

CBTF – CNBTA – IBTF Discussions Information Sheet

At the 2024 CBTF Fall Conference, the Board requested information on the background and the option to ask more questions about moving towards IBTF.

The following is intended to be a general discussion and background information piece, and it will also include answers to questions that were specifically sent in by the provinces who chose to do so.

IBTF began as a concept over a decade ago, in the pursuit of having baton ultimately be recognized by the IOC. The shared goal is to get baton twirling into the Olympics. The international process appears always to be a moving target. To gain Olympic recognition, one of the biggest obstacles was that there was not one international governing sport organization. Thus, IBTF was formed as a joining of the WBTF and the WFNbTA. The first IBTF competition was the IBTF Grand Prix hosted in Abbotsford, British Columbia, in 2015.

We did try to initiate discussions with CNBTA in the past. Nothing arose from that. Progress was made with engaging in discussions with CNBTA President Satyne Ward, who initiated and revived the discussions.

IBTF assigned Dale White and Amy Williams to assist Canada in jump starting the progress. A series of Zoom meetings were held with Dale and Amy, Satyne, Joanne, and our respective technical chairs. Once progress began, CNBTA sent a detailed proposal. CBTF suggested a more general approach. It resulted in the “Agreement to Agree”, which was circulated to the Board. That Agreement was approved by the executives of both organizations before it was signed. We continue to work together on what might develop for the future in Canada.

The CBTF Executive endorsed Joanne and Dana to attend the Zoom meetings and report back on initial progress, which would then be shared with the Board when there was something to report. IBTF deadlines were looming for intent to apply and actual application for IBTF membership. Both CBTF and CNBTA filed their intent to apply for IBTF membership in advance of that deadline. CBTF then filed its application for IBTF membership by the deadline in July of 2024. On September 1, 2024, IBTF’s panel of outside experts selected CBTF as the member country organization to IBTF. We subsequently understand that CNBTA did not file an application. Nevertheless, we have the Agreement to work with to guide us forward.

In the joint discussions, both Canadian organizations were passionate about their own history, legacy, programs, and traditions. We want to respect that for both to be able to continue. This past summer, Canada sent a cohesive contingent to Sweden for the IBTF Worlds. Planning, preparation, and participation were done together. It was a great experience for us and helped to settle the “fear of the unknown”. We are now looking forward to hosting a joint qualifier, and continuing with what we learned from last year, and working towards what ultimately will benefit our athletes and the country at the international level.

I know that this information is not particularly detailed, but there is still a ways to go to come up with the final result. Rest assured that both organizations are not making unilateral decisions. We are taking meaningful, and mindful steps along the way, being respectful and considerate, and making

new relationships and new friendships in the process. Foremost in our minds is keeping Canada's seat at the table at the international level and making sure that our athletes are able to qualify for and compete at the world level. Once there is more substance on what is being proposed for the future in Canada, I anticipate that both organizations will meet with their respective boards of directors, and I could envision a joint meeting with both boards together in the future as more significant decision-making is required. This is an important step for baton twirling in Canada and one that requires consideration from the baton twirling membership before any significant decisions are made.

I do not intend to speak on behalf of CNBTA. I do feel that we have built a relationship of mutual respect, and will continue to build on the discussions, experiences, and ideas as we do our best for the sport. If anyone would like me to ask for CNBTA to also include input on this FAQ, please let me know.

Specific questions that were asked:

What is IBTF and why was it created?

Please see above. Also, you can find out more about IBTF at their website: www.ibtf-batontwirling.org

Why are there two baton organizations - CBTF and CNBTA?

There used to be one organization in Canada. Many, many years ago, there was a "fracture" in the sport, and the CNBTA formed. This was before my time, so I do not have the details and I do not believe that it would be a productive exercise to linger on the past when we are developing the future.

Are CBTF and CNBTA merging? If not, what are they actually doing?

There is not a merger happening at this time. Right now, the focus is on the creation of a legal entity to represent baton in Canada at the international level.

What is the agreement between both organizations and what does it mean?

It is an "Agreement to Agree", which is a document that establishes that two parties agree that they will come up with something of more substance in the future. It is a sign of good faith in negotiations and permits both parties to continue in their negotiations with some degree of certainty.

If they are to be a joint organization when can we expect that to fully happen?

There is no way to give a timeline on this. It would be pure speculation.

CBTF is now Canada's representative for IBTF. What does this actually mean for athletes qualifying for events?

Athletes will compete at a qualifier that includes both CBTF and CNBTA athletes. We have started this year with a joint process for intent to compete and will continue with our experience of one Team

Canada for Turin in 2025. We will be able to send a full complement without spots being left open and will be able to comply with the IBTF rules for one qualifier for all athletes. We are working with CNBTA together to develop our processes.

Can CNBTA still do different national events?

CNBTA is its own entity and is able to continue with its business as it always has.

Is CNBTA required to join the CBTF Nation's Cup Qualifier?

CBTF is hosting the Qualifier for all Canadian athletes. CNBTA and CBTF will both attend it. Both organizations will be issuing sanctions for it. Both organizations will be consulted in the process.

Who exactly is deciding what CBTF's position is in regard to our relationship/interaction with CNBTA. The president, the executive, the education committee?

The CBTF Board and Executive are guiding the process and ultimately the Board will make any decision. The education committee has no power to deal with this. The president is the messenger and negotiator. The president cannot make any decisions that bind the Board. The Board is the decision maker.

Why does CBTF not feel that some level of consultation with the "rank & file" members is warranted?

This question is curious. Provincial chairs should be sharing the information received from the Board with their membership. The "rank and file" members should have the discussion with their provincial boards, and convey input to their provincial board, to then take to the national level. Once decisions are to be made, the provincial chairs would then discuss with their boards and membership to come to the national table with their province's position to make the ultimate decision.

Since CBTF is in the "power" position, why are we choosing to "work with" CNBTA, instead of simply putting a policy in place that CNBTA members wanting to compete at IBTF competitions require a CBTF membership (and then they would be welcome to compete and try to qualify)?

CBTF entered into an Agreement and will honour the Agreement. To answer this question in any other way would be to endorse a breach of the Agreement. IBTF encourages the countries to work together and in the spirit of good sportsmanship and mutual respect. Canada is viewed by the international baton twirling community as a role model of good leadership and this will continue.

Why is CBTF not announcing this in a celebratory manner? This decision is a victory of sorts - a legitimizing of CBTF as the body best capable of representing baton at an international level, in a sporting manner.

It is a victory for all athletes in Canada that Canada remains able to qualify and send its athletes to world level competitions. It is also a victory for the sport in Canada that it remains able to provide its input into the international governance of the sport. This was not a "competition". Please also refer to the summary of the process above.

What is the information regarding ongoing WBTF? Why does this organization continue to exist and what will it be doing? I have seen a post from CNBTA indicating that WFNBT will continue to hold world championships, etc.... is WBTF doing anything similar and if not, why does it continue to exist?

WBTF passed a motion to dissolve. That should happen fully some time in 2025, after the IBTF general assembly. It will continue until it is wrapped up in legal and financial operations and transitions its operations fully to IBTF. We do not know what WFNBT will do.

I assume CBTF nor CNBTA have been able to amalgamate and have come to a stand still on that end and therefore will both continue as they have been until further notice? As such, does CBTF care to elaborate on how the conversations went? I understand if they do not and just want to state that they tried but both sides couldn't come to an agreement.

The assumption is wrong. Please see the general comments above. There are no requirements to amalgamate. Both organizations are looking for a respectful and positive ongoing relationship, and to coming up with a solution that benefits the sport in our country, while respecting our own individual organization's legacies and programs.