



Board of Directors Impact Report: 2019-2020

Overview

Your 2019-2020 Board of Directors has worked hard to advance the Ontario Climbing Federation's mandate and to position the organization for future growth.

This report provides a summary of our activities this past year and outlines some future initiatives.

Membership

The 2019-2020 season saw a 5% increase in membership over 2018-2019.

Membership Type	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
Competitive Athletes	504	517	480
Guest Athletes	8	incl. above	incl. above
Recreational (only) Athletes	56	-	-
Coaches	74	82	71
Supporters	25	31	39
Total	667	630	590

Notes:

- Competitive and Recreational Athlete numbers may have been slightly higher if Difficulty Local #2 had not been cancelled, or if plans for a second recreational competition had not been put on hold, due to COVID-19.
- Guest Athletes are athletes who are not Ontario residents; these athletes were allowed to compete at OCF Local competitions in 2019-2020. We were one of the only PSOs to allow non-residents at our competitions.
- Recreational Athlete total includes only those who were not included in the Competitive Athlete total.

Events

This year, we delivered a record 15 events. These included four bouldering Locals, two bouldering Provincials, three difficulty Locals, our first ever recreational competition, our first official speed series (one Local plus Provincials) and three training camps. While the competitive season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we still delivered almost 90% of our planned activities for the season.

11 Competitions

1 Recreational Event

3 Training Camps



Highlights and Accomplishments

OCF Rules

- We produced written OCF Competitive Series Rules in order to ensure a common understanding between athletes, coaches, parents and competition officials.
- Based on the most recent IFSC/CEC rules with modifications to cover Ontario-specific practices, these rules are now followed at all OCF Competitive Series events.
- Special thanks to Tim Vince and Malek Taleb for volunteering many, many hours to this project.
- We also introduced the role of Chief Judge to ensure consistent interpretation of the rules, to issue clarifications and amendments as required, and to coordinate education and staffing of judges and competition officials.
- Tim Vince volunteered as Chief Judge for the 2019-2020 season, offering countless additional hours to this role.

Training Camps

- We hosted three successful training camps: two bouldering camps for OCF athletes attending Open & Youth Boulder Regionals and one speed camp open to all Ontario athletes.
- International guests were invited to facilitate the camps and provide an opportunity for athletes to learn from international competitors, and an opportunity for coaches and setters to learn from international experts.



- Many thanks to our guests Gregor Vezonik, Alex Megos, Ievgeniia Kazbekova, Marcin Dzieński and Anna Brożek.
- We engaged provincial coaches for the first time to run these camps. The coaching staff has provided valuable recommendations for future years.
- Thank you to the camp setters: Dustin Curtis, Shaun Hunter, Andreas Lerch and Lucas Uchida.
- A huge thank you to Head Coach Malek Taleb, Associate Head Coach Liz Maffett, and Assistant Coaches Adrian Caguiat, Brandon Barraclough, Ryan White and Jane Cuff for devoting countless hours to planning and implementing the camps.
- Training camps were a new OCF initiative this year, and the success of the camps is a credit to this amazing team of coaches.

Recreational Series

- In November, we hosted a recreational competition at The Core Climbing Gym to test the concept of a recreational series. We wanted to explore ways to manage growth and to address the gap in skill levels between seasoned competitors and those who were new to the sport, particularly in youth categories.
- The format was a 30 boulder, peer-judged scramble geared towards youth climbers not yet ready for the OCF Competitive Series. The "choose your own adventure" format allowed everyone to participate at their own level in a fun, no-pressure environment.
- With 80 participants, the event received very positive feedback as a more relaxed alternative to the OCF Competitive Series in terms of format, scoring and intensity.
- Many, many thanks to Dustin Sigurdson and The Core for organizing and executing such a great event and laying the foundation for future formats.



OCF Speed Series

- After a successful trial event last season, we introduced speed as a third discipline to the OCF Competitive Series and ran both a Local and Provincial competition for speed.
- We also offered a speed training camp before the start of the season to introduce the discipline to as many new athletes as possible. The camp included a focus on off-the-wall training for athletes who do not have a speed wall at their home gym.

Technology Infrastructure

- We migrated the OCF Server to Amazon Web Services and upgraded it to the latest stable version.
- Following our purchase of compseason at the very end of last year, we migrated compseason to the OCF server.
- We licensed compseason to Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC) and to the Alberta Climbing Association (ACA) for 2019-2020.
- We sold a copy of our membership / registration system to ACA; they are now the third group in Canada to use the system (CEC previously purchased a copy).
- This year, we undertook a number of initiatives to enhance the security of our technology infrastructure:
 - Implemented Google Gsuite & email setup so that all OCF documentation is now stored in one place
 - Registered the Ontario Climbing Federation with TechSoup Canada making the OCF eligible for discounted and free enterprise software as a not for profit organization
 - Implemented enterprise password management and security features (1Password with Non-Profit discount)
- We provided 24/7/365 Server monitoring.

Improved Business Practices

- We developed documentation for critical roles and built a Wiki to help onboard new board members and volunteers.

- We implemented new confidentiality agreements, conflict of interest agreements and codes of conduct for all Board members.
- We introduced detailed budgeting and engaged an accountant to produce our year-end statements.
- We performed strategic planning in order to prepare for the competition season and set targets we wanted to accomplish.
- One of the challenges identified from previous seasons was the recruitment of event Officials. We implemented a strategy for more efficient recruitment and training of Officials. During the strategic planning, we recognized that it was hard to run competitions solely with volunteers so we budgeted honorariums & covered out of pocket expenses for event Officials. This resulted in a full roster of Jury Presidents & Head Judges. Our future plans are to expand the pool of Technical Delegates.
- This year, competition Officials were required to complete a Competition Report after each event. Feedback from these reports was used to continuously improve throughout the year and will be fed into planning for our next season.

Belay Certification Program

- We developed an OCF Competition Belaying Handbook and ran training to certify OCF lead belayers.
- This project was led by experts, Jeremy McDougall and Nicolas Valence, all on a volunteer basis - thank you!
- La Fédération québécoise de la montagne et de l'escalade (FQME) generously provided all of their materials to use as a starting point. We are very grateful for their help and collaboration on this initiative.
- The new Belay Certification Program was not officially launched (it would have premiered at Local #2 and Provincials). However, it is ready to go for next season.
- Our intent is to work with other Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) and the CEC to standardize belaying further in the future.

Route Setting Review & Certification Program

- In coordination with Dustin Curtis, a route setting and certification plan was developed to address competition setting standards and best practices.
- Route setting clinics and implementation of a certification program to help us build a pool of Ontario setters was planned for Spring 2020. Due to the COVID-19 closures and restrictions, the clinics have been postponed until further notice.

New Coaching Requirements

- At the beginning of the 2019-2020 competition season, we implemented new coaching requirements in order to improve the safety of athletes at OCF sanctioned events. All coaches were required to submit a Vulnerable Sector Check in addition to signing a Code of Conduct.
- We worked in conjunction with the CEC on additional programs - Respect in Sport as well as base NCCP courses - to launch next year.

Concussion Protocols

- Mandatory concussion education and concussion codes of conduct were developed and put in place to bring the OCF in line with provincial regulations.
- Removal from sport and return to sport protocols are also being developed.

Initiated Collaboration with other PSOs and CEC

- We set goals to have open communications and to collaborate with other PSOs as well as the CEC to improve climbing competitions across the country.
- The OCF has been part of various PSO working groups.
- We have also been actively involved in the recently developed COVID-19 National Pandemic Response Taskforce.

Community Engagement & Recognition of Critical Partners

The OCF Board would like to thank all of our partners and volunteers who made our events possible with their generosity and hard work.

Host Gyms

We could not run our events without the generous support of our host gyms.



- Thank you to our 2019/2020 hosts:
 - Aspire Climbing
 - Coyote Rock Gym
 - Gravity Climbing
 - Hub Climbing
 - The Core Climbing Gym
 - True North Climbing
 - Up the Bloc
- We would also like to thank Boulderz Climbing Centre for committing to host Difficulty Local #2. They were far along in their planning and preparations when the event was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- We would like to offer a special thank you to True North and to Aspire for hosting two competitions each.
- Finally, we would like to recognize Hub Climbing for hosting six of our events this year (would have been seven events had Difficulty Provincials not been cancelled).
- Hub Climbing was also a generous sponsor of our three training camps, providing use of their facility for the camps at a greatly reduced rate.

Community Members & Volunteer Appreciation

There are many people who contributed countless hours to making this year a success.

Thank you to each and everyone of our volunteers this year. To highlight a few:

- Tim Vince: wrote our new rules, served as Chief Judge, coordinated competition officials for the season, was a key member of the Competition Committee
- Lisa Gray: volunteered as Technical Delegate at more than half of our competitions (this role includes behind-the-scenes organization leading up to and throughout each competition weekend)
- Rhonda Lahnakoski: managed the OCF website and social media accounts
- Competition judges:
 - 35 judges judged at two or more competitions this year
 - Andreas Lachenwitzer, Brendan Schaefer, Gillian Wyatt, Lisa Glassman, Mateja Vukojevic, Matthew Tee, Phillipe Guitard, and Stacey Haight each judged six comps



- Jamie Galloway judged at every single competition this year!!
- Lorraine Winger: served as ISO monitor at every comp but one
- Blaise Pascal: developed bouldering rules video to accompany our new written rules
- Marius Grygorczyk: volunteered his time to help coach at the speed camp.
- Tyler Norton: was our timer extraordinaire at both speed comps
- Paige Amos: provided invaluable admin support for both speed competitions (designed scoring protocols and scoring tree)

Thank you to our event Officials worked hard to administer our competitions:

- Davis Barton
- Jeff Whattam
- Lisa Gray
- Mike Rocco
- Peter Choi
- Sue Carkner
- Sharon Vukojevic
- Steph Tabbert
- Sue Carkner
- Tim Vince

Financials

- Year-end statements for fiscal year ended May 31, 2019 are attached.
- We are on track to end the fiscal year ended May 31, 2020 on budget and are projecting a surplus of \$8,000 for the year.

Ongoing Projects / Plans for 2020 - 2021

- Become recognized as an official Provincial Sport Organization
- Develop post COVID-19 return to sport and return to competition plans in collaboration with other PSOs and CEC
- Continue strategic planning
- Implement new formats and/or series to manage growth in numbers and better serve athletes in all stages of development and at all ends of the competitive spectrum
- Develop a roster of Technical Delegates
- Explore new model for judge recruitment & compensation
- Hire our first employee

Sincerely,

Your 2019 – 2020 Board of Directors

Davis Barton
Elina Avramova
Laura Neusken
Manh Ellis
Sharon Vukojevic
Shaun Hunter
Will Johnson