

Good day,

Thank you for your patience as we try to navigate our current reality during this health crisis.

As we have shared with our membership, the Gloucester Lacrosse Association (GLA) has been following the directives from the City of Ottawa, the Province, local and provincial health authorities and the Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA). These directives had initially suspended in-person lacrosse activities until May 15, however this timeline has now been [extended until June 15](#) with the hope of moving forward with an abbreviated season this summer. While this outlook provides some optimism for our competitive program, it does not allow sufficient time for a house league season to occur.

Next Steps

- It is with great disappointment that we must announce the cancellation of the 2020 House League season.
- House league registrations will be refunded less \$20 in OLA fees (see below for explanation). Alternatively, families can opt to transfer their entire registration fee to next season in lieu of a refund, thus providing the association with time and flexibility to maneuver going into 2021.
- Refunds will be issued via cheque. We anticipate this process will take four to six weeks to complete.
- A decision on the Competitive program will be made in mid-June in conjunction with the OLA's timelines.

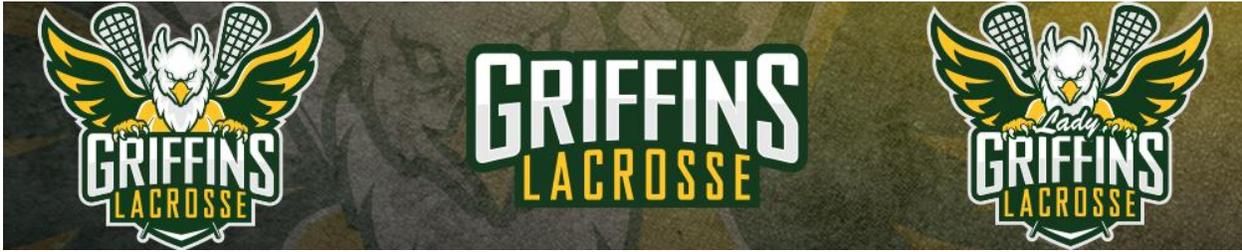
If you would like to receive the credit toward next season's registration, please send an [email](#) addressed to both our registrar (registrar@gloucester-lacrosse.com) and our Treasurer (julie@gloucester-lacrosse.com). We ask that you complete this request by May 31, after which time, we will begin issuing refunds.

This is all a balancing act. If enough families are able to support the association by deferring their registrations, it may allow the GLA to offer complete refunds for families and absorb the (\$20 per player fee) levied by the OLA as it is not the intention of the association to profit from these unprecedented circumstances. Our goal is to maintain the health and viability of the GLA.

Details on Refunds

As you know, the Gloucester Lacrosse Association is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization. Each year we maintain a budget of approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 depending on the expenses and number of players registered during the previous season. This surplus allows the Board of Directors to fund the start-up of each year. For example, equipment is procured, tournaments booked, house league jerseys ordered, OLA fees and insurance paid.

To begin the 2020 season the GLA had just under \$12,000 in its bank account (as presented at the GLA Annual General Meeting). Between October 2019 and March 2020, the association



implemented its standard pre-season procurement strategy. Just over \$16,500 was spent on procurement when our activities were halted in early March with the onset of COVID restrictions. We anticipate being able to return or sell \$4000 worth of merchandise. Unfortunately, each player registration includes \$20 in OLA fees that we've been informed will not be reimbursed.

This has several impacts on the association and our membership moving forward.

1. For reasons listed above, the GLA is unable to "eat" or absorb the \$20 fee taken by the OLA and refund the full amount of registration for each player.
2. Based on the association's current financial circumstances, **families can help the GLA by opting to transfer their registration to next season in lieu of a refund.** This is optional, but it would provide the association with time and flexibility to rebalance its accounts by stretching the period to absorb the \$20 OLA fee into the 2021 season.
3. Start-up operations for next season will be impacted based on our expected lack of surplus and as such, certain parts of the program will need to be reviewed and possibly delayed or placed on hold until the association is in a better fiscal position.
4. We do not plan to raise the cost of registration in 2021 to offset the loss.

These have been new and challenging times for everyone and we will make it through this experience together - supportive, strong, and Griffins proud.

Ian Woolridge

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President – Gloucester Lacrosse Association