



BC FENCING ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2025_6 and 2026_7 Operating Plan

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 2025-March 31st 2026, and the competitive season of September 2025 to August 2026.

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



- 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 816 competitive members in 2025_6, with an additional ~2,000 developmental members who attended programs delivered by member clubs and supported financially by the BCFA.



In 2025 the BCFA secured a small grant to promote gender equity in fencing, and has established a gender equity team to further the work and is currently developing programs to promote and support women in areas such as coaching, refereeing, armoury and administration.

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 now consistently win medals at Canada Cups and Nationals in multiple age categories from U13 to veteran events and in every weapon category.. Over the 2025_6 season, BC athletes won a total of 58 bronze, 42 silver and 38 gold medals at the three Canada Cup competitions held in the season, representing 32% of all available medals.



In 2025_ season, BC athletes won 9 medals, comprised of 4 gold, and 5 bronze at NAC competitions in the following categories:

- Cadet Men's and Women's Foil and Epee
- Senior Women's Foil

At the 2026 Cadet/Junior Pan-American Championships, BC Athletes won a total of eight individual medals, two bronze, two silver and four gold, and the men's junior foil team, comprised entirely of BC athletes, won silver in the team event.

At the 2026 Cadet/Junior World Championships, Yanka Sobus won a bronze medal at the Cadet Women's Epee event

At the 2026 Senior Pan-Am championships, BC athletes won 2 medals in the individual events, with Eleanor Harvey winning Gold in Women'd Foil and Dylan French winning bronze in Men's 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, two of whom are qualified FIE referees. In December 2026 the BCFA hosted Dolorim Turdikova and Mihael Peghiev, internationally renowned FIE referees, to give a seminar on refereeing for referees and coaches, and is actively working on further development opportunities for referees

There are now 4 armourers in BC qualified at the national level, with two, Natalie Butler and Camila Ortiz becoming qualified at the 2025 Vancouver World Cup

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 hosted an annual FIE Senior world cup in Epee in December 2025, in conjunction with a Canada Cup and youth provincials, and a senior provincials competition in September 2025. The provincial competitions attracted a total of 330 registrants, and we are actively looking at ways to increase registrations for these events

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, with an estimated economic benefit of over \$1.5M for the province

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. Additionally, we hosted a volunteer recognition party after the 2025 world cup. 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 \$731,934 in fiscal 2025_6, 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

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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.



2026_7 OPERATIONAL PLAN

In alignment with the strategic plan, the BCFA has the following 2026_7 operational plan:

Event Hosting:

We plan to host the following events in the 2026_7 season

September 2026: BC Senior Provincials

November 2026: Canada Cup (hosting on behalf of the CFF)

December 2026: Youth Provincials

December 2026: Vancouver Epee world cup

We have secured a number of grants and corporate support for the World Cup, but did not receive the Sport Canada grant (\$75K) this year as the Canadian Government no longer supports international events that include athletes from Russia. The CFF has partly supported the competition with 40k support plus a profit sharing arrangement for the November Canada Cup, and along with increased registration fees and corporate supports we are confident that the world cup will be financially viable, with an anticipated expense budget of ~\$250-275K (exact amounts TBD) , with revenues of ~\$250k.

We are also projecting revenue of ~\$27.5K for the provincial tournaments, with costs of ~\$7.5K, offsetting any losses as a result of the world cup

Gender equity:

In 2025_6 we secured a grant of \$1,000 from Canadian Women in Sport to develop a gender equity “playbook” and plan. Further to that initiative we have initiated a gender equity committee, which is now developing a mentorship program to support women in fencing. We will be applying for a grant of up to \$5K to further support this work in the 2026_7 season, and will allocate funding once we have received notification of the grant application

Fundraising:

We have developed an active fundraising program, supported by expert fundraising professionals, and will be furthering this work in 2026_27, with the hope of securing sponsorship to support the World Cup and High Performance athletes. We have a fundraising program in collaboration with the BC Amateur sport fund



[P0557 - BC Fencing World Cup & High Performance Program](#), which allows us to provide income tax relief for eligible donations. To date we have secured \$3.5K in donations through this fund.

2027 Canada Games:

BC fencing will be sending a team to the Canada Winter Games in Quebec City in February 2027. Planning and athlete qualification is ongoing and we are confident that we can provide an excellent experience for qualified athletes, and achieve excellent results. We continue to promote the games through our social media channels, and will be hosting pre-games information sessions and training commencing after the September Canada cup. Team and Coach/Manager selections will be completed in December 2026, and we have a Gaming Grant of \$6,216 to provide BC Games uniforms for selected athletes and staff.

Via Sport Operational Excellence Initiative

Implement all recommendations from the Via Sport Operational Excellence Initiative

Athlete / volunteer recognition

We will continue to submit nominations for Sport BC Athlete of the Year awards and presidents award, and look for other opportunities to recognize athletes, officials and coaches, and volunteers

Referee/coach and Officiating development

We intend to enhance our referee base in BC by providing opportunities for referees to develop skills at provincial tournaments and by running a referee seminar in conjunction with the Vancouver World Cup, as well as continuing to provide support for coaches in navigating the system to become qualified coaches, and supporting HP coaches in obtaining international competitive experience. We will also support BCFA members in gaining experience in tournament management, such as using tournament software, event management and participating as DT staff at the world cup. We have secured a gaming grant of \$5,700 to support 75% of the costs of these initiatives.

Athlete support

We have revised the High Performance athlete support mechanism to become more competitive and financially viable, and continue to support our successful HP athletes

Development programs

We will continue to support clubs running community development programs, in order to expose fencing to new participants and increase membership numbers for our

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clubs. We have secured a gaming grant of \$13.5K to support 75% of our development programs costs.