion of each weekend. An OLA photographer was utilized as well, which has resulted in high quality promotional photos.

3. Additional OLA staff and Director representatives are critical to the success of the spring and fall field programs, particularly the marquee provincial championship events.
4. Fall ball registration is underway; clubs appear to be taking a “hands off” approach because players aren’t required to participate under the club banner. The OMFL is currently considering ways to adapt this program to meet everyone’s needs.

Junior “A” Report (Lindsay Sanderson)

1. There were a number of “trying moments” that occurred during the season, but overall it was a good learning experience. Going forward, there will be an emphasis placed on gathering all of the information prior to making any decisions.
2. While it was a tough decision to cancel games during the regular season, the OJALL fully supports the OLOA’s decision to suspend their services in light of the two serious incidents which took place during the season. As evidence of this support, the OJALL upheld a suspension issued to a Junior “A” coach during playoffs, which was an unpopular but appropriate decision. That said, the OJALL wishes to join in the review of the Automatic Discipline Policy ahead of the 2020 season to offer recommendations.

Zone 10 Report (Wendy Bennett-Costante)

1. The first Zone 10 post-season meeting will be held shortly, where a detailed review of the season from the club perspective will be conducted.
2. The Automatic Minor Discipline Policy should be reviewed during the off-season to “sand off some of the edges.”
3. Referees should be selected based on quality and merit, with no consideration given to any other factor.

Zone 6 Report (Paula Kearnan)

1. Ups and downs were reported by clubs in Zone 6, both in terms of registration numbers and overall experience. A questionnaire has been circulated to determine program quality, best practices and other metrics which will be compiled and included in the Board of Governors’ Year End Reports of the OLA AGM Convention Book.
2. Zone 6 experimented with promotional advertising through Google Ads, but ultimately determined that it was difficult to track whether or not this was a successful promotional strategy. Going forward, Zone 6 will invest funds in TRY Lacrosse and OLA Mini Game programs instead.

3. House league interlock came with its usual issues; a lack of dedication to the program administrators being the biggest challenge. As with most clubs, recruitment and retention of volunteers is a difficult task.

Zone 5 Report (Dr. Beth Pollock)

1. Report submitted.
2. The Zone 5 championships were played in South Shore, and were very well-received by the participating teams.
3. A Zone RIC is finally in place, which contributed substantially to reducing the number of referee issues within the zone. Special thanks to Mike McMillan for assuming this role.
4. Zone 5's biggest challenge is its geography, with five hours driving time in between the furthest two clubs. It will be necessary for Minor Council to make recommendations to the OLA to address this concern.

Junior "C" Report (Reg Holinshead)

1. The 2019 OJCLL was incredibly successful, but will (and should) be defined by the success of the Whitby Junior "C" Warriors, who completed a perfect season by narrowly edging the Fergus Thistles in the Ontario Provincial Championships to capture the Meredith Cup.
2. Echoing Commissioner Hiltz's sentiments, the three-official system is a noticeable improvement over the two-official system, particularly in this league which isn't always the easiest to officiate. Three officials maintains the speed and grit of the game but alleviates the problems that occur away from the play. The OJCLL wishes to implement three officials for the 2020 season.
3. The Six Nations Junior "C" Lacrosse club did not operate for the 2019 season. At this point, their debts to the OLA remain unpaid.
4. Three expansion franchise applications have been received for the 2020 season, which are currently being reviewed by the OJCLL Executive. More details will be announced when it is appropriate to do so.

Zone 7 Report (Jerry Kavanaugh)

1. Report submitted.
2. Zone 7's teams faired better than expected at the Ontario Lacrosse Festival, winning several silver and gold medals. The associations are already excited to begin the 2020 season.

Senior Series Report (Shelly Nobile)

1. The 2019 Senior Series Lacrosse inaugural season was a resounding success. Thanks to everyone, particularly to Sonya Crossey, for their hard work in establishing a meaningful league for players aged 22 and older to play. The season was capped by the Six Nations Tomahawks lacrosse club, who hosted the provincial championship weekend and captured the Legends Cup.
2. *The Board of Governors applauded Shelly for her report.*

Zone 8 Report (Steve Kelly)

1. Report submitted.
2. Referee retention seems to be a common struggle for associations throughout Zone 8.
3. The Ontario Lacrosse Festival was a fantastic event, as always. West Grey, in their first year as an expansion franchise in Zone 8, won their first Provincial Championship banner.
4. Zone registrar Debbie Richardson has passed away. She will be remembered for her dedicated to the sport.

OWBLL Report (Sue Finnen)

1. Report submitted.
2. Arthur Aces won the league championship; it was an awesome season!

Review of Old Business:

1. NTR.

New Business:

1. Frank Lawrence discussed the need for additional referees across the province to fill the increasing number of games. When officials are fast-tracked, it creates a void in minor lacrosse which must be addressed.
2. Joe Hiltz asked about the overturning of suspensions that were administered by the OSL. George MacDonald and Jim Bomhof responded that discipline is only effective when it is administered consummate to the infraction, and decision outcomes must be respected by everyone, regardless of whether or not they are agreed with.
3. Jim Bomhof spoke candidly about how difficult the season was, but thanked the Board of Governors for their support and motivation. Marion thanked Jim for his efforts throughout the season, and the Board of Governors for taking care of each other during this difficult season.

4. Jeramie Bailey provided the deadlines for all materials related to the 2019 Annual General Meeting.
5. Sonya Crossey addressed Joe Hiltz, Lindsay Sanderson and Shelly Nobile as first-year commissioners, and encouraged their continued involvement.
6. Shelly Nobile asked about her status as a Board of Governor, given the expansion of the league. Marion responded that it would be appropriate to consider increasing the Board of Governors through a motion submitted at the November meeting.

The OLA Board of Governors adjourns its September 8th, 2019 meeting.

m/ Josh Briscoe

s/ Jerry Kavanaugh

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 PM.