



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

BC FENCING ASSOCIATION

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# 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:

1. Promoting excellence in the sport of fencing
2. Equal accessibility for all those who desire to participate in the sport
3. Safety for all participants
4. Sportsmanship and fair play among all those involved
5. Responsive service to members of the community
6. Respect for the sport of fencing

# Goals

## 1. Enhance Participation in Sport

- **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 over the last year. However, due to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on competitive opportunities and memberships, it is difficult to assess the legitimate status of BC's fencing community right now.

## 2. Provide Support and Infrastructure

- **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.
- **Current State:** Despite the Covid-19 pandemic halting competitions for much of the 2020/2021 season, BC fencers continue to fulfill this goal as competitions resume.

## Cadet Men's Epee – Nicholas Zhang (Gold)



**NICHOLAS ZHANG**  
CADET MEN'S EPEE CHAMPION



**JACK AND JERRY PAN**  
SILVER MEDALIST JUNIOR TEAM MEN'S SABRE

## Junior Team Men's Sabre - Jack and Jerry Pan (Gold)

## Junior Men's Epee – Avery Townsend (6<sup>th</sup>)



**AVERY TOWNSEND**  
FINALIST JUNIOR MEN'S EPEE

## Tokyo 2021 Olympics

### Shaul Gordon – Men's Sabre (Individual)

Shaul Gordon qualified for the individual men's sabre competition at the Olympic Games. Although Shaul has spent more recent years training elsewhere, he remains a cherished member of the BC fencing Community, having begun his fencing journey at Dynamo Fencing Club in Richmond. After fencing Mojtaba Abedini of Iran, Shaul finished 25<sup>th</sup>.





### Eli Shenkel – Men's Foil (Individual and Team)

Eli Shenkel qualified for both individual and team men's foil events at the Olympic Games. Shenkel is a head coach and co-founder of S-Class Fencing Club in Richmond. After facing Andrea Cassara of Italy, he finished 30<sup>th</sup> in individual. In the team event, they finished 9<sup>th</sup>.



## 3. Increased Coaching Capacity

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

**Current State:** During the past fiscal year, multiple new clubs have opened within the Lower Mainland. These clubs include S-Class Fencing, Vancouver Fencing Club and Lion & Sun Fencing Club. The BCFA has also seen an increase in new coaches within existing clubs.

## 4. Increased Official Capacity

**Outcome:** 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.

**Current State:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no further increase in official capacity has occurred.

## 5. Providing Competitive Opportunities for BC Fencers

**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:** Although the past year has made local tournaments difficult, the BCFA remains hopeful in returning to a competitive atmosphere with the Senior Provincial Championships this Fall.

## 6. Recognizing Contributions

**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:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no further recognition has been made in terms of awards.

## 7. Community Funding

**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 the 2020/2021 fiscal year was \$165,053 compared to the \$227,550 in the prior year. \$160,378 of this came from public grants, while the remaining \$4,675 was received through memberships and registration fees. This revenue drop is a direct reflection of the halting of competitions and decline in renewed club memberships due to Covid-19 over the last year.

## 8. Market Fencing to Members of the Public

**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:** Fencing programs have continued to be offered within BC schools as a form of Physical Education. There are three credit courses, combining didactic and physical education components, available for students who take the sport through school programs. The BCFA continues to promote fencing through social media outlets like Facebook, as well as the new BCFA [website](#), with plans to further promotion online going forward.