

Canadian Baton Twirling Federation
2017 Fall Conference Annual General Meeting

SBTA 2017 International Cup “Qualifer” Report

Saskatchewan was thrilled to host the 2017 ICQ in Saskatoon this past May. We had a record turn-out for athletes, coaches and also our parent volunteers!

Our event was financially successful due to a high number of entries and also multiple grants and sponsorship funding. Special thanks to the City of Saskatoon, Sask Sport, Tourism Saskatoon, the Hilton Garden Inn and the University of Saskatchewan Kinesiology Department. Although we will need to wait until September for a final anticipated grant payment, the projected profit for the CBTF portion will exceed \$3,000.00!

This year was challenging with some new WBTF procedures. The penalty procedures, posting of results and the competition area lane tape to name a few.

Collectively we (Cindy LaBrash, Joanne Moser, Dana Peteleski and myself) have and have received feedback as follows:

- The Judges Selection committee should account for all judges plus penalty judges needed for the competition. We need 10 judges in total for the ICQ; not all Provinces have qualified members to rely on to fill in for penalties. Budgets need to plan for enough judges (even if some are local for penalties) as expenses can add up quickly.
- A gotomeeting was hosted for the penalty judges for content restriction. This was very productive and useful instead of a topic at the focus meeting. It should be mandatory for the IC judges to participate in the gotomeeting, if we do that again, as they may very well get assigned to content restrictions/penalties, when they are at the IC, and they should have experience with it from the meeting, from the ICQ, and not be doing it for the first time at the actual IC.
- Depending on the organizing committee, the positions of registrar, treasurer and host province coordinator may be in different cities or even provinces. Clear communication between the registrar and other members is needed to ensure that the entries and finance are all on the “same page”.
- Music that was sent, for the most part, did not follow the accepted CBTF music labeling protocol. Fortunately there were a manageable number of groups, but would be appreciated going forward.
- Video-taping all of the events for the entire weekend was a lot of data. Going forward, future hosts must plan to have enough volunteers for all lanes and events, as well as a place & volunteer to be able to download all of the footage for CBTF archives. CBTF has the cameras, tripods, SD cards and multiple batteries, and is currently increasing the inventory of charger units for the camera batteries.
- Because results were not flashed but content restriction penalties were; the time allotted for appeal was new for us. Our technical team sent information out prior to the qualifier and then met briefly with the coaches on site to explain the new procedure. This seemed to be effective and appreciated by coaches once we developed a pattern. Results were shared with the coaches allowing them time to review the scores and penalties (if applicable), and from there the next round was generated and posted. (Note) some parents were not advised of the new procedure and were anxious to see results posted quickly; similar to CBTF competitions. This did however give the coaches the opportunity to connect with their athletes one on one prior to the results being posted publicly.

- I strongly suggest that there would be some way to determine “anticipated attendance” of coaches for completing grant applications, hotel reservations, etc. Perhaps with the group intent to compete forms, there could be a place for the coach’s names to eliminate multiple email requests, missing ID tags & lanyards, etc.
- The private breakfast room at the hotel was appreciated.
- Group and Team warm-ups worked out, but could be more formal with planning the order and announced prior.
- Future Competition Directors should consider other duties they may already have prior to volunteering for this very demanding position. When technical issues arise, they are able to attend to the matter immediately.
- At least 8 board members should be on hand for awards. Awards ceremony protocol in place such as costume vs no costume, closing ceremony and Grand Prix protocol. Previous ICQ opening ceremonies were much appreciated.
- We had different announcers and music volunteers throughout the weekend. If we are not able to find someone for the entire weekend, perhaps we could consider paying someone to attend the entire time.
- Get the logo approved by the entire committee (although the logo was seen and used by committee organizers for many months prior, the “Qualifer” spelling error was caught by the printer when the program was submitted.)
- Would suggest frequent committee meetings. Ours were minimal, and a few more would have been welcome to ensure all duties were covered.
- Joanne’s speech at the beginning of the clinic was appreciated and brought all of the athletes and parents together for preliminary information and questions.
- Consider refunding the \$200.00 intent to compete fee for extenuating circumstances (other than by choice) for athletes not able to compete because of education/work term. The application could be reviewed similar to a bye as the payment is due well in advance of the entry forms and competition.

Additionally, challenges to watch for in the future would (specifically) include communication with the judges:

- Accurate contact information on the Judge’s Contract should be mandatory, being that all information is completed prior to being accepted (had trouble connecting with one of the judges – no phone/cell contact.)
- A deadline for flights to be booked (last minute bookings were double the price on the May long weekend.)
- Judging conflicts with competing athletes – all athletes listed by name should be submitted with the contract; not by group name. We were notified (after the set system was shared with the judges) of a large number of conflicts which involved re-doing the set system, lanes and judging assignments. Final round was done on the spot and ultimately involved empty sets and time delays.

Overall the organizing committee received many compliments with regards to the general success of the competition. We were grateful that some out of province parents stepped-up for shifts with the video-taping, and Ontario parents looked after the 50/50 ticket sales throughout the weekend – what a great baton family!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of our Co-Competition Directors Cindy LaBrash & Joanne Moser and myself,

Cindy Dietrich

2017 ICQ Host Province Coordinator