



SBTA AGM Report

Submitted by Leslie Switzer, SBTA Board Chair

Membership

Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association is continually working to increase our membership numbers. Our current membership breakdown is:

Type A – Competitive Athletes – 45

Type B – Pre-Competitive Athletes -22

Type BR – Badge or Recreational Athletes – 123

Type D – Board/Executive – 11

Type E – Volunteer – 97

T1 – Technical – 15

T2 – Technical – 2

This year we had a 21% increase in athletes compared to the previous year. Unfortunately, we experienced a 22% decrease in coaches/instructors from the previous year. Our volunteer base showed a small increase of 0.9% from the previous year. SBTA has made increasing our numbers of coaches and judges a priority and have been actively working to recruit past and present athletes for these roles. As well, SBTA has been working hard to increase our number of new athletes through a summer advertising campaign with the theme Start little, Dream big.

Saskatchewan Baton Clubs

Saskatchewan began the year with four active clubs in the province:

Optimist Twirling Connection (OTC) Saskatoon

Saskatchewan Myracle Twirlers (SMI) Saskatoon

Phoenix Baton and Acro (Phoenix) Regina

Sundown Optimist Baton Group (SOBG) Regina

This July Saskatoon Myracle Twirlers decided to disband as a club. SMI has been struggling to maintain both its athletes and coaches over the past few years. Their board met in July and decided to close their doors.

On the positive side, a new Saskatoon baton twirling club opened its doors this July. Trilogy is the newest club in our province, and we look forward to bringing them on as members of the SBTB and seeing them grow and develop as a club.

Competitions

Each year our season begins with two fun competitions in Saskatchewan. These fun competitions provide a relaxed atmosphere for newer twirlers and their families to experience how a real competition runs. This year the Fun North Competition was held in Saskatoon and the Fun South Competition was held in Regina both on Feb 12, 2023. These events were attended by 16 athletes in Saskatoon and 33 athletes in Regina.

Twirl-a-Myracle, March 4, in Saskatoon. (59 athletes competed)

Rising Stars, March 25, Regina (59 athletes competed) This competition offered athletes the opportunity to compete each of their individual events twice.

Queen City Classic, April 15th & 16th in Regina. (56 athletes competed) The second day of the competition offered a Freestyle Competition and an opportunity for athletes to have their individual events critiqued.

Spring Surprise and Provincials, May 13th & 14th, in Saskatoon. (64 athletes competed)

In March, two Saskatchewan athletes were invited to compete in the Congressional Cup in Maryland, USA. Julee Stewart was the Congressional Cup Champion.

In May, 21 Saskatchewan athletes attended the IBTF World Championship and Nation's Cup qualifier; 19 Saskatchewan athletes successfully qualified to join the Canadian contingent in multiple events.

Saskatchewan had representation from all four of our clubs at the Canadian Baton Twirling Championships in Edmonton, Alberta with a total of 42 Sask. Athletes attending. Here are some of the successes from the Canadian Championships:

- **Individual/Duet and Pair:** Gold (30), Silver (23), Bronze (12), 4th (17), 5th (10)
- **Teams:** Gold (7), Silver (6), Bronze (1)
- **Grand National Awards:**

Julee Stewart (Solo, 3 Baton, Solo Dance, Medley)

Sundown Optimist Baton Group (Dance Twirl – Action and Twirl Team Rhapsody)

- **Other CBTF Awards:**

Volunteer of the Year (Cindy Dietrich)

Group Challenge Cup (Phoenix Baton)

Sr. Challenge Cup (Elise Miller)

Team of the Year (Noel -SOBG)

Sr. Athlete of the year and Overall Athlete of the Year (Julee Stewart)

In August, 19 Saskatchewan athletes joined the Canadian contingent and participated in IBTF Nation's Cup and World Championships. (9 Level B athletes, 7 Level A athletes and 3 Elite) Here are some of our successes from the competition:

Nation's Cup Individual Events: Gold (1), Silver (5), Bronze (1), 4th (2), 5th (6), 6th(1), 7th (1), 8th(2), 9th(3), 10th(2)

Nation's Cup Group/Team Events: Gold (2)

Worlds: Silver (1), Bronze (1), 5th (2), 7th (1), 9th (1), 10th (1)

Clinics, and Courses

In October 2022, Saskatchewan hosted the Champions Choice Clinic in Regina. Clinicians included Ginette Groome, Lorraine Meek, Julee Stewart and Jasmine Runge. In total, 53 athletes participated in the clinic. While athletes were busy on the gym floor Nancy Lighthouse hosted an information session for parents which explained some of the baton basics in terms of athlete levels, scoring and judging. As well, Leslie Switzer hosted an SBTA session called Cupcakes and Conversation. This was an opportunity for parents and members to brainstorm and discuss ways the SBTA can work to increase its membership and continue to support our Saskatchewan athletes.

SBTA also hosted two clerking courses for parents and volunteers. One took place on February 27, in Saskatoon and was hosted by Brenda Bennet. On March 18, Nancy Lighthouse hosted one for Regina.

SBTA once again participated in summer playground programming in Regina. 9 SBTA athletes provided a total of 12, one hour learn to twirl sessions, at 12 different locations. 239 new participants joined these learn to twirl sessions.

Two clubs in Saskatchewan took part in the Skills Development (SDP) program; 162 badges/pins were awarded.

Other Activities

Athlete's Rep, Julee Stewart organized a an "Ice cream Social" event for all the competitive athletes on the Saturday night after the Queen City Classic. This event was attended by 36 athletes.

SBTA hosted an athlete supper for all Sask. Athletes who attended the Canadian Championships and Maple Leaf open. After supper our Athlete Rep. Julee Stewart led some games and cheering activities with the athletes.

Over the course of the year Saskatchewan clubs participated in numerous community events. Saskatoon and Regina clubs both took part in the Santa Claus Parades. SOBG preformed as the opening ceremonies for the Saskatchewan Winter games and Phoenix Baton performed during halftime at the Luther Invitational Basketball Tournament.

SBTA Assistance

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 2022-2023:

- **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 or TAP** (provides extra gym time for athletes in Saskatoon and Regina to help support their training)
- **Canadian Athlete Scholarship - A & B Athletes** (provides funding for Sask. athletes attending the Canadian Championships)
- **World/International Funding** (provides funding for Sask. Athletes attending a world or international competition)

Special Awards and Recognition

Maureen Johnson was given the very special honor of being a finalist for the Sask Sport Coach of the Year, 2022.

Annabelle Porter and Elise Miller both received the Sask Sport Future Best Athlete Scholarship for 2022.

In closing, the Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association has had a very busy and successful year. Our board is committed to working hard to continue to grow our sport in the province and to support our athletes on their baton twirling journey. I would like to thank our SBTA Executive, Board members and our Executive Director, along with our many volunteers, coaches and

judges for their time, dedication, and hard work they have put in over the year. I look forward to another fantastic year ahead.