



May 29, 2017

Dear MFA Member,

This is your information package for the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Manitoba Fencing Association. Please read through the information carefully and note all deadline dates.

The package includes the following information:

1. Notice of meeting – **Deadline to RSVP June 15th**
2. Proxy Voting Form
3. Advance Nomination Form -**Deadline to nominate – June 15th**
4. 2017 AGM Agenda
5. 2016 AGM Minutes
6. Board Reports
7. Election

MFA Election Information

Positions up for election are:

- President (2-year term)
- Vice-President, (2-year term)
- Treasurer (1-year completing a 2-year term)
- VP Technical (2-year term) – Position currently being reviewed by the Board
- Board Member-at-Large (1-year term)

Light refreshments will be served.

Sincerely,

Monika G. Feist
President
Manitoba Fencing Association



Manitoba Fencing Association

Notice of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

LOCATION: Sport Manitoba – Sport for Life Centre
145 Pacific Ave.
Theatre (Lower Level)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Manitoba Fencing Association

Proxy Voting Form

I, _____, allow _____ to

carry my proxy vote at the 2017 Manitoba Fencing Association Annual General Meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Note: Each MFA member may carry only one proxy vote.

Note: Parents or legal guardians of an MFA member who is under the age of 18 may vote for their child and do not need to carry a proxy vote.



Manitoba Fencing Association

Advance Nomination Form

I, _____, hereby nominate _____ for the
position of _____.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I, _____, do hereby allow my name to stand for the position of
_____. I understand that this position is for a ____ - year term.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Deadline for Advance Nominations is Wednesday, June 15, 2017

.....

MFA Office use only

Date received: _____

Received by: _____

Manitoba Fencing Association

Annual General Meeting

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Agenda

- 1) Registration
- 2) Call Meeting to Order
- 3) Appointment of Timekeeper (1 min.)
Appointment of Scrutineer (1 min.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (2 min.)
- 5) Approval of the forwarded Minutes from the 2016 AGM (5 min.)
- 6) Reports of Officers: (10 min.)
 - a) President
 - b) 1st Vice-President
 - c) Vice-President, Athlete Development
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Corporate Secretary
 - f) Board Member-at-Large
 - g) Athlete Representative
- 7) Reports of Staff: (5 min.)
 - a) Provincial Coach/Technical Director
 - b) Executive Director
- 8) Review of 2016-2017 Audited Financial Report (5 min.)
- 9) Appointment of Auditor for 2017/2018 (2 min.)
- 10) Budget for New Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (10 min.)
- 11) Nominations and Election of Officers (15 min.)
- 13) AGM Adjournment
- 14) Wind-up and Awards



**Minutes
Annual General Meeting
June 21st, 2016
Sport for Life Centre**

In attendance:

Monika Feist, Kathy Ringland, Marc Lavoie (André Lavoie), Kristine Seier (Robert Havelka), Al McCracken, Daria Jorquera Palmer, Ayach Bounachada, David Cohen, Brian Gilchrist, Jason Robbins, Steve Symons, Emma Symons, Ryland Thiessen, André Lavoie, Zach Allard, Nadia Vasas (Eric), Pamela McFarlane, Darcy Cantin (Carter Owens).

Proxies given:

Marlies Tibbs to Emma Symons, Adrian Symons to Steve Symons, Adam Flach to Darcy Cantin, Emil Flach to Monika Feist, Hugh Tuckwell to Al McCracken, Volker Flach to Kristine Seier, Katie Benoit to Kathy Ringland, Callum MacBeath to Brian Gilchrist, Anthony Densmore to Daria Jorquera Palmer, Sacha Newman to Ryland Thiessen.

1) Registration

2) Call Meeting to Order: 7:15 PM

**3) Appointment of Timekeeper: Ryland Thiessen
Appointment of Scrutineers: David Cohen and Ayach Bounachada**

4) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to have item #6: "Approval of By-Laws Amendments" moved to follow item #10: "Budget for New Fiscal Year 2016-2017": Steve Symons

Seconded: Emma Symons

Marc explained that the By-Law amendments were placed at the beginning of the Agenda at the request of the members present at last year's AGM so that, if approved, the athletes then given the right to vote would be allowed to do so at this year's AGM. Steve explained that it is more appropriate to address By-Law changes in the context of the reports and other information to be presented and thus after the reports.

Carried (votes for: 8 present and 5 proxies: no other votes cast)

Motion to accept the Agenda as amended: Steve Symons

Seconded: Emma Symons

Carried

5) Approval of the Minutes from the 2015 AGM

Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2015 AGM as presented: Brian Gilchrist

Seconded: (not recorded)

Carried (with 1 abstention and votes against: 3 present and 2 proxies)

6) Reports of Officers

a) President: Monika Feist

Monika added to her written report by thanking the athletes, staff and Board members for a good year.

b) 1st Vice-President: Kathy Ringland

Kathy, who is stepping down, made some brief comments and wished the MFA well.

c) Vice-President, Athlete Development: Daria Jorquera Palmer

Daria, among other brief comments, thanked the athletes for the recent spaghetti fundraiser which was a big success.

d) Vice-President, Technical

Since the position was recently vacated, there is no report.

e) Treasurer: Kristine Seier

Kristine reviewed the highlights of the 2015-16 financial results as well as a summary of the 2016-17 budget.

Steve Symons inquired about the Strategic Plan that was mentioned and asked where this plan can be reviewed. Particularly, he is concerned about the MFA becoming a property owner as a result of the effort to get a permanent facility. According to him, this goes against opinions expressed by Sport Manitoba in the past. Kristine explained the need for a permanent facility and stated that details or direction were not yet decided. Steve replied that he was concerned that efforts related to this project could conflict with the interests of the clubs. Monika agreed that the Strategic Plan should be publicized and arrangements will be made to do so in order for members to be informed and given the opportunity to comment further.

Nadia asked how the proceeds of the athlete fundraiser will be applied. Kristine and Daria explained that proceeds were applied to help reduce the MFA's anticipated operating deficit and thus helped lessen the need to increase membership fees or cut athlete funding.

Steve expressed his objection to current membership fees as most club members get little or no benefit. Furthermore, they are among the highest in Canada. He feels members are being gouged. Zach, as head of the Rapier Club, agreed and said that he has been trying as a Board member to get more information on the benefits of membership. He advised that, with the support of the Board, he and others are in the process of setting up a committee to examine this question and the issue of relations between clubs and the MFA. Steve was invited to be involved with this committee and he is willing to do so.

f) Corporate Secretary: Marc Lavoie

Marc added to his written report by stating that, though he is stepping down, he wishes the MFA continued success.

g) Board Member-at-Large: Guy Préfontaine (not present due to a scheduling conflict)

h) Athlete Representative: Misha Sweet (not present due to competition in Panama)

7) Reports of Staff

a) Provincial Coach / Technical Director: Ayach Bounachada

Ayach noted that this past year was another year of historic achievement by Provincial Team athletes, with many medals earned at the national level, four athletes making the National Team, Sarah Filby and Cameron MacKay proclaimed as Athlete of the Year, and strong placement at the international level. His principal challenges are to develop the next generation of athletes and continue to source additional funding to support growth. He noted how, for the size of our province and our organization, we are achieving results that well surpass our size. He thanked the athletes, staff and Board for their support.

Steve said it would be helpful to communicate changes in local competitions sooner. Brian noted that Anthony Densmore had competed in the US where he had performed well and yet his performance was not listed. As the umbrella organization for all fencing in Manitoba, the MFA should list the performance of all athletes, not just that of the provincial team athletes. Monika will ask Anthony's club to give a report to the Technical Director to resolve this issue.

Pam asked if a report will be made on coach certification. Ayach explained the difficulties he has had in finalizing coach certification and in particular the frustrating lack of response to our needs by the CFF. He hopes to have this situation resolved soon.

b) Executive Director: David Cohen

David's report was submitted with the information package.

Steve raised the issue that there is nothing in any of the reports about meeting objectives in the Strategic Plan nor are there any other markers or data to show

how the MFA is performing as a corporate entity and whether or not the MFA is creating value with the resources it uses. For instance, what is the return on investment in High Performance athletes, and can the MFA even quantify what it is investing in these athletes? Darcy suggested that this discussion is important but should have been added to the Agenda as an item to be discussed. Pam noted that the sport consultant Carolyn Trono had presented the Strategic Plan at last year's AGM and asked if an update would be provided. Monika replied that an update had been provided to Sport Manitoba last week and that the MFA had more than met its annual objectives. Steve replied that the MFA's responsibility is primarily to its members and Brian suggested that a report on progress in relation to the Strategic Plan be made at next year's AGM.

Motion of non-confidence in the Board as the information it has presented is not acceptable: Steve Symons

Seconded: Adrian Symons (proxy vote held by Steve)

Zach stated that a lack of transparency is also felt by Rapier Club members who feel a disconnect between them and the Board.

Votes for: **3 present, 2 proxies**

Votes against: **6 present, 5 proxies**

Abstentions: **3 present, 2 proxies**

Defeated

8) Review of the 2015-16 Audited Financial Report

With Kristine having reviewed the audited report in her Treasurer's report earlier, there were no other questions other than who were the auditors. Kristine noted that the auditors gave a clean opinion as to the accuracy of the financial statements.

9) Appointment of Auditor for the 2016-17 fiscal year

Motion to hire PKBW as MFA auditor for the 2015-16 fiscal year: Kristine Seier

Seconded: Kathy Ringland

A question was raised as to whether consideration had been given to put out a request for proposals for auditing services. David advised that he had succeeded in getting our audit fees reduced last year as staff stability and better preparation had reduced the workload. Both he and Kristine had looked at the audit fees and had determined that the current fees were standard for our situation. Steve agreed that, considering the MFA's size, it was not worthwhile to do an RFP.

Carried

10) Budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year

Kristine provided a quick over-view of the highlights of next year's budget. Brian commented that a draft budget should be sent earlier to clubs so that feedback can be provided and it was agreed that that would be appropriate.

11) Approval of By-Laws Amendments

Marc explained briefly how the proposed amendments were in response to the request of those present at last year's AGM.

Motion proposing that the MFA By-Law amendments circulated to MFA members before the 2016 AGM giving members 14 years and older the right to vote at MFA general meetings be adopted as presented except for the definition of Individual Membership in Section 9 where the first paragraph shall instead read as follows: 'Individual membership in the Association shall be open to all persons who are registered with a member club, have paid the annual fee set by the Board, and comply with the rules and regulations of the Association.": Marc Lavoie

Seconded: Brian Gilchrist

Steve suggests that these amendments are not appropriate as the athletes under the age of majority could be open to coercion and manipulation. Their participation in MFA affairs would be more appropriate through their clubs.

Votes for: **7 present, 6 proxies**

Votes against: **5 present, 3 proxies**

Abstention: **Monika Feist**

Defeated: **a two thirds majority vote required to amend the By-Laws was not achieved**

12) Nominations and Elections of Officers

Vice-President Athlete (**2-year term**): **Guy Préfontaine nominated by Daria Jorquera Palmer, seconded by Kristine Seier. Guy accepted by Advance Nomination Form. Elected by acclamation.**

Secretary (**1-year term**): **Daniel Simeone nominated by Daria Jorquera Palmer, seconded by Darcy Cantin. Daniel accepted by Advance Nomination Form. Elected by acclamation.**

Treasurer (**2-year term**): **Kristine Seier nominated by Daria Jorquera Palmer, seconded by Darcy Cantin. Kristine accepted. Elected by acclamation.**

Vice-President, Technical (**2-year term**): **no nomination – position vacant**

Vice-President, Athletic Development (**2-year term**): **Daria Jorquera Palmer nominated by Al McCracken, seconded by Ryland Thiessen. Daria accepted. Elected by acclamation.**

Board Member-At-Large (**1-year term**): **Darcy Cantin nominated by Daria Jorquera Palmer, seconded by Kristine Seier. Darcy accepted. Elected by acclamation.**

13) New Business

Motion to charge the incoming Board with a full and comprehensive By-Law review taking into account the amendment to lower the voting age, best practices by PSOs, the

Manitoba Corporations Act and the Canadian Not-For-Profit regulations, and present a revised By-Laws to the next AGM for approval: Brian Gilchrist

Seconded: Steve Symons

Votes for: **6 present, 4 proxies**

Votes against: **4 present, 3 proxies**

Abstentions: **3 present, 3 proxies**

Carried

Motion to have the Board post the approved Board Meeting Minutes to the website effective the first Board meeting after the AGM: Jason Robbins

Seconded: Brian Gilchrist

Privacy concerns were raised. In response, it was suggested that issues requiring privacy be discussed in camera or with Board member comments recorded without attribution.

Carried

- 14) **Steve Symons moved to adjourn the AGM. AGM adjourned at 9:45 PM.**

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS 2017

President's Report MFA AGM, June 2017

This is my last report to the membership, after having served on the board since January 2008, and I now look back, reflecting historically on where we were then and where we are now.

At that time, I was asked by the new President Paul Smith to step into the role of Secretary, following the sudden resignation of the former MFA Executive. For all the new recruited parent board members, it was quite the sudden introduction to the world of fencing, its issues and politics. In spite of our lack of knowledge and experienced, we committed ourselves to continue forward, stumbling and learning as we went, and to persevere, in spite of the odds.

Left hanging was a facility contract that hadn't been finalized prior, and which subsequently lost our facility, leaving the new board to scramble to find a training facility right away. Regrettably, the board was unable find a suitable facility, and thus had to settle for a site on Home Street (numerous years prior it had served as our facility), and which, after spending significant dollars, required more monies than we were prepared to continue to spend. With the help of our Provincial Coach Ayach Bounachada and then Vice-President David Dessens, we were able to secure Ecole Romeo Dallaire and the University of Winnipeg (Booth College) for our training spaces, where we are now. When our new president takes on the portfolio, I hope MFA will be able to finalize a single facility again for our HP athletes and for our competitions. It's been a long journey back to move forward!

I came on as new president at the end of 2011. Since that time, it has been exciting and rewarding to see the build-up of the numbers qualifying for our Provincial Team, addition of the Provincial Squad, our HP athletes' increasing foray onto the CFF National Teams, their regular attendance in international competitions, with attendant numerous gold, silver and bronze medals, and the additional development of Level 1 club coaches and referees. Brandon's club coach came in to train with our Provincial Coach; as well, hopefully we will soon be able to add two new Level 3 coaches via the two part-time Provincial Assistant Coaches, which should be beneficial to the clubs, the Provincial Team and Squad.

Our membership numbers increased until a year ago, and now needs attention in order for us to continue in a growth path for the MFA. This has always proven an area that always requires effort on all of our parts, both the full and part-time staff, board and members, to do the outreach necessary to keep bringing in new members and athletes. You will note in some of the following reports that a number of new initiatives and measures were taken to implement various outreach programming into the community, both inside the Perimeter and external, in order to increase possibilities of additional clubs down the road.

We are on track with our strategic plan for most items, and looking at our governance for the next year is in process, along with a committee reviewing our by-laws now and in the months ahead.

Financially, the reserve fund that existed prior to 2009 has been rebuilt and substantially added onto. Recently, there has been some drawing down on this built-up fund to accommodate repairs and replacements especially.

I want to express our appreciation to Sport Manitoba and Coaching Manitoba, who have been good to the MFA, supporting us over the years every step of the way not only in funding, but in supportive guidance and help. With the withdrawal of Bingo monies this coming year, the MFA will have to come up with a fundraising strategy to make up the some \$31,000 shortfall. If we all pull together, this should be achievable, perhaps in stages if not totally at once.

We have been fortunate to have had a three quarter-time Executive Director in David Cohen for the last two years; but in order to move forward, with budget constraints and projected reduced monies, the board has had to take the step to reduce the position back to half-time.

So sadly, our Executive Director David Cohen, after three years with us, will most likely leave us at the end of June. Coming into the organization, David had to learn the ropes and as he did so, he developed a passion and dedication to the MFA, going over and above requirements for the position. He has made great efforts to seek out grants and renegotiate external programming agreements which are now either revenue-generating or cost neutral. He developed excellent relations with Sport Manitoba and other sports organizations in the building. I know that he will be missed. A huge thank you and heartfelt best wishes go to him from the board and myself personally.

Our Provincial Coach has always given his all in very capably and expertly guiding our HP athletes to their outstanding medals and standings. He has consistently delivered incremental improvements to MFA fencing program delivery, brought our province to the forefront by bringing in international coaches to deliver training here, and put in innumerable hours to build up the coaching and refereeing personnel. Sometimes, with all the e-mails coming through, I would wonder if he ever slept! I thank him warmly for continually providing valuable advice to the board and myself, and so much more over the years.

Our bookkeeper Amanda Pilloud has kept us steady in the bookkeeping and payouts, ensuring that at the end of the fiscal years, the audits would go smooth. That has been a real peace of mind for me, and I thank her (and David on the role he played here as well) on behalf of the board, staff and members.

Lastly, but certainly most importantly, I want to thank the present and past MFA boards, including the clubs, members and volunteers for the innumerable hours, commitment, energy and efforts each and every one put into fencing programming, operations, competitions and events to ensure smooth functioning.

It couldn't have happened without YOU. You are amazing. THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

Monika G. Feist

Vice-President's Report AGM June, 2017

Fundraising:

At the conclusion of last year, the Member-at-large submitted a fundraising report. This report is being used to some degree to assist the Executive Director in setting parameters and completing a fundraising brochure. In the upcoming year, given the instability of the funding currently generated by the Bingo event revenues, fundraising will become more important and in order to address this challenge a position of Fundraising Chair (or similar title) will be added to the Board.

Human Resources:

The Human Resources Committee, chaired by the VP and populated by Monika Feist and Kathy Ringland, has undertaken a number of initiatives as follows:

In order to provide a more inclusive review of staff, the staff review forms have been reduced from 15 pages to 3. All members of the board are asked to contribute their comments with regard to performance of staff in order to assist staff in responding to all of the needs of the Board and its members.

In order to clarify budgeting and reporting, all staff contracts have been aligned with the MFA's end of fiscal year.

In order to minimize disruption of services to members, staff have had their contracts amended in order to align their holiday periods with the yearly fencing schedule, i.e. holidays are taken during the July training break.

In view of addressing budget concerns, the position of the ED had been returned to half-time. The duties have also been revised to better meet the needs of the MFA and be in alignment with the IFF. Due to these changes and the expiry of the current yearly ED contract, the job is to be posted and an open and transparent competition process undertaken to fill the position.

Permanent training facilities search:

As fencers, coaches and parents will attest, the current training space rental arrangement with Sports Manitoba, Booth College and Ecole Romeo Dallaire for Squad and High Performance athletes is far less than ideal, and highly inconvenient to all. As such, the MFA remains in discussion with Sports Manitoba to assess the long-term viability of renting appropriate space within the soon to be completed Sports for Life Building addition, but is also exercising its due diligence by investigating other opportunities. The Sports for Life facility is slated to open for MFA use in late 2017. Our provincial coach and coaches have been invited to review the proposed space within the next 2 weeks. As a matter of providing SM with first right of rental, we will await results of the space review before proceeding with finalizing rental, lease or purchase of other spaces.

The VP has contacted all City Centre area councilors, the Winnipeg School Board, the City of Winnipeg Senior Property Manager, CentreVenture, DSFM, Winnipeg Community Centers Council and a number of local property owners to initiate this search. We are currently reviewing approximately 12 spaces and will be in a position to show these to the Coach in case the review of the SM spaces proves to not suit our needs or respond to our schedule.

Guy Préfontaine

Treasurer's Report

AGM June, 2017

Summary:

- At the conclusion of 2015/16, the MFA had surplus revenue of \$5,800, and an unrestricted surplus of \$91,300. This left us in a pretty healthy financial position.
- The plan for 2016/17 was a break even budget, with \$15,000 in additional funding raised to invest in a permanent location.
- During the 2016/17 year a number of things happened that have had a negative effect on the MFA's revenue:
 - The board made a decision to reserve \$65,000 of the surplus towards finding a permanent location, as described in the Vice-President's report, however, as a suitable permanent location for the provincial team has not yet been identified, the planned \$15,000 fundraising initiative for the building did not occur;
 - The increase in membership that usually happens after a summer Olympics did not materialize;
 - The board made a decision to hand over MFA's tournament management, and the corresponding tournament revenue to the clubs, which had a \$5,000 - \$8,000 negative impact on MFA revenue;
 - The board approved a \$4,000 increase in the 2017/18 budget allocation for equipment in order to repair reels, update the scoring boxes and refresh the equipment used for the schools program;
 - The Manitoba HP athletes did exceptionally well in regional, national and international competitions, with a large number making the Canadian team, which led to \$11,010 in athlete support, an amount significantly higher than the budgeted \$5,000; and
 - The revenue targets for the school program were not met.
- In order to bring MFA back into a break even position in 2017/18, without raising fees the following decisions were made:
 - Manitoba athletes will be charged for attending the international training camp scheduled for this summer; and
 - The spring and winter fundraisers put on by the provincial team athletes will continue.
- It is extremely important to note that Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries has provided provincial sports organizations with notice that Bingo funding support will end in the 2018/19 year. MFA's \$31,800 Bingo funding represents approximately 13% of total MFA revenue. While this change will not affect MFA until next year, the Board is already considering several cost cutting measures to reduce the financial impact.

Kristine Seier

VP Athlete Development Report 2017

This year was very exciting for the MFA, as our Novice and Squad categories on the Provincial Team has grown this year, as we have 9 athletes in sabre and 13 in foil/ épée, and more joining next season. Providing support and opportunities to these athletes will help develop our Provincial Team in the future. One way we supported these groups, was through ensuring there were appropriate categories for them to enter at MFA tournaments. At every tournament this year we offered U11, U13 and U15 categories to encourage participation and meaningful competition. This strategy keeps us inline with the Long Term Athlete Development Model. Future amendments will be made to ensure the appropriate equipment is being used in training and competitions.

For outreach, working with the Executive Director, we scheduled various events over the summer of 2016 to promote fencing to the community. The MFA also participated in the Children's Hospital Gala this past fall, where members of the Provincial Team and I provided mini fencing lessons to over 100 children at the event. It was well received by all, and we hope to volunteer our time again next year.

We also hosted a successful fundraising event – the Holiday Pancake Breakfast – in December of this past year. All Provincial Team athletes participated by selling tickets, gathering prizes and serving over 120 guests for breakfast! We raise just over \$2300 and plan to host another fundraising event in the fall of 2017.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events and projects a success! I look forward to the upcoming season with the MFA to continue to grow and develop our sport in Manitoba.

Respectfully submitted,

Daria Jorquera Palmer

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORT
JUNE 2017**

Activities undertaken by the member-at-large over the last year are summarized below.

- 1) **Fundraising:** This year I was involved in assisting Daria with various fundraising events to further support athlete's competition expenses. We completed a pancake breakfast in December which was very successful. In addition, we are planning on having another spaghetti dinner before the end of this fencing season. We will continue with these fundraising efforts next year with the goal of adding to these two events.
- 2) **By-law committee:** I have recently joined the MFA's by-law committee. We are in the process of updating the MFA by-laws and will continue to work on completing this task.
- 3) **Governance Training:** I have made the commitment to provide introductory board governance training to members of the MFA board. Training is tentatively scheduled for the August board meeting so that we can include new board members. Additional training may follow, depending on the direction the board chooses at that time.

Submitted by: Darcy Cantin

2016-2017 Provincial Coach/Technical Director Report

1. - Athletes:

This year was exceptional for Fencing Manitoba. The volume of success our fencers achieved is unprecedented in the MFA's history:

- **19 Medals** at the Westerns Canadian Championships.
- **18 Medals** at national competitions (**Canada Cup West and Nationals**)
- **1 athlete** qualifying for the **Senior National Team** for the following:
 - Senior Pan Am Championships - Montreal June 2017.
 - Senior World Championships - Plovdiv, Bulgaria July 2017

Our Provincial Coach was the official coach for Canada at the following National Team Events:

- Junior/Cadet Pan Am Championship - Havana, Cuba
- Junior Worlds - Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- European Sabre Circuit - Modeling, Austria

Other significant results:

61st at the Senior Women's Foil Grand Prix in Long Beach, CA- USA - Sara Filby

25th at Senior Men's Sabre Satellite in Gant, Belgium - Cameron Mackay.

13th at Senior Men's Sabre Satellite in Toku, Finland - Cameron Mackay

39th at the Junior Men's Sabre World Cup in Phoenix, AR. - Gabe Shuster

43th at the Junior Men's Sabre World Cup in Phoenix, AR. - Alex Préfontaine

78th at the Junior NAC in Columbus

30th at the Senior NAC in Columbus

46th at the Senior NAC in Columbus

2 - PERFORMANCES:

Western Canadian Calgary, AB:

U15S	Hayden Thiessen	Gold	JMF	Sara Bacchus	Bronze
	Jordan Diacos	Silver	U15F	Liam Prokopowich	GOLD
	Roman Song	Bronze	U13F	Lili Merz	Bronze
	Mathew Cortini	Bronze	U15E	Carter Owens	Bronze
U13S	Zacharia Bounachada	GOLD	JWE	Maia Bacchus	GOLD
	Xavier Lacombe	SILVER	U13F	Hope Johnson	SILVER
	Jordan Diakos	Bronze			
CMS	Robert Havelka	GOLD	SMS	Alex Préfontaine	SILVER
				Danae Smelsky Remillard	Bronze
	Sasha Morton-Salmon	SILVER			
	Roman Song	Bronze			
	Mathieu Cortino	Bronze			

Canada Cup West Calgary, AB:

SWE	Maia Bacchus	Bronze			
CMS	Shae McFadden	Bronze	SMS	Alex Préfontaine	7th
	Alex Préfontaine	SILVER	JMS	Alex Préfontaine	SILVER
	Eric Vasas	7th	JWE	Maia Bacchus	Bronze
U15S	Shae McFadden	GOLD	SWF	Sara Filby	5th
	Jordan Diakos	Bronze	JWF	Sara Filby	GOLD
U13S	Jordan Diakos	Bronze	CMF	Liam Prokopowich	SILVER
U13F	Eric Schimnowski	GOLD			

Nationals - Gatineau, QC

SMF Team event	Cameron M, Alex P, Gabe S and Danae S	SILVER			
SMS	Cameron Mackay	7th	JMS	Gabe Shuster	top 16
CMS:	Shae McFadden	6th		Alex Préfontaine	top 32
U15S	Shae McFadden:	GOLD	SWS:	Jenna Brignoly	10th
	Jordan Diakos	7th	JWS:	Jenna Brignoly	7th
	Hayden Thiessen	10th	University circuit results:		
SWF	Sara Filby	14th	SMS	Danae Smelsky Remillard	Bronze
	Artemis Hopps	17th	SWS	Jenna Brignoly	GOLD
JWF	Sara Filby	SILVER			
	Arthemis Hopps	13th			

3 - Development:

1- Coaching Development:

- a- Three candidates are taking the coaching Beginner Instructor - Foil course this year:
 - o Livio Foinessi, RFC
 - o Winson Choi, RFC
 - o Ezra Lazar, CFC.

- b- Two Manitoba coaches got certified as Beginner Instructor - Sabre and they are :
 - o Lucas Hamelin LFC
 - o Andre Lavoie RFC

- c- MFA is again hosting a high-level training camp for our athletes and coaches. World class Coach **Szabo Vilmos** from Germany is Germany's Senior National Coach. He will be conducting our camp. The MFA is the only province in Canada that hosts this calibre of event this frequently (roughly every two years).

- d- The MFA is sending one of the assistant coaches, Daria Jorquera Palmer, to Montreal for an Epee Workshop. It is being hosted by **Michel Sicard**, a world-class Epee coach from France. She will also be undergoing testing for her level 3 accreditation.

2- Official Development

- a- A new foil referee was certified this year and joined the MFA's official list: Anna Muzaleva. Bravo to Anna!
- b- Another candidate who was certified as a Competition Manager for our tournaments:
Andre Lavoie. Bravo Andre!

3- Equipment.

The MFA recognized that the equipment was in need of restoration and replacing. We made a significant effort to assure our fencing equipment is reliable, safe and fully functional to keep from hindering our athletes in training.

- A- We updated all our scoring machines with newly altered sabre timing.
- B- We hired a high-level expert in electronics to modify all of our reels to perform better more and to be more resistant to common malfunctions. We received the first 12 reels completely modified in September and we have not had any issue so far. We will be receiving another 14 modified reels very soon. These reels are necessary for training, as well as for our provincial competitions. As we train in separate facilities. The reels take abuse in transit and so far, these modified reels have been very reliable.
- C- As each competition requires every fencer who enters to have their equipment checked, the MFA has purchased a new testing machine to expedite the efficiency of our local competitions.
- D- The MFA purchased new recreational equipment to be used only for our 10-week outreach program. We run this program in schools and recreational centres close to the clubs to try get the community more involved with clubs in their area.

4- New Competition System:

A new competition system was put in place for the first time. It was discussed and approved by the clubs, and now the organization of our local tournaments has something to follow. Based on the first experience this year, some changes are going to be added.

5- Club Support:

- a- On top of developing coaches and officials to better support to our clubs and competitions, the MFA gave the clubs the possibility to organize the three local tournaments in order to generate some profits for themselves. This year was the

first year we implemented this, and the clubs who took the opportunity to organize them were very pleased with the result, financially and in terms of exposure for the sport.

- b- A new fencing project was established to promote fencing for the clubs. The program consists of 10 fencing classes for beginners, known as the 10-week beginner program. The students receive training and acquire the skills to warrant the yellow arm band evaluation. They receive a diploma for participation following the completion of the program.

6- Talent Scouting:

This year, the Provincial Coach has relocated the last Thursdays training of each month from the provincial centre, to the clubs. He went to clubs where the youth programs are more develop, and which can give him the opportunity to identify talented and passionate young fencers to grow the Provincial Team. Coordinated with the club coaches, a lot of youth joined the Provincial Squad program and they are now part of MFA's success. Provincial training was relocated to the following clubs: RFC, LFC and CFC. Other clubs will have the opportunity of visits from the Provincial Coach in the future.

To finish, I want to thank all who have helped me to do my job and achieve such success. My two Assistant Coaches, Daria and Zach, were involved in the training and development of the provincial team and their success. Also, I have to thank the club coaches who were behind such great talents who joined our programs, and again, especially Zach Allard, Daria Jorquera Palmer and Anthony Densmore.

I have a special thanks to Sport Manitoba for the nonstop support towards our programs, especially the past year's grant for our assistant coach, Zach Allard.

Respectfully submitted,

Fencing Master Ayach Bounachada

Executive Director Report June 2017

During 2016-2017 season, the Manitoba Fencing Association has continued to see growth and success in its activities, outreach and results at the national and international levels. Also, despite of our efforts, having a bigger membership continues to be a challenge but we will continue with our outreach efforts to ensure the continuity of our sport in Manitoba in accordance with our strategic plan.

This year, we have also focused many of our efforts on having a fundraising plan with several initiatives, which will be of support to our activities on top of the funding we kindly receive from Sport Manitoba and other sport agencies on a yearly basis.

As I did last year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Board Members, staff, MFA members, athletes and volunteers for your unconditional support during this exciting and also full of challenges year.

Also, I want to specially thank our President Monika Feist for all her years of service and commitment to our organization. Her hard work has had a tremendous impact in our community and the fruits of her labor will be long lasting.

Respectfully,

David Cohen