



## MODS AGM 2023 – Board Candidates

The following is the list of board candidates running for election at the 2023 MODS AGM. There are a total of 6 vacancies to be filled and 10 candidates. Our By-Laws require that the board have a 5:4 gender split (with consideration made for non-binary candidates).

At each AGM, membership elects the number of board candidates that will fill the current vacancies. The elected board then determines among themselves who will fill the officer positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) on an annual basis. Each board member elected at the AGM serves a 2-year term.

The 3 board members returning for the second year of their 2-year terms are:

- Robin Merasty (she/her)
- Eric Robert – incumbent Treasurer (he/him)
- Charlotte Thrift – incumbent Secretary (she/her)

Given that there are only 2 female board candidates seeking election, they will both be elected by acclamation to ensure that the board composition satisfies the by-law requirement. The vote at the AGM will include the 8 male candidates, with 4 spots available on the board.

The MODS board candidates up for election at the 2023 MODS AGM are as follows (female followed by male candidates, listed alphabetically by last name. Current MODS board and role noted, if applicable):

**Kari Bergmuller** – current MODS board, incumbent Vice-President (she/her)\*

Current MODS roles:

- Board of Directors – Vice President
- Governance Committee – Chair

Past MODS Committees:

- Junior Committee – Co-Chair
- Women’s Committee Liaison
- Hiring Committee – Chair
- Transition Committee

- Spirit of the Game Working Group

Kari started playing ultimate in her mid 20s and over the years has played in both mixed and women's leagues. She coached high school ultimate for over ten years up until the pandemic. During the World Master's Ultimate Club Championships (WMUCC) held in Winnipeg, Kari was assistant to the Competition Tournament Director, overseeing many operational and logistical components.

During her past 2 terms serving on the MODS board, Kari has been actively working on the Governance Committee, reviewing and updating policies, and helped advocate for some new initiatives including Gender Ratio A. She has served on multiple committees and was instrumental in formalizing MODS' latest strategic direction. Her dedication, insight, and hard work have proven that she is an asset to the MODS Board of Directors.

### **Trinh Nguyen-Lu (she/her)\***

Trinh Nguyen-Lu seeks to join the Manitoba Organization of Disc Sports (MODS) as a potential board member. Her journey in ultimate began in the summer of 2015 when she co-founded a co-ed recreational league team with friends.

Over the years, Trinh has been actively involved in various levels of co-ed and women's programming, including indoor and outdoor teams, women's developmental, advanced, and elite teams, indoor parity leagues, and local tournaments. Notably, she recently represented Manitoba at the 2023 Canadian Ultimate Championships – Masters as a member of the Winnipeg Prairie Sky team.

Prior to her involvement in the ultimate frisbee community, Trinh achieved national recognition as the top-ranked female-identifying junior badminton player in Manitoba. She continues to enjoy recreational badminton and regularly participates in local tournaments. Additionally, she actively engages in co-ed and women's volleyball. These diverse sporting experiences position Trinh uniquely to provide an alternative perspective for supporting the growth of the ultimate community.

Trinh's leadership and administrative skills have developed significantly since graduating from the University of Manitoba in 2014 as a Registered Nurse. She has advocated for patients in various healthcare settings, including the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, and The Minor Illness and Injury Clinic. Currently pursuing a PhD in Nursing at the University of Manitoba, Trinh plays an active role in the Graduate Nursing Students' Association, serving as Secretary for the 2021-2022 academic year and chairing several sub-committees. She also acts as the Nursing Graduate Student Representative within various university committees.

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, equity, and accessibility in program development, Trinh is dedicated to upholding these principles within MODS. As a board member, she is committed to fostering clear, transparent, and timely communication. Trinh eagerly anticipates the opportunity to contribute to MODS by supporting, enhancing, and growing this vibrant community.

\*Both Kari and Trinh will be elected by acclamation at the AGM.

### **Steve Baria** – current MODS board (he/him)

I was introduced to Ultimate in Manitoba in 1995. In that time I have been involved as both a player and coach with Touring teams, Juniors, leagues and tournaments like provincials and Hold Back the Snow. I was previously elected to the board where I was able to work with staff to solidify our provincial juniors program. Part of that work led to me being the first coach of Rebellion, where I was able to show that a feeder team to Team Manitoba provides a better and more consistent elite junior womens program.

I am seeking to re-join the board position to continue the work I have started with the juniors in my interim position, like the creation of a Provincial team handbook and investigating and supporting a year long program for our elite players. Outside of the juniors program, I believe I can help MODS gain some stability after coming out of some tough years during the global pandemic and changes to the community landscape. I strongly believe the board can be more supportive of the community and can provide an excellent set of opportunities for everyone in our community. I would also like to work with the staff and external partners to increase the profile of Ultimate in Manitoba at large and not just the Winnipeg Area.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

### **Aidan Dutka** (he/him)

I have been playing Ultimate Frisbee since I attended High School in 2013 where I was a captain for Glenlawn Collegiate. During this time, I played junior ultimate frisbee through the Team Manitoba program, before playing several years between the University of Manitoba and Winnipeg while studying environmental science. During this time, I worked with the former MODS director to create a sustainability policy and strategy with hopes of improving the organizations environmental impact.

More recently I have played multiple recreational leagues in Manitoba as well as been a captain on Winnipegs touring team Streetcar. Coaching has also been a large part of my Ultimate career, coaching my former high school for 6 years, as well as Team Manitobas Spitfire for a year. I believe I bring a unique perspective to the board with hopes of growing and improving Manitobas touring scene, continuing to grow Manitobas recreational programs, and helping to reduce the organizations ecological footprint.

### **Josh Kerr** (he/him)

I was first introduced to Ultimate in 2011, playing in MODS leagues in 2012, and coaching in 2014. I've played in nine CUC tournaments and two World Ultimate Club Championships, and I've captained PBHG, the province's premier mixed team, since 2017.

I've coached both Manitou and Team Manitoba and created a middle school ultimate clinic in the city called Magic Cut.

I work in communications, currently at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, where I have been since 2020.

### **Dennis Lu (he/him)**

Dennis's journey with ultimate frisbee began in 2009, shortly after his graduation from university. His search for a new activity led him to the world of ultimate frisbee, which evolved into a passion. Over the years, he participated in numerous co-ed summer and indoor teams, the men's indoor draft league, indoor parity leagues, and competed in numerous Beat the Skeeters tournaments.

Before ultimate frisbee, Dennis played years of senior basketball and volleyball. These experiences instilled in him the values of teamwork and strategic thinking—values he holds in high regard and believes to be key to the continued growth and success of ultimate frisbee.

In his professional career, Dennis has participated in numerous committees and groups. Currently serving as the vice-chair of a US/Canada regional working group, he leads and collaborates on various initiatives. With 14 years of experience as a professional engineer, Dennis possesses a meticulous approach to problem-solving, project management skills, and a keen attention to detail.

MODS has played an instrumental role in shaping Dennis's life, providing him with extraordinary experiences and lasting friendships. Now, his goal is to give back to the community that has enriched his life in countless ways. As a board member, Dennis envisions fostering the growth of the sport, championing gender equity initiatives, and elevating the overall experience for all participants.

In conclusion, Dennis believes that his blend of professional expertise, athletic background, and commitment positions him as an ideal candidate for the board of directors at MODS. With your support, he hopes to help MODS continue and expand on its path towards inclusivity, growth, and excellence within ultimate frisbee.

Thank you for considering Dennis's candidacy, and he eagerly anticipates the opportunity to contribute to MODS in a meaningful and impactful way

### **Quintus Luo (he/him)**

I have one year Ultimate experience in China. after I came backk Canada. I hope to bring this sport to my Chinese Community. So that I create a ultimate disc club, which calls Win Rate Club and have 172 members in the group now.

However, ultimate disc is still a new sport to my community, we are suffering a hard time to promote this sport. The Reason why I hope to join the board is I hope the Mods can support me to organize and promote ultimate disc in Chinese Community.

## **Kenton Noble** (he/him)

I started playing ultimate roughly 8 years ago when a coworker of mine asked me to sub on their team. Since then it has been 2nd to breathing for me. I quickly joined the team I had subbed on, asked others to join, and captained my own team among friends that were new to the sport. I love to share my love of the game and knowledge by seeking out new people to join a team and will make sure they always feel welcome. While coaching is one of my passions, I love the more competitive aspect that indoor mens and touring with Street Car has brought me over the years. As a MODS board member, I am hoping to find ways to bring new folks to ultimate, continue to enrich the environment for current ultimate players, and bring a unique perspective that only comes from playing both the lowest tier and one of the highest.

## **Stephen Powell** (he/him)

Stephen was introduced to Ultimate in the summer of 2019 when a friend needed a male-matching sub. He went on to join the Men's developmental league to grow his knowledge and skills in the sport and has played on various indoor and outdoor mixed teams. Stephen has been captain of a mixed outdoor team for the past two years and brings a passion and energy to the sport. In his short time playing Ultimate, Steve has helped grow the community by recruiting new players and organizing unofficial pick-up games and practices. Steve also recognized the difficulty of finding subs as a newer player, and addressed this issue by creating the original Winnipeg Ultimate Facebook page to help teams find subs. Steve is dedicated to continuing to help grow the Ultimate community.

Outside of Ultimate, Steve works as an Industrial electrician and has a passion for wellness and fitness. Steve has ran and coached several fitness groups and enjoys running, obstacle course racing and disc golf.

## **Brad Preyma** (he/him)

I have been a member of MODS since 2006 after picking up the sport in the summer of 2005. Over the years, I've played in mixed and open leagues, summer, fall, and winter rec leagues, played in and convened parity league, and in pretty much all divisions ranging from A to E. I've captained several rec teams over the years, and began playing as a touring player as a founding member of Manitoba's grand master open team, and experienced international ultimate as a player at the Worlds Masters Ultimate Club Championship in 2018.

Off the fields, I'm an elementary school teacher in the north end, where I coach an ultimate club every spring and fall. I have a lot of administrative and coaching experience through my school and in youth basketball. I'm also involved with several committees and working groups at my school. I'm passionate about the sport, and making it accessible to everyone. I believe helping foster a love of the game from a young age, and providing youth multiple avenues to continue playing ultimate will help the league grow. My daughter and son also love the sport, and I want to help develop more opportunities for youth programs.

I want an opportunity to give back to the community that has given me so many fantastic experiences and opportunities. I would love to be a part of growing and supporting the ultimate community as a MODS board member. I think my experience as a player, captain, coach, and parent of players gives me a good understanding of the various perspectives and stakeholders involved in the MODS community. I hope to have the opportunity to work with the board to help MODS grow and thrive.