

Provincial Director's Report to the 2026 OAWA Annual General Meeting

Welcome to the 2026 OAWA AGM!

I'd like to take the time to thank the many people who have contributed and worked so hard on your behalf over the last year. Thank you to David Tremblay for his work as HP Manager, Chris Stefopoulos as Program Coordinator, Bob Parsons and the Mariposa Wrestling Club as our Membership Registration management, Natassya Lu as our Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator. This small staff do a lot of work on your behalf. Please join me in thanking them for their efforts.

I'd also like to recognize the members of the OAWA Board of Directors under the leadership of Jason O'Neil who meet monthly and do a lot of work between meetings keeping things running. Their guidance and leadership add a lot to what OAWA does for you. You don't really realize how much they work for you, so please join me in thanking them.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the staff and Board members who stepped in and supported me while I experienced health issues during the year, that was appreciated. I'd also like to thank the Board for the recognition and gifts presented to me at the 2026 Ontario Cadet/Juvenile event in Markham to mark my 40th anniversary with the OAWA. The recognition and involvement of my son Bradley in the presentation were sincerely appreciated by me. Thank you.

Please let take the time to bring up a series of points and make some recommendations:

- The **Ministry of Sport** is changing how we are evaluated to determine our annual Ontario Amateur Sport Fund (OASF, our Base Grants) and Athlete Assistance (Carding) grants. This Review is currently underway, and we await the evaluation by the government. One area where I expect we may need to address is the decrease in Coaching Education/NCCP workshops in recent years. As WCL takes more operational control over NCCP, we take less and I am concerned this may be received negatively by the government. Something to consider, since we are running fewer courses and training/certifying fewer coaches.
- **OAWA Finances** – in spite of a considerable (\$76,000.00+) hit in Legal Expenses this year, an area that continues to go up for us, the OAWA's finances are solid. I'm waiting on the final audited statements at the time, but I think we will be at or close to a break even for last year which is good considering this hit. As a side-note, I have asked the Auditors to report on the Canada Games Funding Reserve (\$5.00 per membership) in the Audited statements, and I am waiting to see that.
- **NCCP**: As part of the effort to address the point noted above, I recommend OAWA develops a regular Schedule of NCCP Workshops. Right now, coaches know that there will be NCCP workshops on Super Weekend and can plan around that. I recommend an annual schedule of 3 - 4 workshops per year all happening at consistent times (Summer Camps, Holiday Camps, Spring Break Camps for example).

- Also, as part of **Coaching Development**, we began recruiting 'Development Coaches' to be part of OAWA Trips and projects. This is a great way to develop up-and-coming coaches and provide support for the Senior Coaches on these trips. Win-Win.
- Similar comment on **Athlete camps** – have a regular schedule of OHP Training Camps
- This year, we have expanded the **OHP-U18** program under David's guidance, which has seen multiple projects within Canada and the U.S. This is a great thing and has been well received. We need to continue this.
- We have also expanded the **HP Programs** for athletes 19+ and under. Trips to Germany and Norway this year were a fantastic step for Ontario's athletes.
- **Provincial Championships** – we need to address the current Provincial Championships schedule. Current participation numbers are still lagging post-COVID, and this is making these events non-viable from a financial standpoint. I'm attaching the financial reports for our major provincial events. I appreciate the concerns over costs for entry fees for provincials, but tell me how to we run quality events, offer value for money, and not lose money? Suggestions welcome.
- As an extension of the discussion on Provincials, we must address the changes need to the schedule due to WCL moving the Canadian Cadet/Junior/Senior Trials to March 18-20, 2027 for next year.
- **2025 Canada Games**: Great work to Team and Coaching staff! Not too early to start thinking about the next Games (July 27- Aug. 12, 2029 – St. John's/Moncton New Brunswick). A post-2025 Team Ontario Review needed to better prepare for 2029.
- **Ontario Winter Games**: This was a great program for us this year, and I'd like to thank Bob Parsons for taking a leadership role on this program. Well done Bob!
- **OHPSI Program**: Three years + ago, the OAWA Board of Directors took the initiative to have OAWA self-fund a High Performance Director's position in the hopes of our finally being successful in receiving funding to support our High Performance program. We had applied multiple times for this funding unsuccessfully, and we realized we needed stronger direct leadership in the HP area. Good work to David Tremblay for the successful application this year. Let's make sure this support benefits the OAWA long-term and all coaches and athletes!
- As an extension of the OHPSI discussion we need to determine how do we work better with the Senior Clubs as athletes transition from Jr. to Sr.?
- **Strategic Plan Development** – the development of the 2027-2032 Strategic Plan is now under way and we will be looking for feedback this weekend at the AGM.
- **Policy Matters**: Over the past year, partly in response to our rising legal bills around complaints, the OAWA Board of Directors sought legal opinion and revised the OAWA Discipline and Complaints Policy to:

- o Make it simpler for Complainants to submit a complaint by implementing a standardized Complaint Form.
- o Make it simpler for Respondents to respond to a complaint by implementing a standardized Response Form.
- o Mandating that a Complainant or Respondent who insists on the use of an outside third-party Mediator/Arbitrator can be held responsible for some of the cost of this. Complainants/Respondents pushing for use of outside Counsel to Mediate/Arbitrate complaints was felt to be a block to parties submitting a complaint due to the more formal process resulting.

This is a positive step that will hopefully make the Complaints process more transparent, easier on all parties, and reduce exorbitant cost to the OAWA.

- As an extension of this revision to our Discipline and Complaints Policy, we need to find ways to make Clubs and event Convenors more responsible for Spectators at events. It should not fall on OAWA Board members who are attending these events coaching their own club athlete to 'police' these events. Let's find ways to work together to run better events.
- **AGM follow up**. We need to find a way to mark priorities the members establish at General Meetings to ensure they are followed up on. Simply noting them in the minutes is not enough or timely. Perhaps we ear-mark concepts requiring follow up and keep a log of them for Board, Staff, and Members' actions post-meeting.

I'm sure there will be other issues to discuss at and coming out of the AGM. I look forward to talking to you then.

Thank you for a great year!

Sincerely Submitted,



Tim MaGarrey
Provincial Director