



# BCFA ANNUAL REPORT 2019

BC Fencing Association



# STRATEGIC PLAN

## Vision

Firstly, the BCFA and its member clubs will achieve increased participation within the sport of fencing at all levels, genders, age groups, and weapons. The BCFA and its associated clubs will additionally achieve increased success at the competitive level. As the competitive participation and success has increased over the years, this “success” is viewed as following: continuing to obtain more medals in both a National and International setting, as well as furthering the number of BCFA members qualified to the Canadian National Teams. Lastly, the BCFA will focus on securing funding from a multitude of sources and will additionally ensure that greater than 70% of revenue received is utilized directly towards the BC fencing community.

## Values

The BCFA believes in six core values, which include the following: Promoting excellence in the sport of fencing, equal accessibility for all those who desire to participate in the sport, safety for all participants, sportsmanship and fair play among all those involved, responsive service to members of the community, and finally, respect for the sport of fencing.

## GOALS

### Goal #1: Enhancing Participation in Fencing

**Outcome:** By 2021, the BCFA will have reached approximately 1,500 competitive and 5,000 developmental members on a sustainable annual basis.

**Current State:** The number of BC fencers has continued to grow, with clubs growing all over the province, and even new clubs developing as a result, the BCFA is well on its way to achieving this goal.

Last season, we had 570 full members compared to 530 the previous year and over 3,500 developmental members. Increasing membership numbers will be a key activity for next season, with the BCFA taking a lead on national initiatives to grow the support. To this end, the BCFA has secured funding from private donations to promote membership growth this year.

## **Goal #2: Provide Support and Infrastructure**

The BCFA will provide the support and infrastructure to ensure that its top athletes are able to achieve their full potential at a competitive level. The support that the BCFA will provide includes the best coaching and administrative support available, funding for HP athletes, as well as multiple BCFA-supported HP camps throughout the seasons.

**Outcome:** By 2021, BC fencers will have achieved numerous successes on both the national and international circuits. The BCFA community will win 20% of the total medal count at both Canada Cup and Canadian National events on an annual basis, as well as have medaled in every age and weapon categories at NAC events on an annual basis. They will also have medaled at the Pan-American Championships at the Cadet, Junior, and Senior levels in every weapon category. Athletes will have medaled at the World Championships as well at the cadet, junior, and senior levels. By 2021, at least one BC athlete will have qualified for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games, as well as having at least two BC fencers qualified for the 2019 Pan-American Games. Lastly, the BCFA will strive to have at least one BC athlete qualify for the 2020 Olympic games in Tokyo, Japan.

**Current State:** The BCFA has furthered its efforts towards achieving the long-term goal of high-level competitive results in the 2018/2019 season. This season the association has seen results spanning from national events all the way to world championship stage.

BC qualified 5 athletes to the Cadet and/or Junior Pan American and World Championships – Hunter Moricz, Christina Zozulya, Seraphim Jarov, Fynn Fafard and Thomas Greenwood. Christina Zozulya brought home a silver in Junior women's epee team and another in Cadet women's epee individual at the Pan-Am Championships.

In the Senior circuit, Kay Sze, Seraphim Jarov and Shaul Gordon (BC resident, currently studying in Quebec) qualified to the Senior Pan-American and World Championships. Dylan French was also

selected to compete for the men's epee team at the Senior Pan-American and World Championships. Seraphim qualified for the Youth Olympic Games and the Pan-Am Games, receiving a silver medal at the latter. Shaul Gordon placed 5<sup>th</sup> at Pan Ams in individual and won a silver medal in team and came 8<sup>th</sup> in individual at the World Championships.

This year, BC fencing qualified two athletes to the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru – Seraphim Jarov for Men's epee and Shaul Gordon for Men's sabre. Shaul won a bronze medal in the individual event, and a silver in team. The BCFA actively assisted athletes, by providing support to attend events and funding coaching support.



Shaul Gordon (Bronze medal - 2019 Pan Am Games)



Seraphim Jarov (2019 Pan Am Games)



Christina Zozulya (Silver medal – 2019  
Cadet/Junior Pan Am Championships)



Thomas Greenwood (Bronze medal  
– Cadet Euro Circuit – Poznan,  
Poland)

### **Goal #3: Increased Coaching Capacity**

The BCFA will provide support and programs in pursuance towards increasing the number of trained coaches at both the beginner and competitive levels.

**Outcome:** By 2021, every coach and official within the BCFA community will be trained and certified with the Canadian Coaching Association at a minimum level of community coach. Furthermore, BC will have access to at least five coaches trained at the Canadian Coaching Association at a competitive level. The BCFA will have supported these coaches through the attendance of courses, and by gaining competitive experienced at various international competitions.

**Current State:** This past season, BCFA coaching staff across multiple clubs travelled to national and international events, whether representing individual clubs, or the Canadian National team. Beyond competitions, BC coaches attended High Performance camps to gain mentoring and learning experience in the HP field. We plan to provide coaching courses in conjunction with upcoming Canada Cups.

### **Goal #4: Increased Official Capacity**

The BCFA will provide support and programs to increase the number of trained officials, such as referees, tournament managers, armorers, and Directoire Technique staff. They will develop a training program to ensure that members of the BCFA community may become qualified as provincial and national level referees. Competitions will be held for the means of providing experience and training for those of the community who are interested in officiating in a variety of roles.

**Outcome:** By 2021, the BCFA will have thirty provincially qualified referees, and fifteen nationally qualified referees. Additionally, the association will have five nationally qualified armourers. Finally, the BCFA will have a cadre of twenty community members well-versed in event management and Directoire Technique responsibilities.

**Current State:** Referee clinics were run in conjunction with local competitions, such as the BC provincial championships, providing mentoring opportunities for provincial referees. This process will continue at the Canada Cups and provincial championships.

### **Goal #5: Providing Competitive Opportunities for BC Fencers**

The BCFA will continue to actively pursue competitive hosting opportunities at the national and international level, as well as supporting and sanctioning local tournaments.

**Outcome:** By 2021, the BCFA Provincial Championships will be recognized as a major tournament throughout BC, Western Canada, and the Northwest United States, with an annual attendance of over 500 registrants. The association will have also hosted Western, National, and International tournaments, with the hopes in being in the position to bid to host a Pan Am or World Championship-level event.

**Current State:** The 2019 BC Provincial Championships saw 214 athletes, comprising 270 registrations competing over two weekends. The event was used as a training event for the Senior Men's Epee squad, in conjunction with a national training camp held in BC. Not only did these events attract fencers from all over the province, but also from different provinces, and even some travelling in from the USA.



2019 January Canada Cup – Richmond Olympic Oval

## Goal #6: Recognizing Contributions

The BCFA will recognize the endless contributions of its hardworking members, coaches, and volunteers in a variety of ways.

**Outcome:** The BCFA will be run by volunteers whose key skill will be utilized, as well as valued and thus rewarded for their work. Developmental opportunities and recognition for volunteers will be provided, as well as the nomination of members for available awards (CFF or SportBC awards).

**Current State:** Members of the BCFA have continued to support local competitions, as well as the annual Men's Epee World Cup by volunteering their time in the running and production of these events. Ryan Peterson, an active volunteer and previous board member, was acknowledged with a SportBC Presidents' award in March 2019. Victor Gantsevich also received the Coach of the Year award at the 2019 CFF Awards Banquet, alongside Seraphim Jarov who received the Athlete of the Year award.



2019 Coach of the Year Award –  
Victor Gantsevich



2019 Athlete of the Year (Junior Men's) –  
Seraphim Jarov

## Goal #7: Community Funding

The BCFA will not rely solely on core government revenue sources. Funding will be secured through the means of event hosting, fundraising, merchandising, and grant opportunities.

**Outcome:** By 2021, the BCFA will have annual revenue streams of \$300,000 per year, of which less than 50% will be obtained from core government of BC operating agreements.

### Current State:

Revenue for 2018/19 fiscal year was \$232,700, compared to \$203,993 in the prior year. \$106,320 (46%) of this revenue came from core government grants (Via Sport and Gaming Branch) with the remaining 54% coming from provincial and federal hosting grants, corporate donations, membership fees and event registration fees.

## Goal #8: Market Fencing to Members of the Public

The BCFA will actively market the sport using a range of media avenues, such as presentations, social media, etc.

**Outcome:** By 2021, most residents will know about fencing and understand it to be a life-long sport that promotes a healthy and active lifestyle. Every success at the Provincial, National and International levels will result in a BCFA press release.

**Current State:** The BCFA is working on promoting fencing through youth summer camps at local sports centres, such as the Richmond Olympic Oval. Additionally, fencing is being brought into schools as a form of Physical Education, furthering community awareness of the sport, and there are three credit courses, combining didactic and physical education components, available for students who take the sport through school programs. This past season, results from multiple BC clubs have been recognized and published within newspapers across the province. The BCFA also uses social media such as Facebook to promote the sport. The Vancouver World cup was live streamed internationally, with over 20,000 views per day.