



ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

1 Concorde Gate • Suite 200-C, Box 51 • Toronto, ON • M3C 3N6
416-426-7066 • info@ontariolacrosse.com

Statement on Orillia Tournament Incident

June 16, 2019

The officiating community has always been an important part of the sport of lacrosse, and the Ontario Lacrosse Association's (OLA) Board of Directors values the competency, passion and dedication that members of the officiating community display each season.

The safety of all OLA members, which includes our game officials and administrators, is of the utmost importance to us.

The Ontario Lacrosse Association is aware of a serious incident that took place during a minor lacrosse tournament on Friday, June 14th, 2019 in Orillia, ON, involving an alleged assault on referee administrator Gord Brown by a non-playing bench personnel member who had been previously expelled from the game. Emergency services were summoned to attend to the victim, and an arrest was made by the Ontario Provincial Police in connection with the assault. We offer thanks to the emergency first responders in Orillia for their immediate assistance and professionalism.

Following receipt of reports related to this situation, OLA staff and Board of Directors members reached out to both Mr. Brown and the Orillia Tournament Committee Executive to offer their support. Additional OLA Representatives were mobilized to be on site in Orillia yesterday and today to ensure the successful operation of remaining tournament games, and to meet in person with Mr. Brown. Separately, OLA VP of Minor Box Jennifer Matheson acted to immediately suspend the membership of the non-playing bench personnel member reported to have been involved, effectively barring him from sanctioned OLA events. Going forward, additional sanctions and support will be discussed and implemented in accordance with the authority of the OLA's Board of Directors to display our unified condemnation of this egregious situation.

Reports of misbehaviour and/or abuse are investigated by the OLA and may result in sanctions against clubs, including mandated on site security, forfeiture of performance bonds, fines, suspensions, termination of membership, as well as any criminal or civil liability when appropriate. The OLA is fully committed to cooperating with law enforcement during all investigations, and because criminal charges have been laid in this matter, it is inappropriate for members of our association to comment further. If anyone has information to this incident or was a witness, they are encouraged to contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

M. Ladouceur

Marion Ladouceur

President

Ontario Lacrosse Association