

OLA STATEMENT ON IIJL / WJLC “WORLD JUNIOR LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP”

TORONTO, ON – July 28th, 2023 – The Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) reaffirms its support for the position of both World Lacrosse and Lacrosse Canada in regards to any IIJL or WJLC “World Lacrosse Championship” event. An entity calling itself the “CLL” (Canadian Lacrosse League) has announced events which it is calling the “IIJL”, “WJLC” or World Junior Lacrosse Championship in both Saskatoon, SK and Utica, NY. This entity has begun approaching OLA players individually to recruit them to play for the event under a variety of team titles, including Team Canada, Team USA, etc. This is a private event which is billing itself as a World Championship; something that it is not. The “Canadian Lacrosse League” is a private organization that is not sanctioned by Lacrosse Canada or World Lacrosse, and does not have the permission or endorsement of the Lacrosse Canada National Team Program or World Lacrosse to operate as Team Canada Lacrosse, or use the name or likeness of the team or of the championship series.

Participation by any OLA-registered volunteers, coaches, officials, athletes and/or teams with the Canadian Lacrosse League and/or any of the IIJL/WJLC “World Lacrosse Championship” events, including U16, U18, Junior and/or Junior Women’s programs, will result in immediate suspension of OLA membership for the balance of the season and for the entire season following, from all sanctioned Ontario Lacrosse Association, Team Ontario and Team Canada programs and events. All members suspended under this policy are required to reapply to the OLA for future eligibility. Effective immediately, OLA members are hereby notified of this policy and its consequences.

From Lacrosse Canada: “The IIJL World Junior Lacrosse Championship is not a World Lacrosse (WL) or Lacrosse Canada (LC) sanctioned event. The Canadian Lacrosse League (CLL) is NOT an entity of Lacrosse Canada. All Member Associations under Lacrosse Canada should not be sanctioning nor supporting these events in any way. World Lacrosse is the recognized body for international championships and is the only body that can sanction world championships. Lacrosse Canada and its MA’s, as members of World Lacrosse and also of Sport Canada, support World Lacrosse. Any reference to “Team Canada” is not part of the Lacrosse Canada National Team Program, and therefore there is no Team Canada participation in these events.” ([full statement](#))

From World Lacrosse: “The name of this event has generated questions and confusion in the lacrosse community; therefore the purpose of this advisory is to make certain members understand that this event is not recognized by FIL (now World Lacrosse), is not supported by FIL (now World Lacrosse), and in no way should be considered a FIL (now World Lacrosse) World Junior Championship.” ([full statement](#))

As a member of both Lacrosse Canada and World Lacrosse, we have a recognized history of developing many of the world’s best lacrosse players. Despite, or perhaps because of, the OLA’s success in delivering quality programs and leagues throughout the province, other private entities operating outside of the provincial and national governance structure form leagues or host events from time to time that claim to offer various levels of play. These non-sanctioned organizations do not support the development of Ontario Lacrosse or its clubs. Furthermore, they operate with limited consideration to the impact that their events have on our organization, but still attempt to utilize resources already developed by Ontario Lacrosse and its members. We have no way of ensuring whether these events implement many of the fundamental safeguards that are in place in both Ontario Lacrosse leagues/programs and the Lacrosse Canada LTAD model. They may or may not be using the same or similar rules that are in place to protect player safety or provide adequate insurance coverage for participants. They also cannot claim that the quality/equality of play in these events matches the level advertised, that officials are appropriately trained, that background screens have been completed, or which other participants may be involved with regard to age and ability.

While we respect the rights of all players, coaches and officials to choose how they participate in the sport, it is also important that everyone understands the ramifications of that choice in their ability to participate in Ontario Lacrosse programming. We have already taken numerous steps to ensure that everyone understands our position with the CLL; however, we are once again reminding all OLA teams that participation at any time with the CLL or in any event known as the “IIJL/World Junior Championships” at any level of play, will result in immediate suspension of OLA membership, and will affect future eligibility in National (Team Ontario, Founders Cup, Minto Cup, Presidents Cup, Mann Cup, Alumni Cup, First Nations Trophy, etc.) and legitimate international competition/championships (Team Canada) ([Lacrosse Canada Policy 5.1.2](#), Participant Eligibility).