



CBTF Fall Meeting 2018 SBTA Report

Submitted by Theresa Porter

It has been another exciting year for baton twirling in the Province of Saskatchewan. I personally have made a big change, with accepting the position of Sport Coordinator for Baton in Saskatchewan after Brenda O'Connor's retirement, therefor having to resign as President of SBTF on July 16, 2018.

Membership

Athletes: Membership numbers of 216 were down by 8% from last year at this time. The number of competitive athletes dropped by 9 athletes to 82, our pre-competitive athlete numbers also dropped by 15 to 30, and recreational numbers also saw a decrease down to 104.

Coaches: Membership included 36 coaches/instructors similar to last year.

Clubs

Saskatchewan has a total of 4 active clubs/programs in the province during 2017-2018.

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. Twirlers took part in our north and south FUN competitions in January 2018 hosted by Phoenix in the south and OTC/SMI in the north. Pre/C athletes also had the opportunity to participate in Olympic Baton Games Clinic in the North and the I Love Twirling Clinic in the South.

In addition, the following competitive events were held:

Twirl-A-Myracle (SMI) in March 2018
Rising Stars (Phoenix) in March 2018
Spring Surprise (OTC) in April 2018
Queen City Classic (SOBG)/ Provincials in May 2018

Saskatchewan also had strong representation at the Canadian Championships in Winnipeg MB in July 2018. Saskatchewan athletes had excellent performances in all divisions, a number were rewarded as Grand Champions in the following events: Solo (Julee Stewart), 2-Baton (Julee Stewart), 3-Baton (Jasmine Runge), Medley (Julee Stewart), Solo Dance (Julee Stewart), Duet (Lightheart & Skinner), Dance Twirl Team (This Is Me), Twirl Team (African Hymn)

Clinics, Courses & Forums

SOBG hosted the “Champions Choice” Fall Clinic, a clinic targeting BN/BI/A twirlers, in October 2017 in Emerald Park. Guest clinicians included Ginette Groome (USA), Richie Terwillger (USA), Matina Carrea (Italy), Jackie Stewart (USA), Maureen Johnson (Sask) and Brent Adam (Sask). In conjunction with the clinic, the SBTA Annual Awards banquet was held at the Regina Travelodge Hotel to celebrate the successes of our Saskatchewan athletes, and the hard work of our coaches and volunteers.

Our younger twirlers participated in our pre-competitive and C-level “Olympic Baton Games” and “I Love Twirling” themed clinics in January. 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 2018 Canadian Team (Worlds Kissimmee Florida). Profits from these events go to support our National Team athletes.

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 2017-2018:

- 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 and Regina. 9 SBTA athletes provided a total of 25-1 hour learn to twirl sessions. Over 400 new individuals were introduced to the sport of baton. In Regina there were as many as 64 participants at one session.

Athlete’s Rep, Jasmine Runge organized a fun social evening for all Saskatchewan athletes competing at Canadians in Winnipeg MB in July, the athletes had a pasta bar for supper, followed by games and a great deal of laughter.

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 third year in July, U of S sponsored “Twirl, Tumble & Swim Camp” with 24 participants. Diabetes Health Fair in Regina, Harbour Landing Day in the Park (Regina). Lots of fun was had by all.

Awards and Recognition

At the Annual SaskSport Athlete of the Year awards, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling was well represented with Jasmine Runge being named a Youth Athlete of the Year finalist.

At the 2018 Canadian Baton Twirling Championships in Winnipeg MB, Saskatchewan members received the following honours:

- Julee Stewart was awarded the 2018 Overall and Senior Athlete of the Year awards.
- Clara Lightheart was awarded the 2018 Junior Athlete of the Year
- Black Ice (SOBG) was awarded the 2018 Team of the Year
- Lightheart and Skinner (tie with Doherty & Doherty) were awarded the 2018 Pair of the Year
- The 2018 Group Challenge Cup award recipient was SOBG, coached by Maureen Johnson & Sara Thibeault.

I have very much enjoyed being part of this organization. I would like to thank the SBTA Executive, the SBTA Board and Committee members, the SBTA Sport Coordinator (Brenda O'Connor – retired), 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.