



CBTF Fall Meeting 2017 SBTA Report

Submitted by Theresa Porter, Chair

Membership

It has been another exciting year for baton twirling in the Province of Saskatchewan. Overall, SBTA membership numbers remained steady with a slight decrease of 3%.

Athletes: Membership numbers of 261 were down by 2% from last year at this time. The number of competitive athletes dropped by 6 athletes to 91, our pre-competitive athlete numbers remained similar to the previous year at 45, and recreational numbers increased by 5 to 131.

Coaches: Membership included 39 coaches/instructors similar to last year (15 L1, 14, L2 and 4 L3). Instructor numbers have dropped by two to 3. SBTA defines instructors as members who only instruct recreational twirlers and have not completed the CBTF Level of Coaching Course.

Officials: Membership included 70 officials (48 clerks and starters, 8 tabulation) and 14 judges.

We were very pleased that our membership numbers continue to meet the Sask Sport geographical distribution requirements again in 2016-17, with 5 of the 9 provincial districts having 15 or more Sask Sport eligible members.

Clubs

Saskatchewan have a total of 6 active clubs/programs in the province during 2016-17.

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

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 & twenty-one twirlers took part in our north and south FUN competitions in February 2017 hosted by SOBG in the south and OTC/SMI in the north.

In addition, the following competitive events were held:

Twirl-A-Myracle (SMI) in March 2017
Spring Surprise (OTC) in March 2017

Queen City Classic (SOBG)/ Provincials in April 2017
Rising Stars (Phoenix) in May 2017

At the Congressional Cup in March, Julee Stewart placed 2nd overall. She was closely followed by Jasmine Runge who was fourth overall.

Saskatchewan athletes were well represented at the International Cup Qualifier hosted by Saskatchewan in May 2017. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to ensure the 2017 ICQ was successful. We were extremely proud that 28 Saskatchewan athletes who qualified to represent Canada at the International Cup and Grand Prix events in Porec, Croatia. They will be supported by 4 coaches and Team Manager, Nancy Lightheart from Regina. At the Grand Prix a number of our Saskatchewan athletes were finalists and the Team “Black Ice” was a bronze medal. Finalists are: Jasmine Runge Sr Solo 8th, Amina Egag Jr 2-baton 9th and in Sr 2-baton Jasmine placed 9th and Julee Stewart 10th.

Saskatchewan also had strong representation at the Canadian Championships in Saint John, NB in July 2017 with 46 athletes competing. Saskatchewan athletes had excellent performances, a number were rewarded as Grand Champions in the following events: Sm Dance Twirl, Medley, Solo, Duet, 2-baton, 3-baton and Solodance.

Clinics, Courses & Forums

SMI & OTC hosted “Escalate to Excellence”, a clinic targeting BN/BI/A twirlers, in October 2016 in Martensville & Saskatoon. Guest clinicians included Bertrand Royer (France), Ai Notahara (Japan/USA), Lorraine Meek (AB), Tatum Wildeman & Jenn Minor Johannson (SK). A total of 7 Saskatchewan coaches, 57 Saskatchewan athletes participated. In conjunction with the clinic, OTC hosted the annual awards banquet at the Saskatoon Travelodge Hotel to celebrate the successes of our Saskatchewan athletes, and the hard work of our coaches and volunteers. Clint (posthumously) & Marlene Weese were recipients of the 2016 Elva Taylor Honourary Membership Award.

A total of 66 athletes participated in our pre-competitive and C-level “Tinsel Twirl & Flower Power” themed clinics in November & 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 World Championship team members and experienced athletes vying for a spot on the 2017 ICUP Team. Profits from these events go to support our National Team athletes.

A WBTF Master course was held in Regina in December of 2016. Sheri Carter was the instructor. Five participated. Two completed the course fully. Additional testing is required to complete the Masters’ requirements.

CBTF Level 1 coaching courses were held in the fall of 2016 in Regina and December in Saskatoon. Elan Paluck instructed 11 participants in these courses.

Elan also was the course conductor for the L2 course for 5 participants in March of 2017 in Saskatoon.

A Clerk/Starter course was offered in Regina with Lynn Derkitt instructing our 11 newest clerk/starters.

Other judging courses held were a M2 and M3 course instructed by Wendy Cruickshank. The SBTA has two fully qualified judges at both the M2 & M3 level. Practice judging requirements need to be completed for the other M3 participant.

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 2016-17:

- 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 Craik. 12 SBTA athletes provided a total of 25-1 hour learn to twirl sessions, at 12 parks. Over 350 new individuals were introduced to the sport of baton. In Regina there were as many as 64 participants at one session.

Athlete's Rep, Julee Stewart organized a fun social evening for athletes 13yrs+ the Friday night before the Fall clinic.

Clubs partook in a number of additional promotional activities throughout the year such as the Santa Claus and Exhibition Parades in Saskatoon and Regina, school visits and special performances. For the second year in July, U of S sponsored "Twirl, Tumble & Swim Camp" with 24 participants. Diabetes Health Fair in Regina and Intro classes at Dalmeny School. Brenda Bennett twirled in a "Zoomers" contest for "Seniors" last fall. Lots of fun was had by all.

There were 7 testing days for the Skills Development Program (SDP) held in the Province. A total of 178 ribbons, badges and pins were "awarded".

Awards and Recognition

At the Annual SaskSport Athlete of the Year awards, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling was well represented with Julee Stewart being named a Youth Athlete of the Year finalist and the SOBG team “Calambre” also was a finalist in the Team category, ahead of football, softball & curling teams.

SBTA awarded 3 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 Junior and 2 Senior 2016 World Championship 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.

Our Saskatchewan members came through with their votes to ensure that baton twirling became part of the ParticipAction 150 Play List to help celebrate Canada’s 150 Birthday. In Saskatchewan, baton twirling had the most votes for all the sports and activities.

At the 2017 Canadian Baton Twirling Championships in Saint John, NB Saskatchewan members received the following honours:

- Jasmine Runge was awarded the Sharon Holliday Memorial Award for Sportsmanship.
- Jasmine Runge was awarded the 2017 Overall and Senior Athlete of the Year awards.
- Danielle Skinner was the 2017 Junior Challenge Cup winner.
- The 2017 Group Challenge Cup award recipient was SOBG, coached by Maureen Johnson & Sara Thibeault.
- The Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association was again recognized as the “Province of the Year” award at the Canadian Championships in July.

Every three years SaskSport members meet with each sport to assess each sport’s activities. Each sport reports on their activities and programming in a number of categories; administration, capacity, interaction, participation and excellence. SBTA received an overall grade that was at the second highest level – “Good”. Our organization maintained the same score as in 2010 & 2013 and we were 1 of 21/total 64 PSGB’s that received a “Good”. The majority (38) were “Satisfactory”.

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.