



## Fencing-Esgrime NB 2020 Annual General Meeting July 2019–June 2020 Board Report

The 2019–2020 season started strongly with record registration numbers, a very busy tournament schedule, and a Provincial Team training plan.

However, in March 2020, sports organizations across Canada were forced to close their doors and heed the warnings of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While COVID-19 stopped FENB in its tracks on its way to what was sure to be a landmark season, we still have many accomplishments to acknowledge and celebrate from the 2019-2020 season.

### Participation

#### Membership

	2019–2020	2018–2019	2017–2018	2016–2017
<b>Provincial</b>	93	89	85	88
<b>First Time</b>	71	87	85	45
<b>Associate</b>	14	12	12	12
<b>School</b>	28	6		
<b>TOTAL</b>	206	194	182	145

Our membership continues to grow, however, the challenge of transitioning “first time” memberships into “provincial” memberships remains. A large increase in school memberships was achieved in Fredericton and Saint John.

## Tournaments

The Alfred Knappe Team Tournament was held in February at the Richard J. Currie Centre and was hosted by the UNB club. We ran 3-weapon teams for open and under 15, and single-weapon teams in foil for U13 and U15, as well as sabre for U15. The event saw 62 individual registrants across a variety of teams which was a 21% increase from the prior season. The Alfred Knappe continues to be a great opportunity for new fencers to be introduced to competition in a fun and low-pressure environment.

While many tournaments were cancelled due to COVID-19, the first half of the year included the following:

October 2019 - Fundy Open

November 2019 - Moncton Open

February 2020 - Alfred Knappe

February 2020 - KV Open

Cancelled tournaments included:

March 2020 - UNB Shield

April 2020 - Sword Falls

April 2020 - NB Provincial Championships

May 2020 - Nationals

June 2020 - East Coast Games

## Excellence

### Athlete Development

FENB continued to emphasize athlete development with its Provincial Team in this season. With the guidance of the Athlete Development Committee, this was a very successful, if incomplete, season for our fencers in terms of training and competition. There were 20 athletes included in a variety of athlete training camps throughout the season.

- Provincial Team training camp on Sept 14–15 (Saint John)
- Provincial Team training camp on Oct 18–19 (Fredericton)
- Provincial Team training camp on Nov 16–17 (Moncton)
- Provincial Team training camp on Dec 7 (Fredericton)

Ildemaro Sanchez attended the October training camp as a guest coach and mentor, providing very valuable experiences for both the athletes and the coaches in attendance.

In March 2020, 14 members travelled to Toronto for the International Youth Challenge and the Ontario Provincial Championships. Unfortunately, as most of our athletes arrived in Toronto, the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. While we were not able to compete that weekend, we did host a team dinner and enjoyed each other's company for a few days before returning home.

## **Coach Development**

FENB in conjunction with Barbara Daniel as learning facilitator offered workshops in Instructor Beginner level in January and February 2020. These workshops were an important step towards certification and 5 coaches were able to participate.

FENB invested in licensing fees for our coaches to take the Respect in Sport online training module provided by Coaching Association of Canada.

## **Officials Development**

For referee development, we were able to offer supervised practice for 2 referees at the Alfred Knappe tournament.

## **Interaction**

The Club Forum was held at the end of August via electronic forum. Six out of seven clubs attended and the successes and challenges of the season, as well as priorities for the next, were discussed and much of the calendar of events for the next season was determined.

## **Awareness**

The FENB Facebook page was used to promote the sport and its events. Especially following the feedback from the previous Coach/Club Leader forum there has been an attempt to post more frequently to keep engagement and interest high.

Between the work of Barbara Daniel and the Executive Director, press releases were distributed for most NB and out-of-province tournaments. We received coverage multiple times in the *Daily Gleaner*.

The school programs run by Beaches Sabre Club East and Fundy Fencing Club were another great way to expose more young people to the sport of Fencing. In total, 28 students were introduced to fencing as part of their school experience.

## **Capacity**

### **Fundraising**

Jackson Wang, president of the CFF, provided FENB with a \$20,000 grant for the 2019–2020 season. These funds were put towards Athlete Development and Coach Development.

Additionally, we were able to raise \$420 at the Alfred Knappe canteen.

## **Equipment**

In July 2019 FENB acquired 50 full sets of fencing equipment (gloves, masks, jackets, plastrons, epees, epee body cords) in order to use for its school programs. This equipment was generously provided by Jackson Wang through the CFF.

## **Board, Staff, and Volunteer Recruitment**

David Collins stepped down as Executive Director at the end of the 2019–2020 season. His impact on the organization, however, will continue to be felt. Thank you David for three years of excellent leadership and commitment to FENB. Sally Goodwin has been contracted to replace David Collins as Executive Director, and we are excited to have her join the FENB team.

Additionally, longtime coach and mentor Barbara Daniel announced her retirement from Damocles Fencing Club at the end of the 2019–2020 season. Barbara's dedication to the growth of fencing in New Brunswick and her work as Coach Development Coordinator will have long-lasting impacts. While her leadership and insight will be missed in the fencing community, we wish her the very best of luck in her well-deserved retirement.

FENB would like to thank the people who served on the Athlete Development Committee this past year: Marc-Andre LeBlanc, Mathieu Paquet, and Jim Stevens for the work they have done in developing the Provincial Team Training Program.

We would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their hard work and contribution to the 2019–2020 season.

As always, we are grateful for the many people, coaches, parents, community members, and many more, who give their time and expertise to support FENB's events and activities. We could not operate without these individuals, much less thrive, without all of this generous support.