



NATIONAL DARTS FEDERATION OF CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024
STE. HYACINTHE, QUEBEC**

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The meeting was opened and called to order at approximately 10:10 AM.

The President, Maggie Leblanc, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were:

Executive Members:

Maggie LeBlanc	NDFC President
Brenda Dietrich	NDFC Vice-President
Don Crookshanks	NDFC Financial Director
Mary Dezan	NDFC Membership Director
Sandi Orr	NDFC Youth Development Director
Christine Stark	NDFC General Secretary

Member Body Representatives:

Northwest Territories	Kevin Barry	Territorial Director
British Columbia	Angela Carter	Youth Director
Alberta	Shelly Lewis	Provincial Director
Saskatchewan	Judi Brown	Provincial Director
Manitoba	Leslie Johnston	Tournament Director
Northern Ontario	Bev Roth	Financial Director
Western Ontario	Brad December	Coach
Eastern Ontario	Kim Clawson	Provincial Director
Quebec	Cathie Noonan	Provincial Director
New Brunswick	Denise Miller	President
Nova Scotia	Noel Aucoin	Vice-President
Newfoundland	Susan Hine	President
Prince Edward Island	David Coward	Financial Director
Labrador	Gaynor Walterhouse	Vice-President
	Kirk Perry	Provincial Director
	Stephen Foster	Provincial Director
	Scott Tracy	President
	David Thomas	Provincial Director
	Darlene McLeod	President
	Joanne Whelan	Secretary
	Wanda Earle	Membership Director
	Christina Mill	Provincial Director
	Anne Douglas	Secretary
	Steff Thouin	Vice-President
	Des Montague	Provincial Director
	Patricia Maloney	Secretary
Guests	None	

a) Apologies for Absence

None

b) Verification of Quorum & Establish Voting Strength

Quorum was verified, voting strength was established at 20 (including President), with quorum of 11 votes. required for a majority and 13 votes required for 2/3

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Moved by NDFC President, Seconded by NDFC Youth Director

THAT Don Crookshanks be elected as chairperson.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions to 11 (c) and 12 (c) were provided to everyone at the beginning of the meeting. Placeholder was included in agenda original distributed.

11 (c) Additions -

Regulation 10.4 – National Ranking System – Ranking Lists

Regulation 10.3 – National Ranking System Ranking Point Structure

Regulation 5.1.1 – International Player Representation – World Masters NDFC Responsibilities

12 (c) Additions –

World Cup Qualifier Fees Discussion

Moved by Saskatchewan, Seconded by Newfoundland

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

5. PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

a) Adoption and Acceptance as True Record

Moved by Western Ontario, Seconded by British Columbia

THAT the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 25, 2023, in Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec be adopted as written.

CARRIED

b) Business Arising from the Minutes

None

6. ANNUAL WRITTEN REPORTS

- a) Executive Report
- b) Vice President's Report
- c) Membership Report
- d) Youth Director's Report
- e) Financial Director's Report
- f) Provincial/Territorial Reports

No questions were brought forward by the board. This is the acceptance of the reports provided prior to the AGM.

Motion by Alberta and seconded by Quebec to adopt all Executive Reports and Provincial/Territorial Reports

CARRIED

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

- a) Financial Director's Report

Don Crookshanks stated that the finances were pretty good money-wise. We had just under \$140,000 in the bank. There are some things that must be paid for, but not right now.

A question was asked why is Tournament Play on the financial statements showing such an increase? Prior nationals had the hosting body covering most costs, with centralization, the costs are now incurred by the NDFC organization. These costs are consolidated on the financial statements. Discussion was had surrounding centralization to provide details regarding the financials being more transparent and having its own statement. It was decided that further information would be requested and provided for review.

Motion by Manitoba and seconded by Youth Director that the Financial Report, as presented by the Financial Director, Don Crookshanks, be adopted on the basis that a follow-up report be provided.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS FROM AD HOC COMMITTEES

- a) Centralization

There will be rooftop activities on Monday and Wednesday with everything opening at 7 p.m. There will be a TV available to watch hockey. Since there is a bar, we have to respect that and can't bring your own, but there is no food. On Wednesday there will be music and karaoke.

Thursday is the banquet which will be a buffet based on the feedback. Cost is \$45. Final numbers and allergies must be in by Monday to the venue.

Tuesday was left open so that teams could go to dinner or whatnot. If there are people milling around, they can get the rooftop for them as well.

Questions were asked about the transportation shuttle and people having to find their own way.

For next year, another option is to fly into Quebec City and take the train that is around the corner that goes through St. Hyacinthe. Looking at options regarding either a shuttle or using sprinter vans and just having them run continuously between the airport and the hotel. If a shuttle is used the schedules will go out ahead of time so that arrangements can be made, and participants are aware of when the shuttles are available. Return shuttles will be given out on Monday.

The entertainment for the banquet is a DJ. Discussion was had around the photographer and the quality of the photos. The backdrop is different for each province and venue lighting impacts the results as well. A new photographer is in place for this year.

Opening ceremonies, the teams will come down the middle, teams will meet in the hallway.

Regarding rooms being blocked. Each province/territory will be allocated a set number of 2 queen beds and king beds and the deadline for final numbers will be April 30. After this our block of rooms will be released for those booking for the Canadian Open.

Discussion was had about the late start of the tournament due to people not being familiar with Dart Connect and some people weren't checked in. Once they were ready to go there were technical issues with Dart Connect. There were also issues with drunk people and slow play. Some blamed electronics, some blamed the people behind the table. No matter the issue or cause, some of the comments need to stop and there needs to be respect for the volunteers running the events.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

None

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a) Vice-President - (Two Year Term - July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026)

BRENDA DIETRICH – Intent to Stand
STEFF THOUIN – Intent to Stand

Both candidates spoke to the group prior to having the vote.

BRENDA DIETRICH – WINNER

Motion to accept the results by Alberta, seconded by Northern Ontario

CARRIED

Motion to destroy the ballots by Youth Director, seconded by Northern Ontario

CARRIED

b) Secretary - (Two Year Term - July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026)

CHRISTINE STARK – Acclaimed

c) Youth Development Director - (Two Year Term - July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026)

SANDI ORR - Acclaimed

11. AMENDMENTS TO NDFC REGULATIONS

a) Definition of Dress Pants

The current definition of dress code at Nationals was read to the group. The secretary is bringing this up as a discussion point only as it was not brought up through the Executive submissions and cannot be brought forward by an individual on the executive due to a perceived conflict. However, any member body could action the motion.

Multiple directors have reached out to the Secretary to ask what are dress pants? There is nothing in writing in the regulations, constitution or rules of play. The example of the change in Northern Ontario's new dress code implemented was provided. It is to help avoid any of the "grey" areas of the definition. Dress pants is clarified as suitable for polished, professional, or more formal occasions. No cords, yoga pants and/or no high elastic contacted.

No leggings unless otherwise approved. By clarifying the definition, it would exclude Lululemon, elasticized ankle pants, cargo pants, as examples.

Further discussion supported the confusion at last year's Nationals and at the Youth Nationals when matches were being streamed. One province had their player told to change pants that had a small buckle. No leeway was given. Yet someone else was wearing pants that were clearly not dress pants. Concern was raised with using the word elasticized content because anything with an elasticized ankle is not a dress pant. There is not a designated person who enforces the dress code at Nationals. It is up to the Provinces/Territories to make sure their players are wearing the proper attire. However, there are different viewpoints/interpretations of the meaning of dress pants and no consistency with enforcement.

The Membership director suggested the Secretary prepare a statement with all the unacceptable forms of dress pants (excluded items) as a guideline

PASSED

b) 10.1 - Submission of Ranking Results

The ranking package and regulations do not contain the same deadlines and a correction to 48 hours from 7 days is needed. It was missed being updated before, because it is a regulation it needs to be brought up here and not just changed. This is important as there are many tournaments and people want to know where they are in the rankings.

Motion by NDFC Executive, seconded by Manitoba

PASSED

c) Additional Items from June 22, 2024 Executive Meeting

10.4 – National Ranking System - Ranking Lists

Motion: An official NDFC Ranking, for seeding purposes, will be updated and published a minimum of 5 times per year for the following dates: February 1st, March 1st, April 30th, September 1st, and November 1st. However, additional official lists could be published at the discretion of the ranking officer.

Discussion took place to support the reasoning for the change using the current tournaments on the calendar. The motion also does not force unreasonable work and deadlines on any future tournament director.

Motion by NDFC Executive, seconded by Alberta

PASSED

10.3 – National Ranking System - Ranking Point Structure

Motion: A player may participate in as many tournaments as they wish; however, he/she may only count 12 results in their total based on the following criteria:

- A maximum of 3 results from any one MEMBER BODY may be counted
- A maximum of 2 results from each of all other MEMBER BODIES may be counted
- The Provincial/Territorial Championships, National Championships, and Canadian Open may be counted in a player's total but are not included as one of the 3 or 2 MEMBER BODY stipulations named above
- Players may only collect the higher of their Provincial Championship or National Championship points continued...

Part of the discussion for the reasoning for the change included: the regulation being in effect since 2011 when there were fewer tournaments and fewer member bodies. There are now 39 tournaments registered throughout the year. Allowing up to 12 tournaments would afford the opportunity for each player to attend additional events that count toward their ranking points in addition to their Provincial/Territorial or National Ranking Points.

Some questions were raised about tournaments on the same weekend, what is the criteria or when is this not permitted. The tournament director may take the level of ranking into consideration, distance from tournament cities,

or other factors when approving/denying a tournament. Sometimes discussions with the tournament directors take place to mitigate any conflicts.

Motion by NDFC Executive, seconded by Prince Edward Island

PASSED

5.1.1 – International Player Representation - World Masters - NDFC Responsibilities

Motion: The NDFC will notify all NDFC players who receive member country invitations, and tournament invitations (within reason), of their eligibility to participate in the WDF World Masters. The NDFC will also provide the NDFC players (Adult and Youth) with all the necessary information on the WDF World Masters for them to submit their registration and to make their own preparations.

Current List of Eligible Player** Adult Invitations (subject to change):

- Canadian Singles Champions
- Canadian Open Champions (if not earned through the tournament)
- Youth Senior Singles Champions (if aged out or not otherwise invited)
- #1 Ranked Player
- #2 Ranked Player
- Canadian Singles Runner-Up
- Canadian Open Runner-Up (if not earned through the tournament)
- #1 Ranked Youth Senior Player (if aged out or not otherwise invited)
- 3rd Place Canadian Singles
- 4th Place Canadian Singles

**Men and Women earn the same number of invites per member country.

Current List of Eligible Player** Youth Invitations (subject to change):

- Canadian Singles Champions (1 Junior, 1 Senior – if not aged out)
- #1 Ranked Player (1 Junior, 1 Senior – if not aged out) from the prior year ranking list
- Canadian Singles Runners-Up (1 Junior, 1 Senior – if not aged out)
- Canadian Singles Bronze Medalists (2 Junior, 2 Senior – if not aged out)
- Additional Invites available may be issued at the discretion of the Youth Development Officer and/or General Secretary

In any particular year, if no Masters event is held, the order of listing for the next Masters event may also include players from the prior year

**Boys and Girls earn the same number of invites per member country.

When the regulation was updated last year, the development of the youth program was overlooked. The number one ranked senior player will receive one of the allocated adult invites if they have aged out. In addition, there was not a separate listing for the youth. This eliminates any questions on how all the invites are distributed.

Motion by the NDFC Executive, seconded by Eastern Ontario

PASSED

Before moving on to the next section, Saskatchewan asked for clarification of the rules of play 7.6 –

No player shall deliver any dart with their feet in any position other than behind the oche or throwing line or extension thereto and both of the thrower's feet shall remain behind the throwing line until the dart has left the thrower's hand.

One of their players sometimes takes a step and they wanted to know if they would be disqualified. Answer: if the foot goes across the line, it is counted as a throw, even if the dart does not leave the hand.

12. BUSINESS PUT FORWARD BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a) Membership Fee Increase

No membership fee is proposed by the executive this year.

b) Youth Directors Meeting Business

Sandi confirmed there were no items from the meeting. She did provide a listing of the results from the 2024 Youth National Championships.

All the youth masters invites were announced at the banquet and the players were so excited.

c) Additional items from June 22, 2024 Executive Meeting

World Cup Qualifier Fees

The executive would like to advise the board of the potential increase in the World Cup qualifier fees. The fees are currently \$500 per regulation 5.3.1. All players who attend the World Cup have the following costs covered by the NDFC: flights, accommodations, which sometimes includes meals depending on the packages, and banquet meal. With youth as part of each team, the accommodation and banquet costs also include chaperones. Annual fees are reaching more than approximately \$40,000. To mitigate the rising costs, an increase of the qualifier fee will need future consideration. This was brought forward as a discussion point for everyone to be aware. We estimated that for Canada to send somebody to the World Cup, it costs approximately \$4,000 per player and they pay \$500 right now. Realistically the costs are going up. Everybody does fundraising, etc. when 90% of their costs are covered.

For 2025, the accommodations alone are going to be about \$650 US per person.

Those in attendance agreed that Canada should be sending a team to international events like this even though there is no prize money, only medals. However, most also agree that the costs should not be passed along to all members across the board. For those striving to attend international events like this, they should bear more of the cost.

Motion by Nova Scotia to increase the World cup Qualifier fee to \$1,000 per player.

Seconded by Quebec

PASSED

13. APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANT & LAWYER

a) Appointment of Accountant

Motion: Appoint John Moro

Motion by Youth Director, seconded by Western Ontario

PASSED

b) Appointment of Legal Adviser

Motion: Appoint Sport Law. No retainer is required and are more of a legal adviser.

Motion by Alberta, seconded by Manitoba

PASSED

14. AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATORIES

Signatories for the main NDFC account are Don Crookshanks (Financial Director), Mary Dezan (Membership Director), and Christine Stark (General Secretary).

Motion by New Brunswick, seconded by Newfoundland

PASSED

15. NEW BUSINESS

a) Dart Connect

Last year was the trial year for Dart Connect, the numbers were a bit skewed between what was offered by the centralization committee and what Dart Connect offered to get things up and running. With Dart Connect now up and running for the nationals, this year is at full cost. We are paying \$1 per person per event for the Canadian Open and the Nationals. Canadian Open Dart Connect fees for this year are roughly estimated at \$1,063.

Nationals Dart Connect fees are roughly estimated at \$1,890. And this is before considering other costs such as tablet rentals. Purchasing tablets was considered but it is not feasible for only the 2 times per year the tablets would be used.

For 2024, the tablets were rented from ADO and Thunder Bay at an average cost of \$15 CDN per tablet. It was asked if other provinces were contacted about the costs to rent tablets. Yes, others were approached. For example, Newfoundland was offering tablets at \$20 per tablet plus shipping. Due to the timing of things this year and with Gregg Tong from Dart Connect attending Nationals once again, he facilitated a good deal with the tablets from ADO. We are using 56 ADO tablets but only being charged for 48.

Many provinces offered up their tablets to use. Logistically, however, there is a concern. The Nationals needs about 100 tablets to be set up prior to the Canadian Open and they must remain up until the end of the Nationals event. Also, are all the tablets the same; are the ports the lightning port or 30 pin; and who would be overseeing any tablet issues; just to list a few concerns. For 2025, an email will go out to each province to submit bids/options for tablets to be used at the Youth and Adult National Championships. PEI has said they have about 100 tablets that can be used and Steff has said that he attends Nationals anyway.

This was more for a discussion to make sure all provinces/territories are aware of the increased costs now that most players want to use Dart Connect. Continued use could require an additional fee.

On concern about using the program and its setup prior to the Nationals is some teams knowing who they are playing ahead of time as the schedule was published before players arrived. Some provinces/territories like to keep the pairings as a surprise.

b) Financial Assistance

Previous discussions were had on how to equalize the costs across the provinces/territories. All the PD's/TD's were going to provide information or ideas on what can be done. The information provided is based on the survey completed. In addition, an idea for equalization payments from the executive is also included. Other ideas also include subsidizing banquets costs, shuttle costs, etc. However, the executive committee does not want to solely be responsible for the final decision on the payments for financial assistance.

When other provinces have hosted Nationals, they have made money and would expect the centralization of Nationals to do the same. However, the board was informed that the 1st year of centralization did not bring any additional funds into the organization. The first year included setup costs, etc. There was much discussion and brainstorming between all the board members on the best course of action to provide much needed financial

assistance to not only the member bodies travelling the furthest but also to those member bodies who host Nationals events as part of their fundraising for their province/territory.

Motion by Eastern Ontario: Increase Adult membership by \$5 and have those funds earmarked for a travel fund to be given to the member bodies travelling the furthest for the Nationals each year on a prorated basis. It was clarified that the fund remains in effect no matter what happens with centralization.

Seconded by Prince Edward Island

PASSED

An additional financial discussion took place on how to support the provinces that have lost profit since the centralization. It was asked if some of the Canadian Open profits be allocated to the provinces for not being able to host the Nationals. This has been a negative side-effect of centralization on some provinces.

Nova Scotia made a motion to have 50% of the net profit from the Canadian Open be allocated back to all provinces during centralization. This was seconded by Manitoba.

After additional discussion, the motion was amended to have 100% of the net profits of the Canadian Open during centralization be returned to the member bodies with 50% to the travel fund and 50% back equally to all provinces.

Amended Motion by British Columbia, seconded by Manitoba

Yes – 11 No – 3 Abstained – 5

PASSED

c) Nationals Format

NL has withdrawn from the discussion regarding format.

Steff Thouin of PE presented the information in the document submitted with the agenda. All his figures were compiled using Dart Connect. However, only the match times were used, and it was acknowledged that some of the data is for a perfect scenario and does not factor in normal match delays. PE wanted the change, if passed, to be implemented for this year's Nationals. The Executive committee explained that it is not feasible or reasonable to change this year's Nationals. All the work required for divisions, etc. is done well ahead of the Nationals event and there is not enough time to have everything re-done. The board did accept this explanation as reasonable.

The strongest point to come out of the format discussion is that all the member bodies want to play someone from all the member bodies. It is acknowledged that the length of time to have this happen, given the number of member bodies, could be excessive.

Motion made by Prince Edward Island to change the Nationals format back to playing one member body per division per event with a reduction to a two game must for 2025.

Seconded by Nova Scotia

Yes – 11 No – 1 Abstained - 7

PASSED

Announcements:

The hotel has asked to make sure anybody who has a dartboard - it cannot hang on your door or on your wall, the room will be charged a fee.

No small cooking appliances in your room unless it is authorized by the hotel.

No outside alcohol in the foyer or in the hall.

The washrooms down at the venue level, the ones where you use your keycard to go in, might be shut down until Tuesday, the quantity of people using it I guess has overwhelmed their sewer system.

16. NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2025, in Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

17. HOUSEKEEPING

All voting cards and member body signs were returned to the NDFC General Secretary.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:06 PM.

Motion by Manitoba, seconded by Northwest Territories

DRAFT