

## ***2025 PROVINCIAL TEAM ENTRY ELIGIBILITY NOTICE***

March 21, 2025

The Ontario Lacrosse Association is aware of a number of instances occurring throughout the province where viable teams (with registration numbers of at least 70% or more of the average team size) have announced their intention to collapse for the 2025 season. We are also tracking increased instances of actions which are meant to create teams that are composed of a disproportionate roster of non-resident players which results in an unfair competitive advantage against opponents.

The OLA's Board, at its discretion, reserves the right to determine where tampering or collusion have taken place in order to enter a team which is determined to hold a competitive advantage through combining two or more associations, through any of the following circumstances:

1. Clubs failing to maintain open registration for the period between February 1 and May 15;
2. Folding a potentially viable team without reasonable consideration of the participation and development goals of minor club lacrosse;
3. An excessive number of releases, cuts or other player movement that appear to be coordinated between two or more associations;
4. A disproportionate number of players registered to a team from outside the association's residential boundary;
5. Players registering for teams that are found to be participating under a false address;
6. A pattern of players being released to a team after participating in off-season events or training sessions hosted by another organization.

Where any of these circumstances are identified by the Board through consultation with the applicable Zone Director(s), and it is determined that a team has been structured to give a competitive advantage through a roster combination of two or more centres, the OLA reserves the right to deny that team's entry into the Ontario Lacrosse 2025 Provincial Championships, and the registered coaches of these teams, and/or other club representatives, may face a suspension of up to two years and/or a fine of \$2500.

Effective immediately, in the event that a box team requests permission to fold a team at any age division, the Club President must provide a written explanation to their Zone Director citing the cause, who will then consult with OLA Programming Staff and VP Minor to determine the team's viability. If approved, the team may be folded; if not approved, the OLA will determine the next steps.

Clubs are reminded of the primary purpose of our organization: to provide opportunities for athletes to play lacrosse. OLA minor box associations and teams are hereby advised of the consequences where teams are found to be circumventing the integrity of our organization.