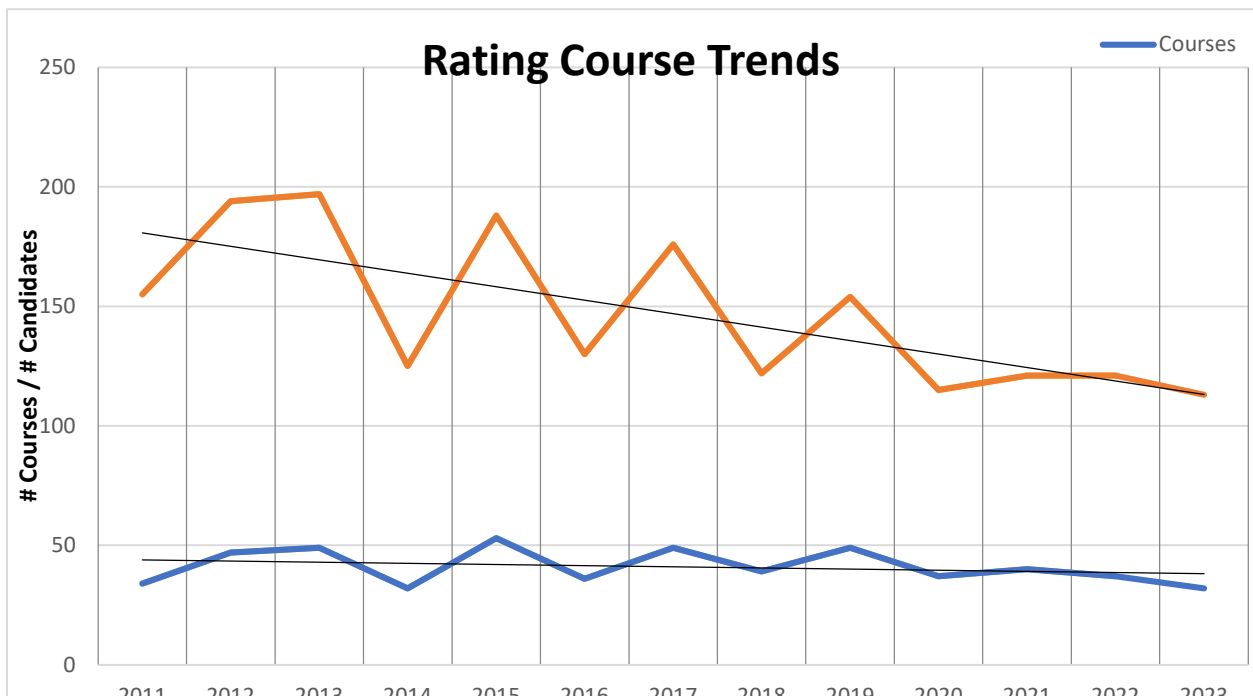


2024 CWC Report to the CSPA AGM - by Daniel Grant

The CWC started the year with Monique Andrie (Co-chair), Burk Reiman (co-chair), Daniel Grant (Ratings Processor), Dan Whitman (Director of Courses), Alex Dufour, and Ned Ambrus. Jocelyn Brunet is our Board Liaison.

Near the end of the year, Dan Whitman chose to step back from the CWC. New members, Candice Steveson (ON) and Dustin Renz (BC) were invited to the CWC and have elected to stay. The CWC is grateful for their addition and their considerable efforts towards completing the PIM 2A refresh.

Monique and Burk have stepped back as co-chairs. Monique will have the role of Director of Courses, and Burk will serve as Vice Chair. Daniel has stepped up into the Chair position and will be transitioning the role of Ratings Processor to Alex through the 2024 season. Dustin volunteered to take the role of CoP Processor near the end of the 2023 season. While not officially a CWC position, the addition of the role to the team has been beneficial.



The long-term trend in running coach and instructor courses is fairly steady. In 2023 the number of courses and candidates held steady and is consistent with historical averages, and the number of candidates held steady but was not back to pre-Covid numbers. We have not seen the historic “peaking” of course and candidate numbers return to the system. This may be an indication of the overall economic state of the post-pandemic. The average number of candidates per course has decreased from 4.02 to 3.53 over 10 years, but is up slightly in 2023 vs 2022 (3.3 to 3.5). This indicates that the decrease in new coaches and instructors is not due to a problem with system capacity and continues speaks well of the dedication of our Learning Facilitators.

Learning Facilitator development continues to be a high priority, as this is key to CSPA’s ongoing system capacity to deliver training coaches and instructors. We believe that increasing the supply of LFs will increase demand for courses and are working to fill the gaps we see in the sport. The CWC is aware of the intentions of several LFs to begin easing back on their roles over the next few years, and we continue to work towards backfilling this capacity. Following the plan set out last year, a western LF

seminar was held in Alberta, thanks to Skydive Extreme Calgary for hosting. That seminar saw 5 new candidates trained, 2 from BC, 2 from AB, and 1 from Sask, and a new MCD completed. The majority of these candidates are anticipated to complete their challenges in the 2024 season. Several of them have desires to move forward in other LF ratings. Continuing with last year's plan, the plan is to host an eastern LF seminar. This approach of west and east seminars has been intended to reduce travel costs to CSPA as well as increase availability of seminars for interested candidates.

The LF nomination process has also been updated to include an official nomination form which can be found on the CSPA website.

We continue to find that PFFI candidates who select the "alternate pathway" to PFFI rather than taking SSI or JM first do not perform as well on the course. The lack of teaching ability (different from coaching) means we are spending more time in the courses teaching candidates how to teach. Attending an SSI course prior to PFFI is strongly recommended, even if a candidate doesn't intend to teach often.

The portfolio requirements for the PFFI Challenge process has been updated to better reflect the experience of foreign rating holders. The number of contacts required after the challenge process has been completed with an LF is now based on a factor of total number of PFFI equivalent jumps overall and the total number of PFFI equivalent jumps in the last year.

The Coach 3 Canopy Formation program has been largely completed and is going through the final processes of translation for publishing.

The CWC has completed the technical overhaul of PIM 2A which is now in the process of final assembly and translation. The next step in this process will be to combine PIMs 2A and 2B, with the overall intentions of removing duplication of information, and simplifying the library of documents that CSPA needs to upkeep.

A prototype of an updated Skills Grid (originally draft in November 2022) has been completed. Several LFs will introduce and trial this updated tool with new C1 candidates in order to receive feedback and suggestions on its ease of use and understanding.

A variety of clarifications have been made regarding the privileges of various ratings and CoPs. These small updates have been largely driven by member questions, and the CWC is thankful for everyone's input.

There are no changes to the CoP exams from 2023 to 2024. A minor change to the D CoP Canopy requirements will now include the option to complete an evaluation identical to the C3-CP jumps. This addition has been intended to better recognize the skills of high performance canopy pilots in the D CoP program.

Throughout the past two seasons, both the CoP and Ratings Processors have seen a decline in the quality of paperwork received at the office from CoP applicants and Ratings Certifications. Notices are being written and sent out to Ratings holders to reconfirm the minimum requirements for verifying and signing off portfolios, logbooks, and applications.

On behalf of the CWC, I would like to thank the BoD and the Office staff for their hard work on behalf of our sport. We look forward to working together in the coming year.