



**CBTF Fall Board Meeting 2015**  
**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 were strong with 507 members. The 2014-15 total was the second largest number in the past 15 years.

Athletes: Membership numbers of 308 were down by 5% from last year at this time. The number of competitive athletes dropped by 6 athletes to 105, our pre-competitive athlete numbers grew substantially to 49 from 27, and we maintained excellent recreational member numbers of 156.

Coaches: Membership included 33 coaches/instructors, similar to last year (9 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 64 officials (15 judges, 51 clerks and starters, 13 tabulation)

We were very pleased to have met the Sask Sport geographical distribution requirements again in 2014-15, with 5 of the 9 provincial districts having 15 or more Sask Sport eligible members. This increase is primarily due to successful Ready Set Twirl Programming in Melville/Yorkton which retained many of the members who participated in the first year (2013-14).

**Clubs**

Saskatchewan have a total of 6 active clubs in the province during 2014-15.

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

## **2013-16 Strategic Plan**

In the second 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 2014-15 the SBTA met its membership goals, with 507 members (351 Sask Sport eligible members), and geographical distribution requirements were met in 5 of the 9 provincial districts (#1, #2, #4, #5, and #6). This is primarily due to Ready Set Twirl Programming in Melville/Yorkton and retaining a number of the new members in their second year.*

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

*Progress: In 2014-15 the SBTA continued to offer educational opportunities for all coaches such as: offered seminars on the new pre-events programming, NCCP courses, RiS for new coaches and a coaches/judges interaction. A total of 34 technical members took advantage of these opportunities.*

Goal #3: to increase enhanced capacity.

*Progress: In 2014-15 the SBTA implemented a schedule to review SBTA policy & procedures documents and introduced an Anti-Spam Policy.*

## **Competitions**

Fun competitions are held to provide a relaxed atmosphere for newer twirlers and their families to experience how a real competition runs. Ninety-five twirlers took part in our north and south fun competitions in February 2015. “Winter Wonders” was hosted by OTC in Saskatoon and “Just for FUN” was hosted by Phoenix in Balgonie.

In addition, the following competitive events were held:

Spring Surprise (OTC) in March 2015  
Twirl-A-Myracle (SMI) in March 2015  
Queen City Classic/Provincials (SOBG) in April 2015  
Rising Stars (Phoenix) in May 2015

Saskatchewan athletes were well represented at the ICUP Qualifier in Winnipeg. We were extremely proud that Saskatchewan athletes qualified in the following events: Solo, Artistic Twirl, 2-baton, 3-baton, Artistic Pairs, Group and Team in all age categories and levels. SBTA provided financial assistance to the 34 Saskatchewan athletes and 7 coaches who were part of the contingent representing Canada at International Cup in Abbotsford.

Our athletes came home with a record 15 medals and 42 event finals were achieved.

Saskatchewan also had strong representation at the Canadian Championships in Oshawa, ON in July 2015 with 51 athletes competing. Saskatchewan performed very well with “Fireball” (SOBG) being selected the Grand National Senior Large Dance Twirl Champions and “The Matrix” (SOBG) recognized as the Grand National Team Champions.

### **Clinics, Courses & Forums**

SMI hosted “Escalate to Excellence”, a clinic targeting BN/BI/A twirlers, in September 2014 in Saskatoon. Guest clinicians included Tomoko Natsuda (Japan), Kathy Forsythe, Monica Lee & Jennifer Marcus (USA) and Kayla McKinnon (SK). A total of 7 Saskatchewan coaches, 59 Saskatchewan athletes, and 9 out of province athletes participated. In conjunction with the clinic, OTC hosted the annual awards banquet at the Radisson Hotel to celebrate the successes of our Saskatchewan athletes, and the hard work of our coaches and volunteers. The Elva Taylor Honourary membership award winner this year was Donna Wilson.

A total of 92 athletes participated in our pre-competitive and C-level “Frozen” themed clinics in January 2015. 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 team members and experienced athletes vying for a spot on the 2015 ICUP Team. Profits from these events go to support our National Team athletes.

The CBTF new Pre-events Coaching Seminar were held in December with 20 participants covering a range of coaching experience. After the Spring Surprise competition the coaches and judges met to interact on a number of baton topics: Review of Pre-Events, How to create routines motivating & fun for athlete, How to enhance athletes’ performance skills, “Judge what you see”, What key skills you need to move up a level, International Cup events. A Summer Playground Instructor Course were offered in Saskatoon and Regina to train experienced twirlers to deliver a 1-hour introduction to baton course at city playgrounds this summer.

Clerk/Starter course was offered in Regina with Joanne Moser instructing our 22 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 2014-15:

- 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 Incentive Grant (assists recreational clubs or groups by providing per-athlete funding to help grow and/or sustain programming)

- 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 receives funding from the Sask Sport Exceptional Needs Grant to run its Ready, Set, Twirl Program. In 2014-15 Elan continued her excellent mentoring work the RST Instructors in Melville/Yorkton. One instructor was new to the program. We were pleased with the number of children who continued in the program's second year - 46.

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 of "B". Our organization maintained their same score as in 2010 and we were 1 of 17/total 65 PSGB's that received a "B" (no "A's").

SBTA once again participated in summer playground programming in Saskatoon, Regina, North Battleford, Melville and Martensville. 14 SBTA athletes provided a total of 40-1 hour learn to twirl sessions, at 33 parks. 501 new individuals were introduced to the sport of baton.

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, and special performances at a One Voice Fundraiser or Optimist Club evening. For the second year in August, SMI sponsored "Over the Rainbow Twirling Camp", a 3-day baton camp in Saskatoon with over 20 participants.

There were 7 testing days for the Skills Development Program (SDP) held in the Province. A total of 168 ribbons, badges and pins were "awarded".

### **Awards and Recognition**

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 4 of Junior and Senior 2014 World 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.

YWCA Women of Distinction awards for Saskatoon were held in May, Elva Taylor was nominated and won in the Athletics category. This category recognizes women whose inspirational athletic leadership in sport, fitness or recreation programs benefits the community.

At the 2015 Canadian Baton Twirling Championships in Oshawa, Ontario Saskatchewan members received the following honours:

- Elan Paluck, of Regina, received the CBTF Volunteer of the Year Award. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates a strong commitment to the sport and has made a valuable contribution to the development of the sport of baton in Canada.
- 2015 Challenge Cup Junior Athlete was awarded to Josi Treleaven of Milestone.
- 2014 Pair/Team of the Year was awarded to Saskatoon's Junior Pairs team of Heather Dietrich and Brittany Muyard.
- The Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association was recognized by the CBTF for the recipient of 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 6, 2015