



BC FENCING ASSOCIATION

Annual Report, 2024_2025

Introduction

This report describes how the British Columbia Fencing Association is making progress in achieving the objectives described in the 2023-2028 Strategic plan. This report covers the financial year of April 1st 2024-March 31st 2025, and the competitive season of September 2024 to August 2025.

Mission Statement

The British Columbia Fencing Association (BCFA) promotes and governs the sport of fencing within BC at the recreational and competitive levels.

Vision

The BCFA and its member clubs will achieve increased participation in the sport of fencing at all levels.

The BCFA and its member clubs will achieve increased success at the competitive level, including winning more medals at National and International Competitions and increasing the number of BCFA members on National Teams.

The BCFA will secure funding from multiple sources, and will ensure that greater than 70% of revenue received is directed to the fencing community.

Core Values

The BCFA is committed to the following core values:

- Promoting excellence
- Equal accessibility

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- Safety for all participants
- Sportsmanship and fair play
- Responsive service to members
- Respect for sport of fencing
- Providing a safe environment for all participants
- Respecting diversity



Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Overview

The BCFA 2023-2028 strategic plan builds on the previous 2016-21 plan and outlines the key goals for the BCFA over the next 5 years. In essence the plan calls for continued enhanced participation in sport, enhanced competitive success and improvements in organizational capacity. The plan also continues the BCFA objective of hosting a number of major National and International competitions, bringing opportunities to BC athletes and contributing to the BC Economy. As such, the plan is intended to be aligned with the Ministry of Community Sport and Community Development's published sport related objectives:

1. Individuals have more opportunities to participate in sport in order to be more physically active, healthier and achieve their personal goals;
2. Athletes have more opportunities to achieve excellence in sport to inspire greater participation in their home communities; and
3. Major events support sport, economic and community development.

Goal #1: Enhanced Participation in Fencing

The BCFA will sponsor and support programs such as school programs and developmental camps that will attract new members to the sport and increase accessibility to under serviced groups and populations. The BCFA will host and sanction events that make it attractive and possible for athletes of all ages to participate in competitions at an appropriate level and in an appropriate age group, from beginner to international competitive levels and from youth to veteran age groups.

Outcome: By 2028 the BCFA will have 1,500 competitive members and 5,000 developmental members on a sustainable annual basis

Progress: BCFA Membership grew to 780 competitive members in 2024_5, with an additional ~2,000 developmental members who attended programs delivered by member clubs and supported financially by the BCFA.



Goal #2: Competitive excellence

The BCFA will provide the support and infrastructure to ensure that our top athletes are able to fulfil their potential at a competitive level. This includes coaching and administrative support, funding for HP athletes, and BCFA supported HP camps.

Outcomes: by 2028, BCFA athletes will:

- Win 20% - 30% of the medal count at Canada Cup and Canadian National events on an annual basis
- Medal at NAC events in every age category and every weapon on an annual basis
- Have medaled at the Pan-American Championships at the Cadet, Junior and Senior level in every weapon category
- Have medaled at World Cups at the Junior and Senior level
- Have medaled at the World Championships at the Cadet, Junior and Senior level
- At least one BC athlete will have qualified for the 2024, 26 and 28 Youth Olympic games
- At least two BC athlete will have qualified for the 2023 and 27 Pan-American games
- At least one BC athlete will have qualified for the 2024 and 28 Olympic games
- Comprise the majority of the senior men's and women's epee national teams.

Progress:

BC Athletes consistently win over 40% of the medal counts at Canada Cups and Nationals, and have done so for some years. At the 2025 May Nationals, BC athletes won a total of 46 medals.

In 2024_5 season, BC athletes won 19 medals, comprised of 9 gold, 4 silver and 6 bronze at NAC competitions in the following categories:

- **Y12 Men's and Women's Foil**
- **Y14 Women's Foil and Men's Epee**
- **Cadet Men's and Women's Foil and Epee**



- Junior Men's Epee
- Senior Men's and Women's Foil
- Veterans Men's and Women's Foil and Men's Epee

Four BC Athletes (Alexanne Verret, Fynn Fafard, Dylan French and Nicholas Zhang), qualified for the 2023 Pan-American Games, winning one gold and four silver medals

One BC athlete (Nicholas Zhang), qualified for the 2024 Olympic Games
The last Youth Olympic Games were held in 2018, and one BC athlete qualified for these games. The next games will be held in 2026.

At the 2025 Cadet/Junior Pan-American Championships, BC Athletes won 3 medals. Jugnzee (Simon) Shan won Cadet Gold and Junior Bronze medals in men's Epee, and Daniel Rubin won a Junior bronze medal, also in men's epee

At the 2025 Cadet/Junior World Championships, BC Athletes won 4 medals. Daniel Rubin, Nicholas Zhang, and Simon Shan were part of the Junior epee team that won silver medals, and Simon Shan also won a bronze medal in the individual cadet event.

At the 2025 Senior Pan-Am championships, 10 BC athletes won medals, including: Eleanor Harvey Silver in Individual and team women's foil, Nadia Hayes and Savannah Locke, Silver in women's team foil, Adrian Wong, Boris Budovsky, Jason Yu, Silver in men's team foil, and Nick Zhang, Fynn Fafard and Dylan French, Bronze in men's team epee

Goal #3: Increased coaching capacity

The BCFA will provide support and programs in order to increase the number of trained coaches at both the grass roots and competitive level

Outcome: By 2028:

Every coach and official working with participants in B.C. will be trained and certified with the Canadian Coaching Association at a minimum level of community coach.



By 2028 BC will have access to at least ten coaches trained at the Canadian Coaching Association competitive level and the BCFA will have supported these coaches in attending courses and gaining competitive experience at international competitions.

Progress: There are now 45 active coaches in BC, of which two are now qualified at the Comp Int level, ten at the comp dev level, and a number working on furthering qualifications. The BCFA has supported coaches in obtaining qualifications, and is continuing to work in this area. The BCFA now has a coach evaluator who can help coaches reach the desired qualification level. The BCFA has also supported several coaches in obtaining additional competition experience by supporting them to attend NAC's and other international events.

Goal #4: Increased official capacity

The BCFA will provide support and programs in order to increase the number of trained officials such as referees, tournament managers, armorers and Directoire Technique staff. The BCFA will develop a training program to ensure BCFA members can become qualified as provincial and national level referees. The BCFA will use BCFA run competitions to train and provide experience for those interested in officiating in a variety of roles.

Outcome: By 2028:

BCFA will have 30 Provincially qualified referees

BCFA will have 15 Nationally qualified referees

BCFA will have 5 FIE level referees

BCFA will have 5 Nationally qualified armourers

BCFA will have a cadre of 20 people well versed in event management and Directoire Technique responsibilities.

Progress: The BCFA now has 30 provincially qualified referees, of which 6 are nationally qualified, three of whom are qualified FIE referees. In November 2024 the BCFA hosted Irina Kynsch, President of the FIE referee commission, to give a seminar on refereeing for referees and coaches, and is actively working on further development opportunities for referees



There are 4 armourers in BC, two qualified at the national level, and two more who have received training and mentoring at competitions such as the international world cups, and whom we hope will become nationally qualified in the upcoming season.

BCFA has over 20 people well versed in competition management, from club to provincial, national and international level, including several who have acted as DT staff for international world cups. We are confident in our ability to host and run competitions at multiple levels.

Goal #5: Providing Competitive opportunities for BC fencers

The BCFA will continue to actively pursue event hosting opportunities at the national and international level. The BCFA will support and sanction local tournaments.

Outcomes: By 2028 the BCFA Provincials 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 by 2028

By 2028 the BCFA will have hosted National and International Tournaments, including an annual WC in both genders, and an event such as the Pan-Ams or world championships

Progress:

The BCFA hosts an annual FIE Senior world cup in Epee, and was the first in the world to host a combined male and female event. In May 2025, we also hosted a Senior world cup in foil, for both genders, and are actively working toward securing this as an annual event.

In addition, in December 2024, we hosted a Canada Cup competition, and have secured a Canada Cup event for the 2025_6 season.

In the 2024_5 season we hosted a senior and youth provincials, with total registration numbers of over 350.

Hosting competitions in BC supports our athletes by reducing travel costs, increasing the number of BC athletes that can compete internationally and supports the BC economy by promoting sport tourism in BC.



Goal #6: Recognizing contributions

The BCFA will recognize the contributions of its members, coaches and volunteers in a variety of ways, such as the annual Presidents' awards, recognition at world cups, etc.

Outcomes:

The BCFA will be run by volunteers whose key skills are utilized and who are valued and rewarded for their work.

The BCFA will provide developmental opportunities and recognition for volunteers

The BCFA will nominate members for available awards (CFF or SportBC awards)

Progress: The BCFA is a volunteer run organization, and has an extensive cadre of volunteers who help run the world cups and Canada cups hosted in BC. Each competition has the support of over 100 people volunteering in various capacities. We provide certificates of recognition to school age volunteers, and actively support volunteer development by mentoring those who help run events. We nominate a volunteer every year to receive a Presidents award at the annual Sport BC athlete of the year event, and provide recognition in social media posts and the newsletter.

Goal #7: Financial Independence

The BCFA will not rely solely on core government revenue sources. The BCFA will secure funding through event hosting, fundraising, merchandising and grant opportunities

Outcome: By 2028 the BCFA will continue to have annual revenue streams of \$300,000 per year, of which less than 50% will be from core government of BC operating agreements

Progress: The BCFA had annual revenue of over \$488,000 in fiscal 2024_5, with diverse revenue streams such as government of BC grants, federal grants, municipal grants, corporate sponsorships, membership fees, registration fees and merchandising. More than 50% comes from non core government grants. ~85% of revenue goes to direct programming, supporting competition hosting, HP athletes and coaches, coach and referee development.



Goal #8: Market fencing to members and the general public

The BCFA will actively market the sport using a range of media avenues

Outcome:

By 2028 most BC residents will know about fencing and understand it to be a life long sport that promotes a healthy active lifestyle.

Every success at Provincial, National and International level will result in a BCFA press release.

Progress: The BCFA has a renewed website, and active social media presence on Instagram and Facebook. On average, each Instagram post has a viewership of 38,000, with some posts achieving over 60,000 views. As well as social media, the BCFA produces a regular newsletter for members, providing valuable information in fencing activities in BC. Every competitive success is recognized on social media, and fencing has featured in both the Vancouver Sun and Richmond news articles. The BCFA annually nominates athletes for the Sport BC Athlete of the year (AOY) awards, with Nicholas Zhang winning Junior male AOY in 2024, further promoting our athletes and the sport in BC