



April 21, 2017

Lambton Kent District School Board
200 Wellington St. P.O. Box 2019
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7L2

Re: LKSSAA 2017 Soccer Season

The Lambton Kent Secondary School Athletic Association's (LKSSAA) Executive has been working with the Ontario Soccer Association in an attempt to reach a Memorandum of Understanding as it relates to soccer officials. The Ontario Soccer Association is the governing body that oversees the officials required for all sanctioned Lambton Kent District School Board soccer games.

Without a Memorandum of Understanding in place, LKDSB boys' and girls' soccer games cannot take place and as such, LKSSAA has decided to postpone all games scheduled for Monday, April 24. If no agreement is reached by early next week, LKSSAA's Executive, in consultation with physical education curriculum leaders across the LKDSB, may cancel the 2017 soccer season.

LKSSAA continues to work with the Ontario Soccer Association in hopes of reaching a resolution for the 2017 season. One of the outstanding issues involves the sharing of personal student information, which LKSSAA is legally prohibited from doing so under the Education Act and Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Sanctioned officials by the Ontario Soccer Association are required to ensure the games are run safely and students are not put at risk. In order for an individual to officiate a soccer game within our school board, the official must be sanctioned by the Ontario Soccer Association. Ontario Soccer Association-sanctioned games are also required for participation in SWOSSAA and OFSAA.

Both LKSSAA and the LKDSB place students' safety first, and concerns for protection of student privacy and liability inform these decisions.

LKSSAA has notified all LKDSB principals and physical education curriculum leaders about this change and understands the concerns this may cause students, staff, parents and guardians, as teams have formed and practices have already taken place. In the event the season is cancelled, school administration will work with coaches to notify players and parents/guardians, and determine the best approach for returning fees collected for the soccer season.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact your principal.

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
Jim Costello
Director of Education, Lambton Kent District School Board