

Operational Plan 2023/2024

Alberta Fencing Association

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Introduction

The Alberta Fencing Association (AFA) is committed to fostering excellence, community, innovation, respect, and safety within the fencing community of Alberta. This operational plan aligns with our strategic vision of a thriving fencing community and our mission to support fencing development through effective governance, advocacy, and resource provision.

Strategic Alignment and Objectives

1. Supporting the Continued Development of the Sport of Fencing:

- Expand athlete development opportunities, including quality camps, training programs, and meaningful competitions.
- Enhance the education, training, and development of coaches and officials.
- Implement an event hosting strategy with standards and guidelines that incorporate a range of events.

- Establish and implement key policies to support sport development, such as Club Affiliation and Participant Registration policies.
- Provide and support athlete development opportunities from recreational through to performance and veterans either directly or in collaboration with clubs.
 - **Athletes:** *Organize Alberta Winter Games zone competitions, expand Alberta Cups events, and encourage clubs to align in-club competitions with LTAD objectives.*
 - **Officials:** *Conduct training sessions to certify and elevate officials to higher levels.*
 - **Coaches:** *Emphasize certification and Safe Sport compliance, supporting young athletes transitioning into coaching roles.*
 - **Clubs:** *Emphasize Safe Sport implementation*

2. Creating Partnerships and Collaborating with the Community:

- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy involving all internal and external partners.
- Celebrate the achievements and successes of the fencing community and the AFA.
- Facilitate member engagement and create networking opportunities among clubs and other stakeholders.
 - **Fundraising:** *Host the Alberta Provincial Championships for increased funding, and launch branded merchandise.*
 - **Sponsorships and Partnerships:** *Develop a media strategy for event sponsorships, collaborate with sport tourism agencies, and work with neighboring PSO's and the NSO.*
 - **Membership Management:** *Implement a new system for non-competitive members, enhancing efficiency and reducing costs.*

3. Fostering Safe and Inclusive Environments:

- Enhance and implement policies for a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment.
- Promote fencing to broader audiences and ensure minimum standards for coach and official training.
- Establish diversity, equity, and inclusion policies.

- **Develop and implement policies** to create a welcoming environment for all members.
- **Explore initiatives to introduce** fencing to new participants.
- Establish standards for **coach and official education** and certification.

4. Developing Strong Organizational Systems:

- Emphasize good governance, including board training and policy implementation.
 - Integrate strategic, operational, and risk management planning.
 - Establish financial processes with clear accountability.
 - Implement human resource policies for both paid staff and volunteers.
- **Enhance governance** through training, manual development, and policy implementation.
 - Integrate strategic, operational, and risk management **planning**.
 - Implement **financial control** policies and **human resource** plans.

Operational Focus and Activities

Athlete Development:

- Increase the number of training seminars and development opportunities.
- Host Veterans/Adult training camps with improved planning based on previous experiences.
- Expand Alberta Cups events, aligning with LTAD objectives.

Coach and Official Development:

- Provide NCCP Courses and additional coach development opportunities.
- Train and support officials for certification at various levels.
- Offer educational seminars for armorers, tournament officials, and organizers.

Event Management:

- Hosting of the Alberta Provincial Championships.
- Develop competition standards and operating procedures.
- Work proactively with tourism authorities and other PSOs for event hosting and promotion.

Fundraising and Sponsorships:

- Launch branded merchandise for revenue generation.

- Develop a media strategy to attract sponsors, particularly for the Alberta Provincial Championships.
- Collaborate with neighboring PSOs and sport tourism agencies.

Membership and Communication Management:

- Implement a new, efficient membership management system.
- Build a comprehensive communication plan, especially for major events like the Alberta Provincial Championships.
- Improve reporting and promotion of club activities consistent with AFA objectives.

Governance and Policy Development:

- Ensure existing Policy Manual is reviewed and updated
- Ensure the development of succession and governance continuity policies.
- Regularly review strategic plans and adjust priorities as needed.
- Ensure necessary SafeSport policies are integrated into programming and policy, where applicable.

Conclusion

This operational plan for 2023/2024, in alignment with the strategic plan for 2023-2028, sets the Alberta Fencing Association on a course to make significant progress in key areas. By focusing on athlete and coach development, effective event management, strong governance, and community collaboration, the AFA is set to enrich the fencing community and enhance its role in Alberta's sports landscape