



ONTARIO LACROSSE

REGULATIONS 2026

Last Amended XX XX XX

Annual Declaration

These Regulations were approved by affirmative Special Resolution of all Members present and entitled to vote at an Annual Meeting of Members duly called and held, and at which quorum was present, on XX XX XX and are in effect for the XXXX Season.



Jeramie Bailey
OLA Executive Director



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REGULATIONS OF THE ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

These Operating Regulations (OR) relate to the specific structure, conduct and function of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's (OLA) Member Leagues and Clubs. Operating Regulations apply to all Sectors and Divisions of the recognized League Members within the OLA's Jurisdiction, unless otherwise specified.

REGULATION 1: DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- OR 1.1 **Definitions:** Throughout all Regulations, the following terms and phrases shall have the following meaning(s) unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:
- (a) **"Bond"** means an amount of money used to secure a Member's conduct or compliance against default. Membership bonds are a requirement for annual participation and must be on file with the Corporation at all times, whereas cooperation bonds and performance bonds may be initiated for a specific instance or time period and returned in full or in part if the conditions of the requirement are fulfilled;
 - (a) **"Duly Registered"** means the individual has completed registration for the appropriate sector, division of play and role using the OLA's registration platform for that season, and has been approved for participation by the Corporation;
- OR 1.2 **Variances:** Words presented in the singular will include the plural and vice versa, and words presented as persons will include corporate bodies. "Shall", "must" or "will" indicate a mandatory requirement, while "should" or "may" indicate a recommendation. Organization names, titles, or programs will include any successor organizational name, title, or program.
- OR 1.3 **Interpretations:** The Board will have the authority to make an interpretation or ruling concerning the spirit of any word, term, phrase, section, article or provision of governance documents which are ambiguous, unclear or contradictory, provided such interpretation or ruling is consistent with the Corporation's objectives.
- OR 1.4 **Severability:** The invalidity of any article or provision of these Regulations under applicable law will not affect the validity or enforceability or the remaining articles or provisions.
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REGULATION 2: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- OR 2.1 **Applicable Policies:** The Corporation maintains Operating Policies & Procedures that are in effect at all times, and the Board is responsible for reviewing each governing document periodically for amendments. These policies apply to all Members, Participants and individuals who register annually with the OLA, and the parents and/or guardians of those Participants who are under the legal age of majority in the Province of Ontario.
- (a) Accessibility Standards Policy;
 - (b) Anti-Doping Policy;

- (c) Anti-Harassment Policy;
- (d) Appeals Policy and Procedures: Application of Rulings;
- (e) Appeals Policy and Procedures: Discipline;
- (f) Appeals Policy and Procedures: Protests of Games;
- (g) Appeals Policy and Procedures: Releases;
- (h) Awards Program Procedures;
- (i) Club Member Naming & Imagery Policy;
- (j) Code of Conduct;
- (k) Concussion Management Procedure;
- (l) Confidentiality Policy;
- (m) Dispute Resolution Policy;
- (n) Dressing Room Policy;
- (o) Fair Play Code of Conduct;
- (p) Inclusion Policy;
- (q) Information Privacy Policy;
- (r) LGBTIQ+ Policy;
- (s) Life Membership Procedure;
- (t) Media Rights & Content Use Policy;
- (u) Modified Playing Rules Policy (Introductory Divisions);
- (v) New Club Member Procedure;
- (w) Offense/Defense Policy;
- (x) Participant Eligibility Policy;
- (y) Screening Policy & Procedure;
- (z) Social Media Procedure;
- (aa) Substance Misuse Policy;

(ab) Transgender Athlete Policy;

(ac) Selections Policy;

OR 2.2 **Policy and Procedure Establishment:** From time to time, policies and procedures may be established or amended by the Board to address the operation and general affairs of the Corporation. Any newly established policy or significantly amended policy will be circulated to all affected Members with no less than 14 days prior to the effective date.

REGULATION 3: OPERATING COUNCILS

OR 3.1 **Operating Councils:** Prior to the start of annual competition in each sector, the Board is responsible for establishing Operating Councils comprised of each sector's leagues. The designated representatives of each League Member form the basis of each council. Ex-Officio members of each Council consist of the OLA Staff and each member of the Board. Each Council is fully accountable to the Board.

- (a) **"Junior-Major Operating Council"** is comprised of the Junior, Senior, and corresponding women's division(s) of box lacrosse, and is chaired by the OLA Vice-President, Junior-Major;
- (b) **"Minor Operating Council"** is comprised of the Zones and Leagues of minor box and minor field lacrosse, including the corresponding women and girls' divisions, and is co-chaired by the OLA Vice President, Minor Box and OLA Vice President, Field;
- (c) **"Field Operating Council"** is comprised of the Junior, Senior, and corresponding women's division(s) of field lacrosse, and is chaired by the OLA Vice-President, Field;

OR 3.2 **Council Jurisdiction:** Each Council has the authority of its constituent bodies to make recommendations to the Board. Matters which overlap the jurisdiction of a sector's operating council may be dealt with by combining two or more Operating Councils, as determined necessary by the Chairpersons.

OR 3.3 **Officiating Council:** The officials of all sectors are recognized together as the Ontario Lacrosse Officials Association (OLOA). An Officiating Council, comprised of two representatives of the OLOA and two representatives of the OLA, may be convened to address officiating matters. On a two-year or three-year basis, representatives from the OLA and OLOA will agree in writing to the terms of the officiating program, and will communicate pertinent information to the Governors Council. This process will be finalized prior to December 15 of the calendar year prior to the season in which the terms come into effect.

OR 3.4 **Governors Council:** The combined Operating Councils of all sectors form the OLA's Governors Council, together with the OLA's Board of Directors, which will have joint meetings in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Members and Semi-Annual General Meeting. Additional meetings may be scheduled in May to discuss the beginning of the season, and/or in September to review the most recent season.

OR 3.5 **Council Meeting Schedule:** Councils meet two times each calendar year. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chairperson, or by majority request of the Council.

REGULATION 4: DISCIPLINE

OR 4.1 **OLA Authority:** The Corporation, through its Board, is empowered to apply disciplinary measures to any Participant or Member under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) Any individual, club, association or league who knowingly admits, retains or permits the participation of an athlete, coach, team personnel, executive member or any other person who is under suspension by the Corporation, Lacrosse Canada or World Lacrosse;
- (b) Any individual, club, association or league who breaches a policy, procedure, or the terms and conditions of membership of the OLA;
- (c) Any individual, club, association or league who refuses to abide by a decision or ruling of the Corporation as communicated by the Board or Executive Director;
- (d) Any individual, club, association or league who fails to fulfill its obligations or meet its Membership criteria to the Corporation, or to any other Member within the Corporation;
- (e) Any individual, club, association or league who fails to maintain confidentiality with respect to the Corporation's internal operations, including but not limited to registration records, individual contact information, privileged data, or any other information that is made not publicly available;
- (f) Any individual or participant who consumes alcohol, tobacco (whether smoked or chewed), or non-prescription drugs before or during a game or practice;
- (g) Any individual, club, association or league who permits the participation of an unregistered individual in any OLA event;
- (h) Any individual, club, association or league who knowingly inserts or causes false information to be entered onto a playing certificate, game report, or any document, book or record which relates to the affairs of the club, association, league or the Corporation;
- (i) Any club or association who fails to maintain its status of incorporation as required for membership within the Corporation;
- (j) Any individual, club, association or league who fails to cooperate or interferes with an investigation by the Corporation or an external agency;
- (k) Any club or association who fails to complete its scheduled playing commitment;
- (l) Any individual, club or association who acts against the interests or direction of the Corporation, including but not limiting to engaging in unethical behaviour(s) which may cause harm to the financial or reputational position of the Corporation or its leagues;
- (m) Any action or inaction deemed egregiously detrimental to the operations or affairs of the Corporation, its clubs, associations or leagues.

OR 4.2 **Disciplinary Measures:** The Corporation maintains a range of discipline measures which may be applied at its sole discretion, individually or in tandem, where discipline is to be levied against any Participant or Member:

- (a) Verbal or written warnings;
- (b) Fines, levied against the League or Club, in an amount not exceeding \$4000.00;
- (c) Requirement to forfeit and/or restore Cooperation Bonds, in an amount not exceeding \$2000.00;
- (d) Mandated completion of specified educational resources, to the satisfaction of the Corporation;
- (e) Mandated update to an individual's National Coaching Certification Program qualifications and/or National Officiating Certification Program qualifications for continued involvement;
- (f) Suspension of participation privileges: limiting involvement to a specified role, sector or title, for a specified period of time not exceeding two years;
- (g) Suspension of participation privileges: all-inclusive, for a specified period of time not exceeding two years and subject to a request for reinstatement;
- (h) Suspension of participation privileges, all-inclusive, with the period of ineligibility to request for reinstatement not exceeding five years;
- (i) Permanent expulsion (forfeiture of membership from the Corporation);
- (j) Referral of the matter to an external agency, where appropriate, including law enforcement;
- (k) Any other measure deemed reasonable by the Board, with regard for the purpose of the Corporation and the nature of the violation.

REGULATION 5: FINANCIALS

OR 5.1 **Member Records:** Each Club, Association and League Member of the Corporation must maintain a set of records consisting of meeting minutes, financial transactions and approved financial statements, for a minimum of seven years. These records must be available at all times for review by the Corporation. Failure to produce these records within 30 days of receiving written notice from the Executive Director will result in automatic expulsion from the Corporation.

OR 5.2 **Bonds:** Each new Club Member must place a Membership Bond of \$1000.00 on file with the Corporation as part of its obligations, and must maintain that surety at all times. As determined solely by the Board, Club Members may forfeit part or all of that sum for misconduct of its team(s), officers, representatives or personnel. In this circumstance, the Board may require the Club Member to replenish their bond for the continued faithful discharge of their duties. Separately, the Corporation may order Cooperation Bonds to be held on file for a specified period of time to satisfy the general maintenance of order for that Club Member. These amounts

may not exceed \$4000.00, may not be held for longer than a period of three years, and should specify the expected conduct of the Club Member for the period in which they are in place. All Membership Bonds remain with the Corporation for thirteen months after the club ceases to operate.

- OR 5.3 **Signing Officers:** Each Club Member, Association and League Member of the Corporation must designate signing officers or authorities for the disbursement of funds, in accordance with their own financial disbursement policies. Where designated funding disbursements require two or more signing officers, these authorities may not be related by family, marriage or employment, nor may they reside at the same address.

REGULATION 6: DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- OR 6.1 **Annual Membership Declaration:** Each Club or Association must declare their intention to participate in the following season on an annual basis, and in doing so, settle any outstanding accounts with the Corporation no later than October 15. The Corporation is responsible for establishing the annual Club Membership fee, per sector or division, to be paid along with each annual membership declaration.
- OR 6.2 **Outstanding Accounts:** The accounts of each Club Member and League Member must be settled in full by December 15. Outstanding accounts after this date will cause the Club Member to be automatically suspended from further participation. Previous season accounts that remain outstanding on January 15 will result in Club Membership with the Corporation being automatically forfeited.
- OR 6.3 **Annual Meeting Participation:** No Club or League Member will be entitled to attend or vote at an Annual Meeting of the Members unless its Annual Membership Declaration has been certified by the Corporation, and its bond, Club Membership Fee, and any other obligations to the Corporation, have been paid in full. Club Members and League Members are ineligible to attend or vote at any Meeting of the Members if they are under suspension, or if they did not participate in the Corporation during the previous season.

REGULATION 7: TEAM COMPOSITION & RESPONSIBILITIES

- OR 7.1 **Approval of Personnel:** No Team Personnel may participate in any game who are not duly registered, fully certified, and OLA-approved for the sector, division and league that they are eligible for. Any team that is found to be using any ineligible bench personnel during a game will be fined an amount not exceeding \$2,000.00 and the head coach will be suspended for not more than four games.
- OR 7.2 **Bench Personnel Limits:** Regardless of sector, each team is required to have one properly certified head coach, and one properly certified trainer, each of whom must be duly registered. In addition to these requirements, teams in each sector are limited to the following numbers of assistant coaches:
- (a) Junior-Major Box: not more than four assistant coaches (six total bench personnel);

- (b) Minor Box: not more than three assistant coaches (five total bench personnel);
- (c) Junior-Senior Men's Field: not more than four assistant coaches (six total bench personnel);
- (d) Minor and Men's Field: not more than three assistant coaches (five total bench personnel);
- (e) Women's Field: not more than three assistant coaches (five total bench personnel);
- (f) SIXES: not more than three assistant coaches (five total bench personnel);
- (g) In all sectors and divisions, each team may not begin any game without one head coach and one trainer. Where one team's trainer is unavailable, the opposing team's trainer may agree to serve as the trainer for both teams on an emergency basis. Where an event has organized a professionally designated first aid service for use by all teams, the requirement for an individual team trainer is waived. Supporting bench staff, including equipment managers, floor assistants or other similar positions, may not occupy the designated bench area but may be positioned nearby, but not closer than 4 metres to the bench.
- (h) League or OLA accredited media personnel may occupy the bench area, with permission of the team's head coach.
- (i) Each team may choose to assign one of its eligible bench personnel to occupy the penalty box area as opposed to the team's bench. Alternatively, leagues may assign neutral individuals to the penalty box area at their discretion for the purpose of serving as a penalty box attendant.
- (i) All bench personnel must be properly listed on the official game record.

OR 7.3 **Approval of Team Roster:** No athlete may participate in any game who is not duly registered and OLA-approved for the sector, division and league that they are eligible for. Any team that is found to be using any ineligible athlete during a game will be fined an amount not exceeding \$4,000.00, and the head coach will be suspended for not more than four games, and each game played with the ineligible athlete will be declared a forfeit (the score will be recorded as zero for the offending team, and the score for their opponent will be as attained during the game).

OR 7.4 **Roster Limits:** Teams in each sector are required to maintain their rostered athletes according to the following sector-specific ranges:

- (a) Senior Box: not less than eleven, and not more than twenty-five;
- (b) Junior Box: not less than eleven, and not more than twenty-three;
- (c) Minor Box: not less than eleven, and not more than twenty-three;
- (d) Junior-Senior Men's Field: not less than eleven, and not more than twenty-five;
- (e) Minor and Men's Field: not less than eleven, and not more than twenty-three;
- (f) Women's Field: not less than eleven, and not more than twenty-five;
- (g) SIXES: not less than eight, and not more than fifteen;

- (h) All playing athletes must be properly listed on the official game record.

OR 7.5 **Tampering:** It is an offense for any individual to contact an athlete who belongs to another OLA Club by residence or affiliation without first receiving permission from the team to which the athlete already belongs. Any individual judged to have engaged in tampering, regardless of whether or not the individual is successful in their attempt, will be fined an amount not exceeding \$4,000.00, and suspended for a minimum of one year. The Corporation's Vice President for that sector is solely responsible for determining whether or not tampering has occurred, and will act only on written complaint and a non-refundable investigation fee of \$250.00 per occurrence.

- (a) Tampering includes the actions of inviting, encouraging or otherwise allowing an individual who is a member of another club by residence and/or registration, to participate in camps, clinics, practices, or to play in any scheduled or exhibition games, without first having obtained written permission from the club for which the player belongs, by any individual or club who participates as an opponent in the same category/division against the team for whom the player belongs;
- (b) Permission to run may only be granted from a minor club to a junior/senior club. There is no permissible movement of players between two minor clubs in any sector except under the official release process;

OR 7.6 **Home Team Responsibilities:** It is the home team's (or host league's) responsibility in each sector and league to fulfill the following requirements:

- (a) Supplying the officials with approved game balls for the commencement of the game;
- (b) Maintaining at least two distinct sets of league-approved uniforms in case of conflict with the visiting team, and changing into the alternate uniform without delay where the officials or host convenors require this change;
- (c) Supplying the visiting team and the officials with any information related to the scheduled commencement of the game, including pre-game ceremonies, national anthem(s), or other special circumstances;
- (d) Supplying the visiting team with official game report for completion not less than thirty minutes prior to the commencement of the game, and providing the officials with the fully completed lineup report not less than ten minutes prior to the commencement of the game;
- (e) Supplying the visiting team and the officials with suitable areas for personal belongings that are appropriate to the division and sector;
- (f) Maintaining an orderly and safe environment for all participants and spectators, including the arrangement for security personnel and/or law enforcement provisions where necessary, or where directed to do so by the Corporation;
- (g) Where directed to do so by the officials, arranging for the removal from the grounds of any individual determined to be disruptive to an event;
- (i) Fulfilling any other reasonable request of the Corporation or its Member Leagues, with regard for both purpose and capacity, with consideration given to the category and division.

REGULATION 8: MAINTENANCE OF ORDER

- OR 8.1 **Standard Expectation for Behaviour:** It is the home team's (or host league's) responsibility in each sector and league to ensure that order is maintained to the satisfaction of the officials.
- (a) Prior to the start of any game, the officials may order what they deem to be proper provision for the maintenance of order in any facility;
 - (b) The playing surface, including hallways, dressing rooms, penalty areas and team benches, sidelines or endlines, or any other restricted areas, must be clear of spectators and non-authorized individuals at all times;
 - (c) Where spectators cause interference in the officiating or playing of any game, the officials are empowered to stop play until the situation has been appropriately addressed, and to report the circumstances of any delay to the Corporation for further action. Interference is defined as the action of any individual behaving in an unacceptable or disrespectful manner, including but not limited to the physical or verbal abuse of officials, spectators, volunteers, staff, or other participants.
 - (d) The Corporation reserves the right, through the officials or any authorized representative, to order the removal from all or any facility, grounds, stadiums or arenas (including any areas that are reserved for spectators who have paid admission), of any person who engages in abusive, disruptive, harmful or unsportsmanlike behaviour, and to engage the home team or hosting organization in cooperative action to ensure that the individual has been fully dismissed before play resumes;
 - (e) All persons, including those who pay admission or receive an entry pass into a match, who attend any event under the jurisdiction of the Corporation, are deemed to have agreed that they were admitted on the condition that they would subject themselves to and abide by all Governance Documentation of the OLA and general expectations for good behaviour, even to the extent that they may be subjected to necessary force to ensure their expulsion by the officials, representatives of the home club or host league, or security personnel or law enforcement officers, wherever it is deemed necessary.
 - (f) Any athlete or team representative who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, engages in behaviour that is detrimental to lacrosse, or who acts in an insulting manner to the Corporation or its officials may be automatically suspended for a period not exceeding four games, or for egregious violations, until a hearing is scheduled to determine an appropriate period of time.
 - (g) Repeated violations of the Maintenance of Order may also result in fines levied against the organization responsible, discipline hearings, the application of cooperation bonds, forfeiture of team participation from the event, or legal ramifications based on the severity of the violation.

REGULATION 9: POSTPONEMENTS

OR 9.1 **Postponement of Play:** No match may be postponed without the approval of the Designated Representative of the League, the Official-in-Charge, or an authorized representative of the Corporation. Except where scheduling does not permit, all postponed games which have not begun must be rescheduled. Where a game in progress must be postponed for any reason, it may be declared “complete” in the following circumstances:

- (a) Any game with three periods: when two full periods of play have been completed;
- (b) Any game with four quarters: when three full quarters of play have been completed;
- (c) Any game with two halves: when one half of play has been completed;
- (d) Notwithstanding any of the above scenarios, any non-tournament playoff game must be played in its entirety in order to be declared “complete” unless the circumstances make it impossible, in which case the above timelines may be applied.

OR 9.2 **Reasons for Postponement:** Postponement may be ordered in the following circumstances:

- (a) Where the facility or grounds have become unsafe due to weather, maintenance or any other reason as determined by the officials, the Official-in-Charge, or an authorized representative of the Corporation;
- (b) Where travel to the the facility or grounds has become unsafe due to weather, as approved by the Designated Representative of the League or an authorized representative of the Corporation;
- (c) Where one or more officials fail to arrive for the game and suitable replacements cannot be arranged, as approved by the Designated Representative of the League or an authorized representative of the Corporation;
- (d) Any other reasonable circumstance, as approved by the Designated Representative of the League or an authorized representative of the Corporation;

REGULATION 10: OFFICIALS

OR 10.1 **Assignments:** Only the designated officiating assignor of each sector and league is permitted to appoint officials to games. In the case of emergency, suitable replacement officials may be contacted directly, but only after reasonable attempts to contact the designated officiating assignor have been made. Officials in each sector may be required to undergo a re-evaluation at any time as designated by the authorized representatives of the Corporation for the purpose of promoting or demoting their classification.

OR 10.2 **Certification:** Officiating certification is valid from the date of the official’s clinic until June 1 of the following year, provided that the official is duly registered to attend a re-certification clinic

with the Ontario Lacrosse Association in the following calendar year prior to any participation. Regardless of the circumstance, only those officials who are appropriately certified for the sector and division of play may be assigned to officiate.

- OR 10.3 **Minimum Requirements:** In games where the playing surface is reduced by half and contact is not permitted by OLA-designated modifications to the rules, one certified official may be assigned to each game. In all other circumstances, a minimum of two certified officials must be assigned and present in order for the game to be played.
- OR 10.4 **Assigning Conflicts:** Subject to the decision of the Vice President, Officiating, no official may be assigned to a tournament game or provincial championship game in which a participant on either team is a direct relative of the official.
- OR 10.5 **Official's Discretion:** A protest of any game result due to an official's conduct, decision and/or rulings will not be entertained by the Corporation. However, any valid letter of complaint and supporting documentation or video regarding the performance of a game official will be investigated by the Corporation, and action may be taken at its sole discretion.
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REGULATION 11: PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

- OR 11.1 **Registration Requirement:** All players, non-bench playing personnel (including coaches, trainers and managers), volunteers, club executives and any other individual participating in any capacity with the OLA must be registered annually prior to any participation.
- OR 11.2 **Registration Responsibility:** The Designated Representative of each Club Member is responsible for ensuring that registration has been completed for all individuals at the club level.
- OR 11.3 **Registration Deadlines:** All registrations must adhere to sector-specified deadlines and requirements as set forth by the Corporation. Regardless, of the sector, club, league or affiliation, all registrations are subject to review and approval by an OLA-designated Provincial Registrar.
- OR 11.4 **Registration Oversight:** Individuals whose completed registration cannot be approved must immediately cease participation upon notification of the Corporation until the situation has been addressed. Individuals who participate without any registration may be subject to discipline at the discretion of the Corporation, as well as the Club Member and/or League Member who is found to have permitted their participation.

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