

The Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) recognizes that the sport plays a major role in promoting the universal inclusion of all groups in society. The OLA is committed to the principle of offering inclusive and available opportunities to everyone who wishes to play lacrosse, and encourages the registration of under-represented populations across the province. The unique ability of sports to transcend linguistic, cultural and social barriers makes it an excellent platform for inclusion.

1. **Women in sport.** The sport of lacrosse has a long tradition of encouraging the involvement of female participants. Of the 30 leagues which fall under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Lacrosse Association, 28 are co-ed or female-exclusive. OLA member associations are encouraged to offer local opportunities for female athletes to play, coach, officiate and administer and govern the game of lacrosse both in co-ed and female-exclusive competition.
2. **Newcomers to Canada in sport.** As Canada's national summer sport, lacrosse has a unique opportunity to represent Canada to newcomers. Lacrosse teaches teamwork, commitment, communication and perseverance – all of which are qualities that make for a successful life in Canada, and sport is increasingly being recognized for its role in knitting Canadians together. In addition to encouraging physical ability, participation in sports for Canadian immigrants and their children help to build a sense of belonging. Through “Learn to Play” programs, the Ontario Lacrosse Association introduces new Canadians to both the game and the heritage that offered by lacrosse.
3. **People with disabilities in sport.** People with disabilities may face societal barriers and exclusions from community life which deprive them of opportunities which are essential to their social development, health and well-being. As part of its commitment to inclusion, the OLA requires all member associations to make reasonable accommodations for members with disabilities to safely participate in lacrosse. In addition to promoting access to sport for people with disabilities, the Ontario Lacrosse Association has included the introduction of parasport lacrosse as part of its long-term strategic plan.
4. **Ontario Lacrosse commitment to inclusion.** The Ontario Lacrosse Association is committed to the principle and practice of fair and equitable allocation of resources, opportunities and services, and pledges to encourage participation by all Ontarians regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, ethnic origin, colour, citizenship, creed, sex, gender, orientation, identification, disability, age or status. The OLA, through its staff and Board of Governors, will work to ensure that inclusion and sport equity are key considerations when developing, updating or delivering policies, governance, programs, projects and services to the membership.
5. **Ontario Lacrosse commitment to justness.** Equity does not necessarily mean that all persons must be treated exactly the same; people may need to be treated differently in order to be treated fairly. The Ontario Lacrosse Association resolves to incorporate principles of equity and justness in its operations, infrastructure, technical programs, activities, partnerships and action plans as necessary.