



CBTF Fall Meeting 2019 SBTA Report

Submitted by Leeann Skinner

It has been year of change for baton twirling in the Province of Saskatchewan and with these changes have come a lot of successes-at the SBTA level, club level and many individual accomplishments. I was appointed to the Board Chair position in November, 2018 and have experienced much satisfaction with how SBTA has worked together. In addition, the SBTA has seen a significant change at our Executive and Board with the various resignations and subsequent appointments, most notably that of our Sport Coordinator.

Membership

Athletes: Membership numbers of 232 were up by 4% from last year at this time.
Coaches: Membership included 36 coaches/instructors similar to last year.
Volunteer/Parent: Membership is currently at 143

Clubs

Saskatchewan has a total of 4 active clubs/programs in the province during 2018-2019.

Optimist Twirling Connection (Saskatoon)
Phoenix Baton Club (Regina & Balgonie)
Saskatoon Myrales 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 2019 hosted by SOBG in the south and OTC/SMI in the north. Pre/C athletes also had the opportunity to participate in Ring in the New Year Clinic in the South and the Pre-C Clinic in the North.

In addition, the following competitive events were held:
Twirl-A-Myracle (SMI) in March 2019
Rising Stars (Phoenix) in March 2019
Queen City Classic (SOBG) April 2019
Spring Surprise (OTC)/ Provincials in May 2018

Saskatchewan successfully hosted and had strong representation at the Canadian Championships in Regina, Saskatchewan in July 2019. Saskatchewan athletes had excellent performances in all divisions, a number were awarded the Grand National Champion Titles in the following events: Solo (Julee Stewart), 2-Baton (Julee Stewart), Medley (Julee Stewart), Solo Dance (Julee Stewart), Duet (Clara Lightheart & Danielle Skinner), Dance Twirl Team (The Cave), Twirl Team (Killer Queen).

Clinics, Courses & Forums

OTC hosted the Fall Clinic, a clinic targeting BN/BI/BA/A twirlers, in September 2018 in Saskatoon. Guest clinicians included: Dale White (USA), Ginette Groome (USA), Ai Notohara (Japan), Maureen Johnson (Sask). In conjunction with the clinic, the SBTA Annual Awards banquet was held the Willows Golf and Country Club 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 “Spring is Around the Corner” themed clinics in January. These clinics provided an opportunity for our newer twirlers to enhance their baton skills, meet baton twirlers from other clubs, as well, they have an opportunity to twirl with World Championship team members and experienced athletes vying for a spot on the 2019 Canadian Team (Limoges, France). 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 2018-2019:

- 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. 16 SBTA athletes provided a total of 21-1 hour learn to twirl sessions. Over 400 new individuals were introduced to the sport of baton. In Regina there were as many as 66 participants at one session.

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.

Awards and Recognition

At the Annual SaskSport Athlete of the Year awards, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling was well represented with Earth Song being named a Team of the Year finalist and Danielle Skinner being named a Youth Athlete of the Year finalist.

At the 2019 Canadian Baton Twirling Championships in Regina, SK, Saskatchewan members received the following honours:

- Julee Stewart was awarded the 2019 Overall and Senior Athlete of the Year awards.
- Alyssa Hendry was awarded the 2018 Junior Challenge Cup
- Hannah Ounsworth was awarded the 2018 Senior Challenge Cup
- Someone to Love (SOBG) was awarded the 2019 Team of the Year
- Clara Lightheart and Danielle Skinner were awarded the 2019 Pair of the Year
- The 2019 Group Challenge Cup award recipient was SOBG, coached by Maureen Johnson & Sara Thibeault.

I have very much enjoyed being part of this organization. A special thanks goes to our Sport Coordinator, Theresa Porter, who started in this role in July 2018. Theresa keeps us organized, well-represented, willingly shares her knowledge of the sport of baton and is a key contributor to the successes of SBTA. I have personally learned a lot from Theresa and am grateful she is our Sport Coordinator. I would also like to thank the SBTA Executive, the SBTA Board and Committee members, 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.