

President's report 2015-2016

Our executive director, Ryan Giesbrecht, and provincial coach, Justin Friesen, will cover the highlights of MBA's activities, so I will not steal their thunder here. Instead I wish to report on organization issues and thrusts that were dear to me over the last two years. Without inferring that the association's management had lacked transparency in any way, it was clear that our policies needed to be revisited to keep up with time and experiences gained recently.

Over the last year, the MBA Board of Director finalized the review of the following policies:

- **Respect in Sport** policy: which requires that all coaches act in a respectful manner with their trainees, whomever they may be, and strive to provide a safe, respectful play experience, free of any form of harassment or abuse
- **Code of Conduct** policy: to further clarify sportsmanship behavior for all individuals directly or indirectly associated with MBA's sanctioned activities, and extend this policy to athletes, their parents, coaches, officials, volunteers, sport or event managers, and MBA staff, president and directors.
- **Appeals Policy**: MBA's Appeals policy was revamped to clearly provide means for members to appeal of any decisions made by MBA as a governing body and its staff, whatever the nature of the decision that was made, and to make the process as rigorous, fair and transparent as possible
- **B&C eligibility policy**: quite unique to the sport of badminton, athlete's results are tracked by the association to help our athlete's review of their progress in the sport within Manitoba. At the same time, the Association is host to a wide range of athletes, some of whom are more comfortable in semi-competitive events. The B&C levels tournaments are such events, designed by purpose for second tier competitors. The *B&C Eligibility* policy aims at ensuring the best possible competitive experience for athletes who do not intent to reach national level skills, but still wish to participate in less competitive provincial events.

The first three of these policies were reviewed and sanctioned by Sport Manitoba. Each of these policies can be accessed via the "Policies" tab on MBA's website (<http://www.badminton.mb.ca/>).

MBA's Board of Directors also finalized its MBA **Team Selection** Policy, which was recently approved by Sport Manitoba; it will be posted on our website shortly.

Junior Committee: Second to working on transparency, MBA's Board of Director and staff have focused efforts in empowering the Junior Committee via allowing it to define the scope and breadth of their mandate, and delegating our provincial coach to the committee both as a liaison officer and continuous communication channel with MBA's Board of Directors. MBA also provided the Junior Committee with means to follow up with their activities with a yearly "Cost Item" in MBA's budget. I am particularly impressed by the renewed interest and activities sponsored by the Junior Committee, and am grateful for the dedication of its parent's members.

Adult League: Last but not least in my mind, MBA's Board of Directors, executive directors, and provincial coach developed a new adult league aimed at providing a semi-competitive experience to badminton adepts for all skill levels. I am sincerely hoping that the proposed team based approach along with a four tier skill level grouping of teams will provide an enjoyable and sustainable badminton experience to all of our players in the province.

Finally, I wish to commend the intense and relentless devotion of Ryan and Justin, who have constantly challenged our Board of Director with great ideas and programs, and committed themselves selflessly to ensuring the success of our programs whether in existence or new initiatives. Between these two staff, temporary office and coaching staff, MBA is in good hands. I am also most grateful for the attendance, supports, morale values and integrity of our Board Directors, who not only accepted every challenge offered by heart wrenching decisions, but many of whom pitched in to enact the Board decisions or new direction. In particular, I recognize here the herculean work of David Harrison, who drafted, edited and re-edited, and re-edited the Team Selection policy while taking time to work as coach for many of our regional efforts. Tasia Lightly provided meaning to the task of Secretary, by instating an informative and accurate minutes taking process. Mano Navarro provided the Board with the voice of reason to many of our meetings, while extending his coaching skills to many of our programs. David Snider pushed the Board out of its comfort zone by challenging ideas by weighing the long term legacy of proposed initiatives, and providing new paths to rejuvenate MBA's High Performance program. Terry Porayko was very instrumental in voicing athlete's parent point of views as well as that of "out of town" clubs and players experience. While I can't list here the chairs and members of our various committees under MBA's umbrella, I am pleased to report that our committees are dynamic and in very good hands. This is the kind of Directors and staff, and committee membership that MBA needs to best serve you, MBA members.