



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Jim Leworthy	President
	Marion Ladouceur	Past President
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Tanya Thompson	VP Minor
	Mark Schuetzkowski	VP Field
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Ian Garrison	VP Officiating
	Colleen Grimes	VP Promotions
	Ron MacSpadyen	Program Director
	Bruce Codd	Technical Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
	Fiona Clevely	Administration
	Ryan Wilson	OLOA President
	Doug Luey	MSL Commissioner
	Joe Hiltz	OSL Commissioner
	Shelly Nobile	SSL Commissioner
	Sue Finnen	WMSL Commissioner
	Bob Clevely	OJLL Commissioner
	Dave Vernon	OJBLL Commissioner
	Reg Holinshead	OJCLL Commissioner
	Paul Vivian	Zone 6 Director
	Rory Smith	Zone 7 Director
	Eddy Jack	Zone 8 Director
	Wendy Bennett-Costante	Zone 10 Director
	Scott Matthews	OJMFLC Commissioner
	Yvonne Harding	OWFL Commissioner
	Mary Sticca	Guest (Zone 9 Assistant Director)
	Sean O'Callaghan	Junior-Major Portfolio Assistant
With Regrets:	Sonya Crossey	VP Development
	Scott Morrison	Zone 4 Director
	Greg Rampley	Zone 5 Director
	Joel Firmin	OSMFLC Commissioner
	Jennifer Price	OMFLC Commissioner

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MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM.

President's Welcome (Jim Leworthy)

1. Welcome to this OLA Board of Governors meeting.
2. Jeramie recited the OLA's land and territory acknowledgement.
3. A moment of silence was observed to mark the passing of lacrosse player and coach Dean Hill
4. Stan Cockerton has announced his retirement. He is wished all the best through the future. Best wishes can be sent to stan@ontariolacrosse.com.
5. Jim Bomhof has resigned as President. He is a valued member of our lacrosse community, and it is hoped that he will return to the sport soon.
6. Not all clubs, associations and leagues were able to operate at usual capacity during 2021, but continued to host league meetings and participate in group or exhibition settings. As a result, for the 2021 AGM only, those clubs, associations and leagues who operated in reduced capacity for the 2021 season will also be permitted to participate in the AGM in accordance with Bylaw 5.02, unless they have not fulfilled other obligations or are subject to any other restrictions. Clubs will be required to pay \$291 (separated by sector and league) in order to participate in the AGM, regardless of the number of teams they register into competition from within each league. Registration processes will be announced shortly.
7. Tanya asked for clarification about whether or not the AGM would be cancelled if only certain regions of the province were placed in travel or meeting size restrictions, and what the deadline would be in order to make that decision. Jeramie responded that the situation is being monitored and, if necessary, the AGM would be transferred to a virtual format.

To approve the minutes of the May 5th Board of Directors' meeting, as amended.

m/ Ian Garrison

s/ Tanya Thompson

CARRIED

Governors Reports:

1. Thank you to those who submitted reports in advance of the meeting. This was a recommendation of the Sport Law consultant who was hired to advise the OLA on best practices. Reports are expected from everyone in order to ensure that the directors, governors and staff have an understanding of what is going on throughout the OLA.
2. There are a number of programs that deserve recognition for their efforts this season: MSL operated a 20-game schedule with streaming, Senior Series Lacrosse played its full four-weekend league format, the OJLL operated a 47-game schedule with a championship and all-star game with streaming, the Junior "B" league played three dozen exhibition games and a number of tournaments, the Junior "C" league played in four tournament events and a small number of full exhibition games, the OWFL played 335 games with 15 of the usual 18 clubs over three weekends, Mimico hosted a successful minor lacrosse tournament over multiple weekends, Zone 9 operated a hybrid interlock program in the Niagara Region, five clubs in Zone 8 played an interlock schedule over seven weeks, 58 zone games were played in Zone 5, a successful RTA program was operated in Quinte, the girls box ambassador's program oversaw a girls tournament in Nepean, and the fall field leagues are getting underway. Team Ontario is scheduled to operate a number of tryout and skills development camps throughout the winter. OLA representatives were fortunate to attend a number of these events, and it was incredible to see players back on the fields and floors across the province after being away from the game. All of the governors are commended for their efforts in returning lacrosse to the players this summer.
3. Ben Kirkwood and Mack Abbott were commended for assisting to coordinate the officiating needs throughout each of the events.
4. The SAGM (Ontario Lacrosse University) was also recognized for its positive impact for OLA members who were in attendance.
5. For 2022, it will be important to focus efforts on grassroots organizations and encouraging player registration. It's important to be positive as we look forward to what the future holds for lacrosse in Ontario.

2022 Annual General Meeting:

1. The Annual General Meeting announce has been posted on the OLA's website and circulated to all club delegates. The AGM will be held on Saturday, November 6th in Mississauga, beginning at 12:00pm. AGM

registration information will be announced shortly. Please ensure that all clubs that are under your portfolio are aware of the AGM announcement and registration requirements, which are in accordance with health and safety protocols. Vaccination and masks will be required, and attendees will be distanced. In the event that the province restricts meeting permissions, the OLA will shift to a virtual format.

2. Rory Smith asked about voting eligibility for clubs who were unable to access facilities during 2021. Fiona responded that clubs who participated in league or zone RTA initiatives, including meetings, committees or strategic planning, would be considered eligible for the 2021 season, and that this measure is necessary to be inclusive to clubs in recognition of the provincial circumstances. Clubs at all levels would be required to pay forward their 2022 registration in the amount of \$291. Clubs who wish to confirm their financial standing with the OLA can reach out to Fiona directly. Lists of outstanding club accounts will be provided to the appropriate governors prior to the October 31st deadline.
3. There are four award nominations forms available on the website. Governors are requested to encourage clubs to submit award nominations for the 2021 season so that people can be recognized for their efforts. Ryan Wilson asked whether or not the OLA wishes to continue partnering with the OLOA to offer the Tom Hutchinson Memorial Bursary Award. George MacDonald indicated that this initiative had been budgeted for and the OLA wishes to continue to support the bursary award.
4. Club and league executive forms are available on the OLA website. The deadline to return these forms to Jeramie is November 15th.

New Business:

1. Members who were part of the Six Nations OSMFLL team who were deemed not-in-good-standing in 2021 have been cleared to participate for the 2021 season. The team has settled its accounts with the league and looks forward to participating in the 2021 fall men's field lacrosse season.
2. Marion Ladouceur announced the outcome of the confidentiality complaint against Jim Leworthy. The complaint was found to be without merit, and dismissed by an independent body. The specific details of the report remain confidential, but the outcome clears Jim Leworthy's communications with Ryan Wilson.
3. Doug Luey advised the Board of Governors that the MSL has elected to dropped its appeal of the Excelsiors Lacrosse Club decision, based on an agreement that the Board of Directors will meet separately with the MSL

and with the BELC to continue discussions of the situation. A decision of the Directors, under R 25.03, will be communicated to the MSL within ten business days.

4. Paul Vivian asked whether the process to determine the next OLA Executive Director has begun. Jim responded that the OLA is taking its time to carefully consider the best approach to this situation. The process, description and applicable details will be finalized prior to the 2022 season through the HR Committee. Wendy Bennett suggested that the OLA would be better served by using an external hiring agency, as opposed to utilizing the HR Committee's experience. George responded that the HR Committee is providing recommendations and perspectives to the Board of Directors, and determining the next steps for this position in accordance Bylaw 6.12 and 7.05. Mary Sticca spoke to the intent of Bylaw 7.05, and that the hiring and reviewing procedures that were used when both Bruce Codd and Jeramie were hired did fulfill the intentions of this article. Jim Leworthy proposed reviewing the AGM convention booklet from the year that the amendment was proposed, which would include the rationale. Wendy Bennett suggested the Board of Governors be consulted during the hiring process. Ian Garrison and Mark Schuetzkowski agreed that a motion to hire a professional agency violates Bylaw 6.12, and is unnecessary at this time.

To empower the Board of Directors to seek professional assistance through a reputable hiring agency to guide the process of determining the next OLA Executive Director.

m/ Ryan Wilson

s/ Wendy Bennett

WITHDRAWN

5. Wendy Bennett asked why Sean O'Callaghan was appointed to assist the President with the Junior-Major portfolio late into the season. Jim Leworthy responded that the assistance and experience that Sean has provided to the OLA in this time has been valuable. This appointment was agreed to with no voting privileges, and Sean has agreed to assist as requested during the interim period.
6. Paul Vivian asked whether the OLA will continue to determine a strategy to decrease the negative impact of non-sanctioned lacrosse program intrusions into minor lacrosse. This remains a discussion topic of the Board of Directors. Governors feedback on this topic is welcome and

encouraged. Eddy Jack encouraged Zone Directors to begin these conversations to propose program solutions to the Board of Directors prior to the OLA's planning session. Tanya Thompson added that Minor Council will make recommendations.

7. Paul Vivian asked whether or not OLA clubs are sanctioned to participate in international competition. Currently, OLA teams are not restricted from competing internationally by the OLA, but are subject to approval of the Board of Directors for the purpose of travel insurance.
8. Jim Leworthy thanked the governors for working together with the OLA through a difficult season, and expressed optimism that the return to play will help to refocus everyone's efforts on working in the best interest of the game.

To adjourn the September 9th Board of Governors meeting.

m/ Eddy Jack
s/ Ryan Wilson

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.