



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

In Attendance:	Sean O'Callaghan	President
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Reg Holinshead	VP Junior-Major
	Mary Sticca	VP Minor
	Jennifer Price	VP Field
	Colleen Grimes	VP Promotion
	Chuck Miller	Interim Executive Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Program Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
	Rachael MacKinnon	Technical Director
	Scott Fitchett	Technical Director
	Lynn Withers	MSL Commissioner
	John Dalgliesh	WMSL Commissioner
	Dave Vernon	OJBLL Commissioner
	Jim Lowe	OJCLL Commissioner
	Scott Morrison	Zone 4 Director
	Beth Pollock	Zone 5 Director
	Rory Smith	Zone 7 Director
	Eddy Jack	Zone 8 Director
	Carlton Hill	Zone 9 Director
	Kristin Ballentine	OMFLL Commissioner
	Scott Matthews	OJMFLC Commissioner
	Yvonne Harding	OWFL Commissioner
	Sandra Ansell	Guest
	Shannon Bond	Guest
	John Stephens	Guest
With Regrets:	Marion Ladouceur	Past President
	Sonya Crossey	VP Development
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Ian Garrison	VP Officiating
	Ben Kirkwood	OLOA President
	Shelly Nobile	SSL Commissioner
	Joe Hiltz	OSL Commissioner
	Bob Clevely	OJLL Deputy Commissioner
	Joel Firmin	OSMFLC Commissioner
	Paul Vivian	Zone 6 Director
	Wendy Bennett-Costante	Zone 10 Director

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2023**

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM.

President's Welcome (Sean O'Callaghan)

1. Welcome to the first OLA Board of Governors meeting of the 2023 calendar.
2. Jeramie recited the OLA's land and territory acknowledgement.
3. Sean reviewed the fiduciary responsibilities for Governors, which includes meeting expectations and discretion of discussion. Governors agree to follow the protocols of the organization.

*To approve the agenda of the March 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting.*

**NO OBJECTION**

*To approve the previous minutes of the Board of Governors meeting.*

m/ Lynn Withers

s/ Reg Holinshead

**CARRIED**

2023 OLA Operating Budget:

1. George MacDonald presented the OLA's operating budget for review. This budget is closer to the outlook of the 2019 season. Jennifer asked about cyber protection; Sean asked George to look into this. Jennifer also asked about funding to support Super Sixes events; this is part of the development line for the 2023 season.

*To approve the 2023 OLA Operating Budget as presented.*

m/ Eddy Jack

s/ Jennifer Price

**CARRIED**

### League Operations Update:

1. Reg Holinshead provided a summary of the expansions and contractions of the Junior-Major Box Sector. Junior “C” remains at 15 teams, with Caledon and Oakville approved for a second season hiatus. Junior “B” has increased by one team, with the Cambridge Highlanders approved for entry. Junior “A” remains at 11 teams, with no change. Senior “C” has not expanded, however Fort Erie has been approved for relocation to St. Catharines. Senior “B” remains at six teams, with no change to the franchises. MSL will compete with five teams, with Oakville Rock and Owen Sound North Stars approved for a hiatus. Women’s Major Series Lacrosse welcomes two new teams, the Mimico Mountaineers and the Mississauga Badgers.

### Paperweight Rule Modifications:

1. Mary Sticca provided a summary of the rule modifications that will be implemented in the U7 Paperweight division.

### Game Sheet Inc Implementation:

1. Jeramie provided a summary of the leagues who are transitioning to Game Sheet Inc for the 2023 season. With the exception of Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay, all minor associations will score their games and tournaments using GSI. Additionally, Junior “C”, Junior “A” and Major Series Lacrosse will use the platform. Eddy Jack asked about training opportunities; there will be sessions scheduled for administrators, timekeepers/officials, and team managers in April.

### Lacrosse in Canada Summer Games:

1. A copy of the letter in support of lacrosse’s permanent inclusion in the Canada Summer Games provided to Hon. Neil Lumsden, Ontario Sport Minister, was circulated to the Governors. The OLA expressed its thanks for Minister Lumsden’s support. Lacrosse will return to the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

### OLA Strategic Plan:

1. During the welcome session of the SAGM, the OLA launched its 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan. This tactic guide helps the OLA, and its leagues and clubs, to identify strategic priorities and guide actions. Leagues may be assigned deliverables in support of the strategic plan. Additionally, Directors and Governors are expected to submit action plans that align with the five directions.
2. Results from the OLA's Strategic Plan Survey will be provided to the Board of Governors at the May meeting.

### OWFL Commissioner's Report:

1. The OWFL has approved an expansion franchise in Whitby, which is operated by the Whitby Warriors Minor Lacrosse Association. This brings the league total to 17 clubs.
2. U9 Play Day dates will be established and announced prior to the start of the season, which begins on May 20 with the league's Annual Early Bird tournament. Provided the division is successful, the OWFL will apply for approval of U9 as a provincially recognized division for the 2024 season.
3. Provincial Championships will be played over the course of two weekends in Oshawa.
4. Senior Women's division will return as a Super Sixes format. More information on this proposal will be provided to the OLA's Board of Directors.
5. Hanna Burnett has been proudly welcomed as the league's Officiating Director, and has announced plans for mentorship and support of officials throughout the season. There are approximately 70 returning officials expected this season, but a majority of those officials are Level 1. Hanna will be responsible for creating an action plan to advance those officials through to the upper divisions.

### Zone 8 Director's Report:

1. Appreciation was expressed to those who handled the SAGM this weekend.

### Zone 5 Director's Report:

1. Registration is underway and has been positive for a number of clubs. This includes increases in girls box lacrosse in many divisions.
2. Discrepancy between levels of play at U15 and above continues to be a concern for clubs in Zone 5.
3. Garret Conquer-van Heumen has been announced as the Zone 5 OIC. This is the first OIC in the Zone in many years.

### OLOA President's Report (submitted in advance):

1. The OLOA, under my leadership, is committed to being an active, engaged and positive partner within the Ontario Lacrosse Association.
2. The OLOA fully supports the proposals before the Governors related to jewellery and goaltender equipment.

### MSL Commissioner's Report:

1. Oakville's intended hiatus was known, however Owen Sound's announcement caught the league by surprise. Actions are being taken to support the teams to ensure that they will return in 2024.
2. Mimico Junior "A" was recognized for providing an exceptionally deep player pool to the 2023 MSL Entry Draft.

### Zone 9 Director's Report:

1. Player registration is off to a strong start, which is an encouraging sign.
2. The OLA has announced a second officiating certification clinic in the Zone. In addition to the regularly scheduled St. Catharines clinic, this second clinic will take place at Iroquois Lacrosse Arena in Six Nations, with the hope that it will encourage registration from members within the community.
3. Seven of the 9 clubs are operating TRY Lacrosse sessions, which is contributing directly to increased registration at U7, U9 and U11 divisions.

### Junior "C" Commissioner's Report:

1. Support from OLA Staff and Reg Holinshead has proved invaluable during the commissioner's transition period. The season will begin with 15 teams, with the expectation at the league will be back to 17 for the 2024 season.

The current season will be operated with three divisions; west, east and far east, and two pre-season tournaments are planned.

2. Finalist banners and medals have been ordered for the next three seasons, with the intention of increasing the professionalism of the league. There has been a lot of discussion about marketing the league in meetings, with the Nepean Knights currently blazing a trail for the rest of the clubs.

#### Zone 7 Director's Report:

1. Registration is underway and appears to be increasing in all associations, which is a positive sign.
2. Distance between clubs is becoming an increasingly noticeable issue. Growth in "midway communities" would significantly help to address this.

#### OMFLL Commissioner's Report:

1. A total of 30 clubs are committed to participating in the spring field season, including two new centres: Quinte and Lincoln. By league rules, at least two teams must be entered, one of which is U9 or U11. This is meant to ensure continuity in the league for future seasons.
2. All fields have been secured, with consideration given to geographic areas in order to reduce the burden on participating teams from outside of central Ontario.
3. The fall season will include a Super Sixes event, which will be played on Thanksgiving weekend. Teams will be entered according to their home club. The OMFLL's fall championship will take place the following weekend.

#### Zone 4 Director's Report:

1. Player registration has been slower in many clubs. New Tecumseth will not place any teams into competition, and currently there is only one team planned in Innisfil. Only three clubs have U7 through U17.
2. Some clubs have seen overwhelming results with implementing successful TRY Lacrosse programming. As an example, Stayner announced four TRY sessions, but had to double the number of offerings due to overwhelming registration.
3. A low commitment from returning officials will be an issue, especially for tournaments that are planned for within Zone 4.

### WMSL Commissioner's Report:

1. Dedicated members had submitted a proposal to host an international women's tournament, which received initial support from the league's teams. However, firm commitment was difficult to confirm, which threatened the success of the event. The proposal was ultimately withdrawn by the league, but the idea still has support and will be brought back to the table in 2024.
2. Registration has just begun, with many players expected to return from the 2022 season.
3. The league has appointed Vangie Rose to look after social media and website promotions. The focus of the league will be integrating its events with girls box lacrosse. WMSL players are tentatively committed to operating camps, clinics, TRY Lacrosse sessions and other opportunities to ensure that girls and young women are encouraged to play.

### Goaltender Equipment Proposal:

1. The Board of Governors reviewed a proposal to revise minor box lacrosse goaltender equipment examinations in Ontario for the 2023 season.

*To amend the goaltender equipment examination process to be subject to conformity and modifications only, in accordance with the presented proposal.*

m/ Eddy Jack  
s/ Mary Sticca

**CARRIED**

### Jewellery Examination Proposal:

1. The Board of Governors reviewed a proposal to revise jewellery examinations in Ontario for the 2023 season in all sectors.

*To amend the jewellery examination process to align with the dangerous equipment designation, in accordance with the presented proposal.*

m/ Jennifer Price  
s/ Jim Lowe

**CARRIED**

Closing Remarks:

1. Reg Holinshead received an ovation for his induction into the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

*To adjourn the November 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting.*

m/ Scott Matthews

s/ Carlton Hill

**CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 12:13pm.