



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY JULY 7, 2020**

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	President
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Jim Bomhof	VP Junior-Major
	Jenn Matheson	VP Minor
	Andree Davis	VP Field
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	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
	Jim Leworthy	VP Development

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY JULY 7, 2020**

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. This meeting is meant to serve as a follow-up to the July 6th Commissioners / League meeting which was held to discuss the possibility of extending junior-aged eligibility to 22U. In attendance for this meeting were Marion Ladouceur, Jim Bomhof, Jenn Matheson, Doug Luey, Joe Hiltz, Shelly Nobile, Jason Shuttleworth, Paul Coates, Dave Vernon, Reg Holinshead, Ron MacSpadyen and Jeramie Bailey.

Commissioners / League Meeting (Board of Directors):

1. Marion Ladouceur stated that the tone of the commissioner's meeting was positive, although there is a gap between those who are in favour of maintaining the current age divisions and those who are in favour of extending junior-aged eligibility by one birth year on a permanent basis. Predictably, the junior leagues are in favour, while the minor zones and senior leagues are not necessarily so. The OJALL has submitted a follow-up email for the Board of Directors to review which was circulated prior to tonight's meeting, including a survey of OJALL players which was overwhelmingly in favour of extending player eligibility.
2. Rick Phillips stated that the recommendation to extend junior-aged eligibility should be seen as a direct response to a lost season by competitive players, with no guarantee that the extended-age players will be in a place to play next year, as commitments often change with life circumstances. If COVID-19 wasn't a reality for this season, this type of discussion wouldn't even be considered.
3. Sonya Crossey stated opposition to changing age divisions in junior lacrosse without considering the cascading effect that it will have in both minor and senior divisions.
4. Andree Davis said that alternating age divisions in one sector hurts the historical records of box lacrosse, and doesn't account for how players often compete in minor, junior and senior field divisions in addition to minor, junior and senior field divisions. Changes in one sector (box) will negatively affect the synchronization with related sectors (field, women's field). Furthermore, the

NCAA decision to extend eligibility doesn't account for age, just for years of eligibility, so its not a fair comparison.

5. Frank Lawrence argued that the junior leagues have a clear interest in attempting to save the teams who have built their entire national championship goals on specific players' careers, which is a respectable position to point out, but that this type of change will hurt referee development because it further extends the approach to introducing referees graduating from the "A" Qualifiers program to junior age divisions where the players are already much older. Referees introduced to junior lacrosse divisions typically have a higher retention rate because of the investments made in their own development.
6. Jenn Matheson stated that minor clubs are not in favour of furthering the divide between minor and junior. Zone Directors have pointed out that the transition from minor to junior lacrosse is seamless in two-year age cohorts, and the extension of midget and junior divisions are not widely accepted as being good for their programs. It was pointed out that only current OJALL players were surveyed, as opposed to prospective eligible players who may be displaced by roster limits as a result, and as such, the survey results should be considered skewed.
7. Jim Bomhof advised that this discussion topic has been circulating since April, and while not initially in favour of any changes, his position has softened through discussion with the clubs most affected. It is important to listen to league representatives, and the junior commissioners made a more compelling argument for modifying divisions than the senior commissioners made against.
8. To Jenn Matheson's point, George argued that the survey asks leading questions that are presented in a way to seek the specific answer that the league is looking to promote.
9. The Board of Directors should not be in favour of a six-year age division (17-22 year-olds) when minor persons are involved, which would mean that all divisions would need to switch in order to accommodate this proposal. Furthermore, harmony in age divisions between provinces is important to maintain for interprovincial and national play, and the idea that OLA leagues would act out of step with other provinces would likely compromise the ability of OLA teams to compete outside of Ontario.

Commissioners / League Meeting (Board of Directors):

1. Everyone approached the discussion with an open mind and engaged critically with the arguments made by the OJALL representatives. Ultimately, there is not enough support at the provincial level to argue in favour of changes at the CLA level, although this may change as more information becomes available, specifically in relation to recommendation that the CLA's LTAD committee consider the proposal on a national scale.

2. For age division changes for sanctioned play within the province, an amendment would need to be submitted prior to the OLA Annual General Meeting for consideration by the membership. Changes in age divisions within the province, without direction from the CLA, would not be initiated directly by the OLA's Board of Governors.
3. In advance of CLA Box Sector Chairperson Ron McQuarrie's upcoming meeting with Member Association representatives, the OLA should advise the CLA to utilize the LTAD committee for recommendations on this situation prior to the 2021 season.

To request that the CLA examine the OJALL's proposal for 22U through the Long-Term Athlete Development committee for a recommendation back to each Member Association in order to determine the best course of action.

m/ Jim Bomhof

s/ Frank Lawrence

CARRIED.

To adjourn the July 7th, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

m/ Jenn Matheson

s/ Sonya Crossey

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.