



- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

RULES MODIFICATION: JEWELLERY (ALL SECTORS)

TORONTO, ON – May 4th, 2023 – The Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) Board of Governors has taken action to modify a playing rule for the 2023 season which affects all sectors.

The Lacrosse Canada rulebook specifies that jewellery cannot be worn under any circumstances by participating athletes, as this presents a safety issue. This stance is consistent with other amateur sport bodies in Ontario who do not permit jewellery of any kind to be worn. Under the Lacrosse Canada playing rules, box lacrosse players who are participating while wearing jewellery are assessed a minor penalty and a game misconduct.

While jewellery is a safety issue, the assessment of the infraction comes at the request of the opposing team. During the 2022 season, this rule was used for competitive advantage to create a power play while also eliminating an opponent from the game, not for participant safety which is the purpose and spirit of the rule.

For the 2023 season, where any players are found to be wearing jewellery, they will be offered the opportunity to remove the jewellery in order to continue playing without any penalty assessed to either team (satisfying the player safety concern) or remove themselves from the game on their own accord. Players are not required to present any removed jewellery to the officials, and may remove their jewellery in their own dressing room if they wish, before returning to play. A minor penalty and a game misconduct (or equivalent outcome, based on the sector of play) will only be assessed to those players who, after being instructed to remove their jewellery, return to play without having done so. A minor penalty for delay of game will be assessed to any team who makes a jewellery equipment request that cannot be substantiated by the officials. All other Lacrosse Canada penalties for illegal equipment (example: participating in play without a helmet or shoulder pads) remain unchanged.