



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2020**

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Chairperson's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their attendance. A lot of great work has been done over the past two weeks, and there is excitement about some of the staff projects that are in the works. Marion invited Bruce Codd to share the work that is being done for a new webinar series that features lacrosse personalities from across the province. A variety of topics and sectors will be covered, and the format will be determined by what audiences feel is most popular.

OMFLL Financial Discussion:

1. Jim Leworthy discussed feedback received since the April 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting about the OMFLL's financial position. This has created a distraction, and there is significant interest from a number of OLA members, which warrants oversight from the governing body in order to clear the air and bring about assurances to the membership that everything is properly managed. Flexibility will be necessary when working with the OMFLL executive in light of the ongoing pandemic, but the league should be notified no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 of the OLA's request to resolve the matter.

*To strike an ad hoc review committee, chaired by Jim Leworthy and at least two other representatives, who are authorized to review the league's fiscal records in order to bring about a resolution to the OMFLL and its teams, and to make recommendations for financial statements and budgets for all OLA leagues going forward.*

m/ Jim Leworthy  
s/ Jenn Matheson

**CARRIED.**

2. Sonya Crossey has also received feedback from members who are inquiring about the OMFLL's refund policy, specifically about the phrase "deferred honorariums." Andree Davis answered that, if there is a fall season, full honorariums will be paid to the OMFLL executive as usual, and if there isn't a fall season for 2020, that honorariums for the spring 2020 season would be paid out of funds generated from the 2021 season.

#### Minor Council Submitted Questions:

1. Will there be repercussions for clubs choosing (or forced to choose by their municipality) to withdraw from competitive play? Has the OLA established closing dates for the 2020 season, and for provincial play?

**Discussion:** it is too early to determine the ramifications, if any, for clubs or leagues who choose to withdraw. At this point, the OLA is not directing anyone to participate, so there is no need for leagues or clubs to "declare" anything at this point. When leagues and clubs act out of sync, the result is that it applies unnecessary pressure on other members who are not prepared for the same outcome but will be impacted by the decision. Leagues and clubs are directed to ensure that proper procedures regarding programming announcements are followed, and that communication remains strong on any decision(s) related to the 2020 season.

2. Which Sportzsoft fees, if any, are refundable? How will refunds be processed?

**Discussion:** Sportzsoft fees are fixed costs that were incurred prior to the declaration of the pandemic, and our contract does not specify forgiveness for this unique situation. Refunds will be processed through Peloton, including payment directly back to the original credit card that was used for registration.

3. Will "TRY Lacrosse" insurance be accessible for an extended period of time (allowing prospective players to be involved if gathering is permitted)? Will the OLA's insurance company alter member rates in response to a reduced number of games?

**Discussion:** it is too early to say what the insurance company will do. The OLA insurance certificate is active as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, and the insurance company has indicated that they will need time to sort through this unprecedented situation with all of their existing clients. It is worth examining what options, if any, are available for the extension of TRY Lacrosse, depending

on each club's ability to operate successful programs in their municipal facilities.

4. What percentage, if any of OLA team fees will be refunded based on a shortened season? Will clubs who paid their 2020 team entry fee prior to the 2019 AGM be credited at all?

**Discussion:** it is too early to say because this question presupposes that the season will be shortened. When it is appropriate, a decision will be made on how refunds may be processed, and what will happen with each association's 2020 team entry fee.

5. Insolvency is a real concern for a number of associations, including both new and established clubs. Significant amounts of money have been spent on rebranding requirements, launching new program opportunities, purchasing supplies for invitational tournaments, and general operating expenses. Many clubs no longer have sufficient funds to process refunds for members who are requesting them. Will there be any aid available to clubs in financial peril?

**Discussion:** the Board of Directors are aware that a number of clubs are using 2020 registration fees to pay for 2019 expenses. At this point, the OLA is uncertain about the types of financial aid that will be made available to amateur sports, but continue to press for this type of assistance to be made available from both the CLA and the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. The OLA is not in a position to grant loans to all clubs, but this is an unprecedented situation and our members are our most powerful asset. It would be short-sighted to say that aid cannot be made available based on an established criteria, but these types of opportunities will need to be further examined when more information becomes available.

6. New coaching requirement opportunities have been released by the CLA. How will this impact OLA coaches?

**Discussion:** Rick Phillips and Bruce Codd are working together to determine the expectations of the CLA. The OLA does not support the CLA's decision to certify coaches online for the 2020 season, and that feedback has been communicated through the OLA office to the CLA's Board of Directors. If there is a change to this process, it will be communicated on the OLA's website and via email to club representatives.

7. In the event that the season does not take place, which levies will be charged by the OLA to its clubs?

**Discussion:** the Chuck Rowan and Jamieson Kuhlmann awards would not be presented. The AGM levy and Hall of Fame levy would need to be discussed in further detail, as these expenses are previously paid out. The CLA levy would not be charged if the 2020 season does not take place.

8. What is happening with invitational tournaments?

**Discussion:** tournaments scheduled for the weekend of May 22-24 have been cancelled by the OLA, and these tournament convenors are working to notify and refund the teams who have registered. A survey, conducted by Jenn Matheson, identifies which municipalities are affected by cancelled permits, notification of the possibility of cancelled permits, and which municipalities remain open to hosting tournaments. Based on feedback from the associations involved and the potential for a May 15<sup>th</sup> start date, it is also necessary for the OLA to cancel tournaments for the weekend of May 29-31 (two weeks is not enough time to allow for try-outs and team selection).

*To cancel all OLA invitational tournaments scheduled to begin prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.*

m/ Jenn Matheson

s/ Sonya Crossey

**CARRIED.**

Zone 8's Cancellation Announcement:

Zone 8 announced the "cancellation of lacrosse" within the zone without following the procedure of informing the OLA Board of Directors and receiving guidance. This has created a problematic situation that affects teams outside of Zone 8 who had registered to play in invitational tournaments being hosted within Zone 8. By not working together with the OLA's Board of Directors, the cancellation message at the zone level has resulted in the OLA responding to an unnecessary amount of questions and concerns from affected clubs both inside and outside of Zone 8, including whether or not complete teams from within Zone 8 could be released to neighbouring zones, and whether Zone 8 players would be eligible for Team Ontario without playing for a club team. Marion Ladouceur directed Jenn Matheson to gather all minutes and records related to Zone 8's decision to withdraw from competition and to forward it to the Board of Directors for review, and to inform the remaining members of Minor Council to follow the proper procedures.

### OJCLL Cancellation Announcement:

Similar concern was raised in response to the OJCLL decision to act on cancelling the 2020 season without receiving guidance from the OLA's Board of Directors. Marion directed Jim Bomhof to follow Jenn's lead in communicating the issues involved with Reg Holinshead, and to discuss implications with the remaining Junior and Senior lacrosse league representatives.

### May Board of Governors Meeting

The May Board of Governors meeting will offer a good opportunity for the OLA to connect directly with league representatives. A large meeting utilizing Zoom software, with governors submitting questions and concerns ahead of time, will allow for an orderly meeting to take place. The meeting will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, with an announcement of the format and the process for submitting concerns to be circulated as soon as possible.

*To adjourn the April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.*

m/ Jim Leworthy

s/ Jim Bomhof

**CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 PM.