



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2019**

ATTENDANCE

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

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WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2019**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:27 PM.

Chairperson's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their attendance.
2. Gratitude was extended to the Board of Directors for stepping up during the season during matters that required assistance above and beyond the normal scope of duties.
3. Stan is under the weather and offers his regrets.

To approve the previous minutes dated June 12th, 2019.

m/ Michael Varanesi

s/ Jenn Matheson

CARRIED.

VP Finance Report (George MacDonald):

1. NTR.

VP Coaching Report (Rick Phillips):

1. A Sudbury player/coaching clinic was organized to increase the profile of the sport within Sudbury and the surrounding areas. The clinic was well-attended and well-received. Marion asked Rick to work with Bruce to establish a template that can be used in other municipalities in the future.

VP Officiating Report (Frank Lawrence):

1. Four minor tournaments were attended during the 2019 season: Nepean Knights, Cambridge Chiefs, Innisfil Wolfpack and the Zone 9 Conradi. In addition to attending these tournaments, supervisors Ben Kirkwood, Kim Hastings and Phil Cloutier were key in stepping up and supporting the referees throughout the tournament schedule.
2. The 2019 "A" Qualifiers will begin this weekend. The midget division will trial a three-official system, with feedback provided following the conclusion of the season.

3. A conference call has been scheduled for Monday night. The key message is that the assessment of GM28's must be reported to the Zone RIC immediately following the game so that recurring issues can be addressed by the OLA. Communication and tracking will allow for administrators to issue the appropriate discipline.
4. The Horizon Web Assigning software has been well-received. A major benefit to this system is the immediate electronic submission of reports following the conclusion of the game. Horizon will be mandated for OLA referee assignments in the 2020 season.
5. The Ontario Lacrosse Festival draft has been held, invitations have been circulated and responses are being tabulated. The Festival RIC team will consist of Andrew Ecclestone, Ryan Wilson, Shane Withers and Kyle Kropman.

VP Promotions Report (Sonya Crossey):

1. Based on the outcome of the conclusion of the 2019 season, the Durham Region interlocking house league program will require a proposal prior to approval for the 2020 season. The proposal should include specific elements that will guarantee the success of the program going forward.
2. Senior Series Lacrosse season has begun. The players have been enthusiastic about the league, which is reflected in the small number of penalties that have been assessed to date. Shelly Nobile is doing a fantastic job of overseeing the program. Should this trend continue, SSL will be recommended for full program recognition, including the establishment of the commissioner as a member of the OLA's Board of Governors during the 2019 AGM weekend.

VP Junior – Major Report (Jim Bomhof):

1. Report submitted.
2. A total of 257 interprovincial transfers were completed prior to the June 26th deadline.
3. Jim is in regular contact with members of the Ontario Lacrosse Officials Association to monitor progress made throughout the last four weeks. Two meetings have been held (one in-person and one via conference call). There is still more work to do to ensure that referees are protected and supported during the season. Thanks are extended to Frank Lawrence, Jenn Matheson and Sonya Crossey for their help in this situation.
4. In light of this season's events, Jim recommended that the Parents' Code of Conduct be revisited ahead of the Ontario Lacrosse Festival. Marion directed Jenn Matheson to re-circulate the Substance Misuse Policy to all association presidents.
5. An update was provided on the status of Arena Safety Policies that have been submitted by each team. Because each arena is unique, each team's Safety

Policy must reflect the environment in which is established. Marion directed Jim to notify each league's commissioner of any outstanding teams that have not submitted this policy. The priority is to ensure that teams who are still competing in playoffs are compliant; during the off-season, all teams will be required to submit their Arena Safety Policy ahead of the 2020 season.

6. A resolution has been reached that will allow the 2020 Founders Cup to be hosted by the Brampton Excelsiors Lacrosse Club, in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the Brampton Excelsiors. OJBLL Commissioner Dave Vernon will provide more information to the Board of Governors in September.
7. It is recommended that the OLA establish a Box Playing Rules Modification Committee to examine the rulebook and provide recommendations to the OLA's Board of Directors, which would be passed along to the CLA for review. Modifications and housekeeping changes should address inconsistencies in the rulebook and provide clarification where rules are unclear, but are not meant to change the spirit of the game or intent of the existing rules.

VP Minor (Jenn Matheson):

1. A culture change is required to ensure that referees, coaches and players are able to participate in the game without issue. It is recognized that this will not happen overnight, and everyone involved must take responsibility for their actions.
2. A Minor Council amendment to ensure that preliminary ratings are calculated solely via MyLax where historical playing information is available will be submitted prior to the September 30th deadline. Ron MacSpadyen asked Jenn to clarify how the tie-breaker option was applied to determine the difference between teams who were tied mathematically by separated by a division. Jenn explained that the tiebreaker decision was made in the best interest of the game given the available information, but that a written policy should be established to ensure consistency going forward. Marion directed Jenn to prepare this policy as a separate amendment.

Staff Reports:

1. Ron MacSpadyen provided an update to the Board of Directors on the existing player release policy and subsequent appeal hearings in which the policy has been applied.

New Business:

1. Marion Ladouceur outlined an issue raised by the Team Ontario program in relation to the CLA's maintenance of the Anti-Doping database. The Board of Directors asked Marion to speak with CLA Executive Director Jane Clapham directly to resolve the concern.
2. Rick Phillips named three minor box lacrosse coaches (certified in 2017) who did not complete their workbooks ahead of their deadline. These coaches have continued to coach during the regular season in zone, but were denied bench access during their invitational tournament appearances. Discussion took place regarding the eligibility of the coaches to be carded for the 2019 season.

To approve the certification of the three minor box lacrosse coaches for participation during the Ontario Lacrosse Festival, with fines assessed.

m/ Rick Phillips

s/ Jim Bomhof

DEFEATED.

3. An email vote was conducted to consider the sanctioning of changes to the OMFLL's fall field lacrosse program. The email vote was approved with a majority.

To ratify the approval of a pilot program for the 2019 OMFLL Fall Field lacrosse season as submitted in the OMFLL's proposal, with the addition of Michael Varanesi established as the OMFLL Fall Field Privacy Officer and the requested changes to the fall field coaching certification requirements.

m/ Jim Bomhof

s/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

4. An email vote was conducted to consider the requests of the Ontario Lacrosse Official's Association in response to increasing instances of referee abuse during the in-person meeting with Jim Bomhof, Jenn Matheson and Frank Lawrence. The email vote was approved with a majority.

To ratify the approval of all discussion points agreed upon with representatives of the Ontario Lacrosse Official's Association and representatives of the Ontario Lacrosse Association during the in-person meeting in Cambridge, ON.

m/ Jim Bomhof

s/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

5. Sonya Crossey raised the concern of referee abuse during the Ontario Lacrosse Festival. Jenn Matheson agreed that the Ontario Lacrosse Festival presents a good opportunity for the OLA to initiate a province-wide stance during an event where all teams are in the same location at the same time.

*To approve a change to the Provincial Playing Rules Advisory which states: Under OLA Provincial Championships Policy, **non-playing team personnel** who are assessed a game misconduct for unsportsmanlike conduct / abuse of officials (GM28) will result in automatic disqualification from any further minor box lacrosse provincial participation, in any age division, for the remainder of the season.*

m/ Rick Phillips

s/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

To adjourn the July 17th, 2019 OLA Board of Directors meeting.

m/ Rick Phillips

s/ George MacDonald

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.