

## Saskatchewan Summer Board Meeting Report

Our exciting year began in September, with many of our athletes returning to the sport. Our overall SBTA membership numbers which include athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers is 374, however we are still hoping for 2 more recreations groups to submit their memberships.

Our Fall Clinic was held in October and was our big event of the year. We welcomed guest clinicians Jean Michel Ruelle from France Kathy Forsyth from Seattle, Leisha Strachan from Manitoba and Kyla Wilson from Ontario. There were 9 coaches (2 from out of province) and a total of 67 athletes from Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario that attended. In conjunction with the clinic, a lovely awards banquet was held at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon celebrating the successes of our Saskatchewan athletes and the hard work of the coaches and volunteers. This was the 30th Anniversary of the SBTA. Elva Taylor Honourary membership award winner Susan Skrypnk,

The Santa Claus Parades in both Saskatoon and Regina had a strong presence from baton with most clubs participating.

In January, SBTA hosted a Clerks and Starters Course in both Regina and Saskatoon. This course provided information in preparing parents and volunteers for various positions for the upcoming competition season. There were 29 participants in Saskatoon and 8 attended the Regina course.

SBTA hosted a recreational clinic in both Regina and Saskatoon. The “Beach party” theme in Regina and Winter Wonderland Clinic in Saskatoon, focused on fun and participation. It provided non members a chance to see what SBTA had to offer. Both events were well received.

SBTA along with OTC and SMI assistance hosted a “Just for Fun” Winter Wonderland mock Competition in January. TOU hosted a Fun South Competition in March for all of the pre, C and BN athletes.

Other SBTA competitions this year included the annual Spring Surprise, Twirl-A-Myracle, Queen City Classic/Provincials Competitions. Our Saskatchewan clubs once again, did a fantastic job this year. In conjunction with our Spring Surprise competition the SBTA held a Rating Clinic enabling athletes to be critiqued by the judges on their events.

Both the Star Program and Speed Drill Challenges were offered alternately at this year's competitions. 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) 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.

SBTA introduced a new Grant called the Sport Promotion Grant. The purpose of the grant is to assist full voting clubs in promoting the sport of Baton Twirling, by assisting them financially to help offset the costs associated with participating in or hosting

events such as parades, bring-a-friend day and demonstrations. Sask Sport was very receptive and wanting to share our information with other PSO's.

SBTA proudly attended the Sask Sport "Supporting the Dream" awards banquet along with Brenda Bennett. Brenda was awarded the Female Coaching Dedication Award. This award recognized the outstanding accomplishments and contributions that Brenda has made to the sport, athletes, and community over a number of years. This award is dedicated to recognizing history and dedication to coaching.

We are also proud to say that once again Sask Sport also awarded 4 of our athletes as Future Best recipients this year. Athletes that received funding were Kiera West, Alicia Larkin, Brigitte Moser and Chloe Ceulemans.

SBTA awarded 4 of our athletes the High Performance Athlete Training Grants. Athletes that received the grants were Danielle Priel, Meagan Priel, Sara Thibeault and Kayla McKinnon. The purpose of the High Performance Athlete Training Grant is to provide financial assistance for athletes who have graduated grade 12, and are continuing to compete at an advanced or elite level at national and international events.

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 Level 1 Coaching Course with 3 participants then the Module M1/L2 Course (7 attended) and finally a SDP Adjudicator Course with 6 students. Clubs held 3 badge test days this past 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. New location this summer will be Rosetown. Both programs were well received previous years and we have been asked to return this summer.

Over the past season we have had 79 one hour Introductory Clinic sessions throughout the province totaling 898 participants of which 322 were boys.

From guest appearances at a huge Rhythmic Gymnastics clinic, 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 is now available and encouraged through the New Membership Incentive Grant. The grant provides funding to help off-set expenses incurred while trying to grow, promote and develop the sport in their community. It also encourages membership with the SBTA.

We are very proud to say that Sask Sport has ranked our Provincial Sport Governing body with a very good rating. They commended us on our overall approach to governance, planning and financial management. They are also impressed with our athlete's national and international successes.

We are also happy to say that Sask Sport has also awarded us additional funding through the Exceptional Needs Grant. The additional funding received will be used towards developing a coaching program to grow the sport throughout the province.

In closing, we are thrilled to say that have many athletes (28) attending the International Cup in Jacksonville Florida 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 another extremely successful year and a very busy one ahead of us. 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 2011/2012 season with much enthusiasm as this upcoming season looks to be as exciting as the last.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Larkin  
SBTA Chair  
July 2011

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