

MFA Executive Director's Report 2021

ADMINISTRATION/OFFICE

-Call for board members or committees – Thank you to all the volunteers for your tremendous efforts this year! We have stars that continually rise to our challenges, but we do not want to burn them out. Much work is required on policy/bylaw revision. Tasks can be delegated into bite-sized pieces to assist in completion.

Documents to revise.

- Policies
- By-laws

-Concussion protocol- Currently posted on our website. Included in club packages and our newsletter provincial newsletter at least once a year to generate awareness.

-Gender Equity Committee- Created with Daria as the chair.

-Remote access to Sport Manitoba's secured shared drive was set up. There was an IT Migration issue that has since been fixed.

-Return to Practice (RTP)- creation and use of attestations, health checks, other return to play/practice support documents, constant checks, changing procedures. The RTP is a living document and should be reviewed as the season goes on; this ensures up to date information and policies to keep our members safe.

-Sport Insurance - 10% increase in insurance premiums this year. Contact the MFA office if your club requires an insurance certificate for regular operations or for special events. As communicated to the clubs, at-home training is now covered under our policy for online training programs under specific guidelines. Recent changes to the policy and practices related to COVID include contagion exclusion, and the use of waivers and letters of attestation to mitigate risk.

-Teamsnap- Electronic health checks to reduce burden to fencing participants and administration. If clubs need any assistance with the setup or functionality of the app, contact the MFA office.

CANADIAN FENCING FEDERATION (CFF)

-CFF AGM- last one was Sunday, August 23.

- New president Yan Bernard elected
- Stopped receiving \$20,000 grant from Jackson Wang, previous CFF President
- This year's AGM will be held online August 22
- There are CFF board positions opening, please apply if you are interested.

-All CFF events camps and competitions are cancelled until further notice.

- **Ontario Fencing Association** has been offering free footwork and conditioning sessions all CFF license holders, as well as yoga, strength training (for youth athletes), etc.

CLUBS

-**Club Packages**- Implementation of club packages -this is general information that should be always kept available at head office for insurance purposes. Assistance from the MFA office as always available to complete this task. Please provide an updated list of directors after your AGM.

-**Insurance certificates** are available through the MFA office to clubs in good standing that require proof of insurance for venues or events.

COACHING

-**Electronic coaching resources** available to all MB coaches, courtesy of Ayach.

-**Respect in Sport MB** expects 100% of our coaches (even volunteer) be Respect in Sport certified (free, 3 hours).

-**SafeSport**- Available for free online and is mandatory for to coach at CFF events.

-**First Aid**- All coaches should have Emergency First Aid, CPR A, & AED training or similar. Clubs to send a list of interested coaches (paid and volunteer) for approval to the MFA office. Coaches with completed Respect in Sport (RiS) will be reimbursed after confirmation.

-**Background Checks**- Standard background check and vulnerable sector check are covered by the MFA office. Coaches with completed Respect in Sport (RiS) will be reimbursed after confirmation.

FINANCIAL

-**Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)** - 75% (and decreasing) of full-time staff wages for eligible periods was collected from the start of COVID in 2020 until September 2021.

-**Grants** - Continuing to receive HP Coach Support Grant, Program Support Grant, Base Funding from Sport Manitoba.

-**Internal Funding Framework (IFF) Submission**- was completed and submitted to Sport Manitoba. This extensive series of documents outlines key elements of our growth strategies, financial plan, stakeholder demographics, etc. Partnering with Sport Manitoba is critical to our operations.

-**IFF Presentation to Sport MB** - Overall, Sport Manitoba was pleased with our business plan and presentation. A reminder that they are looking for 100% Respect in Sport certification from coaches and promotion of Concussion Awareness materials.

-**Manitoba Bridge Grant** –Received \$20,000 through this grant

-Canadian Emergency Funding received 3 rounds of funding – MFA portion and community (club) portion totaling \$24,000 was received. Thank you to the clubs for getting me their COVID-related expenses to me in usually short turnaround times.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

Media-

-Show: Hors Quebec- did a full episode (22 minutes) on some of Manitoba's Francophone fencers. This series gives voice to the new face of the Canadian Francophonie outside Quebec. Our leaders go out to meet communities that have adapted to live in their language and culture daily. It was very well done- episode can be found here:

<https://www.qub.ca/tvaplus/tva/hors-quebec/saison-2/episode-23-les-passionnes-de-l-escrime-au-manitoba-1041320452>

-National Coaches Week was September 19-27, 2020. Ayach was featured on CTV as the Sport Star of the week, and had a separate piece done on him as a coach working through COVID. **Ayach and Misha** were featured on another CTV news story, and in an episode of Sport Manitoba Sports Stories

-Movie shoot in Winnipeg for 'Esther'- Pistes and electric equipment were rented out. Fencers, referees, and coaches answered the casting call and may make it to the big screen!

-Social Media Starting with regular postings to Instagram. Currently, the action has been well-received, with an average of 45-50 views per story post. This is just the beginning to building a Social Media presence that will hopefully be leveraged for upcoming events and communication with members.

Generally, story posts are as follows:

Monday- Motivational, Tuesday- Technical (armoury, referee, coach, etc),
Wednesday- Epee, Thursday- Break; Friday- Foil; Saturday- Break; Sunday- Sabre.

- **Newsletter-** frequency changed to quarterly. Any ideas to help engage, inform, and inspire our membership are always welcome.

The newsletters are continuing to be distributed and are well received, averaging 64% click rate.

- **Outreach** – last season, a dozen clinics/sessions were booked with coaches lined up to facilitate but were put on hold due to COVID. This year, we have several outdoor and indoor camps tentatively booked, that we are eagerly waiting to conduct, if safe to do so.

Very positive feedback was received from outreach clinics were able to conduct before lockdown in fall.

Currently-

-10 week programs- one hard booking with others to follow. Looking at fall or winter rollout. A few schools have been approached and potential programs have been discussed for once things settle with COVID.

-Day camps- 4 separate camps have been booked with a total of 11 weeks of programming to be delivered.

-Requests for fencing- 7 requests from interested parents have been received over the last few weeks. Each were provided with club information, Sport Manitoba Summer Camp info, and each have asked to be put on a notification list if other 'try fencing' events are held this year.

-Website- After much collaboration and work, the new website has been launched. Some pages/content are still being populated and will be posted as it becomes available. Check it out and provide feedback is appreciated!

TOURNAMENTS

-Thank you for your patience and flexibility this season; we are hoping to move back to tournaments this coming season.