

Vice President of Technical

Area Report

October 27, 2025

Lacrosse Sixes

This was the second year of Ontario's new Lacrosse Sixes and unfortunately, it was even less organized than the first. In early August, the OLA announced that the provincial Championships would be hosted in Hamilton. Although, this was great news for our members, it was news to our association. The OLA did not consult us but rather dealt with tourism Hamilton directly. Although it was nice not having to organize the event, it did create a bit of a panic at the eleventh hour when the OLA figured out that the city had no field lacrosse nets. Thanks to Mohawk College and McMaster University for loaning us their nets, Hamilton was able to provide 14 of the 34 nets required for the event.

Since the OLA was late with getting out information that is essential for budgeting, the HLA was not able to get registration information out to its members in a timely fashion. As a result, interest was really low in every division except U9 where we were able to field two teams. These teams competed in the A and D divisions, and both made it to their respective semi finals.

Girls Box Lacrosse

Last year, a few of the sisters from the U9 box team approached me about starting a girls box lacrosse team. We started off by holding open house sessions during the inter months down at Eastwood where interest slowly began to build. After a few weeks, Nicole DiTraglia reached out and expressed her interest in coaching. Nicole grabbed the bull by the horns and quickly took control of the program. By the end of tryouts, we had 22 girls registered for the U13 team. They didn't have a ton of wins this season, but the growth of the girls skill and compete levels was impressive to watch. Thanks to early off-season promotion and development work, Coach Nicole has estimated that we will be able to offer two U13 teams and a U15 team next season.

Yellow Helmets

Last season, the executive decided that all players who make a Bengals box team will be required to wear a yellow helmet by the 2027 season. In order to help with this transition, the HLA purchased over 100 helmets from ILA sports in Six Nations in order to make it easier for families to find them, and also at a discounted price. The majority of teams really

welcomed the idea. The U15 and U17 teams had 100% of their players wearing yellow helmets. As this is a timely process, our hope is that local retailers like Mak's Source for Sports and Pro Hockey life will start to carry this colour helmet in stores.

Equipment

In 2026, all U17 - U22 (and older) games will require the use of Junior Sized (4'x4.5')nets. In preparation, the HLA purchased 2 new sets of nets this year. We will likely purchase another 2-3 sets in 2026, just in case we ever run into a situation where we are hosting a tournament and need 4 sets at one time.

We also purchased 3 new foldable Rage Cage field lacrosse nets near the end of the season.

At the beginning of the season, it was discovered that some of our smaller Box lacrosse goalie equipment is in need of replacement. A small order was placed and over the next few weeks, I will go through our current inventory to see if anymore is required. Hopefully we will be able to find a new equipment director to take this role off of my hands.

Joel Firmin

VP of Technical