

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

ONTARIO LACROSSE AND NATURE BOY LACROSSE CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP IN 2024

TORONTO, ON – December 21st, 2023 – To help support clubs introducing both U5 Soft Lacrosse and 3-on-3 Mini Game programs, the Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) and Nature Boy Lacrosse will continue to offer starter sticks for participating players between the ages of 3-6 years.

In keeping with the OLA's approach to sourcing high-quality age-appropriate equipment for the newest players in the game, the Nature Boy "Mini Shorty" stick is designed to help young athletes acquire fundamental skills as they are introduced to the fun of lacrosse. These sticks are targeted to players in Soft Lacrosse (3 & 4 years) and Paperweight (5 & 6 years) participating in non-contact programs which use Nature Boy or SwaxLax balls. The substantial benefit for clubs who are interested in supplying these sticks to support their program is in player recruitment, development and retention.

Details on the Nature Boy "Mini Shorty" stick specifications, pricing and delivery:

- Stick is delivered strung and assembled
- Plastic molded white head with white mesh pocket
- Shooting strings are strung (colours vary)
- 26" white wood shaft of North American ash
- Plastic butt-end included
- Total length of each stick is 35.5" (usually avoiding any need to cut the stick shaft for players)
- Unit cost is \$41.00/stick (picked up in Toronto from the OLA Office)
- Nature Boy balls are \$2.20/ball (soft rubber; slightly smaller than regulation size; slightly more jump/bounce than SwaxLax)
- The first order will be placed for delivery by January 8, 2024

For clubs currently operating U5 Soft and 3-on-3 Mini Game formats, the value of the Nature Boy ball is in its use in skills and drills training to transition from using SwaxLax balls to more traditional Tyke game play using regulation balls (as in: SwaxLax > Nature Boy > Regulation). The Nature Boy "Mini Shorty" sticks is designed for use with both Nature Boy and SwaxLax balls.

For those organizations already committed to U5 Soft Lacrosse and 3-on-3 Mini Game programs, or for those about to be, the OLA has recently developed Orientation Guides for both programs. These Guides, one for each program, cover player eligibility, required equipment; budgets; program planning; floor diagrams and rules. Also included are program goals within the context of long-term athlete development (LTAD). [Click here](#) for those resources. There is also assistance from the OLA with print resources available for community promotion of both programs.

Should you have any questions or be interested in placing an order of Nature Boy sticks for your club, school or community, please contact ron@ontariolacrosse.com with your request.