



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

President & Executive Director
June 27, 2023

Mission

Provide individuals an opportunity to develop through the sport of fencing to the highest potential to which they aspire.

Vision

Every fencer, from grassroots to high performance, has the opportunity to continually improve leading toward personal fulfillment.

Values:

We value people as our most important resource with athletes being the center of focus. The MFA fosters:

- the principles of fair play; integrity, respect, fairness, trust, commitment, inclusiveness, and fun, amongst athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers
- a sense of ownership and belonging to promote personal responsibility
- the growth of leadership qualities within its membership and expects its leaders to uphold the values of the Association

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President & Executive Director Message

Emerging from two very difficult years, the 2022-2023 season marked our return to normalcy both on and off the piste; it was exciting to see fencers, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents back in force.

With the return to both training and competition, Manitoba fencers quickly showed that the incredible resilience and adaptability honed over the pandemic translated into performance. The entire Manitoba fencing community should be very proud of your collective efforts to realize these results.

This season was packed full of provincial, national and international performance highlights. Six Manitoba fencers competed at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Charlottetown, PEI, bringing home two bronze and one silver medal. From regional, national, zonal and world stages, our fencers did an outstanding job representing our province and Canada at events like Inter-Provincial Cups, National Championships, Junior Pan Ams, and World Championships.

In addition to our athlete performances, our recovery of membership was exciting to see with our end of season registration over pre-pandemic levels. While fencers train and compete at all levels of fencing, the MFA remains focused on sport delivery at all levels in a safe, inclusive, and fun environment.

As always, we thank each of you: club boards and administrators, club coaches, athletes, and officials for your ongoing commitment to the fencing community and to your support of Manitoba fencers. Manitoba Fencers are “why we do what we do”.

Yours in Fencing,

Kyle Turcotte, President
Sean Rathwell, Executive Director

A Year in Review

The 2022-2023 fencing season was a welcomed return to unrestricted training, competition, and activity giving opportunity to execute initiatives under our general strategy. The strategic directions that were followed:

1. Increase exposure to fencing
2. Provide programs, services and support to maximize all aspects of fencing in Manitoba
3. Create growth opportunities

Increase exposure to fencing. Key achievements:

- **Outreach** - 1,500 youth tried fencing through 29 programs, demos, camps, or other events.

Program partners:

City of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Newcomers Sports Association (WNSA), Municipalities of Ritchot and Il De Cheyne, U of M Minu-University, various Winnipeg schools and community centres.

Long term programs with:

Municipality of Springfield, DAS- Sports en français, Fort Richmond Collegiate

- **Communications** -

Media engagement – Featured news stories, interviews, and TV spots on CBC, CTV

Featured interviews on Sport Manitoba website and newsletters

CWG recognition event at the Manitoba Legislature

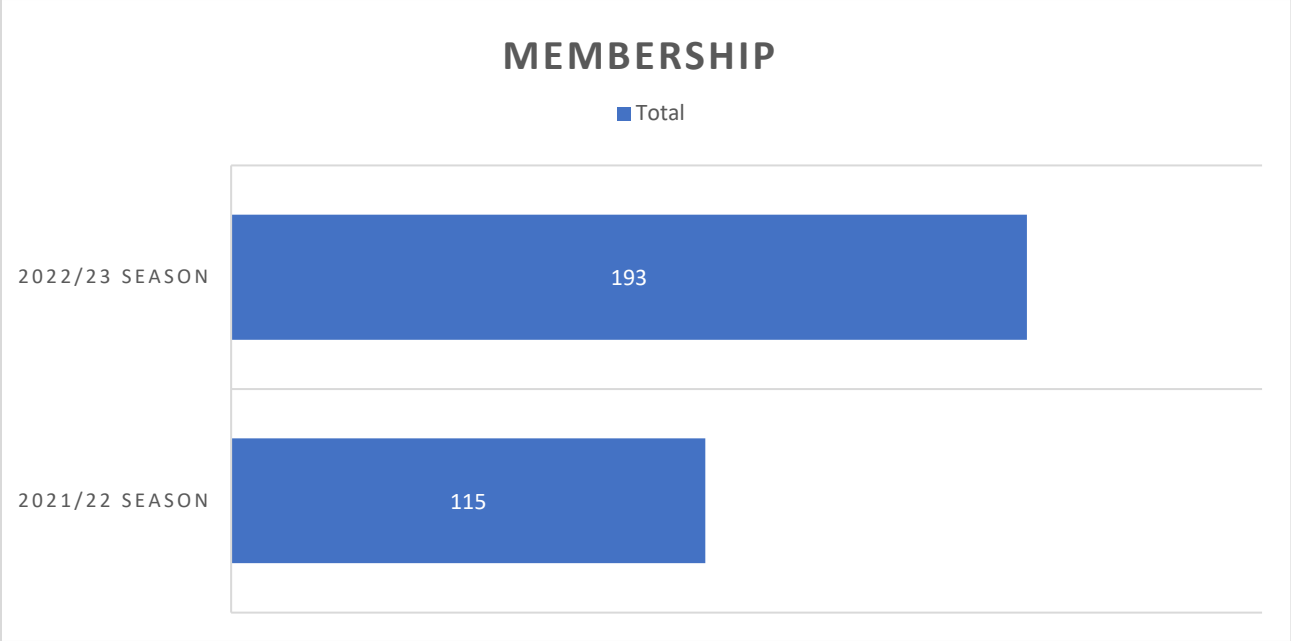
Provide programs, services, and support to maximize all aspects of fencing in Manitoba. Key achievements:

- Worked with clubs to lift COVID-19 restrictions, allowing for a progressive return to “normal operations” in practice as well as for competition in early/mid 2022
- Increase in general membership and competition participant numbers to over pre-pandemic figures, which is a positive and leading metric for 2022-2023 season
- Increase in efficiency when running scheduled provincial competitions
- 2023 Canada Winter Games were a great success for Team Manitoba fencers, both for individual athlete’s performances as well as the overall team experience. We were able to bring back almost 1/6th of Manitoba’s medals
- Administrative support provided to Canada Winter Games and provincial team athletes in preparation of and travelling to out-of-province competitions
- 2 youth and pizza competitions- low stress, fun introductions to tournaments which were our best-attended events
- 10 week all girls class conducted in French
- 20 week wheelchair fencing program
- Partnered with Fencing Alberta to host advanced Directoire Technique and Referee clinics
- Conducted a pay scale review for tournament officials

Create Growth and Life-long opportunities. Key achievements:

- Obtained grant for Master Coach-in-Residence Program to train and develop Manitoba Coaches - \$2500
- Trained and integrated third assistant provincial coach into provincial team training, offering increased service and individual lessons. This also benefits club development and quality of outreach programs.
- Continued development of assistant provincial coaches
- MFA provided over 45 paid opportunities for coaches
- Obtained grant for recruitment, retention, and program development for Wheelchair Fencing; co-submitted with Manitoba Wheelchair Sports Association- \$13,000
- Certified 9 Armourers, 3 Directoire Technique (DT) officials, and 4 referees to improve tournament delivery
- Assisted with the certification of 2 national (N) level referees

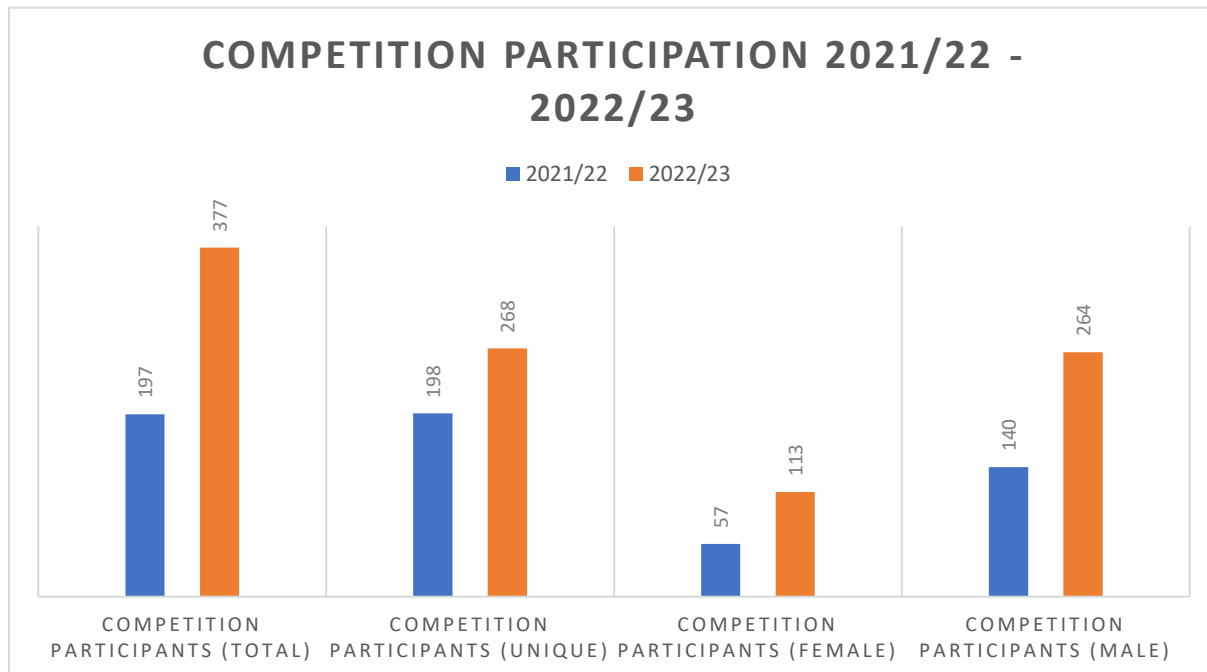
Membership



71% increase from 2021/22 season to 2022/23 season.

Tournaments Metrics

MFA competition participation has increased over the last year. We continue training new tournament officials and providing development opportunities for existing officials to increase our capacity to deliver efficient and meaningful events.



TOTAL PARTICIPANTS			UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS		
TOURNAMENT	2021/2022	2022/2023	TOURNAMENT	2021/2022	2022/2023
MFA 1	35	68	MFA 1	34	49
MFA 2	32	78	MFA 2	32	48
MFA 3	28	82	MFA 3	30	66
MFA 4	49	68	MFA 4	52	46
PROVINCIALS	53	81	PROVINCIALS	50	59
TOTAL	197	377	TOTAL	198	268

GENDER (TOTAL PARTICIPANTS) 2021/2022			GENDER (TOTAL PARTICIPANTS) 2022/2023		
TOURNAMENT	FEMALE	MALE	TOURNAMENT	FEMALE	MALE
MFA 1	8	27	MFA 1	25	43
MFA 2	10	22	MFA 2	22	56
MFA 3	7	21	MFA 3	21	61
MFA 4	15	34	MFA 4	21	47
PROVINCIALS	17	36	PROVINCIALS	24	57
TOTAL	57	140	TOTAL	113	264

Committees

- Canada Winter Games (CWG) - Established criteria for the selection of CWG staff and athletes. Additionally, they offered support and mentorship to athletes, providing guidance on training, competition strategies, and overall well-being.
- Governance – Policy and bylaws – Provided an interpretation of the current bylaws to allow for new categories of membership and pricing. Currently updating policies to match Sport Manitoba/Sport Law template.

Call for MFA board and committee members – Thank you to all the volunteers for your tremendous efforts this year! As we re-establish regular working processes, there is a need for committees to develop areas of interest in our community. We will need interested community members to take charge of committees such as volunteer, parent, fundraising, sponsorship, and more.

**MFA membership is not required to participate at the committee level.

Manitoba Fencing Association

Board & Staff

- **MFA Board of Directors 2022-2023**

Kyle Turcotte – President- Outgoing
Maire Prokopowich - Vice President
Andy Beardsall – Treasurer (as of February 2023)
Anthony Densmore – Corporate Secretary- Outgoing
Daria Jorquera-Palmer – VP Athletes
Noah Merz-Lakser – VP Technical (as of December 2022)
Simon Scott – Director at Large
Bethany Barclay-Goddard – Club Representative Rapier
Murray MacBeathe – Club Representative Lightning
Neil Smith – Club Representative Cavalier

- **MFA Staff**

Ayach Bounachada – Provincial Coach
Sean Rathwell - Executive Director
Daria Jorquera- Palmer – Assistant Coach
Noah Mer-Lakser – Assistant Coach
Zachary Allard Assistant Coach

Sponsors and Partners

- **Sponsors**

Sport Manitoba – Funding and Grants
Alison Diacos Realty - Piste
Carlos and Murphy's - Piste
Rapier Fencing Club - Piste

- **Partners**

Manitoba Wheelchair Sports Association
Winnipeg Newcomer Sports Association

Looking ahead to 2023/24 we are optimistic about increasing membership, improving the delivery of our current programs, and strengthening our governance structure. We have seen a steady rise in membership numbers and conversions to longer term programs from trial periods and hope to continue this trend. With the dedication of our members and stakeholders, we are confident in making next year even better than the last!

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to discussing these achievements at the next AGM.

Sincerely,

Sean Rathwell
Executive Director