

## MANITOBA FENCING ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING, JUNE 27, 2023, 19:00-20:00

**Location:** Irish Association, 654 Erin St., Winnipeg

**Purpose:** Annual General Meeting

**Board Attendance:** Kyle Turcotte (President), Maire Prokopowich (VP), Andy Beardsall (Treasurer), Daria Jorquera-Palmer (VP-Athlete), Noah Merz-Lasker (VP- Technical), Neil Smith (Cavalier FC), Ayach Bounachada (Provincial Coach/Technical Director), Sean Rathwell (Executive Director),

**Regrets:** Anthony Densmore (Secretary), Bethany Goddard (Rapier FC), Murray MacBeath (Lightning FC), Simon Scott (Member-at-Large)

**Membership in Attendance:** See scanned sign in sheet

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## 1. STANDING ITEMS

**1.1 Quorum achieved-** 26 members present of 41 attendees – Sean

### 1.2 Review Agenda – Start time 19:25

Kyle proposes change: Remove #8 Amendments to bylaws as there are none; #11 New Business- No new business; Move 5.2 Treasurer's report comes prior to the Audited Financial Reports and Forecast.

Motion: Agenda as adjusted be approved Daria/Ainsley for Felix  
Passed unanimously

**1.3 Appointment of scrutineers** – Neil Smith volunteered.

**1.4 Approve Minutes of previous AGM (June 15, 2022)-** Motion to accept minutes: Andy/Ainsley. None opposed. Approved unanimously.

## 2. REPORTS

### 2.1 President and Executive Director Report (Appendix A)

**ED Highlights** - MFA has seen growth from 80 members (pandemic) to 193 at the AGM. Good work to the clubs in providing programs that kept athletes in the sport - conversion rate from 10 week memberships to Full was very high. We ran a lot of diversified programming - wheelchair; all French-speaking girls; military; and over 1000 students. We continue to build a solid base that will allow the continued growth of our organization- details and metrics in the report.

### 2.2 Provincial Coach Report (Appendix B)

Provincial team membership has increased from ~30 to ~42 athletes and continues to grow. We would need another full time Assistant coach to help the growth of the team, and of fencing in the province.

Our Canada Winter Games team managed to secure ⅓ of all of Manitoba's medals at the Games.

MFA is working to find a full time training facility.

Great results from Jordan Diacos and Zico Bounachada at multiple international events.

We were very active with officials development (referees, armourers, DT, and coaches).

### 2.3 Treasurer Report (Appendix C)

Elected to the board the month previous to the AGM.

Despite the uncertainty in returning post-pandemic, we were able to achieve great results on and off the piste. As such, it was a difficult year to budget for, not knowing exactly what to expect.

## a- 3. Audited Financial Report and Forecast

Phillip Bobby from Fort Group reviews AFR and Forecast

Question: Massin Idir- Is there a plan to bridge the gap between revenue and expenses this season?

Answer: Andy- Athletes travelling to-out-of province competitions will offset costs of bringing coaches with them. We will look to grants, fundraising and sponsorship opportunities to balance the budget.

**Motion:** to accept the audited financial statements as presented. Maire/Etienne Landry. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** to continue with Fort Group as auditors for the next fencing season. Maire/Andy. Motion carried unanimously.

**b- 4. Election of Officers (3 calls per)**

President 2023-2025

Nominations: Maire via Daria. Marie accepts. Appointed by acclamation.

VP Technical 2023-2025

Nominations: Noah (re-election, served half term last season) via Daria. Noah accepts.  
Appointed by acclamation.

Corporate Secretary 2023-2025

Nominations: Scott Wood via Daria. Scott accepts. Appointed by acclamation.

Director at Large (1 year term) 2023-2024

Nominations: Simon (re-election) via Zach. Zach accepts nomination (via email). Appointed by acclamation.

**\*Gift presented to Kyle as outgoing MFA President for all his hard work over the past 4+ years.**

**c- 5. Meeting adjourned @ 20:01**

**d-**

**e- APPENDIX A: 2023 ANNUAL REPORT PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# 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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### **For More Information**

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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

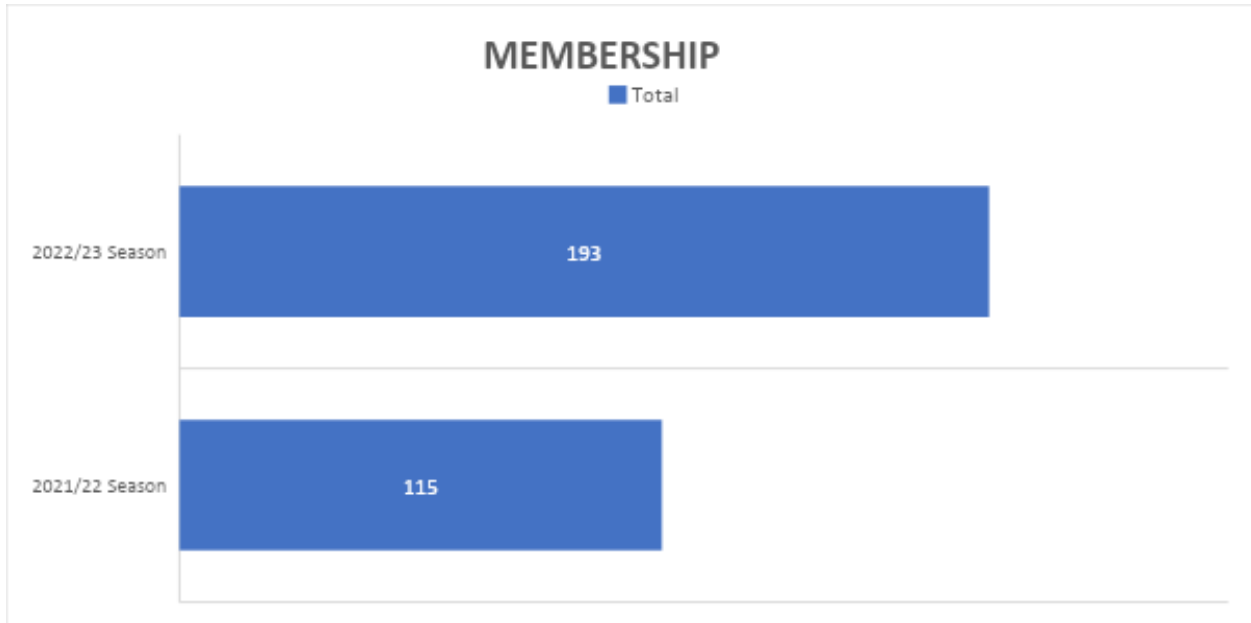
**Provide programs, services, and support to maximize all aspects of fencing in Manitoba. Key achievements:**

- 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 1/6<sup>th</sup> 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

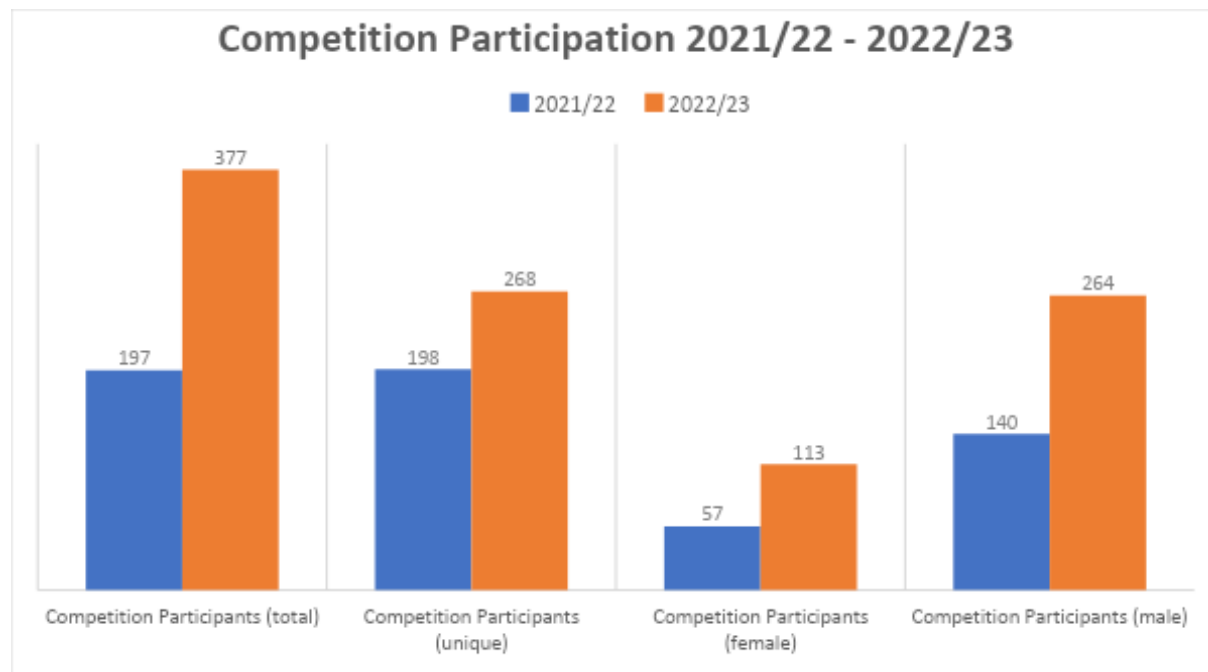
## Membership



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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>268</b>

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>264</b>

## 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



## f- APPENDIX B: PROVINCIAL COACH'S REPORT – AGM 2021/2022

### PROVINCIAL COACH/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

#### ANNUAL REPORT 2023

### A- Provincial Team Activities

- 1- Provincial Team Members
- 2- Provincial Team Training
- 3- Canada Winter Games:
  - a- Qualification
  - b- Canada Winter Games Training.
  - c- Canada Winter Games Staff.
- 4- Performances:
  - a- **National Team**
  - b- **Regional Tournaments.**
    - 1- Regional - Alberta Cup1
    - 2- Regional - Alberta Cup 1
    - 3- Regional – Alberta Cup 3
    - 4- Alberta Provincials (Regional)
  - c- **National Competitions.**
    - 1- Canada Winter Games
    - 2- Canadian Nationals 2023
    - 3- Canada Cup 1 and 2.
    - 4- North American Cup
    - 5- Junior World Cup



### B- Sport Development

- a- Coaching Development
  - Coaching Evaluation
  - Mentorship
- b- Refereeing Development
  - Refereeing Course.
  - Provincial Refereeing Evaluation.
  - National Refereeing Evaluation.
- c- Armourer Course

## A- Provincial Team Activities:

**1- Provincial Team Members:** After Covid, we had a big concern to keep our numbers at the Provincial Team Program. At just the beginning of the season, we started getting back all our athletes, and we did not stop there, we had even increased our numbers to a level we never did it in the past. Right now, we have **about 42 athletes** at the provincial team level, with over **25 athletes 15 years old and under**. These are excellent numbers. The addition of younger athletes is an important step to securing our sport's future. We could not do that without the great job from my two assistant coaches Daria and Zach. Both deserve a big bravo for that success. We will put in place a strategy to make sure to direct them to the higher competitive levels in the next 3-4 years of preparation. The focus will be on retention, training process and competition preparation.

Here are the categories: Official List 2023

Level/Weapon	Foil		Epee		Sabre		Total/Prog		Age Category Average
	F	M	E	M	F	M	F	M	
HP			1			2	1	2	17
Intermediate	1	2	-	1	1	3	2	6	17
Youth HP	0	2	-	-	-	-		2	11
Squad	1	7	3	3	5	8	9	18	15
SP		2	-	-	1	2	1	4	NA
Out of PROV						1		1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>

## 2- Provincial Team Training:

With the opening after the Covid-19 pandemic, we came back to normal training schedule, but with a separation of the Provincial Team into two groups. In general, the training is going very well. Each group has a **1:30 minutes** a session and of course it's repetitive based on the program you registered for. Now we must increase the training volume to at least 2 hours. And on the top of that, the athletes need to do individual training where they need to develop their physical skills like endurance, strength, and power that the need for the sport. The schedule looks like:

Days /Time	7:00	9:00	4:30	6:15	6:15	8:00
Monday			Training Group 1		Training Group 2	
Tuesday	Individual Training		One Training Group ( 4:30 to 7:00)			
Wednesday			One group training from 4:30 – 7:00			

Thursday	Individual Training	Individual Training/Group Training	
Friday	Individual Training	Training Group 1	Training Group 2

### 3- Canada Winter Games.

#### a- Qualification:

Canada Games Group: We had the following athletes trained for trying to get their qualification for the 2023 Canada Games. These athletes have participated in four selection competitions. MFA 3, Golden Boy, Pre-Canada Games in Regina, Nationals in Toronto, Regina Open, Alberta Cup 1, Canada Cup 1 and Alberta Cup 2.

Weapon	Men's Epee	Women's Epee	Men's Foil	Women's Foil	Men's Sabre	Women's Sabre
	Silas T	Cheryl C	Kevin G	Taylor S	Aidan P	Kate M
	Isaac T	Alice V	Suryansh S	Paisley Y	Callum M	Khloe L
	Mathias C	Taylor S	Felix B	Annabelle L	Elyes I	Meriem B
		Ella D	Ronan W		Mohamed M	Elly H
		Lien H			William B	Mai-Ahn H

After attending all these competitions and looking other requirements, we had the following athletes making the CWG selection:

#### Fencing Team Manitoba

Weapon	Athletes	Club	Club Coach
Men's Epee	<b>Matias C</b>	Cavalier Fencing Club	Robert H
Women's Epee	<b>Cheryl C</b>	Lightning Fencing Club	Daria Jorquera Palmer
Men's Sabre	<b>Ilyes I</b>	Rapier Fencing Club	Zacharie Allard
Women's Sabre	<b>Khloe Lessard</b>	Rapier Fencing Club	Zacharie Allard
Men's Foil	<b>Surya S</b>	Rapier Fencing Club	Anna Muzeleva
Women's Foil	<b>Taylor Smith</b>	Cavalier Fencing Club	Misha Sweet

- b- **Canada Winter Games Training:** As all the Canada Games group are provincial Team Members, they train twice a week as a squad member and some of them have an additional training session per week at the provincial level. Further, all of these athletes are required to train at the club level. On the top of that, they have two extra sessions a month with the assistant coaches. Lastly, these athletes participated in 6 training camps where they got fencing training, Strength Training with **Jeff W** and Mental Training with **Paige C**.

#### c- Canada Winter Games Staff:

Daria Jorquera Palmer: **Coach**

Ayach Bounachada: **Manager**

**4- Performances:** It was an exceptional season regarding the participation of our athletes at different competitions in different levels and different categories. Our athletes were present in almost all regional competitions (Alberta Cup 1, 2, 3 and provincials), Nationals (Canada Cup 1, 2 and Canadian Nationals), North American Cup in the US, Zonal Championship and World Championship. And the results were outstanding. Comparing our results with other provinces, we are overperforming taking into account others' training conditions, membership, resources, number of coaches, clubs, officials etc.

**1- National Teams:** We had two Manitobans who succeeded to make their national teams.

### Junior/Cadet Zonal Championship/Junior World Championship.

**a- Jordan Diacos:** Jordan qualified to represent Canada at the Zonal Pan American Championship in Bogota Columbia from February 28 to March 7, 2023. **He finished 24<sup>th</sup> at the individual event and 4<sup>th</sup> in Team event.**

**b- Zacharia Bounachada:** Zach qualified to represent Algeria at the Junior World Championship in Plovdiv Bulgaria from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 4, 2023. **He finished 105<sup>th</sup> / 170 at the individual.**

**2- Regional Tournaments Performances:** This season, we had a good number of the provincial team were participating on regular basis to these regional tournaments. The tournaments were strong and had a lot of participants from the provinces of the west and even from Ontario. Further, our participation at these regional tournaments serve to revive interprovincial relationships. Ideally, after a strong showing by our athletes, other provinces' athletes will be more willing to travel to Manitoba in order to support and develop our younger athletes.

#### **a- Alberta Cup 1: 4 Bronzes -**

Sabre	Foil	Epee
William B: <b>U15 : Bronze</b> U17: <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	Taylor S : U17- <b>Bronze</b> U15- <b>Bronze</b>	Alice E: U17: <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> U20: <b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
Jasper F: U13: <b>Bronze</b> <b>U15: 8</b>	Sury S : U17: <b>11<sup>th</sup></b> Ronan S: U17; <b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	
Elyes I: U15: <b>5<sup>th</sup></b> U17: <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	U20: <b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	

- b- **Alberta Cup 2:** We had about 17 athletes participated at this regional tournament. We got a total of **12 medals (5 Golds + 5 Silvers + 2 Bronzes)** Plus **10 athletes in the top 8 which could be turned to medals.**

**(5 Golds – 5 Silvers – 2 Bronzes – 9 top 8.)**

Sabre	Foil	Epee
William B U15: <b>SILVER</b>	Felix B U13: <b>SILVER</b>	Mathias C - U15: <b>GOLD</b>
U17: <b>SILVER</b>	U15: <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	U17; <b>SILVER</b>
Elly H U15: <b>GOLD</b>	Benjamin B U13: <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	U20: <b>BRONZE</b>
U15 M: <b>GOLD</b>	U15: <b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	Alice E: U17: <b>15<sup>th</sup></b>
U17: <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Kevin G U15: <b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	U20: <b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
Jasper F U13: <b>GOLD</b>	U17: <b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	Silas T U17: <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
U15: <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	Ronan W U17: <b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	U20: <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
Mai-Ahn U17; <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	U20: <b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	
Ryss J U15: <b>BRONZE</b>	Surya S U17: <b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	
U17: <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Raph V U13: <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	
Aidan P: U17; <b>SILVER</b>	U15: <b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	
U20: <b>SILVER</b>	Dashiel S U5: <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	
U15: <b>GOLD</b>		

- c- **Alberta Cup 3: (2 Golds – 4 Silvers – 8 Bronzes)**

Sabre	Foil	Epee
JWS Meriem <b>B BRONZE</b>	CMF Kevin G <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	JME Silas H <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
Elly H <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Ronan W <b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	JWE Alice E <b>11<sup>th</sup></b>
CMS Ilyes I <b>SILVER</b>	U15MF Kevin G <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Lien H <b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
William <b>BRONZE</b>	Felix B <b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	CME Silas H <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
CWS Meriem <b>BRONZE</b>	Benjamin B <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	Ronan w <b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
EllyH <b>BRONZE</b>	Jacob K <b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	CWE Alice E <b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
U15WS Agnes <b>B SILVER</b>	Raph V <b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	
U15MS Ilyes I <b>SILVER</b>	U13 MF Felix B <b>GOLD</b>	
Jasper F <b>BRONZE</b>	Benjamin B <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	JMF Kevin G <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
William B <b>BRONZE</b>	Jacob K <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	
Agnes B <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Raph V <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	
CWS Meriem B <b>BRONZE</b>	U13WS Agnes B <b>SILVER</b>	
Elly H <b>BRONZE</b>	U13 MS Jasper F <b>GOLD</b>	
Mai – Ahn H <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Agnes B <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Bronwyn E <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	

- d- **Alberta Provincials Participation:** We had 6 athletes participated at this regional tournament. We got a total of **6 medals (2 Golds + 2 Silvers + 2 Bronzes)**

Sabre	Foil	Epee
William B U17: <b>Gold</b>	Felix B U13: <b>Silver</b>	Alice E: U17: <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
U115: <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	U15: <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	U20: <b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
Agnes B U15: <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	Taylor S: U15 <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	
U13MS: <b>Bronze</b>	U17: <b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	
U13WS: <b>Gold</b>	Annabelle N U13: <b>Bronze</b>	
Enns B: U13WS: <b>Silver</b>	U15? <b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	

### e- National Competitions:

#### 1- Canada Winter Games: PIE Feb 2023

six Athletes participated and as usual, every time Manitoba brings medals; it was an outstanding result from our team.

#### Individual/TEAM:

Sabre	Foil	Epee
Khloe L : <b>SILVER</b>	Taylor S : <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Cheryl C : <b>SILVER</b>
Elyes I : <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Surya S : <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Matias C: <b>BRONZE</b>
TEAM	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	

#### 2- Canadian Nationals 2023:

It was a great success at these nationals, Manitobans came back with the following performances: **Three in the top 8, 6 top 16 and 10 top 32. I can say we missed three medals.** It was a very good experience for all; our athletes had clear feedback as to where they are currently, and what tools and skills they will need to go further. Nationals also served as a first large-scale competition for our younger athletes, permitting them to gain a lot of experience and prepared them for the next season.

- 1- The great performance of our youth fencers; this shows the bright future of our fencing at the national level.
- 2- Xavier, one of our HP athletes was sidelined for half a year due to severe injuries. He made an excellent recovery and has regained all his prior abilities. We are looking forward to seeing what Xavier's competitive season will look like next year.
- 3- I wanted to mention that two high performance athletes ( Jordan and Zach) could not make it to Montreal for school and international events reasons.
- 4- Also, to mention that Cheryl is getting to the top fencers in the country at the Junior level. She lost to the bronze medalist at the last Junior Worlds where she was very close. Too bad she missed her cadet category due to flight issues.

Sabre	Foil	Epee
Xavier S SMS 15 <sup>th</sup> /53	Noah M JMF 39 <sup>th</sup> /56	Cheryl CWE 39 <sup>th</sup> /49
JMS 20 <sup>th</sup> /54	Felix B U13MF 8 <sup>th</sup> /27	SWE 21 <sup>th</sup> /68
Sasha M SMS 35 <sup>th</sup> /53	Simon C U13MF 26 <sup>th</sup> /27	JWE 14 <sup>th</sup> /68
JMS 34 <sup>th</sup> /54		Silas T SME 93 <sup>th</sup> /102
Jasper F U13MS 14 <sup>th</sup> /18		CME 71 <sup>st</sup> /100
Agnes B U13 WS 8 <sup>th</sup> /16		Mathias C CME 64 <sup>th</sup> /88
William B CMS 44 <sup>th</sup> /56		U15 20 <sup>th</sup> /62
U15 25 <sup>th</sup> /45		U17 60 <sup>th</sup> /100
Aidan P CMS 24 <sup>th</sup> /56	<b>Sabre</b>	
U15 10 <sup>th</sup> /45	Khloe L CWS 10 <sup>th</sup> /31	
U20 23 <sup>rd</sup> /54	Camilla T: 21 <sup>st</sup> /27	
Elyes I U17 20 <sup>th</sup> /56	JWS 12 <sup>th</sup> /25	
U15 8 <sup>th</sup> /45	Meriem K CWS 20/31	

### 3- Canada Cup 1 and 2:

#### g- Canada Cup 1: Vancouver, BC

11 Manitobans got a chance to participate again at the Canada Cup 1 in Vancouver. The results were great. **3** athlete in the **top 8**, **4** in the **top 16**, **4** in the **top 32** and **4** in the **top 64**.

Sabre	Foil	Epee
Khloe L: U17: 6 <sup>th</sup> / 26 WS: 21 <sup>st</sup> /31	Misha Sweet: SMF: 7 <sup>th</sup> /70	Isaac T: top 64
Zacharia B SMS: 13 <sup>th</sup> /44 JMS: 5 <sup>th</sup> / 52	Kevin G: CMF: Top 64 Surya S: CMF: Top 64	
Aidan Pang CMS: 12 <sup>th</sup> / 37 JMS: 24 <sup>th</sup> /44	Taylor S CWF: Top 64	
Diacos J: JMS: 15 <sup>th</sup> /44 SMS: 13 <sup>th</sup> /41		
David A JMS; 30 <sup>th</sup> /44 SMS: 30 <sup>th</sup> /40		

#### h- Canada Cup 2: Kingston, Ontario

Manitobans got a chance to participate again at the Canada Cup 2 in Kingston. The results were great. **1** athlete in the **top 8**, **3** in the **top 16**, **3** in the **top 32** and **1** in the **top 64**.

Sabre	Foil	Epee
Khloe L: U17: 8 <sup>th</sup>	Taylor S : 39 <sup>th</sup> /41	Cheryl C : U17 12 <sup>th</sup> /40
	Kevin G: 43 <sup>th</sup> /51	U20 15 <sup>th</sup> / 50

Sasha M U20: 13 <sup>th</sup> /49	Surya S : 47 <sup>th</sup> /51	
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#### 4- North American Cup:

##### a- North American Cup2. Div 1. Minneapolis MN.

Zach Bounachada: 30<sup>th</sup> /202 Fencers

Jordan D: 170<sup>th</sup> /202

Cheryl C: Top 103/ ?

Khloe L: Top 128

##### b- North American Cup1. Louisville KY January 6-9, 23

**Jordan D: Junior Men's Sabre:** It was a great performance from Jordan at this north American Circuit. 22<sup>nd</sup> /206 athletes

**Senior Men's Sabre:** 146 / 216 athletes.

#### 5- Junior World Cup Dormagen germany:

Zach Bounachada: 51<sup>st</sup> /196 Fencers

Jordan D: 131<sup>st</sup> /196 Fencers

### Long and short terms objectives

- Turn some of the top 8 at the national competitions to medals.
- Looking for top 16 at the North Americans Cup
- Turn 3-4 top 64 to top 32 nationally.
- Providing a supportive and clear path for our young athletes to transition to high performance fencers. This includes volume of training, national/international level events and
- Building the 2027 Canada Winter Games Teams with a particular focus on strengthening the women's and men's epee team members.

#### B- Sport Development:

- a- Coaching Development:** Unfortunately, we could not run the coaching course as we did not have enough participants. We will for sure try to promote it again and try to have more coaches. Further, we will seek to assure that these new coaches are offered opportunities through our programs to integrate themselves in the coaching community.



**b- Mentorship:** At the provincial Team Training, we do have three assistant coaches working with me. Daria J, Zach A and Noah Merz. These coaches are working under my supervision, they are being offered feedback on a regular basis. They are doing really a great job with the PT. Extremely happy with their work. And soon, on the top of running group sessions, they will be running more individual training (**one-on-one sessions**). Which will increase our athletes' technical and tactical skills.

**c- Official Development:** This is an ongoing challenge. Even though we are offering official development seasonally and forming new officials yearly, we still have problems organising our local tournaments. There are several key reasons as to why our local tournaments continue to be a challenge:

- Some officials could not commit to the tournaments because of work and academic commitments.
- Our more experienced local officials are often coaching as well. They prioritize their coaching responsibilities and are often unable to officiate the tournaments. Unfortunately, due to the officiating challenges, these coaches have often needed to suspend their coaching responsibilities to help the MFA with officiating, leaving parents and younger athletes to navigate the competitions themselves. This reflects poorly on both the clubs as well as the MFA.

We once again succeeded to run a refereeing course and an evaluation at our last provincials. The four candidates did a great job at our provincials, and they participated in the competition successfully.

**1- Provincial Refereeing Course/Evaluation:** 4 candidates took the course.

- **Lien H** Epee-Foil
- **Isaac Turcotte** Epee-Foil
- **Surya Sarma** Foil-Epee
- **Taylor Smith** Foil-Epee

Candidates	Club	Weapon	Results
Isaac Turcotte	<b>LFC</b>	E-F	<b>PASS in both</b>
Lien Huynh	<b>LFC</b>	E-F	<b>Pass In Epee In training Foil</b>
Surya Sharma	<b>RFC</b>	F-E	<b>Pass in Both</b>
Taylor Smith	<b>CFC</b>	F-E	<b>PASS in Both</b>

**2- Refereeing at National Competition:**

At the national level, two of our referees who are officiating at all national competitions. Also, we have another provincial referee who was added to the national list. This will boost our provincial level to a high level.

**Noah Merza** : National Referee in Foil/Epee

**Sean Rathwell:** National Referee in Foil/Sabre/Epee

**Sasha Mortan-Solmon:** Evaluated in Sabre.

#### **d- Provincial Armourer Clinic:**

MFA organised an armoury workshop to develop Provincial Armourers who will be capable to run our local tournaments. And already, these armourers started running our tournaments and they are doing really good job.

Darrell Smith	Scott Wood	Noah Merz Lakser
Isaac Turcotte	Ilyas Idir	Ben Ennis
Neal Smith	Ben Ennis	Paulo Borges

Course Conductor and evaluator: **Robert Hornford** - A Certified National Armourer.

#### **i- Challenges and recommendations.**

##### **j- Development:**

- a-** Increasing the MFA memberships and trying to bring it to over 250 fencers in the next two years.
- b-** Increasing the number of our officials and especially referees.
- c-** Developing more Epee and foil coaches.
- d-** Promoting our tournaments to get fencers from outside the province.
- e-** Targeting more the Under 12 age category in our school program demonstrations.
- f-** Organising at least one regional tournament in Winnipeg in coordination with Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- g-** Increase the local competitions number for youth categories and creating new categories separated by level and fencing experiences.
- h-** Organising our own summer camps **for beginners**. Its easy to organise them at our actual facility.

##### **k- Provincial Team:**

- a-** Increase the High-Performance athletes from the results based.
- b-** Start the individual training and increase the lessons numbers at the squad level to boost their level.
- c-** With that big number of the PT we need at least another half time coach with me. The sabre and foil group now are big, and these athletes deserve better quality training.

##### **Facility:**

- a-** The MFA is working to find a solution for our eternal facility problem. The restrictions with our facilities in both size and availability severely impact our efficiency with training. Because we are using a shared space, we have to make many concessions with our training regime such as:

- a. no engarde, end lines, or strips.
- b. equipment needs to be constantly rearranged and moved in and out of storage, which accelerates the wear and tear and costs a lot to repair.
- c. Athletes do not have proper space and time to warm up as the space is usually entirely occupied by electric equipment.
- d. As the athletes are separated by weapon in isolated time slots, the opportunity to create strong team bonds is very limited.

**I- Appendix C Treasurer's Report**  
MFA Treasurer's AGM Report – June 2023

Current Financial Status as of June 26, 2023:

- ACU Chequing Account: \$127,314.19

- Term Deposits: \$14,134.19

It has been a great year for the athletes and for the organization as we have returned to near-normal operations and seen our membership reach and surpass pre-Covid numbers after two years of Covid Restrictions.

Not knowing the full extent of activities that would be occurring, it was a challenging year to budget for. This resulted in a \$37,156 deficit compared to the budgeted \$13,141 deficit. This deficit was necessary to deliver the high-quality training required for our athletes and included expenses related to: facility rental, assistant coach related expenses, and preparation for the Canada Winter Games.

In the upcoming 2023-2024 season we have adjusted the budget to reflect anticipated expenses based on the previous year's actuals, included a 10% increase of provincial team fees, and included the costs of recommended changes from the Executive Director and Provincial Coach. I will also be implementing regular budget variance reporting and review processes.

Submitted by:

Andy Beardsall, MFA Treasurer

