



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

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To start, I'd like to thank all of those in attendance this evening. The past 17 months have prevented most of us from seeing each other, so it's great to see members from different areas of province on the call.

Before touching on the previous season and the year ahead, I'd like to acknowledge and thank my colleagues, including Marj Niemi, our former Member Services Coordinator (who left the organization in January of this year), our volunteer Board of Directors, the coaches and summer program coordinators, our members, and those who've led camps or clinics, served on committees, or championed our organization. Having walked into this position as the first lockdown hit in early 2020, I am especially grateful for everyone's support and feedback as I've navigated this very abnormal process.

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- All tournaments planned in 2020-2021 needed to be cancelled, with the exception of the 2021 Junior Provincial Championship which was postponed to this upcoming weekend.
- Our Return to Play document was amended several times throughout the season and will continue to be updated as required.
- The province-wide ban on Community Use Permits in schools made most club play impossible throughout the entire season, as the majority of our community clubs are run out of school gyms. These clubs will be in need of extra support as they restart.
- Developmental Winter Program was put on hold indefinitely, due to the ban on school Community Use permits.
- While the competitive MHSAA badminton season was cancelled yet again, many schools did proceed with practices and training in order to give athletes a chance to play. A school-team-specific Return to Play document was crafted for the MHSAA to publish and distribute to their schools. We hope to collaborate further with the organization in 2021-2022.
- After consultation with Coaching MB and the Sport MB Finance team, unused funds from the Grey Cup Legacy Grant, meant to further develop coaching, have been deferred and will be redirected to a MBA Speaker Series. The Series will be open to coaches and club leaders throughout the province and will feature national-level coaches and athletes from across the country.
- 2020 Summer Camps went ahead with modifications. Enrolment was quite low compared to previous years (6-19 athletes), yet camps required the same amount of physical court space to allow for physical distancing. The All-Girls camp was our most popular, and we hosted our first ever French-English bilingual camp. We also collaborated the Manitoba Table Tennis Association (MTTA) on two camps, as well as with the Directorat the l'activité sportive (DAS) for the first time, offering clinics within their multi-sport camps throughout the summer. This led to more *en français* clinics and opportunities.
- We qualified for the CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) and the CERS (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy), which have helped enormously with operational costs throughout the pandemic. Thanks to the FESF (Federal Emergency Support Fund), we also distributed funding to nine clubs in the form of Return to Play Micro-Grants or FESF Community Funding.
- Coaches were recruited for the 2022 Manitoba Winter Games and planning started.
- The new Team Manitoba program launched in the fall of 2020. This new program focuses on less athletes in order to better support them as they compete nationally. In this first year, the Provincial Coach worked with 7 athletes. Phase 2 of this new Performance Pathway is set to launch in fall 2021.
- The transfer to the new PlayerWeb system was planned, as well as the new membership fee structure. Club membership fees were based on recommendations from the previous Executive Director, prior to their departure, and will be reassessed on a yearly basis.

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2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS & PLANS

GOVERNANCE

- Sub-committees were formed to tackle specific temporary projects and long-term programs: Financial Policy Review committee, Code of Conduct Review committee, By-Law Review committee, Competition Committee, and the Bi-Lateral Committee (focused on Indigenous, Para-Badminton, and initiatives for girls and women). The sub-committees were made up of board directors and community members, with myself facilitating. Both the Competition Committee and the Bi-Lateral Committee are staying in place indefinitely.
- A new membership package was proposed and approved this summer.
 - *Club Membership* costs were in line with recommendations from the previous Executive Director, while the agreement was modified to include an individual *Base* membership for all registered players. *School Team Membership* packages were added at a reduced rate to incentivize the registration of school players across the province. These packages, priced at \$5 and \$6/player, will also include *Base* memberships for all registered athletes, as well as a Shuttle Return Program for schools registering at \$6/player.
 - *Individual Membership* costs were updated and tiered to reduce costs to junior athletes. All costs are “nested”, meaning a player who was registered for a *Base* membership through their club would only need to pay the difference for a *Provincial* or *National* membership, for example.
 - *Technical Licenses* were added (with discounted pricing for juniors) for coaches and officials. Moving forward, coaches will need accreditation to gain on-court access at MBA-sanctioned tournaments. This lines up Manitoba with other provinces and provides much-needed oversight and accountability, as coaches will need to stay certified with Respect in Sport and the NCCP for accreditation. Officials will receive an item of clothing each year upon purchasing their license.

SUMMER CAMPS

- Camps went ahead with modifications and included rural camps in Reston and Niverville. Enrolment was comparable to 2020 yet still required the same amount of physical space to allow for distancing. Niverville featured half-day pricing as well as a parent-child evening for participants which were quite popular. We will look into expanding on both these options for 2022 camps.
- The 3rd annual All-Girls camp was well-attended, and the camps with MTTA were popular again as well.
- We collaborated once again with the DAS, running clinics within their multi-sport camps, *en français*. Later this year, we will be involved in their new rec program for adults, which will feature badminton for 2 months.
- Planning for 2022 summer camps will start later this year and will include an evaluation of potential venues as well as communities outside of Winnipeg. We also hope to collaborate with other PSOs to offer dual-sport camps in rural and remote communities.

TOURNAMENTS

- Both the second Prairie Junior Elite tournament and the 2022 Yonex Senior & Para National Badminton Championships are set to be hosted at Prairie Badminton. The committee is in the early planning stages and actively searching for volunteers.
- Our 2021-2022 tournament season starts this week with the belated 2021 Junior Provincial Championships. We hope this will be the first of many safely-run events.
- This year, we will be working closely with our Bi-Lateral Subcommittee to incorporate para-badminton events in our scheduled tournaments.
- The MB Indigenous Badminton Championships will also function as the tryouts for NAIG 2023. This event will be co-hosted with MASRC next summer.

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PROGRAMS

- The Developmental Winter Program is tentatively scheduled to restart in January 2022.
- Phase 1 of our new Performance Pathway — Team Manitoba — was launched in 2020-2021. Phase 2 is set to launch in the new two months and will include permanent Regional Teams, with rosters at the following levels: U19, U17, and U15. This will include yearly training camps in each region (where we will also host coach or officials training, as well as Sport Initiation camps for those under the age of 13). The new pathway aims not only to strengthen our top-performing athletes, but also to increase both rural and female representation at all levels of the game, by redistributing our resources to more athletes more efficiently.
- The *Smash the Curve* initiative was started this summer, with community clinics, youth clinics, and *Grown-Ups' Clinics* launching first. These have all been quite popular so far and we will continue to offer them to both youth and adult athletes. Since June 2021, we've held 6 clinics within multi-sport camps, 6 rural community clinics, 4 Grown-Up's clinics, and one Wheelchair Badminton clinic in partnership with Manitoba Possible.
- Our *Smash the Curve* initiative will expand this fall to include single-day mini-camps on in-service days throughout the province. 4 of these have been booked so far, with more to come.
- We are in the early planning stages of a new para program set to launch in the coming months, in collaboration with the Winnipeg Winter Club. This project hopes to provide consistent play opportunities in Winnipeg as well as pop-up clinics and drop-in evenings around the province throughout the season.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

- A Regional Coach Module 3 clinic was held in late June (rescheduled from March 2020). 9 coaches attended the training, and 6 long-time coaches started Learning Facilitator training.
- Umpire training took place in August. 4 new umpires were trained.
- A Comp Dev module was planned for March 2021 but cancelled due to public-health restrictions. We are aiming to host one in spring of 2022.
- Coach on-boarding will start this fall for our Regional Team programs.

MANITOBA WINTER GAMES 2022 & CANADA WINTER GAMES 2023

- The 2022 MWG have been cancelled. We will be working with the Games team on a comparable badminton-only event for athletes affected by the cancellation.
- The 2023 CWG Selection Committee was formed in early 2021 and the CWG Training Team tryouts were held earlier this month. Athletes have received their invitations and training will commence this fall.

To conclude, I'd like to reiterate that what we do wouldn't be possible without the input, time, and energy of our membership. A huge thanks to our team, the Board of Directors, those who stepped up for our committees, and all of our members. Thank you to our retiring Directors — Paul Hur, Elliott Beals, Darren Pun, and Marco Chan — for your contribution to our organization. I'd also like to welcome our new board members; I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Finally, a word for our members: thank you for your support and for continuing to hold us accountable. I hope you continue to reach out with questions (and concerns!) as we continue to grow our community and work to ensure it is a welcoming and inclusive home for all of us.



Mélanie Curé

Executive Director