



CBTF Fall Board Meeting 2016
Report from Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association
(Submitted by Theresa Porter, Chair)

Membership

It has been another exciting year for baton twirling in the Province of Saskatchewan. SBTA membership numbers dropped a bit to 459 members. The membership total is 15% higher than the pre numbers before the RST program created strong numbers in 2014 & 2015.

Athletes: Membership numbers of 267 were down by 14% from last year at this time. The number of competitive athletes dropped by 8 athletes to 97, our pre-competitive athlete numbers remained similar to the previous year at 43, and recreational numbers dropped by 29 to 127. The RST instructor could not run the RST programming in Yorkton/Melville this year was the main reason for the drop.

Coaches: Membership included 38 coaches/instructors, an increase of 6 from last year (15 L1, 15, L2 and 4 L3). Instructor numbers remained strong with a total of 5. SBTA defines instructors as members who have been trained under the RST program to instruct only recreational twirlers but have not completed the CBTF Level Coaching Course.

Officials: Membership included 68 officials (58 clerks and starters, 10 tabulation) and 14 judges.

We were very pleased to have met the Sask Sport geographical distribution requirements again in 2015-16, with 5 of the 9 provincial districts having 15 or more Sask Sport eligible members. Even though the full Ready Set Twirl programming in Melville/Yorkton did not run this season it provided enough interest that the Melville club programming had enough interest to maintain our district eligibility.

Clubs

Saskatchewan have a total of 6 active clubs/programs in the province during 2015-16.

Living Sky Baton Twirlers (North Battleford)
Melville Baton Club (Melville)
Optimist Twirling Connection (Saskatoon)
Phoenix Baton Club (Regina & Balgonie)
Saskatoon Myracles Inc. (Saskatoon, Martensville & Warman)
Sundown Optimist Buffalo Gals (Regina)

2013-16 Strategic Plan

In the third year of our 3-year strategic plan, we focused on the following priorities:

Goal #1: Achieve and sustain required membership levels in at least 5 of the 9 provincial districts in order to meet Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund Sport Eligibility Criteria. .

Progress: In 2015-16 the SBTA met its membership goals, with 459 members (306 Sask Sport eligible members), and geographical distribution requirements were met in 5 of the 9 provincial districts (#1, #2, #4, #5, and #6).

Goal #2: to increase the number of active baton coaches in the province that hold CBTF Coaching Certification, and increase the number of SBTA coaches taking NCCP courses.

Progress: In 2015-16 the SBTA continued to offer educational opportunities for all coaches such as: Level 1 courses held in both Saskatoon & Regina (11 participated). Six have completed the SaskSport Respect in Sport online course. Coaches continue to be encouraged to complete NCCP courses and others such as “Acro”.

Goal #3: to increase enhanced capacity.

Progress: In 2015-16 the SBTA encouraged and supported by SaskSport implemented the following new policies: Discipline & Complaints, Appeals, Dispute resolution, Code of Conduct and Conflict policies. SaskSport is providing support through the Sport Law Group for Case managers and mediators/arbitrators if needed.

Competitions

Fun competitions are held to provide a relaxed atmosphere for newer twirlers and their families to experience how a real competition runs. One hundred & thirty-five twirlers took part in our north and south FUN competitions in February 2016. In Saskatoon, the FUN “Winter Wonders” competition was hosted by OTC and “Just for FUN” for the second year was hosted by Phoenix in Balgonie..

In addition, the following competitive events were held:

Twirl-A-Myracle (SMI) in February 2016
Rising Stars (Phoenix) in March 2016
Queen City Classic (SOBG) in March 2016
Spring Surprise/Provincials (OTC) in May 2016

Saskatchewan athletes were well represented at the National Team Trials in Whitby, Ontario. We were extremely proud that nine Saskatchewan athletes who qualified to represent Canada at the World Championships in Helsingborg, Sweden.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our athletes who in Freestyle all placed in the top 16 in the world. Julee Stewart placed highest at 7th. Our pair teams placed well in the 5 & 6th spots and the team came away with a fourth place performance.

Saskatchewan also had strong representation at the Canadian Championships in Edmonton, AB in July 2016 with 53 athletes competing. Saskatchewan athletes had excellent performances, a number were rewarded as Grand Champions in the following events: Sm Dance Twirl, CBTF Team, Medley, Solo, Duet, 2-baton, 3-baton and Solodance.

Clinics, Courses & Forums

SOBG hosted “Champions Choice”, a clinic targeting BN/BI/A twirlers, in September 2015 in Regina. Guest clinicians included Ginette Groome, Sheri Carter, Amy Kalin (USA), Leisha Strachan & Kristin Macaraeg (MB), Deardra Leslie (ON) and Jenna Jemieff (AB). A total of 8 Saskatchewan coaches, 59 Saskatchewan athletes, and 13 out of province athletes participated. In conjunction with the clinic, SOBG hosted the annual awards banquet at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel to celebrate the successes of our Saskatchewan athletes, and the hard work of our coaches and volunteers.

A total of 92 athletes participated in our pre-competitive and C-level “Disney” themed clinics in December & February. These clinics provided an opportunity for our newer twirlers to enhance their baton skills, meet baton twirlers from other clubs, and also twirl with ICUP team members and experienced athletes vying for a spot on the 2016 World Team. Profits from these events go to support our National Team athletes.

CBTF Level 1 coaching courses were held in the fall of 2015 in Saskatoon and Regina. Elan Paluck instructed 11 participants in these courses.

Elan also was the course conductor for the S1 SDP course for 7 participants in March of 2016 in Regina.

Clerk/Starter courses were offered in Saskatoon and Regina with Joanne Moser/Lynn Derkitt instructing our 15 newest clerk/starters.

Other Activities

SBTA continues to meet its mandate to promote and grow the sport of baton in the province. The following assistance programs were in place in 2015-16:

- Sport Promotion Incentive Grant (assists full voting clubs by offsetting the costs associated with participating in or hosting events such as parades, bring-a-friend day and performances, demonstrations).

- Membership Assistance Program (assists clubs to support community and club level sport development)
- Skills Development Grant (provides clubs with financial assistance to offer Skills Development Program badge testing)
- Training Assistance Program (TAP) gym times were provided in both Regina and Saskatoon and many athletes took advantage of extra practice times

SBTA once again participated in summer playground programming in Saskatoon, Regina, Melville and Martensville. 18 SBTA athletes provided a total of 22-1 hour learn to twirl sessions, at 14 parks. Over 300 new individuals were introduced to the sport of baton.

Athlete's Rep, Julee Stewart through Survey Monkey surveyed athlete members 12+ years old on topics such as: TAP time/facilities, awards, medals, move-up recognition and additional training opportunities. The information from the survey is assisting the board during program planning sessions.

Clubs partook in a number of additional promotional activities throughout the year such as the Santa Claus and Exhibition Parades in both Saskatoon and Regina, school visits and special performances. For the second year in July, UofS sponsored "Twirl, Tumble & Swim Camp" with 23 participants. In Regina, Phoenix Baton successfully sponsored for the first year a "Summer Combo Camp".

There were 10 testing days for the Skills Development Program (SDP) held in the Province. A total of 178 ribbons, badges and pins were "awarded".

The SBTA was awarded a "Jeux Canada Games Foundation" equipment grant in the amount of \$3500. The funds were used to replenish the baton supply often used for Introductory clinic school visits, RST and summer park programming.

Awards and Recognition

SBTA awarded 4 senior athletes with a High Performance Athlete Training Grant. This grant provides financial assistance to athletes who have completed grade 12, and are competing at an advanced or elite level at national and international events.

SaskSport awarded Future Best funding to 3 of Junior and Senior 2015 ICUP team members. The Future Best program is specifically designed to assist those athletes who are involved in an intense level of training and competition with the personal goals and realistic potential of becoming a National Senior Team member.

In October 2016, the pair team of Leah Holliday and Jennifer Tangjerd will be inducted into the Regina Sports Hall of Fame. Coach Maureen Johnson is a past inductee.

In November 2016 the pair team of Casey (Berry) Napper and Stephanie Hart and coach Brenda Bennett will be inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame.

At the 2016 Canadian Baton Twirling Championships in Edmonton, Alberta Saskatchewan members received the following honours:

- Danelle Mocknowed was awarded the Sharon Holliday Memorial Award for Sportsmanship.
- Julee Stewart was awarded the 2016 Overall and Senior Athlete of the Year awards.
- Kayla Weir was the 2016 Junior Challenge Cup winner.
- The 2016 Senior Challenge Cup award recipient was Jasmine Runge.
- 2015 Junior Athlete of the Year was awarded to Josi Treleaven of Milestone.
- 2015 Pair/Team of the Year was awarded to SOBG's team "The Matrix".
- The Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association was again recognized as the "Province of the Year" award at the Canadian Championships in July.

I have very much enjoyed being part of this organization and I am so pleased with the growth of this sport within our province. I would like to thank the SBTA Executive, the SBTA Board and Committee members, the SBTA Sport Coordinator, athletes, coaches, and volunteers who have contributed to this past year's successes. SBTA is truly blessed to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of individuals involved in the sport of baton.

September 2016