

Saskatchewan Fencing Association

Creating Opportunities within the Sport of Fencing

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www.saskfencing.com

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Sunday, February 10, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm (Called to Order 7:01 pm Adjournment – 8:45 pm)

Location: Teleconference Call

Minutes:

In Attendance:

- Sue Pitura - present
- Dale Pitura - present
- Christina Creusot - present
- Jacob Gadzella - regrets
- John Brunning - present
- Lynn Seguin - present
- Brianna Jansen - regrets
- Marcia Coulic-Salahub - present

1. Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve agenda – Christina Creusot
 - Seconded by – Dale Pitura
- Carried

2. Review of Minutes from Board Meeting: January 12, 2019.

- Motion to approve minutes – John Brunning
 - Seconded by – Dale Pitura
 - Amended to carried as unknown who motioned and seconded.
 - This can be put on the website.
- Carried

3. Business arising from the minutes:

- Benevity (e-mail to clubs) – Marcia Coulic-Salahub
 - Not completed.
 - Will complete by Friday
- Spending guidelines for SFA expenses, clinics & camps. – John Brunning
 - Has completed draft.
 - Discussed clarifications for why this was asked.
 - Will complete this week

- Fun Script (information on website) – Jacob Gadzella & Marcia Coulic-Salahub
 - Jacob will redo web site and presentation to clubs.
 - Sue re-forwarded the information to Jacob.
 - Once Jacob completes this Marcia will do e-blast to clubs.
- Membership Provincial Plan Forms – John Brunning
 - The form has been submitted to John French and CFF.
 - There has been no response from CFF as yet.
 - There is CFF board meeting tomorrow that John will sit in on.
- Website (what is needed for outsourcing work) – Jacob Gadzella
 - A cost was submitted by Lynn on Sask Sport provider.
 - John asked if we could discuss with Manitoba re: their pilot project with Goal line.
 - Further discussion was held with on potential providers.
 - Dale suggested that further quotes would be required to do due diligence.
 - Lynn to do up list of requirements to send to Dale
 - Dale to obtain quotes.
- Website (take down old website) – Sue Pitura
 - Completed
- Strategic Planning Process – Dale Pitura
 - Discussion about how this process should go forward.
 - Do strategic process from the start, with the beginning of the process in early April.
 - Dale to obtain quotes on the process.
- S.F.A. committee's terms of reference – Dale Pitura
 - Within the strategic planning process discussion.
- Volunteer Appreciate Award Nomination – Lynn Seguin
 - Lynn reviewed application to nominate Brian Zulkoskey.
 - More stream lined and need two references.
 - Lynn to complete this process.
 - No other help required.
- Banquet for Joe Dudiak – Sue Pitura
 - Sue is looking into options for doing banquet.
 - Sue to reach out to Lt.Gov. support person to determine options.
- Awards for Athletes – Christina Creusot
 - Christina will discuss with providers tomorrow.
 - Looking at what budget would be for these awards.
 - Budget line is \$500.

- Tech committee to send out email to winners.
4. VP Finance Update: Review and Approve most recent Financials
 - No current financials.
 - Would have a 3 day to one-week turnaround from Sask Sport after we get the information to Sask Sport.
 - President asked Admin to determine what grants we have received from IWAS.
 5. President Update
 - No other information apart from what has been discussed in membership drive in Business arising section
 6. Office Manager Update
 - Updating website and continuing with day to day operations
 - To look at what is left to complete for the IWAS grants
 - Submitted hosting grant for Regina
 7. Provincial Coaches Update
 - See Written report submitted.
 8. Updates from all Directors;
 - a) VP – Administration
 - Nothing else besides what is discussed under strategic planning.
 - b) VP - Marketing & Communications
 - As per written report
 - c) VP - Technical Committee
 - Working on expense report finalized – as discussed in business arising
 - Athlete of the month nominations – John suggests we nominate Ryan. Marcia to nominate for this award.
 - Equipment ready to go to PA.
 - d) Athlete Representative
 - Written report submitted
 9. New Business
 - a. School Fencing Participation Program
 - Discussed above under Membership Provincial Plan Forms in business arising
 - b. Website Quotes
 - See above under website
 - c. Compensation for Swift Current – Added

- As tournament was cancelled and this was large fundraiser, SFA suggested we may compensate them for tournament cancellation.
 - Discussion was held around the late cancellation and offering some financial assistance due to loss of about how much to offer.
- d. Motion to provide \$275.00 to Swift Current to cover lost fund-raising amount – Dale Pitura
- e. Seconded by – John Brunning
Carried
- f. Membership Provincial Plan Form (waiver) – Added
- Lynn to send form to Marcia to add to Web site for all clubs to use.
- g. Investment of Surplus Funds – Added
- Christina to find out GIC interest rates and bring back to board to determine amount.
 - Will bring back suggestion to board to as to amount to invest.
- h. Prince Albert Tournament update:
- Significant tournament sponsorships for many different areas.
 - Marcia will send information to Regina for sponsorships.

10. Proposed Next Meeting: March 10th, 2019 7:00 pm

Action Items from the February 10th, 2019 Meeting:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
Benevity	e-mail blast to all clubs	Marcia Coulic-Salahub	February 15 th , 2019
FunScript	e-mail blast to clubs once received from Jacob	Marcia Coulic-Salahub	March 10 th , 2019
FunScript	Updated information, send to Marcia and put on website	Jacob Gadzella	March 10 th , 2019
IWAS – Heritage Grant Completed	Confirm with Caroline completed and track payment	Marcia Coulic-Salahub	March 10 th , 2019
January Athlete of the Month	Nominate Ryan Rousell for January Athlete of the Month	Marcia Coulic-Salahub	February 15 th , 2019
Sponsorship letter	Send copy of sponsorship letter to Regina from Prince Albert for their upcoming tournament.	Marcia Coulic-Salahub	February 15 th , 2019
Waiver Form	Send form to Marcia to put on website	Lynn Seguin	March 10 th , 2019
Waiver Form	Put waiver form on website	Marcia Coulic-Salahub	February 15 th , 2019
Tech Committee Expense Form	Complete expense form for all clinics and camps	John Brunning	March 10 th , 2019
CFF Board Meeting – February 11 th , 2019	Attend meeting via conference call and report back to Board – Discuss fees for participation and where membership increasing program is at for Saskatchewan	John Brunning	February 15 th , 2019
Swift Current Fencing Club – Reimbursement	Discuss with S.C.F. reimbursement for \$ lost on cancellation of tournament	Sue Pitura	March 10 th , 2019
Club Websites	Reach out to Manitoba about Goalline pilot project regarding their website.	Sue Pitura	March 10 th , 2019
Banquet/Presentation for Joe Dudiak	Options for the banquet. Contact the Lt. Gov. support person to determine options for presentation	Sue Pitura	March 10 th , 2019

Website Requirements	Create a list on requirements needed for our website upgrade. Send to Dale	Lynn Seguin	March 10 th , 2019
Volunteer Appreciation Medal	Nominate Brian Zulkoskey	Lynn Seguin	March 10 th , 2019
Awards for Athletes	Purchase awards for the 2017-2018 season athletes - \$500.00 budget	Christina Creusot	March 2 nd , 2019
Investment	GIC options for investment and propose amount to invest	Christina Creusot	February 15 th , 2019
Results on Website	Upgrade website regarding results – consult with Philip Pitura	Jacob Gadzella	March 10 th , 2019
External Hard Drive	Obtain old website information from Brian Zulkoskey	Jacob Gadzella	March 10 th , 2019
Website upgrade Quotes	Obtain quotes for website upgrades once requirements have been provided by Lynn	Dale Pitura	March 10 th , 2019
Strategic Planning	Obtain quotes for strategic planning process – process to involve review of organization and determination of strategic priorities	Dale Pitura	March 10 th , 2019

Coach report to the SFA Board Meeting February 10th, 2019

From our last Board meeting Jan. 11th, the Militia Open took place in Saskatoon and went very well. It was great to see younger fencers taking part and learning about our sport!

Thank you to the Saskatoon fencing club and all their volunteers – good job! Thank you also to Christina for keeping things going on both says!

Listening to our members, maintaining the same schedule seems to be a concern. I think if we can post the tournaments sooner with the schedule, this will help our fencers plan for work and school.

Lisa and I went to the Canada Cup in Richmond, January 25-27, 2019. It was a pretty good weekend for us with a few medals and other good performances.

Notable results:

Kirsten Van Marion - Bronze (U23 WE)
Julia Creusot - Bronze (U23 WS)
Janna Elshakankiri - Bronze (U23 WS)
Brynn Whelan - Bronze (Sr WS)
Janna Elshakankiri - Silver (Jr Team WS)
Brynn Whelan - Silver (Jr Team WS)
Philip Pitura - Bronze (U23 MS)
Genevieve Rosseel - Gold (Vet -40 WE)

Full results here:

http://www.fencing.ca/results/2019_jan_cc_richmond/?fbclid=IwAR3l0EWnUYRv_PqDiA5-Ft3UTON50Lejy8OE9TQYhCz5gLDgE4fpIHKEpds

Our Wheelchair Fencers are getting ready to depart for the UAE for IWAS Wheelchair Games. Ryan and Doug will be competing for Team Canada in Sharjah with Ryan staying a little longer to compete in the U23 tournament. They then get ready for Pisa and Sao Paulo.

Shannon Comerford has a busy few months ahead of her. She has just returned from Paris and will now depart for Turin (Feb 8-10) and then Cancun (Mar 1-3), then Olympic qualifying starts April 1st. The WF Team is in 7th place at the moment. The US is in 2nd place and will battle France for 1st place. It looks good for our Canadian Team to qualify for the games, however, lots of work still needs to be done through the qualifying period.

The next SFA event is the PA tournament. If tournament information can be posted now, maybe we can have more people register for this tournament.

We do have to look at our tournament schedule and the level of fencers we have at this moment. I believe that hosting tournaments in accordance to our membership would better serve the SFA than just hosting the same kind of tournament all the time hoping for different outcomes.

I would propose 2 main tournaments – Saskatoon and Regina. These tournaments would be for domestic points and sanctioned by the CFF. It would be a requirement for all SFA HP athletes to attend. Regina would still be considered our Provincial Championships.

Then host a training camp and tournament scenario for other fencers who have less fencing experience. These training camp tournaments can be mostly for our younger fencers, beginning fencers. The entry fees could be somewhat the same, \$30 for the day, as an example. The host club would still have a concession to raise money as the morning would be training, have a lunch break with lunch served by the club, then the tournament in the afternoon. The tournament could be different formats depending on the discoveries made during the training camp part.

Things to work on at the tournament part would be fencing in a pool, doing DE bouts, filling out a pool sheet, knowing the time for a bout/for over time, covering target in foil, lines of the piste etc...

Things to work on in the training camp part would be meeting new fencing friends, working with other coaches, introduction to small group training, line training, different weapons etc... For parents, armoury course, DT course, referee course (S level or P level) – these could be offered once a year or each time, 3-4 times a year.

We have to make our tournaments financially viable to continue, that means change has to take place. Adding new events is one way, changing the way we look at our tournaments in the development of our fencers is another way. Our HP fencers are busy qualifying at international tournaments, let them go that way, developing the rest of our fencers should be our main concern.

Sincerely,
Lynn

VP Marketing and Communication Report

FunScript — Information and Link on Website

This has not happened. If I received the information to post, I missed it. Please forward me the information to post and I can do that. Note: Please send to **communications@skfencing.ca**.

Website —Needs Re: Update

Based on the suggestion of a company—I think in Regina—that handles a number of sports websites and the prices they work for, I would seriously consider using them. The contacts I have would likely be more expensive, and we would have a good output but potentially not as much integration with our tournament software. I'd like to communicate with the company that was previously mentioned (they were mentioned in an email but I can't see it at the moment) to ensure that they can do what it sounds like.

Website — Tournament Results / Rankings

The rankings have been put on the site—I think by Jordan? We have not made progress on posting results.

Other Things?

I think I'm supposed to get an external hard drive and contact Brian regarding copying the old site's information. I have not done this

Has everyone been set up with their skfencing.ca email addresses? I would like to start using those as soon as is reasonable.

Report on results from Militia Open Fencing Tournament Survey

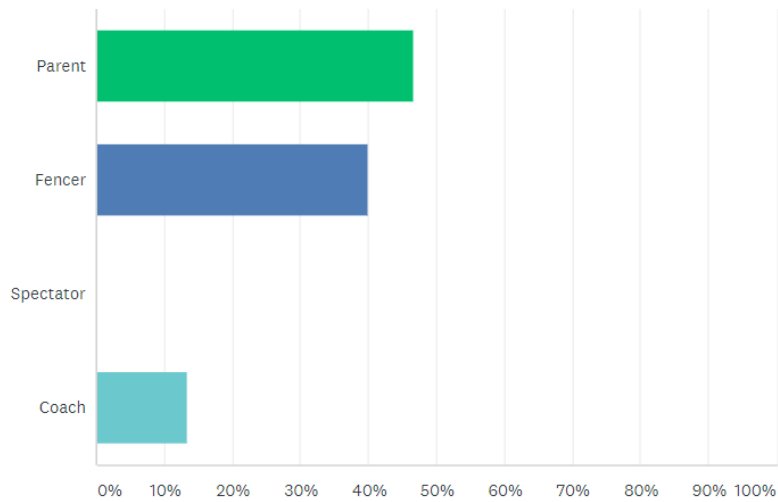
General Information:

- 30 Responses total
- Great improvement in responses re: People not attending and why

Responses:

Please let us know a bit about you: Are you a parent, fencer, spectator, or coach?

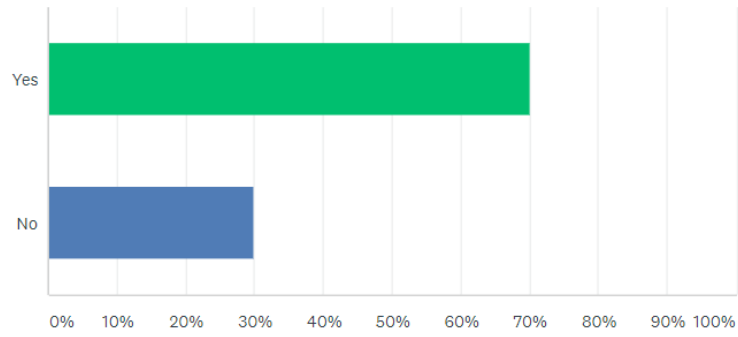
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Parent	46.67% 14
▼ Fencer	40.00% 12
▼ Spectator	0.00% 0
▼ Coach	13.33% 4
TOTAL	30

Did you attend the Militia Open Fencing Tournament?

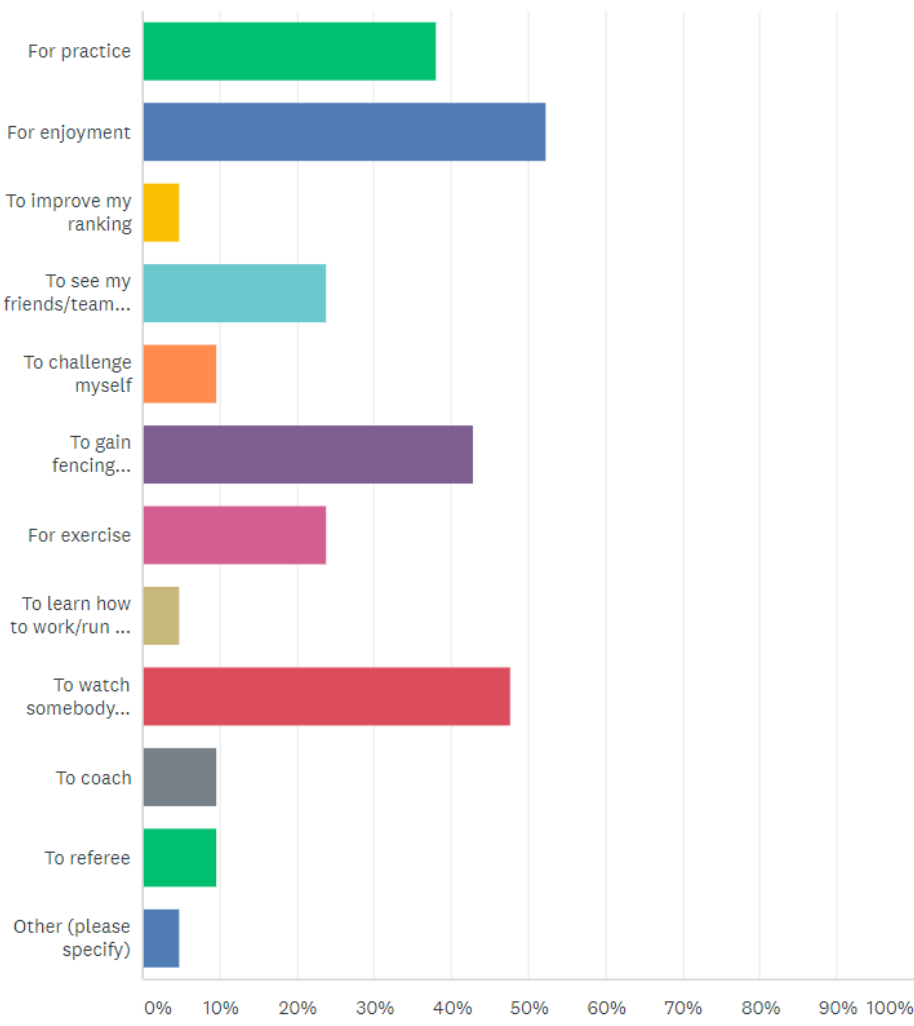
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	70.00%	21
▼ No	30.00%	9
TOTAL		30

If "Yes", why did you attend this tournament? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 21 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ For practice	38.10%	8
▼ For enjoyment	52.38%	11
▼ To improve my ranking	4.76%	1
▼ To see my friends/teammates	23.81%	5
▼ To challenge myself	9.52%	2
▼ To gain fencing experience	42.86%	9
▼ For exercise	23.81%	5
▼ To learn how to work/run a tournament	4.76%	1
▼ To watch somebody compete	47.62%	10
▼ To coach	9.52%	2
▼ To referee	9.52%	2
▼ Other (please specify) Responses	4.76%	1

RESPONSES (1) [WORD CLOUD](#) [TAGS](#)

Add tags ▼ Filter by tag ▼

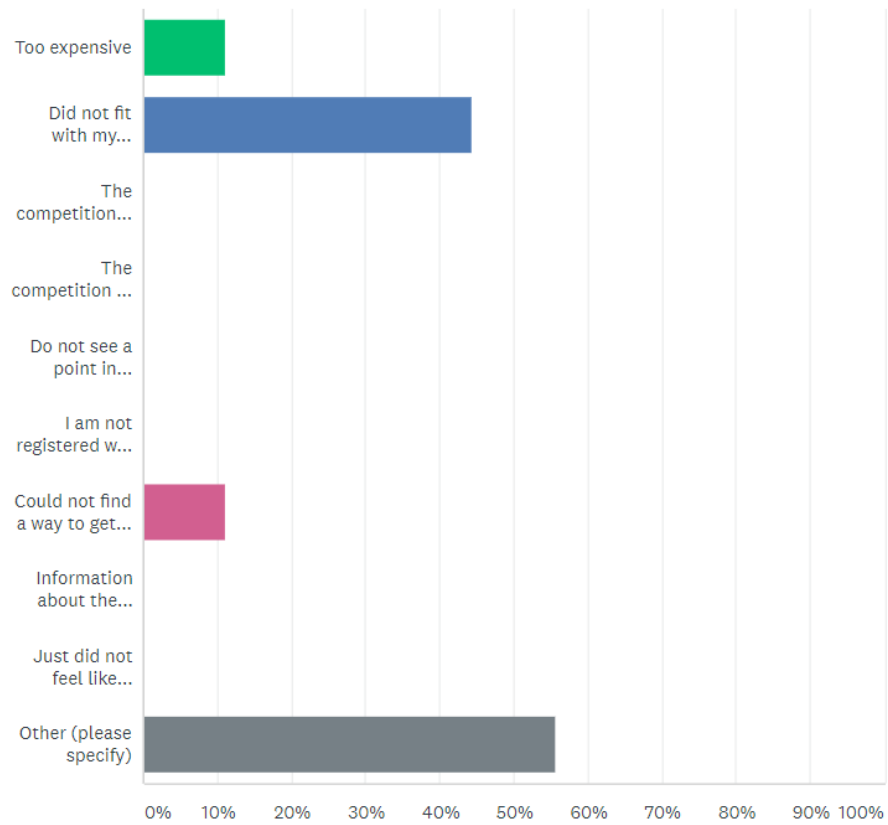
Showing 1 response

To help out
1/13/2019 7:47 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

If "No", why did you not attend this tournament? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 9 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Too expensive	11.11% 1
▼ Did not fit with my personal schedule	44.44% 4
▼ The competition schedule was inconvenient	0.00% 0
▼ The competition was too challenging	0.00% 0
▼ Do not see a point in competing	0.00% 0
▼ I am not registered with the SFA and cannot compete	0.00% 0
▼ Could not find a way to get to the tournament	11.11% 1
▼ Information about the tournament was unclear	0.00% 0
▼ Just did not feel like entering	0.00% 0
▼ Other (please specify) Responses	55.56% 5

RESPONSES (5) WORD CLOUD TAGS

Add tags ▼ Filter by tag ▼

Search responses  

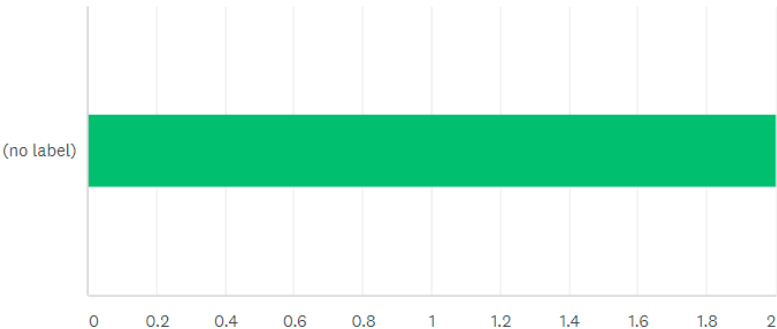
Showing 5 responses

- Not enough notice to make arrangements
 1/15/2019 5:38 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- My daughter likes fencing as a recreational activity, so I don't push her to go competitive.
 1/14/2019 12:20 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Injury
 1/14/2019 8:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Not enough worthwhile fencers attend
 1/13/2019 9:32 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- I am training in Montreal
 1/13/2019 7:50 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Total Respondents: 9

How would you rate the tournament organization?

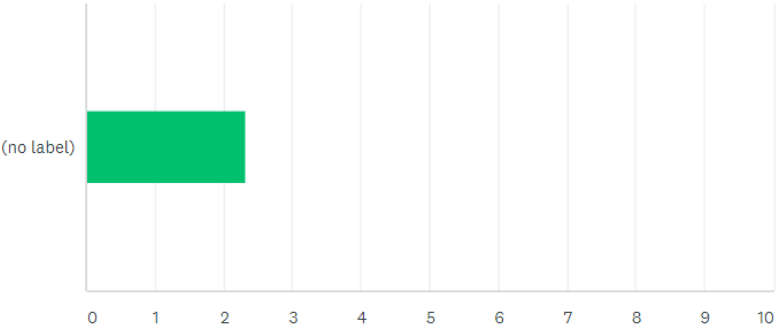
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD	BAD	VERY BAD	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	13.33% 4	46.67% 14	6.67% 2	3.33% 1	0.00% 0	30.00% 9	30	2.00

How would you rate the referees at the tournament?

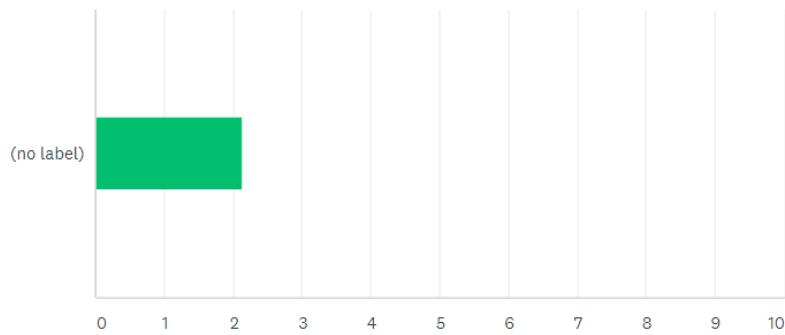
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD	BAD	VERY BAD	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	6.67% 2	43.33% 13	10.00% 3	10.00% 3	0.00% 0	30.00% 9	30	2.33

How would you rate the canteen at the tournament?

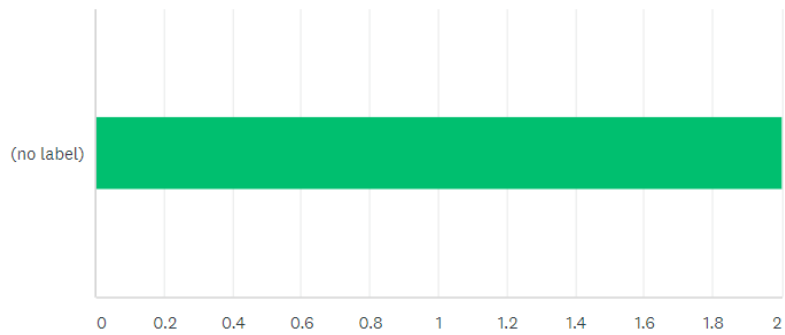
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD	BAD	VERY BAD	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	23.33% 7	26.67% 8	13.33% 4	0.00% 0	6.67% 2	30.00% 9	30	2.14

How would you rate the venue at the tournament?

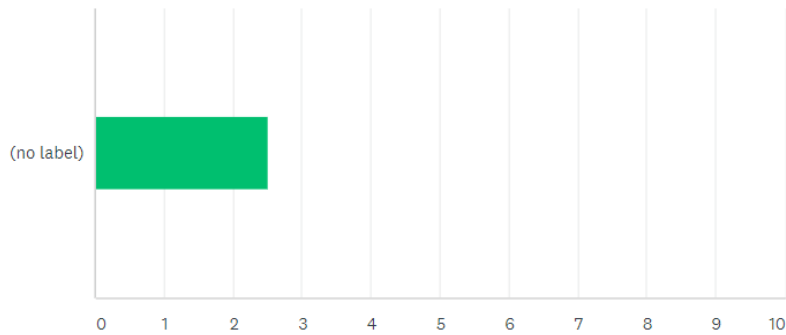
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD	BAD	VERY BAD	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	10.00% 3	50.00% 15	10.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	30.00% 9	30	2.00

How would you rate the medal presentation ceremonies?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD	BAD	VERY BAD	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	3.33% 1	36.67% 11	23.33% 7	3.33% 1	3.33% 1	30.00% 9	30	2.52

What can we do to improve your tournament experience for the next competition?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 18

Show registrations on the website

1/14/2019 12:21 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The location is very out of the way - something more centrally located would make accessibility less of an issue.

1/14/2019 12:20 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Registration info available earlier. Not so close to start of term.

1/14/2019 8:38 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I was disappointed to see medals given "to be nice" in the younger age groups. Our son is 8 and often in 5th place out of 5. So this isn't coming from a family who earns gold regularly. His older teammates and coaches have all shared the amazing lessons learned at tournaments especially from fencing better fencers and losing. They've explained the work involved to truly earn a medal one day. Our family values and teachings include earning what you get and not being celebrated just for showing up. Although it has been hard to learn the lessons taught by fencing better fencers and losing, our son has learned that as long as he keeps working hard and learning he is a winner. So we are still coming out to tournaments, fully prepared to do our best and learn. He finally knocked someone out in DE Saturday and earned 2nd bronze. A fencer he looks up to for his sportsmanlike behaviour. He was so proud!! Unfortunately It took something from him when it was announced as a tie instead of his first real win. Then on Sunday when the same was done for U10 epee, he came over after getting the medal and said "I didn't earn this, not like yesterday. Can I give it back?" I did not want to hurt anyone, as I know it was meant in kindness but I'm sharing our thoughts here. He wants to be a fencer and he idolized the older fencers and he wants to know he earned his wins like they do. He's still learning to lose with grace and sportsmanship and that's ok. It's hard to learn, but necessary in fencing and in life. As his parents, it is much harder to teach those valuable lessons when he gets rewarded equally for a win or a loss. For him, it's harder to be truly proud of a win when the loss is rewarded equally too. I understand celebrating the young kids, but perhaps a small pin with the tournament name to celebrate participating in that tournament would be a nice gesture in future. Something they could collect for attending. Keep the integrity of the medals so they learn young. It's a lot harder to teach losing with grace when they are older. Thanks for considering our thoughts.

1/14/2019 8:30 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I feel that it would be very beneficial for the turn out for the competitions if athletes are able to see who all is registered for the event.

1/13/2019 9:50 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Too many tournaments lowers the value

1/13/2019 9:32 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I would like to see a saskfencing backdrop behind the medal podium. I thi k it would look fantastic when taking pictures. Also a raised podium.

1/13/2019 9:04 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Have more refs. Things were delayed because of this. The events were back logged because of waiting for refs and they were also in events. Not many chairs out.

1/13/2019 8:08 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

More clarity is needed in advance and at the tournament in how the U10 and U13 is conducted. It would be nice to have a volunteer taking pictures of the event for posting to media to ensure compete coverage. The first question should allow multiple answers.

1/13/2019 7:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Start events at the scheduled time.

1/13/2019 7:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Have a better medal ceremony, but we already know that ??

1/13/2019 7:47 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Summary

There were many respondents who were parents again this time, and the survey will be changed for future competitions to allow multiple responses on the first question to allow for a better understanding of who is all attending and responding to our survey.

Many people thought that, overall, the tournament was “Good” which is a good sign, however there are areas that may need to be looked at as having room for improvement (ie 2 respondents thought the canteen was “Very Bad”). And while quality of the referees was generally regarded as “Good”, the quantity was lacking as suggested in the written responses.

Recommendations for future competitions to improve the quality include having a registration list up on the website, having a backdrop for the medal presentations, and parental education. Regarding the last point, I feel that some of the written responses could have been avoided if parents of younger fencers understood the sport and how tournaments were set up better, in order to avoid confusion or miscommunications.