



Things have changed, but one thing remains the same: our shared love for the game of lacrosse. COVID-19 has had an incredible impact on every aspect of our operations, but we remain committed to our foundation of prioritizing the safety and well-being of the Ontario lacrosse community. Without a doubt, this is an unprecedented period of difficulty for everyone in the sports world and beyond. First and foremost, we offer our appreciation to the health care professionals and essential services staff who continue each day to keep us safe, many of whom are valued members of our sport. On behalf of everyone in the Ontario Lacrosse community: our sincerest thanks for your efforts.


The OLA remains hopeful that this pandemic will be managed in the near future and that some sort of modified lacrosse season will be possible. All of our leagues fully understand that the only way to proceed is with the full approval and cooperation of the Province of Ontario, its health authorities and the municipalities in which we gather to play. At this point, we can say with confidence that there will not be any opportunity for in-person lacrosse activities (try-outs, training sessions, scrimmages, practices, games, etc.) to resume prior to June 15<sup>th</sup>, and the OLA's Board of Governors has approved another 30-day extension of our current postponement, effective immediately and continuing until June 15<sup>th</sup>, pending further provincial directives and updates. We recognize the tremendous efforts that have been put forth by our leagues, associations and participants in preparing for the 2020 season, and we know that we want to do as much as we can to prepare for the possibility of returning to the fastest game on two feet when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

As we enter the Victoria Day weekend and throughout the coming weeks ahead, we know that we face a number of critical decisions for the 2020 season. Our optimism for Return-To-Play is directly rooted in the Province of Ontario's public announcement earlier this week that we have entered Stage 1 of the [Framework to Re-Open Ontario](#). Although this situation remains fluid, I can assure you that we are actively engaged in designing Return-To-Play formats based on multiple scenarios so that we are prepared as soon as we are given guidance that it is safe and appropriate to begin the 2020 season. In all our planning, we continue to closely follow the direction of the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Culture and Tourism Industries, the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Health, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Many of you have reached out to share your thoughts and concerns, and we thank you for maintaining your passion for lacrosse throughout this challenging situation. We appreciate your continued patience and flexibility as we work to deliver lacrosse to our players, coaches, officials, volunteers and fans in 2020. We invite you to continue to connect with us through our weekly interactive webcast series, *Six Steps to the Crease*, which is broadcast for free on Sunday evenings. Information about each episode can be found [here](#). We look forward to having you join us each week as we celebrate Canada's National Summer Sport.

Up-to-date risk assessment information and other resources published by the Canadian government related to COVID-19 can be found [here](#). The Ontario Lacrosse Association reminds everyone to consider good hygienic practices and safe contact in order to maintain a healthy environment. We are grateful for your understanding and your desire to begin the 2020 season with us as soon as it is safe to do so. Thank you for continuing to embody the spirit of lacrosse in everything you do.

*On behalf of the OLA's Board of Governors, stay safe.*

  
Marion Ladouceur  
OLA President

May 15, 2020