

Saskatchewan 2008-2009 Year End Report

Our exciting year began in September, with many of our athletes returning to the sport. We also had many newcomers which we were very excited about. Our overall SBTA membership numbers which include athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers have increased to 349 up from 320 the year previous.

Our Fall Clinic was held in October and was our first big event of the year. We welcomed guest clinicians Dale White from the USA and Chiharu Tachibana from Japan. There were 11 coaches (2 from out of province) and 58 athletes (16 from out of province) that attended. In conjunction with the clinic, a lovely awards banquet was held at the Willows Golf and Country Club celebrating the successes of our Saskatchewan athletes.

Our AGM and Annual Planning Session, was held in November, where many new board members were voted in. Brenda O-Connor, who was once classified as our NEW Baton Sport Coordinator, has settled well in her position and is a very familiar face in our baton community.

The Santa Claus Parades in both Saskatoon and Regina had a strong presence from baton with most clubs participating. Four of our clubs hosted "Bring a Friend Days" which successful in introducing and recruiting new twirlers.

In January 2009, the SBTA hosted a recreational clinic in Regina and Saskatoon with the goal of attracting beginner/non competitive twirlers using a "beach party" theme, the clinic focused on fun and participation. It provided non members a chance to see what SBTA had to offer. The Baton Beach Party was well received.

In February 2009, we hosted a "Just for Fun" Valentine Showcase event in both Regina and Saskatoon. This event enabled recreational athletes from outside of the city to participate in skills development type activities.

In February, OTC athletes Julia Newton, Sydney Condon, Rebecca Schultz, Marie Lashyn and Danielle Camponi along with coach Brenda Bennett attended Twirl Mania in Florida. It was a wonderful experience enjoyed by all.

In March SOBG athletes Sara Thibeault, Kayla McKinnon, Kiera West and Alicia Larkin (SOBG) along with coaches Maureen Johnson and Brenda Bennett (who judged at the event) attended the 2009 Congressional Cup in Baltimore Maryland in March.

Our SBTA competitions this year included the annual Spring Surprise, Twirl-A-Myracle, Shamrock Twirl, Queen City Classic/Provincials and Twirl to the Top. Our Saskatchewan clubs once again, did a fantastic job this year and we are very proud of their accomplishments.

Our SBTA technical committee ran the first skills challenge events in conjunction with our competitions. The purpose of the STAR (Skills to Achieve Results) Program is to develop the strength, flexibility, speed, and technical skills of our beginning athletes. The program is designed for pre competitive athletes (ages 5-12) and is run immediately after the pre events at local competitions. This program is consistent with long-term athlete development (LTAD) models that both Sask Sport and Sport Canada are encouraging PSGB's implement. The program promotes fun, fitness, and participation in a non competitive setting.

In May 2009, SBTA set up a display at an SPEA Sport Conference hosted in Regina. We received requests from 7 schools to hold introduction clinics to the sport. We are looking at implementing this in the fall.

SBTA proudly attended the Sask Sport “Supporting the Dream” awards banquet along with Sara Thibeault and Kayla McKinnon. Sara and Kayla were nominated as one of the four finalists as Team of the Year by Sask Sport!

SBTA continued with the popular Training Assistance Program – or TAP gym time in both Regina and Saskatoon. This is an SBTA funded program which provides gym time in high performance facilities for all of our SBTA athletes to take advantage of.

We also continued to develop our “home grown” officials. The Module 3 course was held in Regina with 3 Sask judges receiving their certification. There were also 4 badge programs held this year.

Zone Development has been and will continue to be a main focus of SBTA. To promote the sport of baton over the summer months, SBTA will be providing programs to the City of Regina Play Escapes and the City of Saskatoon Playground program. Both programs were well received previous years and we have been asked to return this summer.

From guest appearances at high school and University sporting events in both Saskatoon and in Regina, to participating in various parades throughout the year, each club did their best to promote the sport of baton.

There have been successful recreational programs running in various communities throughout the province. SBTA assistance was needed for these programs to go ahead and we are working with these groups to encourage their membership with the SBTA.

Our plan is to continue efforts in rural development with a two-year goal of:

- a) Adding one new zone to our membership list
- b) Increasing overall membership by 10%
- c) Doubling membership in two of the zones that currently “just meet” the minimum membership requirements.

In closing, we are thrilled to say that have 10 athletes attending the International Cup in Australia this year. SBTA was able to provide some monetary funding to both our athletes and coaches attending to help offset some their expenses.

SBTA has had an extremely successful year. I would like to thank our board members, athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers who have contributed to this past years successes. We are looking forward to 2009/2010 with much enthusiasm as this upcoming season looks to be as exciting as the last.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Larkin
SBTA Chair
July 2009