



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2022**

5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Sean O'Callaghan	President & Chairperson
	Marion Ladouceur	Past President
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Reg Holinshead	VP Junior-Major
	Mary Sticca	VP Minor
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Ian Garrison	VP Officiating
	Sonya Crossey	VP Development
	Chuck Miller	Executive Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Program Director
	Rachael McKinnon	Technical Director
	Scott Fitchett	Technical Director
	Fiona Clevly	Administration
	Peter Flook	Administration
Regrets:	Jennifer Price	VP Field
	Colleen Grimes	VP Promotions

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2022**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM.

Chairperson's Welcome (Sean O'Callaghan)

1. Welcome to the December session of the OLA Board of Directors; the last meeting of the 2022 calendar and the first meeting of the newly established Board of Directors following the Annual General Meeting.
2. Decorum and prudence are expected at all times as guiding principles for the upcoming season.
3. Rachael and Scott were welcomed as the OLA's newest staff members, each serving in the position of Technical Director. Both are working on a number of exciting new initiatives ahead of the 2023 season.
4. Jeramie provided a summary introduction of the Board's protocols on email, policies, document circulation practices and agenda submissions. The 2023 meeting dates were circulated to everyone. Meeting protocol will be in effect as agreed upon.
5. Jeramie shared a land and territory acknowledgement.

To approve the agenda of the December 14th Board of Directors meeting.

NO OBJECTION

To approve the previous Board of Directors meeting minutes as presented.

m/ George MacDonald

s/ Ian Garrison

CARRIED

Lacrosse Canada Sixes Committee:

1. Wendy Cuthbert has been appointed to the Lacrosse Canada Sixes Implementation Committee. The committee is responsible for overseeing the provincial execution of Sixes as a new sector using materials provided by World Lacrosse.
2. Each MA is responsible for contributing standing members to the Sixes Implementation Committee.

To approve Rick Phillips and Rachael McKinnon to serve on the Sixes Implementation Committee as Ontario's representatives.

m/ Marion Ladouceur

s/ Mary Sticca

CARRIED

Modified Contact at Introductory Box Lacrosse Divisions:

1. A proposal was discussed at the 2022 AGM with minor club presidents to consider reducing contact at the introductory levels of box lacrosse. Initiated by Mike Poulin and supported by a number of current NLL athletes and officials, the proposal includes rule changes that prioritize the skills of cradling, passing, catching and shooting above cross-checking. Minor club presidents were also contacted by email following the AGM to provide additional opportunities for feedback.
2. The proposal summarizes a number of rule changes to reduce contact to "place and push" on the ball-carrier's arm, while off-ball contact will be penalized at all times similar to field lacrosse. This modification to the playing rules is supported by the Lacrosse Canada Long Term Athlete Development model, and is utilized with success in similar sports' divisions.

To adopt the modified rules proposal as presented for the U7 division beginning in the 2023 season. A feedback report, submitted by Minor Council to the Board of Directors, will be expected. U7 players will not be permitted to be affiliated to U9 teams during this season.

m/ Ian Garrison

s/ Mary Sticca

CARRIED

Club Approvals:

1. The OLA's Board of Directors reviewed an application submitted by the Cambridge Minor Lacrosse Association to operate a Junior "B" franchise. The application included an executive summary, letters of support from neighbouring minor lacrosse association and the City of Cambridge, and a hosting commitment from the Galt Arena. The OJBLL governors have approved the team for entry, pending a decision by the OLA's Board of Directors.

To grant entry of the Cambridge Junior “B” Highlanders into the Ontario Junior “B” Lacrosse League for the 2023 season, on probationary status and subject to review at the conclusion of the season.

m/ Ian Garrison
s/ Sonya Crossey

CARRIED

2. The Cambridge Khaos Senior “C” team has requested approval to relocate and rename the team to the “Wilmot Khaos.” Support has been received from Kitchener Junior “A” and the Kitchener minor association presidents, as well as the Senior Series Lacrosse Commissioner. The team will not be permitted to move again for a period of three seasons.

To approve the renaming and relocation of the Wilmot Khaos as proposed.

m/ Ian Garrison
s/ Reg Holinshead

CARRIED

3. The Fort Erie Tigers Senior “C” team has requested approval to relocate and rename the team to the “St. Catharines Schooners.” Support has been received from St. Catharines Junior “A” and the St. Catharines minor association presidents, as well as the Senior Series Lacrosse Commissioner. The team will not be permitted to move again for a period of three seasons.

To approve the renaming and relocation of the Wilmot Khaos as proposed.

m/ George MacDonald
s/ Reg Holinshead

CARRIED

Officiating Status Update:

1. Ian Garrison provided the Board of Directors with copies of a letter sent on behalf of the Ontario Lacrosse Officials Association President.

To move the meeting in-camera.

NO OBJECTION

To move the meeting out of camera.

NO OBJECTION

To maintain, until such time as the requirements that were previously outlined have been met, the status of Member Not in Good Standing, and to refer the matter to a panel for a final decision regarding continued involvement in multiple positions. The outcome of this motion will be communicated to Lacrosse Canada.

m/ Ian Garrison

s/ Marion Ladouceur

CARRIED

2. Adjustments to the Automatic Discipline Policy have become necessary. Reg Holinshead and Mary Sticca will be responsible for coordinating with Ian Garrison to make revisions as necessary for approval at the next Board of Directors meeting.
3. Shane Hubbard served as the Assignor for Junior-Major box during the 2022 season, the OIC of the Ontario Summer Games, and the OIC for the 2022 Minto Cup Championship, in addition to assisting the VP Officiating with a number of portfolio matters. Shane has expressed his interest in returning as the OLA Assignor for Junior-Major box in the 2023 season.

To approve Shane Hubbard to serve as the Junior-Major box Assignor for the 2023 season.

m/ Ian Garrison

s/ Marion Ladouceur

CARRIED

Non-Sanctioned Junior Lacrosse Competition:

1. Following the success of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's defense against the TLL, the non-compete policy of R6.17 will be extended for Junior and Senior players participating in events not sanctioned or endorsed by World Lacrosse, which includes the IJL. A statement has been prepared, and the publication of this position will be rolled out in the new year.

Electronic Game Sheet Implementation:

1. Minor Council has requested the OLA to approve Game Sheet Inc. as the provider of electronic game sheet service for minor box in 2023. The Board of Directors reviewed letters of support from Zone 7 and Zone 8 on this initiative.
2. Mary Sticca and Jeramie will be responsible for negotiating the terms of service on behalf of the OLA.

To approve the implementation of Game Sheet Inc's services for all divisions and events in the minor box sector beginning in 2023.

m/ Mary Sticca
s/ Ian Garrison

CARRIED

Women and Girl's Minor Box Alignment:

1. The current Girls Box program is not well-served by its tether to minor box. There are a number of different ways that this division could realign itself to better meet the needs of its participants. Minor Council will discuss strategies and then prepare a proposal for the Board of Directors to consider.

International Teams at Invitational Tournaments:

1. A proposal has been received for an international team to participate at an OLA-sanctioned minor box tournament. The Board of Directors weighed the benefits of this proposal, but sided against the proposal for concern that it could displace OLA teams from being able to attend. Other options to provide for "international competition at home" may be considered in the future.

To permit international team attendance at OLA Invitational Tournaments as presented.

m/ George MacDonald
s/ Ian Garrison

DEFEATED

Minimum Participant Age:

1. A motion to establish the minimum registration age of non-playing participants was considered. The Board weighed the merits of the proposal and how it would affect participants in each area of involvement, while ensuring that player safety remains the top priority.

To require all non-playing personnel to have attained a minimum age for the 2023 season. Coaches must attain a minimum age of 16 and be at least four years older than the players who they are responsible for prior to registering. Trainers must attain a minimum age of 18 and be at least two years older than the players who they are responsible for prior to registering. Officials must attain a minimum age of 14 prior to the conclusion of the calendar year and be at least two years older than the teams for which they are officiating, with the exception of the U22, Junior and Senior divisions.

m/ Ian Garrison

s/ Mary Sticca

CARRIED

To adjourn the December 14th Board of Directors' meeting.

m/ Ian Garrison

s/ Rick Phillips

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.