

## FENB Board of Directors Report 2020–2021 Season

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected all our lives in the last 18 months. Our 2020–21 season certainly did not progress the way we had hoped, with travel restricted, tournaments and camps cancelled, and clubs unable to open. Fortunately, in New Brunswick, we have been spared the worst of the pandemic's effects, and our main goal as a board this season was to ensure that clubs could operate safely within ever-evolving Public Health restrictions. We would like to thank in particular the Sport and Recreation branch for its continual guidance throughout the season.

### Participation Membership

	2020–21	2019–20	2018–19	2017–18
<b>Provincial</b>	61	93	89	85
<b>First Time/Rec</b>	68	71	87	85
<b>Associate</b>	12	14	12	12
<b>School</b>	0	28	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		206	194	182

Our decrease in membership numbers reflect the impact of COVID-19 on sports generally: the inability of clubs to open at full capacity or at all, as well as the inability to run any school-based programs; lack of training motivation without competition, and training with restrictions, such as no bouts; and the risk of engaging in any sport or community gathering.

Due to school/facility restrictions, KV, UNB, and Chaleur clubs were unable to run all season, and Moncton had significant challenges with getting space for programs.

### Tournaments

Given the COVID-19 restrictions in other provinces, Nationals and other tournaments were cancelled for the season, along with national sanctioning for any tournaments. As we moved to the Yellow and Green phases in New Brunswick, a couple of clubs were able to run interclub events.

### Excellence

#### Athlete Development

Although there was no provincial team this season, a few athletes were selected to train within the Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic development program.

The ADC's focus for the season was to develop the guidelines for the upcoming Canada Winter Games in PEI 2023.

## **Coach Development**

The goal of FENB this year was to certify 1 or 2 coaches in Instructor Beginner. This goal was not met, however, many house keeping items were taken care of including finalizing coach development certifications of prior years, updating current statuses for NB coaches, as well as creating checklists for Coach Developer evaluations and Instructor Beginner evaluations. All of these items put us in a good place to make progress in evaluating and supporting our coaches toward certification.

## **Officials Development**

Given the restrictions in tournaments and travel, this was not a focus this season. The CFF is still revamping its national program.

## **Awareness**

FENB strives to grow awareness of our sport in our province. Over the 2020-2021 season a communications strategy was developed with a focus on online presence. While COVID-19 prevented any school programs from happening, we were able to put some extra focus into our social media efforts. Special attention was given to sharing club news and posts, athlete of the month and sharing national fencing news. These efforts resulted in a 29% increase in page followers.

## **Capacity**

### **Funding**

Given the effect of COVID-19 on participation in all sports, the province has allowed us to maintain our provincial funding based on previous seasons.

In addition to our regular provincial funding, FENB was eligible to apply for three COVID-19 relief grants. We received the following amounts.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund (Dept of Sport and Rec) \$2,500  
COVID-19 Stimulus Funding (Dept of Sport and Rec) \$5,325  
Jumpstart Sport Relief Fund \$1,250