

## Orienteering BC President's Report for AGM 2024

2024 has been another mixed year for our orienteering clubs as we continue to navigate the post-pandemic world. Some clubs continue to struggle with volunteer resources and/or access to terrain. Others are making great strides in developing orienteering in their areas.

The 2024 BC Orienteering Championships (BCOCs) were hosted by Victoria Orienteering Club (VICO). This challenging event explored the temperate rainforest of the Sooke wilderness terrain in southern Vancouver Island and attracted 96 participants.

We look forward to next year's BCOCs hosted by the Kootenay Orienteering Club (KOC) on Thanksgiving weekend.

In 2024, Orienteering BC (OBC) kickstarted 2 programs with longterm goals to develop orienteering throughout the province. These are the Junior Development Program and the Outreach Team Program.

The aim of the Junior Development Program is to assist clubs with their junior orienteering programs and ultimately build toward a province-wide program and provincial junior orienteering camps. OBC engaged the services of Jeff Teutsch (*Navigation Sports*) to help develop and run this program. We are looking at expanding the scope of this program to support other club projects aimed at developing orienteering in their area.

The Outreach Team is a group of experienced and qualified orienteers who are available to introduce and develop orienteering in groups/communities that are not easily served by the existing clubs, either through lack of resources or geographic location. They are compensated for their time and expenses. Several such engagements occurred this year.

In 2024, OBC applied financial resources to kickstart the Junior Development Program, support Outreach Team engagements, support athletes participating in larger orienteering events, develop or update maps, and acquire SI equipment to help with club development.

Orienteering BC is currently recognized by *viaSport* as an accredited Provincial Sport Organization. This means that we qualify for annual funding from *viaSport*, which comprises the vast majority of OBC's funding. However, this recognition is at risk. To continue to meet *viaSport*'s requirements, we will need to increase membership, further develop officials and coaches, update our strategic plan, and possibly work toward selecting a provincial team.

The OBC Board of Directors is a group of volunteers who donate their time, energy, experience and expertise to run Orienteering BC to support our affiliated clubs and develop orienteering in British Columbia. Most existing members of the board have been board members for a number of years while also being very active volunteers within their own clubs. Like all organizations, in order to be sustainable and handle turnover smoothly, OBC regularly needs new volunteers for board member positions. Ideally, volunteers would rotate through specific roles every few years to distribute the knowledge and limit the commitment. The torch always needs to be passed on to the next team.

Thank you to all of the members of the Board of Directors for their time and contributions this year. Thank you to the retiring board members, Chris Bullock, Don Haliburton, John Kenny, Chris Ling, and Lenka Vlkova for their years of service and valuable contributions to OBC.

I also need to redirect a good portion of my available time and energy to Sage Orienteering Club. While I will remain on the Board of Directors for now, OBC needs someone who can take the torch as President and maintain momentum as we build orienteering in BC.

Kevin Matrosovs