



2019 was another busy year for Manitoba Baton. We, as a technical committee, were very pleased to know that our funding from Sport Manitoba is continuing and this will be helpful to our technical programs. We do need to be prudent to ensure that we can deliver our programs and support our athletes. To that end, we have been continuing to think of ways to spread baton twirling across our province and to engage new participants. Without working to increase baton participation at the grassroots level, we are going to find it challenging to grow in the coming years.

First, I would like to acknowledge the MBTSA board and technical committee who were involved in running the 2019 International Cup/Grand Prix Qualifier in Winnipeg. Hosting two major baton events within a year was quite a challenge but we were proud of how it all materialized. I would also like to congratulate the 11 Manitoba athletes who competed at the 2019 International Cup in Limoges, France. Our athletes came home with multiple medals, many top 10 finishes, and, of course, lots of great memories (see page 2 for details). Special congratulations and recognition as well to our provincial team, Team Toba, and coaches Dana Peteleski and Kristen Paupanekis. The team placed 6th overall in a field of 31 B teams and we are so proud of their efforts. Finally, special thanks to the MBTSA technical committee for their hard work all year.

We delivered many events this year as a technical committee including:

- MBTSA Reach for the Stars camps in late October 2018 for athletes BN and up (guest clinicians: Sara Thibeault and Danelle Mocknowed)
- Winter Classic Competition in January 2019 for pre-competitive and competitive athletes
- Recreational Carnival held in conjunction with the Winter Classic (1 hour clinic)
- Unicity Competition in mid-March 2019
- Provincial Badge Clinic and Testing in early April 2019
- Pre-Competitive Challenge in April 2019
- Provincial Championships in late April 2019. A 'Team Exploration' event was also held during Provincials
- Provincial practices for high performance athletes from January to April 2019. These practices also included compulsory and short program classes taught by local coaches.
- Provincial practices for those who qualified for Canadians in May to June 2019 and then practices in July (twice per week) for those who qualified for International Cup

For the second time, we held our annual awards during the opening ceremonies of the Winter Classic competition. This was to follow a similar format that is done at Canadians and to save some funds. I think it was successful but we will decide if we would like to do it again in 2020. We continue to offer many opportunities for our athletes to volunteer in the community and, although this is not directly related to the technical program, we really value volunteerism and the coaches and athletes who assist in promoting the sport in Manitoba.

As a committee, our goal in the near future would be to host a course for coaches and judges as well as an SDP adjudicator course. We really need to have more people to adjudicate badges. We will keep working to grow baton in Manitoba and I am excited and proud to be part of baton in this province.

Respectfully submitted - Leisha Strachan, MBTSA Technical Chair



Wow! Manitoba athletes were amazing at International Cup and Grand Prix 2019! Here are our final results:

Sarah Cimino - DOUBLE GOLD! Sr B 2 and 3 Baton!

Laura Tymchyshyn - DOUBLE SILVER! Sr B 2 and 3 baton; 5th place in Artistic Twirl!

Alexa Waddell - GOLD! Adult B 3 Baton; 7th Adult B 2 Baton!

Jennifer Atkinson - 5th Adult A 3 Baton; 7th Adult A 2 Baton!

Madison Reynolds - 6th place Sr B 2 Baton!

Caitlyn De Jong - 8th place Jr B 3 Baton!

Speranza Albensi - 9th place Jr B 3 Baton!

Yonatan Orlov - 5th Sr Elite 2 Baton and 3 Baton; 10th Sr Elite Artistic Twirl!

Team Toba - 6th place B Team!

Laura Tymchyshyn and Yonatan Orlov were also honored with 5 year awards from WBTF for their participation in international events.

This was the largest IC ever with 1226 athletes competing from 19 countries. Every division was competitive and our athletes held their own. We are all so so proud of you all!