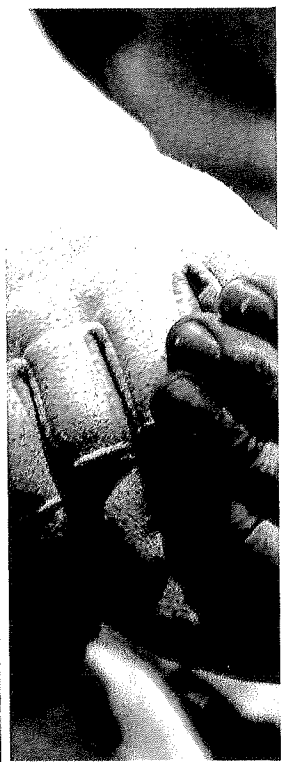
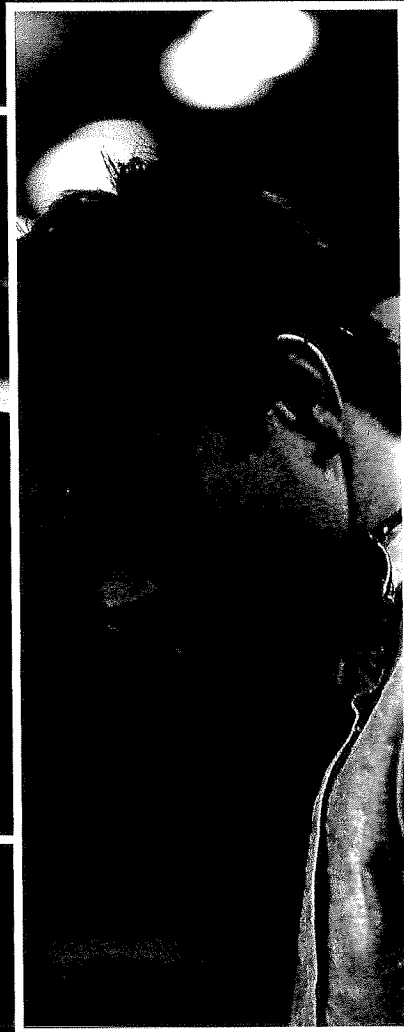
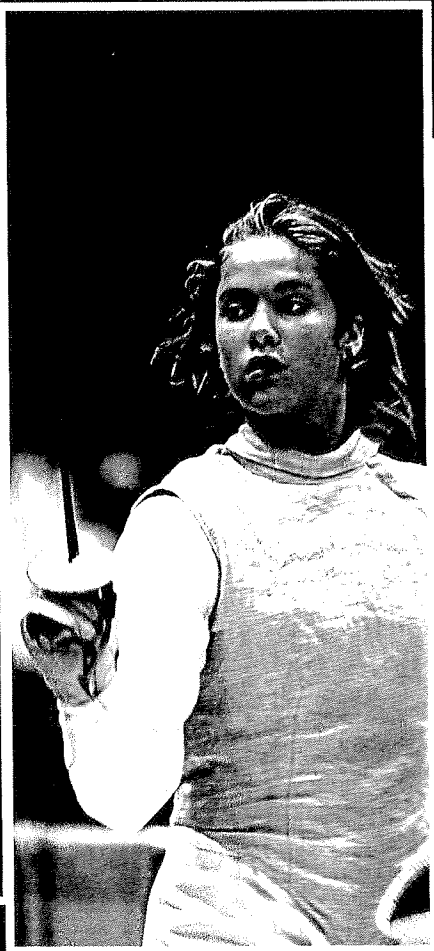
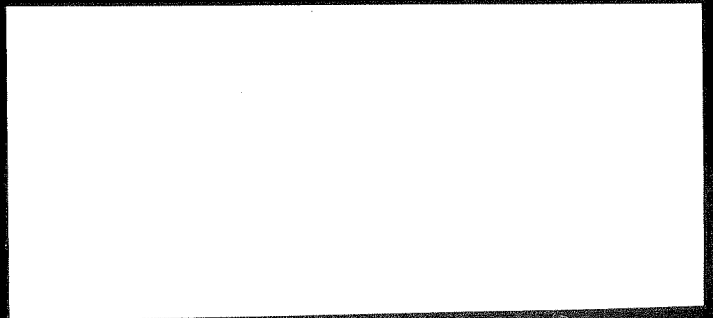


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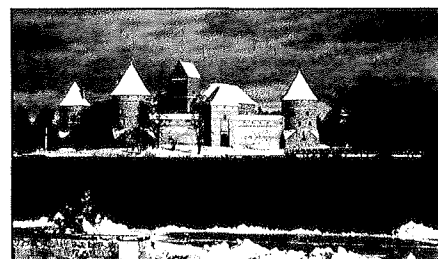


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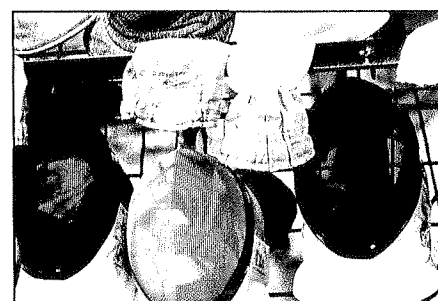
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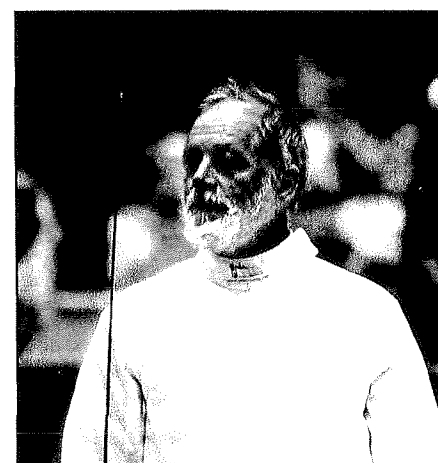
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Serge Timacheff of FencingPhotos.com eloquently captures the emotional highs and lows of the 2005 Summer Nationals—see his photo essay beginning on page 21.

The UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION Member Services Directory

The UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION is the national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USFA is affiliated with the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime, the international federation for fencing. The mission of the United States Fencing Association is to develop fencers to achieve international success and to administer and promote the sport in the United States.

The United States Fencing Association

Phone: (719) 866-4511
Fax: (719) 632-5737
E-mail: info@usfencing.org
Web: <http://www.usfencing.org>

President	Nancy Anderson
Vice President	Sam Cheris
Vice President	Ro Sobalvarro
Vice President	Edward Wright
Secretary	Linda Merritt
Treasurer	Derek Cotton

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Jose R. DeCapriles 1912-1969
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EDITOR Cindy Bent Findlay;
USFencingMedia@earthlink.net

PRODUCTION/DESIGN Meg Galipault/Jon Stickley

Associate Editors

Bob Block Veterans
Jeff Bukantz Rules/Referees
Joe Byrnes Technology
Chris Cuddy Advertising Sales
Peter Harmer Sports Medicine
John Heil Sports Psychology
Andy Shaw Official Historian

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Contributors

In this Issue

BOB BLOCK fences, coaches fencing, and writes about fencing out of his home near Denver, Colorado. He is a regular contributor to *American Fencing*, writing "The Grayblade," his column on veterans fencing.

JEFF BUKANTZ writes the "Rules and Referees" column. He is a member of the FIE Rules Commission. Email Jeff at bukieboy@fencingofficials.org.

MEGHAN GARDNER is the director and CEO of Guard Up, Inc. in Burlington, Massachusetts. Her business skills are the result of "many years of expensive mistakes, a voracious reading habit and rabid networking." She now consults start-up and small schools in improving their growth, staff training, and quality of service. In this issue, Gardner contributes valuable organizational advice for her "Club Tips" column.



PROFESSOR PETER HARMER is a member of the FIE Medical Commission and associate chair of the USFA Sports Medicine and Science Committee. Dr. Harmer contributes the "Sports Medicine Q&A" column for *American Fencing*. He can be reached at pharmer@willamette.edu.

DR. STEVEN HESKY is a psychologist and sports psychologist in private practice in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This is his second article for *American Fencing*. Hesky was introduced to the sport by his son, and took saber lessons himself. His focus on researching the mental game of the sport was inspired by that introduction.

MARGARET KOSMALA has fenced for 13 years at Concord-Carlisle High School, Brown University, DC Fencers Club, and most recently at Munich's Männer-Turnverein. Formerly a telecommunications expert, she is now working on an organic vegetable farm in rural Wisconsin. Kosmala writes this issue's "Postcard from the Strip." She can be reached at mkosmala@gmail.com.

SERGE TIMACHEFF is the official photographer of the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime and co-owner of www.FencingPhotos.com. He contributes his art and sports photography regularly to *American Fencing*. In this issue, Timacheff turns his lens on the 2005 Summer National Championships.

Nancy Anderson

President, United States Fencing Association

My last message was slightly misdirected: it read "Thanks to The Sport!" While all of us involved with fencing and reading this column certainly have a lot to thank the sport for, the message was supposed to read: "To the Parents—Thank You!" The tremendous turnout in Sacramento of our younger fencers and their supportive parents makes me once again want to express to the parents—"Thank You!" For as long as the United States Fencing Association and its predecessor, the Amateur Fencers League of America, have existed, our triumphs—individually and collectively—have been in great measure because of the faith, long hours, long trips, monetary and emotional support of the parents who have believed in the fencing programs at all levels available to their athletes.

In another part of this issue [see page 6] a long-time advocate, competitor, coach, and supporter of fencing asks the question "Where Do We Go From Here?" I urge you to read that letter. Many of the issues raised are right on target and I would like to address the comments and suggestions stated.

We are, indeed, riding the crest of the wave after the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Our medals, our very fine team and individual results have given our sport prominence in our own country and throughout the world. We are no longer the tag-alongs in the international competitive arena. We are a presence!

Now what? As Mr. Rosenberg points out, we need to direct much of our energy to fundraising and securing sponsorships in order to continue the success of our sport at every level. We have an active marketing committee that is contracting a professional group to help with these efforts. While the USFA will provide a portion of its budget towards this end, the expectation is that results will far outweigh the investment and all of our athletes (from grassroots to elite) will benefit. A full report on these activities will be made available to the Board at its fall meeting.


Our membership is growing. We currently have some 24,000 members. However, data indicates that there are almost 100,000 people in the United States involved in fencing in some way, although a vast majority is not included in the USFA membership. We are making efforts to correct this. There is an increasing number of school programs around the country; we will encourage these young people to join the USFA so that they can receive information about the sport through our website (that promises to become "state of the art" by the end of the summer!), email 'blasts' and our magazine. They will also be eligible to compete locally, regionally, and nationally, as they wish. We are seeing our Veteran Fencers growing in prominence and presence! We

hope that they will encourage their peer to join our ranks—after all, fencing has always prided itself that it is a "lifetime sport!" We are certainly VERY proud of our Olympic results, but we are also VERY proud of results in the Paralympic Games, the Veteran World Championships, the World Championships, the Junior/Cadet World Championships, the Pan American Games, the Senior and Junior Pan American Fencing Championships, National Championships in all categories, sectional/divisional championships, NCAA results, local/club championships and every other achievement of any of our fencers! Our athletes excel in every one of these events. And there are those who fence because it's fun—you are the people who inspire everyone else!

This past season has had some bumps (some of them BIG bumps, as Mr. Rosenberg has pointed out). We are trying to smooth them out. There is a big problem in terms of supply and demand of coaches, especially in

some of the grassroots programs. However well intentioned, the high-school biology teacher who took fencing in college 20 years ago may need a bit of updating before putting a program in place at his/her school. We are hoping to institute a program that will help address this with the help of local clubs and their well-meaning coaches. If it works, it will also increase club (and USFA?) membership. By the same token, we need to bring along top level coaching with the help of our elite national coaches to ensure that international results will continue.

There is a lot on our plate.

Most of all, we need your help! We have a very talented, smart, varied membership that can certainly provide LOTS of power to fencing and the many different aspects and athletes involved in the sport. Let us know who you are and what you can bring to this effort to make the world of US Fencing a happier place to be!! Contact information@usfencing.org with any suggestions and offers and we will certainly follow up. Any constructive input will not go unanswered. 

We currently have some 24,000 members. However, data indicates that there are almost 100,000 people in the United States involved in fencing.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? NOTES ON THE FUTURE OF U.S. FENCING

Future sports historians may describe the 2001-2004 Olympic quadrennial as the Renaissance of U.S. Fencing. Led by an outstanding array of Olympians, Juniors and Cadets, Americans in the established weapons came of age, confirming our country's place as a legitimate player on the international stage. Stacey Johnson's aggressive campaign to include the nascent women's saber event at the 2004 Olympics paid significant dividends, with unparalleled media exposure resulting from the medal-winning performances of Mariel Zagunis and Sada Jacobson. USFA membership doubled and new clubs opened all over the country; top Cadets and Juniors equaled or surpassed the benchmarks of their illustrious predecessors; and the talented core of the 2004 Olympic team has already begun preparing for Beijing. All in all, a palpable momentum seems to be driving American fencing forward. So how should the USFA capitalize on this publicity, competitive impetus and overall growth? Where do we go from here?

First and foremost, our leadership and paid administrators must prioritize fundraising and securing sponsorships. Conventional wisdom holds that the primary task of any not-for-profit corporation is to raise sufficient capital to pay for its programs. Whatever initiatives the USFA's "alphabet soup" committees have undertaken, there has never been enough money available to provide the necessary support and follow through. For the last two quadrennials, local clubs, private foundations and the athletes themselves (with the help of dedicated family and friends) have taken the lead. ... Our new administration, which has a golden opportunity to profit from fencing's 2004 Olympic notoriety, must assume leadership in soliciting and providing new sources of funding. Previous committees of volunteer "experts" have had little to show for their efforts.

Let's get serious and hire real professionals to get this job done right. ...

The USFA must set a target goal of increasing total membership to 100,000. Even with approximately 20,000 current members, we are still off the radar screen of deep-pocket sponsors and advertisers. Demographically speaking, fencers and their families could be a very appealing population to commercial interests: highly educated, relatively affluent, active consumers. Unfortunately, there are simply not enough of us to warrant significant targeted marketing (and the commensurate sponsorship dollars) by large corporations and advertisers. With 100,000 as the magic number, the USFA should make every effort to sell more memberships—from price cutting, restructuring and broadening dues categories, to aggressive, incentive-laden marketing to schools and other institutions. ...

The USFA has growing fiscal and management problems stemming from a top-heavy organizational structure. National committees (staffed by well intentioned but frequently under-qualified appointees) impose policies that time and again have costly and problematic outcomes. Along with the professional bureaucracy in Colorado Springs, their decisions are not market-driven, resulting in a lack of fiscal discipline and bottom-line effectiveness, as well as limited accountability. The USFA must begin to decentralize administration and some decision-making authority by establishing a regional organizational structure...

I had hoped that the template for decentralization would emerge from our efforts in the area of regional youth competitions. The RYC program, while still a work in progress, made significant steps forward, situating large tournaments in the backyards of huge segments of the fencing population. As market-driven events, they were far more cost effective (for both fencers and the USFA) than comparable YNACs, and stimulated the development of local infrastructure through-

out the country. Central to the RYC movement was the designation and empowerment of qualified regional coordinators, whose tasks involved oversight, evaluation and facilitation of events within their territories. ... The system was working; then inexplicably, a regressive centralized committee supplanted the regional coordinator group. With the competitive season well under way, this new committee failed to develop, disseminate and implement time-sensitive, necessary policy. This has led to delays, confusion and frustration among tournament organizers, parents and coaches.

The benefits of regional decentralization in the context of our national tournament structure are especially profound. The NAC system is dysfunctional. No fencers—anywhere in the world—pay higher entry fees for national events than we do. Yet even with escalating registration and entry costs, these competitions are at best, marginally profitable. Year after year, the Fencing Officials Commission (FOC) submits massive bills for air transportation, housing, food and per diems; the price tag for underwriting the labors of an itinerant stable of overworked referees. Dedicated competitors continually incur costly annual travel tabs, because hosting NACs proximal to the major metropolitan centers where they live and train is prohibitively expensive. Clearly, the need for sizeable regional competitions at every level—from Youth through Veteran—is blatant. As an economical pathway of experience-appropriate competitions for developing fencers, Regionals should be the logical stepping stone to leaner, meaner elite national events. ...

At least twice a week, I receive a call or email asking if I know of a coach or instructor available to work at some club or school. ... The demand for qualified coaches has far outstripped the supply. The USFA, perhaps in conjunction with the United States Fencing Coaches Association, the Coaches

continued on page 30

Special Edition Olympic Poster



This Summer Nationals in Sacramento, California, on July 2, the U.S. Fencing Association and FencingPhotos.com released a special edition art poster celebrating the historic gold and bronze medals earned by Mariel Zagunis and Sada Jacobson at the 2004 Olympic Games.

The poster features Zagunis and Jacobson together

er on the medals podium in Athens, heads donned with the olive wreaths, historic medals in hand. The gold and bronze were the first Olympic fencing medals ever won by any U.S. women. In addition, Zagunis's gold medal was the first for any American fencer in 100 years.

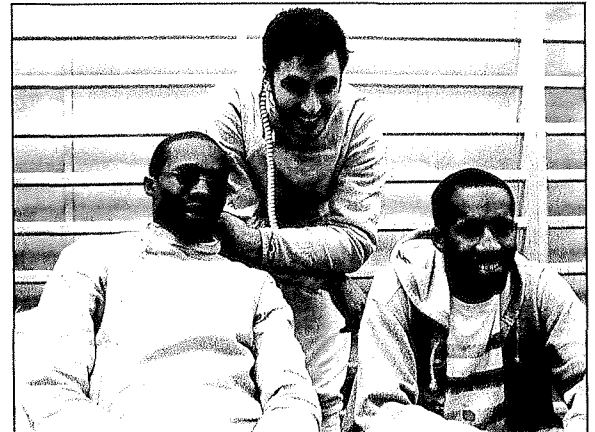
Sales were wildly successful in Sacramento, grossing over \$5,000. The poster is now available for purchase online through a special arrangement with www.fencing.net.

Proceeds from the poster will go to the U.S. Fencing Association's High Performance program, to fund travel and training grants to U.S. Fencing athletes, helping them travel around the globe and continue to achieve record-setting results looking toward the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

The poster retails for \$20. A very limited number of posters personally signed by Zagunis and Jacobson will be available for the special price of \$40. Grab your slice of Olympic history, support US Fencing athletes, and get a beautiful poster for your home or salle today.

Men's Saber Shows Strong Team Results

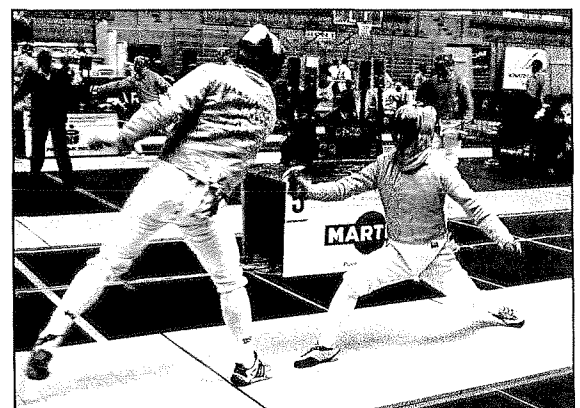
On May 15, the U.S. Senior Men's Saber team took the bronze at the team event of the prestigious Grand Prix de Wolodyjowski in Warsaw, Poland. Ivan Lee, Tim Morehouse, Jason Rogers, and Keeth Smart handily dispatched some of the world's saber pow-



From left, Ivan Lee, Jason Rogers, and Keeth Smart

erhouses. The team dominated Poland to make the top eight, and then faced Romania for the top four, mowing them down in a surprising 45-27 victory. Team U.S.A. then fell to Italy for the final, which Italy later won against Belarus. In the bronze medal match, Team U.S.A. comfortably pulverized the Korean team 45-31 with superior footwork and tactics. "It was nice to get a medal after the Olympics," said Ivan Lee, referring to the one-touch loss for the medal round in Athens last summer.

The team has enjoyed further strong results this season, winning the silver at the team event at the Grand Prix in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, on June 12th, this time with Lee, Rogers, Morehouse, and Timothy Hagamen. This result has brought the United States Men's Saber team to third on the F.I.E. world rankings, putting them in a strong position for the Senior World Championships in Leipzig, Germany, this fall. *Contributed by Matt Kolasa.*



Tim Morehoused blocks out a Korean fencer after counterattacking in Team USA's bronze medal bout.

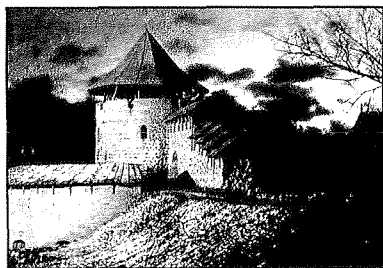
The Lithuanians' Cup

Great Fencing Mixes With Warm Hospitality · Margaret Kosmala

Jurate picked us up at the airport and drove us into the suburbs of Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city. After snaking through miles of concrete Soviet-era apartment buildings, we parked at one of these gray monoliths and scaled its dimly lit stairs. Inside was a completely different world; the apartment was full of light and warmth, with beautiful wooden furniture filling the rooms and heated tiles under foot. Jurate's friend Rita greeted us with a wide smile as her husband fit mittens onto their children's hands. This was just my introduction to the vitality and hospitality that welcomed me in Lithuania.

I had traveled there with my German clubmates, Carmen and Vanessa, to fence in the Lithuanians' Cup at Jurate's invitation. As tournament organizers, Jurate and Rita took us to the venue a day early to oversee the preparations. The site was in a small school gym, which was old, dilapidated and reeked of sweat. The bathroom facilities were meager, and as I watched, a man nailed an electric strip directly into the gym's wooden floor. I was a bit dismayed.

I learned quickly of the challenges to the Lithuanian Fencing Federation. For starters, Lithuania is small in size, with a population of only 3.6 million—about the same as Los Angeles. The country, which threw off Communist rule only fourteen years ago, has struggled economically and so funding of athletics has not been a high priority. As a result, fencing in Lithuania is limited to one weapon: epee. The two major cities—capital Vilnius and cultural center Kaunas—support



Kaunas Castle

Lithuania's three clubs, sustain all one hundred of its fencers, and host the two national tournaments: the Lithuanians' Cup in December and the Lithuanian Championship in May. Two fencing schools train junior fencers until the age of 23. Then, if a fencer hasn't achieved international results, it can be difficult to find coaching support to continue competitive fencing. (Jurate and Rita, along with a few others, have recently established a club focusing on adult fencers to address this shortcoming.)

When I arrived at the venue the next day, my dismay evaporated. The gym had been transformed by posters, pictures, ribbons, and balloons. A festive raffle table and a winner's podium had been set up, and anticipation filled the air. The two events—women's and men's epee—were run with alacrity, new machines, and professionalism. The women's

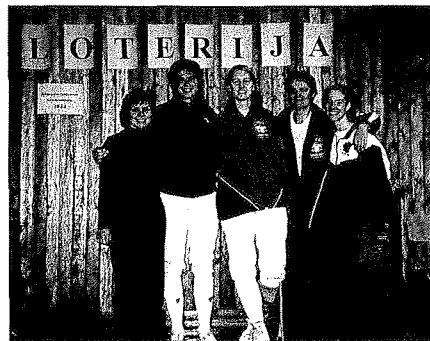
epee event was small by international standards: 22 competitors, including four Latvians who had braved a snowstorm, my two German friends, and me, an American. And it was strong. Several of the fencers were world-ranked and one of the Latvians was a former Olympian.

The day started with the role-call. We lined up in a row and stepped forward to salute the bout committee as each name was called. The head of the national federation gave a brief introduction and then fencing began. I ended up coming out of the pools in the middle of the field and ended up losing my first DE 15-13 to the eventual silver medalist. Jurate (who defeated Vanessa) and Carmen both advanced, but then lost in the round of eight. So we headed back to Rita's for showers and then returned later that afternoon to watch the finals.

The final four of women's and men's epee was a splendid affair. At 5:00, there was a large and eager gathering of spectators lining the walls on benches and chairs. The women's and men's bouts alternated, giving the fencers a chance to rest without any dead time for the spectators. And while the fencers hooked up, the audience was treated to short dances by a troupe of high school girls. The two semifinal bouts in the women's epee were intense and fun to watch, each pitting a Lithuanian against a Latvian, and each ending with a narrow 15-14 score. In the end, the gold was won by Latvian Julija Vansovica, who was world-ranked 36th.

Over the next couple of days, we were treated to more of the generous hospitality of our hosts. Jurate, Rita, and her family took us to see a fourteenth century castle, and gave us tours of both Kaunas and Vilnius. They treated us to traditional food and plied us with a variety of Lithuanian liquors. And when the time came to leave, we each were bestowed with a festive "tree cake" made out of flaky pastry to bring home.

By the end of the trip, I had become deeply impressed with the hospitality, energy, and resourcefulness of our hosts, the Lithuanian fencing community, and the people of a country that has undergone such enormous recent change. It made me realize how much can be done with so little, both in fencing and in life. ♣



Kosmala, far right, with her Lithuanian hosts and German clubmates.

Doping Control

The Onus is on the Athlete · Peter Harmer, Ph.D, ATC

A number of recent events related to performance-enhancing substances, such as the BALCO probe, the Congressional hearing on baseball, and problems experienced by USFA members at world competitions have prompted me to once again focus on this issue rather than our usual question and answer. I recently returned from the FIE Medical Commission meeting where details of failed doping tests in fencing since January 2004 were discussed. What became evident was the number of times that unnecessary stress and cost in dealing with an anti-doping violation could have been avoided if the athletes had been appropriately aware of the regulations and followed some simple precautions.

Although there are many nuances to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, athletes need to be mindful of only a few important fundamentals to avoid failing a test: strict liability, the List, Therapeutic Use Exemptions, and testing protocols. All of this information can be found on the WADA (www.wada-ama.org) and US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA; www.usantidoping.org) websites. It is the athlete's responsibility, and in his/her best interest, to become familiar with this information.

First, it must be understood that the dictum of strict liability applies. This means that athletes are responsible for what goes into their bodies and ignorance of the rules, inadvertent ingestion, following physician advice, or any other situation in which prohibited substances are consumed unwittingly or accidentally will not be acceptable as an excuse. It is up to each athlete to ensure that he/she is not consuming anything that may result in a failed test. It cannot be stressed strongly enough that the use of herbal or nutritional supplements and legal

over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medications are common causes of failed tests (Keep in mind—"when in doubt, go without!").

To minimize the risk of consuming a prohibited substance, athletes must be familiar with the current list of prohibited substances. The List is updated regularly, becoming active on January 1 each year. To test your knowledge of anti-doping regulations, you can try the "Play the Doping Quiz" option under the Athletes Corner link on the WADA website. To find out whether an OTC or prescription medication is permissible, go to the Drug Reference On-line section of the USADA website (www.usantidoping.org/dro/) and follow the links (note: not all features may work in Netscape. USADA has been made aware of this problem and should be fixing it. There do not seem to be any problems using Internet Explorer).

Athletes who for legitimate medical reasons need to use a substance that is on the prohibited List may apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). The guidelines for applying are clearly specified under the WADA and USADA sites. However, a number of things need to be emphasized: a) TUE are only needed for substances that are on the List, i.e., do not submit TUE applications for substances that are not on the List; b) TUE must be applied for and approved prior to use of the substance except in exceptional (i.e., emergency) situations; c) approved TUE documents must be presented by the athlete to Doping Control Officers at any doping test (physician letters are not acceptable); and d) generally TUE are only valid for a limited time (currently the maximum is one year) and must be renewed as necessary.

Finally, athletes must be familiar with the procedures of a doping con-

trol test to ensure that their rights are not violated and that the integrity of the system is maintained. Again, it cannot be emphasized enough that it is the athlete's responsibility to know what steps are involved and to file a protest if anything is not done according to established protocol. If the problem is at an USFA event, the athlete should register his/her complaint with a representative of the bout committee or the medical staff; if the testing is at an FIE World Cup, the FIE observer is the appropriate contact; if the problem occurs at a World Championship, the athlete must ask for a member of the FIE Medical Commission to register the athlete's concern.

It is an unfortunate reality that anti-doping is such a significant part of modern sport. The rules are strict and the penalties can be severe, even in cases of unintentional use. It is up to each athlete to ensure that he/she avoids the stress of a failed test by knowing the regulations and exercising due caution. It is too late to be concerned once a test comes back positive.

Emergency response: Be careful what you say!

At the NAC in Denver in April, a competitor sustained an injury that required transportation to hospital. Unfortunately, a well-meaning person in the venue called 911 on a cell phone, gave an ambiguous message to the dispatcher and hung up. As a result, there was a significant delay in getting the athlete to the hospital as police cordoned off the building, preventing access by ambulance personnel, because of the wording of the 911 call.

The medical staff at all NACs, JOs and Nationals have an emergency

continued on page 31

How to Make a Miserable Fencer

Notes on Self-Esteem and Performance · Steven Hesky, Ph.D.

With ten seconds to play, his team down by two points, why did Michael Jordan want the ball and score consistently? Behind by two strokes at a major tournament, why did Jack Nicklaus play better consistently? With the score 10 to 5 going into the last minute of an important, direct elimination bout, why do some fencers come from behind to win consistently? What is this quality of character that wins when high performance counts? Is it genetic? Can it be learned?

This quality of character so fundamental to winning is commonly called "high self-esteem." It is not genetic; it is the consequence of a learning process that begins long before any fencer begins to compete. Just like technique and physical strength, flexibility, and endurance, it can be developed, but it cannot be taught intellectually. What can be taught are the signs and symptoms of both high and low self-esteem. And this teaching can help to lay the ground work both for fighting off low self-esteem and developing high self-esteem.

Before you accomplish anything or win praise from anyone, high self-esteem is the attitude that you are the most important person in your life, you are the star of your own life, and you also get to write at least part of the story. Low self-esteem is the attitude that who and what you are, what you feel, what you think simply does not matter, or is bad. You are ashamed of yourself and have little or no say as to whether you achieve what you want: this is up to others, or it is a matter of luck.

In order to develop high self-esteem or to fight off low self-esteem, it helps to be aware of the subtle, paradoxically sometimes even celebrated, expressions of low self-esteem. To that end, I offer the following exaggerated description of what **not** to do.

A PRIMER FOR LOW OR NEGATIVE SELF-ESTEEM

While training or competing, it is important to ignore what you are experiencing—your feelings, thoughts, and perceptions need to be dismissed as irrelevant. What matters is how many hours you train and how you place in tournaments.

Establishing perfectionistic expectations for how you rank in tournaments and practices will help to fuel low self-esteem, especially when failure to live up to these perfectionistic standards is accompanied by vicious self-critique.

"High self-esteem" is not genetic—it is the consequence of a learning process.


Perhaps the most critical part of developing or maintaining low self-esteem is how you set up relationships. How you are treated by others helps you initially to develop, then increase and deepen, chronic discouragement and a view of yourself as unworthy regardless of what you accomplish—key elements of low self-esteem. Through the angry, uncaring, insensitive, achievement-oriented attitude of others, you come to be conditioned.

Once a negative, self-hating attitude towards yourself is in place, it may become self-sustaining, but it is very important to keep the consequent misery to yourself. Sharing your internal struggles with a sympathetic coach, parent, or close friend can undermine low self-esteem. Faking it with others, hiding and being ashamed of the emotional pain is a key ingredient to sustaining an atti-

tude that you are unworthy, or worse. In your mind, your only value comes when you win—and then the feeling is short lived—and winning has no effect upon your deeply established sense of basic unworthiness.

Once the foundation of low self-esteem is in place, certain signs can be used to test for its existence and hardness. For example, you may experience training and competing successfully as necessary work; it will become your way of winning respect and love from others. It is not, in itself, a source of pleasure. Accordingly, since so much is riding on your success, fear of failure is often overwhelming and interferes with performance. Humiliation and alienation are always looming on the horizon of your efforts; and taking risks is difficult because there is so much that you have to lose, i.e. brief experiences of love and respect for winning. Any internal rebellion against this tyrannical and cruel regimen should be dealt with quickly and thoroughly—internal resistance to the hard program of perfectionistic standards is defined as a sign of immaturity, weakness, and cowardice.

CONCLUSION

I'm sure that you get the idea...Let me now return to the positive for a moment before signing off. Self-confidence is a result of positive self esteem, as is the capacity to focus and the strength to endure the ups and downs of training and tournaments. On a developmental level, self-esteem is the formation of an attitude towards yourself based upon how you are treated by others. Relationships are also the key to changing these attitudes—positive or negative. The challenge for the performer is to develop relationships that help you to learn technique and develop strength, flexibility, and endurance—physically and personally. 

William A. Goering (1932-2005)

A Final Salute To A Gentleman Fencer · Bob Block

Molière once wrote about fencing being a gentleman's sport because it is the art of giving without receiving. Our friend Bill Goering was a swordsman who epitomized this concept. He was a true gentleman both on and off the fencing piste. As his many saber opponents can testify, he gave most generously of his cuts while receiving very few in return. He was a very polite, kindly man who seldom displayed anger, much preferring to win over his friends, his opponents, and the occasional errant fencing official with a knowing smile and a logical argument. Bill was also a perfectionist who believed in precise technique and strict adherence to the rules. He was a natural leader with strong opinions who was willing to offer advice to a beginning student as well as to AFLA and USFA presidents.

Bill was one of fencing's renaissance men who gave generously of himself to the sport that he loved, making important contributions as a volunteer far beyond the field of active competition. His impact was felt at all levels of fencing from serving as USFA vice president and interim executive director to his membership on many national committees, including chairing the Fencing Officials Commission. In addition to being an international competitor, he was also an international referee and a referee instructor. At the local level he served as president and the human glue that held together the fledgling Denver Fencing Center (DFC).

My memories of Bill come primarily from our mutual association with the DFC, his fencing home for the past eight years, and his involvement in veteran fencing. I'll always remember how this one time Bulldog saber team captain, who earned a master of engineering degree at Yale in 1954, was able to keep several strips operating

at once during the early years of the DFC by fashioning homemade reels out of clothesline assemblies held to the floor by adhesive gum. He was a hands-on guy who cobbled together parts for equipment and solved technical problems that would have left many armorers scratching their heads.

After a long evening of bouting, giving lessons and dealing with equipment malfunctions, Bill would often join the rest of the members in sharing fencing stories over a cold beer—German, of course—in the rathskeller of the Turnverein. During one of these

When he was already in his mid-sixties, Goering won an NAC saber crown—an unheard of achievement in modern times.

moments we learned of his fierce loyalty to his alma mater when he told us how he once gave away a fencing bag that he won at a saber tournament because he couldn't in good conscience keep something that was in the orange and black colors of Yale's despised Princetonian rival.

Bill was a relative latecomer to veteran fencing, undoubtedly because with his skill level he was still able to compete successfully in the open ranks long after most other veteran-age fencers need to find a more leveled playing field. When he was already in his mid-sixties, Bill accomplished the unheard of in modern times achievement of winning an NAC saber crown at such an advanced fencing age. The advent of a Veteran World Championship in 1998 drew him into active veteran competition and he qualified for the U.S. veteran world

team every year that he competed. His best result was a silver medal a couple of years ago and there is little doubt that he would have eventually won a veteran world championship if that quest hadn't been derailed by his battle with leukemia.

Not long after first becoming acquainted with Bill, I realized that his highly self-disciplined approach to fencing was a personal trait that carried over to his life in general. For example, one evening during a break in fencing I happened to mention to him that I was trying to lose some weight. He listened attentively to my lament about limited success and then told me that he weighed himself every morning and if he was one ounce over his college weight he dieted that day until he was back at or under his self-imposed limit. Bill told me this when he was in his late sixties, probably 45 years after graduating from college, and he was still meeting or beating his personal standard!

When a man is actively involved in his sport for over 50 years it is impossible in these pages to relate all of the stories that his friends would like to tell. It must suffice to say that the entire fencing community from his contemporaries to the younger fencers who knew him, especially his small but select group of saber students, offer a final salute with a flourish to the gentleman swordsman who so enriched our lives by his presence. And knowing Bill, he is somewhere now with a smile on his face returning the gesture with a formal saber salute of his own because it is part of the code of honor and the rules of the game that were so important to him. Although he is gone now and will be missed by many, his influence on our sport and the memories he left behind will continue to be Bill Goering's living legacy to fencing. 🏆

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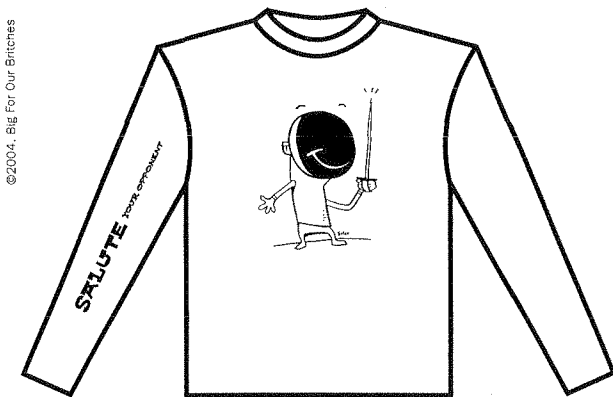
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Recently we purchased an Official Awards Stand for use at our National Tournaments. We believe it to be the only professionally constructed fencing awards stand in the world. We must apologize for ordering a 7 person stand which called for 8th place to stand on the ground. After viewing the faces of our young athletes we realized our error and ordered an 8th Place, which should arrive shortly.

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The New Rules of the Game

Reviewing the Revisions · Jeff Bukantz

In the last issue we dealt with the positive changes that have helped clean up the actual combat aspect of competition, particularly cheating. Now, let's take a look at some of the changes that have improved the overall presentation of our sport.

#1: THE RELAY FORMAT IN TEAM EVENTS

The team events have always been considered to be the most exciting, as national pride brings out the rawest emotions, both good and bad.

The team events used to be four person slugfests that favored the deepest team. The negative was that the final score could be 8-8, and the winner decided by the touch differential. I still have very vivid and sad memories from the 1987 Pan American Games, where our foil squad faced Canada in the semis for a shot against the Cuban juggernaut in the finals.

We were up with a commanding 8-5 lead, needing only one more victory. But, the nightmare unfolded in the most excruciating way, as we lost the last three bouts and the match due to the touch differential.

What a way to lose a grueling match! What a confusing and anticlimactic way to offer a "winner" to the audience. Clearly, that was not the best format.

Then, the team events went to three person teams. This solved the problem, as the final bout score could not be tied. This format was neat, finite, and tidy.

Eventually, the FIE adopted the relay format, again staying with three fencers. This format had a flaw, as it potentially favored the weaker team which was able to rely on one strong fencer. However, there is no denying that this format was one of the greatest improvements ever, as it made for

some incredibly exciting comebacks for a viewing audience.

Our teams have been on both sides of these crazy comebacks in the last two years. While the Olympics saw us come out on the short end, let's always remember what was possibly the greatest comeback in American fencing history when Dan Kellner came back from a 30-40 deficit to defeat Cuba for the 2003 Pan American Games gold medal in team foil!

#2: THE INVENTION OF STANDARDIZED HAND SIGNALS

I'll never forget the 1996 pre-Olympic World Cup in Atlanta. Arthur Cramer of the FIE had come up with a set of hand signals for the referees. And he was hell bent on making sure we learned them.

Before the competition, Cramer lined up the referees in the hallway. He got up on a chair and started barking out the instructions like an army drill sergeant while demonstrating the new signals. We all laughed, wished we were elsewhere, and basically ridiculed Cramer.

However, these hand signals eventually became second nature to the refs; best of all, they greatly improved the calling of the actions for the audience. While we made fun of him at the time, Cramer deserves a hand for this great improvement.

The only negative was that some within the FIE put more emphasis on the refs' hand signal technique than on whether the actual calls were right. In fact, after officiating a bout in the finals of the men's foil at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, an FIE member immediately came up to me as I proudly walked off the stage and criticized the angle and height of my arm position while calling the fencers "en garde." The last thing on his mind was how I had actu-

ally performed under the most intense pressure imaginable!

#3A: TOUCHES "FOR" REPLACING TOUCHES "AGAINST"

Yup, it used to be scored with touches "against" a fencer. Yup, it was backwards. Nope, it didn't make any sense.

OK, it was fixed. How touching.

#3B: REVERSING THE LIGHTS

The previous change was a no-brainer, but this one is a little more complicated.

There was something very understandable when the light corresponds with the side of the fencer who got hit. When a hockey goal is scored, the light over that net goes on, not over the net of the team that scored.

Reasonable people can disagree over this change. But, the change seemed to go hand in hand with touches being scored "for" as opposed to "against."

#4: COLORED QUADRANTS

While many tournaments undeniably need 24-32 strips, the invention of the colored quadrants has certainly painted a broad brush stroke for the audience, especially after the initial round of pools.

#5: OPEN CLOCK

The clock used to be closed. I don't know why. But, it made plenty of sense to change to an open clock at all times.

Now, there are no secrets. Now, there are no more concerns about some teams clandestinely informing its fencer about the time remaining. Now, there are no concerns about timekeepers or referees fooling around with the time.

It is fair and it allows for the fencers

to utilize the time in the manner that makes most sense for them. And it allows the audience to be in the timing loop, as well.

It was about time.

#6: CLEAR MASKS

The clear masks have been great for fencing, specifically in the area of making us more TV-friendly.

Once the safety issues have been completely resolved, these masks should become mandatory.

The clear masks got rave reviews during the Olympic coverage. As long as the fencers are not put at risk by wearing them, FIE President Roch deserves credit for his clear vision.

#7: NAMES ON THE UNIFORM

Anything that can help the public more easily identify the fencers must be considered a good thing. Having the names on the back or on the rear leg has certainly helped.

Unfortunately, this relatively insignificant improvement has led to a disproportionate amount of controversy. We've seen some real nit-picking over the actual lettering at times, which is sad.

The end result is that there has been tremendous inconsistency, both domestically and internationally, over the enforcement of this regulation. This regulation has been around long enough, so it really is inexcusable for any competitor to be out of compliance.

The reality is that while this is a picayune rule/regulation, the statute of limitations is up with regard to competitors ignoring it or for referees and bout committees failing to properly and consistently enforce it.

#8: WIRELESS SABER

This was one of the improvements embraced by the television community. It modernized the sport, and the addition of the masks lighting up was really cool.

The gurus at NBC really thought the wireless and the clear masks enhanced the overall presentation for the television audience.

Regardless of referee controversies, it is far better for the public to see bright lights determine the materiality of hits as opposed to sometimes shady juries.

#9: ELIMINATION OF THE FLECHE AND CROSSOVER IN SABER

For me, this change epitomizes the term "mixed emotions." For those who don't know, the definition of "mixed emotions" is best described by the following: Seeing your mother-in-law drive off the cliff...in your brand new Mercedes!

The fleche is one of the most spectacular aspects of fencing. Did everyone see the incredible fleches launched by Olympic foil gold medalist Bryce Guyart?

Unfortunately, saber fencing evolved into an event dominated by run and gun footwork fireworks. So, in an attempt to return to some semblance of actual fencing, the crossover and the fleche were canned.

The end result was that saber lost the spectacular fleche but caused the fencers to at least try for some blade actions. It is fair to say that the intended effect worked to some extent, but the reality is that saber fencing is still long on double attacks and still short on counter ripostes. In fact, there was a grand total of one counter-riposte in the entire final of the 2005 Budapest Men's World Cup.

#10: NATIONAL COLORS ON UNIFORMS, LAMES, AND MASKS

The fencing uniform, for the most part, is white, bland, and homogenized. Basically, fencing is now where tennis used to be, where the players had to wear tennis whites and all looked the same. Can you imagine if Serena Williams was required to wear plain vanilla white tennis outfits? Well, the fact that she, as well as all the players, are allowed to wear colorful and stylish outfits has enhanced the popularity of tennis tremendously.

Fencing is rich in tradition, as is tennis. But, unlike tennis, fencing has

only taken baby steps in the fashion department.

Mandating the national colors on the pant legs was a step in the right direction. Allowing national colors on the lame was another good idea. Allowing certain designs such as the national colors on the mask was yet another.

However, sometimes the FIE's pervasive stodginess holds it back. A couple of years ago, the Italian Milanoli wore a mask painted with a Kabuki-like design. It was wild, it was cool, and most importantly, it brought attention to our sport. And, while this was a relatively innocuous cosmetic change, the FIE immediately banned it!

So, at the end of the day, the FIE usually gets it right. Fencing continues to improve, thanks to the unyielding efforts of thoughtful and forward-thinking fencers throughout the world.


And, that's what makes it so terribly disturbing and frustrating to have to deal with these short-sighted rule changes to the blockage and contact timing that have actually hurt the sport.

As for those who championed these misguided and counterproductive changes to the contact and the blockage timing, it is time for them to back off, acknowledge their mistakes, and refocus their over zealotry in a positive direction by righting the wrong that they were entirely responsible for.

The next column will be a follow-up to this one. While this one dealt with actual rule changes and technological improvements, the next one will focus on the most important change in mindset in the last quarter of a century. And, it was a mindset that took a quarter of a century to change.

What mindset? Whose mindset? And why did it take a quarter of a century to change?

The first five readers who email me the correct answer will receive a USFA souvenir. The second five will receive an autographed 8 by 10 of George Kolombatovich.

Better hurry! 

Where's My Mask?

Label Your Equipment Properly · Joe Byrnes

It's a big event. Fencer (often young, sometimes Pop or Mom is along for the trip) comes up to the inspection table, carrying a shiny new mask and wearing that proud, *look what I got* expression. I inspect it; it's fine; I mark it; then I say: whose mask is this, anyway? Fencer looks puzzled: Mine! I say: I don't see any name on it, therefore this could be mine, or anybody's. Usually the fencer, and certainly Mom or Pop, gets the idea; I lend them an indelible marker, and all's well.

Of course, it's not only masks that can go astray. Just about everything you bring to a competition needs to be labeled to prevent gradual or abrupt, shall we call it, drift. The bigger the competition, and the farther from your usual stamping ground, the more necessary the label. Think about it.

Certain parts of your tout ensemble are supposed to be marked in certain ways, certainly for international-level events: see the Rule Book—courtesy of the bureaucratic gurus of the FIE. These people—and I've said it before—are no better than U.S. Congresspersons in making such determinations. (Remember what Mark Twain had to say: "Suppose I were a Congressman; and suppose I were an idiot; but I repeat myself.")

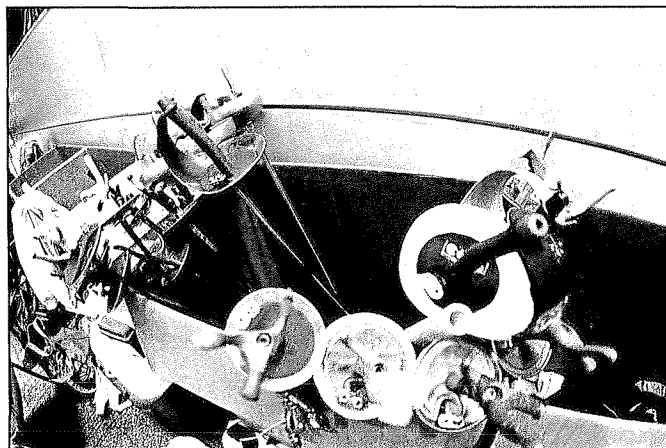
However, the precise—well, more or less—dimensions of the name label on your jacket, and the nature of your national ID, are all there very neatly specified. The name-on-the-pants alternative is strictly U.S. (the international types won't hear of it—not invented there, you see).

Even the FIE can't come up with a simple solution if your name is something like "Ulrich von Williamowitz-Moellendorf"—one of my favorite examples. However, I suppose we can't expect everything.

Consider: you are putting your name on your new mask—do you carefully ink it onto the removable back strap (hook-and-loop-type attachment), or do you place it somewhere that cannot be easily removed and replaced? Your electrical jacket, foil or saber, will be sufficiently labeled, ditto an epee jacket. Your trousers may have the USA "flash" (as certain FIE types call it), which is generic, not specific. Still your own name should be indelibly inked into just about everything you wear. And for those going out of the country, putting "USA" on there somewhere isn't a bad idea either. Remember there are naughty people who will not scruple to remove a hook-and-loop strap, or a whole cuissard strap, both easily replaced, to conceal a theft.

Body cords are a harder problem, but ways of making clear what's what and whose is whose do exist: take your choice. It would be your loss. Weapons are another matter.

How many times have we in the armory surveyed the field of battle at the end of a long day's fencing, only to see quite a few foils, epees, and sabers left around, like orphans of the storm. The odds are very good that most of them will have no legible ID. Indelible black—or pick your color—markers inside the guard are easy. More legible embossed tape markers are neater. Engraved initials—even from one of those vibrating tip electric gadgets, although not elegant, unless you have Michelangelo's touch, will work well. If you don't have access to such a device, try being polite to the gang at the armory table at a big event. There's almost always one of those things around, and if they don't want to do the fancy penmanship, they may let you—at your own risk—have at it.



Lost and found at the Summer Nationals.

Photo: Serge Timacheff

Then there are all sorts of labels that I suppose you could call "private." You have five foils; three look very much alike, but your subtle sense of touch can distinguish among them—provided you are allowed the chance to handle them all. Label them #1 - 5, for crying out loud, and you won't be fiddling around, dithering over a choice, unless you are trying to steal a few moments—but you wouldn't try that, would you? If you have something in your bag that you shouldn't be bringing out, put a bit of tip tape over the tip or the face of the guard: hands off. I have seen flustered internationalists, of considerable experience, have a weapon go bad, and grab the first good looking thing out of the bag, when it hadn't ever been inspected and approved for that competition, being surplus to the allotment for inspection. Oops—the little pack of colored cards came out. ✂

Serious Business

Running a Successful Fencing School • Meghan Gardner

This article will be the first in a series of articles that will help coaches and instructors run successful and even profitable fencing schools.

I will be covering many subjects pertaining to the business side of running a school, including how to open a new school, market your school, attract more prospective students, turn those prospective students into paying and practicing students, and how to keep those students. I will also discuss different methods of improving your monthly revenue and profit (nasty, evil word), including retail sales, special events, summer camps and more.

If you have any specific questions, you can email me at Meghan@guardup.com and I will answer you either via email, telephone or through this column as time and space permits.

My goal for this column is simple: I want to help any fencing instructor out there who wishes to make a comfortable and successful living by operating a fencing school to get his or her wish. I don't want you to have to hold a "real" job to support your passion... I don't want you to feel like you have to "sell out" to realize your dream. There is nothing wrong with making money—even lots of it—when you provide a service to students who know that your fencing lessons are well worth what you charge.

First, I should introduce myself and my company so that you have some idea of my background.

In 1995, I started teaching martial arts through the local recreation and continuing education departments (which was the only time I could afford as a mother of two young children). My classes grew in size and popularity over the span of a few years.

I then decided to begin offering yet another class—foil fencing. Thanks to some assistance from the USFA office, I was able to locate a qualified fencing instructor who started up the fencing program for my newly incorporated company: Guard Up! Inc. As well, I brought in an exceptional historical swordsmanship instructor who also happened to be a professional board game designer. A simple rule of business here: Don't try to do something that others who are more qualified can do for you.

Eventually, we moved to our own space two towns away in Burlington, Massachusetts. Although the move cost us a number of students (another business tip: travel time to location is a significant issue for students), and the fact that we opened our doors literally days before 9/11, we quickly

built a strong student base and fumbled our way through the process of growing a successful business.


It wasn't long before I realized that our swordsmanship and fencing programs were, by far, more popular than our martial arts program. Over the next three years, we grew our student base to capacity. The martial arts program continued to shrink as I spent more time and attention on growing the fencing and swordsmanship programs.

In 2004, we were bursting at the seams with 175 students in 2,000 square feet. We located a new space less than a mile down the road and relocated to a gorgeous 6,500 square foot facility with three training floors, retail, lounge, changing rooms and office. In 6 months we had a net gain of 50 more students on annual contracts and another 53 on short term contract for a total of 278 students.

But that shouldn't impress you as much as our revenue. If we hit our numbers this year, we will be closing in on \$450,000 for 2005. We also employ thirteen part-time and full-time staff. Our youth fencing program and sword games classes are the most popular, accounting for approximately 65 percent of our student base. Our monthly attrition (number of students who quit) is about 4 percent—significantly lower than the industry standard for martial arts schools. Another business tip here: Track your business performance as avidly as you track your fencing team's performance.

To what do I attribute our success? First and foremost: The team of people who make up this company. They are passionate about swords, but they also are passionate about success. Another reason is the simple fact that we never stop questioning our methods and the results. And finally, we don't just teach people how to poke each other with swords. We teach important life skills, improve our students' physical health and performance, provide a positive role model to the youth and take an active role in our community.

Our business isn't "just" a business and our school isn't "just" a school. We make a difference in people's lives. You know that you do too as a fencing instructor. And if being able to do this full time allows you to help more people, then all the better. If the USA and Canada can support approximately 24,000 martial arts schools, it can certainly handle a few thousand more fencing schools.

So if you are ready to take the plunge, tune in to future editions of *American Fencing* and find out how you can turn your dream into a reality. 

Track your business performance as avidly as you track your fencing team's performance.

GOING BY THE BOOK

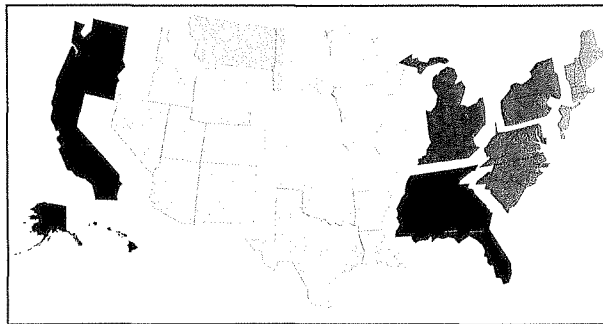
A Conversation with Edwin "Buzz" Hearst

Buzz Hurst has been a leader of initiatives on clubs and divisions for almost two decades, having formed the committee for clubs, divisions and sections in 1988, serving as its chair for eight years, and then as vice president of the USFA.

Hurst is currently working on updating the USFA's highly successful guide for division officers. The guide will be available to the membership by some time this fall.

Hurst spoke with American Fencing to give us a preview of some of the contents and highlight what he says are some little-known but very important rules regarding operation of USFA divisions that the entire USFA membership should note.

We have more than 60 Divisions in the USFA, and the vast majority of them chug right along, running tournaments, establishing qualifiers, managing their bank accounts, and keeping members reasonably happy. However, like a dormant volcano, every now and then one of them blows its lid, and Division meetings begin to resemble that scene in every great old pirate movie when one entire crew boards the other ship and starts flailing away at the other crew. When that happens, Division officers and fencers alike are sometimes shocked to discover that the USFA does not maintain a peace-keeping force in Colorado Springs which it is prepared to deploy on a moment's notice. In general, the USFA



does not have the authority to just come in and start cleaning up Tombstone. The only time we could assume such a role is when a Division's bylaws or actions directly conflict with the USFA's Bylaws, and/or when the issue affects our nonprofit status. In general, therefore, Divisions have to work out their own problems. In order to do that, they have to have viable bylaws: ones that actually help solve problems, and even better, forestall many. The USFA will try to offer advice on how to deal with a problem, and in rare instances even act as an honest broker to try to mediate an issue, but as a general rule, local problems must be handled locally.

The situation for clubs and divisions has changed considerably over the years. When I took over as chair of the Divisions & Sections Committee some 17 years ago, there was no insurance coverage available through the USFA for either Divisions or clubs, nor could Divisions snuggle up under the USFA's non-profit status. A number of people worked on these issues for a long time to get things where they are now, and most Division officers will never know their names. Be that as it may, as these benefits became available, it placed a certain obligation on Divisions & Sections to start paying closer attention to properly dotting "i"'s and correctly crossing "t"'s, particularly as regards tournament sanctioning.

Today, the very first step and most important thing divi-

sions need to look at is their bylaws. If they don't have bylaws, or have not looked at them for some time, they need do so *right away*. Officers could have a difficult time proving that they were properly carrying out their fiduciary duty to their membership if they just make up the rules as they go along. Bylaws are the firewall that protects everyone. If they are correctly written and you, as an officer, are following them, they are your immediate defense against complaint.

The new Guide that I'm working on will contain a set of sample bylaws. But in the meantime, interested parties should look at the USFA's. Out of twenty-two articles in those bylaws, only one, Article XV, deals with the requirements that the parent Organization places on its Divisions, and it really isn't a heavy read.

Unfortunately, the office never put the old Division Guide on disk, so I am having to do the re-write from square one. The pace of the work would increase dramatically if I could be assigned one or two Egyptian scribes, but the Board has not so far honored that request. Scribes or no, I hope to have it finished in the fall.

One of the more egregious errors that we have been coming across is governance structure. Several divisions have created bylaws dictating the appointment of a board of directors who oversee and set policy for their executive committee—and that is a direct violation of the requirements of Article XV. The executive committee must be the sole governing body of the Division, with authority over every other administrative unit. To legitimize that authority, every member of the EC must be *elected by the Division as a whole*; no voting member may be appointed by any group. Of course, the Committee may form other committees to carry out certain functions, and the members of those committees may be appointed, but those committees report to the Executive Committee—never the other way round.

The USFA bylaws also stipulate that every member of the USFA Congress sits on the executive committee. That's not an option, it's a requirement. Members of Congress must be elected (not appointed), and all elected positions have a seat on the Executive Committee. This applies to alternate members of Congress as well, who also must be elected. Smart administrators try to have at least one representative from each *USFA Registered Club* (unregistered clubs do not officially "exist", and the Division has no duty towards them) on the Executive Committee. Between officers, members of Congress, and alternates, it really isn't too difficult to meet that goal, but if more seats are


required, just make sure the holder is elected at the Annual Meeting.

Overall situation with sanctioning of tournaments

As we become more and more conscious about insurance coverage, one question that becomes much

more important concerns the proper sanctioning of tournaments. Obviously, the USFA has the ultimate authority to sanction any event, and it uses it in regards to national championships, NACs and FIE competitions, but it delegates that authority to Divisions for all local events held within their boundaries. In addition, each Section is delegated the authority to sanction its Senior and Junior championships. If a tournament is not sanctioned, it does not exist as far as the USFA is concerned, and it probably does not exist as far as the USFA's insurer is concerned (if you get my drift). So, what constitutes sanctioning? Well, simply promulgating a Division schedule is the easiest way to do the trick: every local event listed on it is, by definition, sanctioned. If you don't prepare a schedule, or some tournament organizers (such as a club) request sanctioning of a previously unscheduled event, then the Executive Committee merely has to agree to sanction it (by majority vote, of course). Most importantly, that vote must be recorded in writing, preferably in the minutes. If our insurer should raise a question as to the validity of the competition, that document would be *prima facie* proof. Just remember that the Executive Committee is not obligated to sanction anything not already on its schedule: it has the ultimate authority to make those decisions.

And one last thing. For a variety of reasons many Divisions have delegated the authority to host scheduled tournaments to registered clubs within the Division. That's fine, but the Division really must retain some authority over the conduct of the event. At the least, an official Division Representative should be at every sanctioned event, with authority to overrule the bout committee, if necessary. Such an action rarely is necessary if a wise Executive Committee has already prepared a written set of guidelines and policies to which the local organizers must adhere. This won't necessarily stop the screaming, but it usually mutes it.

Finally, I am here to help. Moreover, I chair a task force of very experienced USFA veterans who, while specifically charged with looking at governance issues, are also willing to help local folks who are sincerely trying to solve a problem. What we generally aren't going to deal with are problems of the "Sammy tromped on my comic book and I want you to go kick his dog" variety. Keeping that in mind, I can be contacted at cabrillosword@sbcglobal.net or (619)584-2478. 



THE 2005 SUMMER NATIONALS

The 2005 season came to a close with a gigantic bang July 1-10 with the Summer National Championships in Sacramento, California. As always, it was a grand festival with fencers from all over the country throwing down the gauntlet, from as far afield as Hawaii and Alaska. Fifty-four young fencers under the age of ten began their adventure in our sport in the Youth-10 Women's Foil competition; Donald Appling of Hawaii Fencers Club graced the strip at the age of 91.

The sheer number of athletes was overwhelming: 2,937, all competing for 95 titles. Serge Timacheff of Fencing-Photos.com ably captured many of them plus the spirit of the Championships in photos. Here, then, along with a photo montage, is the list of victors—the 2005 U.S. National Champions.

DIVISION I

WOMEN'S EPEE
Maya Lawrence

MEN'S EPEE
Benjamin Solomon

WOMEN'S FOIL
Hanna Thompson

MEN'S FOIL
Jedediah Dupree

WOMEN'S SABER
Rebecca Ward

MEN'S SABER
Ivan Lee

DIVISION I-A

WOMEN'S EPEE
Eleanor Leighton

MEN'S EPEE
Matthew McConaughy

WOMEN'S FOIL
Abigail Caparros-Janto

MEN'S FOIL
Alex Salsman

WOMEN'S SABER
Anne-Eliza Stone

MEN'S SABER
Bradley Baker

DIVISION II

WOMEN'S EPEE
Amrit Bhinder

MEN'S EPEE
Remington Iowa

WOMEN'S FOIL
Hayley Reese

MEN'S FOIL
David Berryrieser

WOMEN'S SABER
Alison Doyle

MEN'S SABER
Josh Kundrat

DIVISION III

WOMEN'S EPEE
Madeline Amos

MEN'S EPEE
Noah Arjomand

WOMEN'S FOIL
Sarah Smith

MEN'S FOIL
Adam Pantel

WOMEN'S SABER
Heather Nelson

MEN'S SABER
Laith Al-Shihabi

UNDER-19

WOMEN'S EPEE
Kelley Hurley

MEN'S EPEE
Benjamin Ungar

WOMEN'S FOIL
Emily Cross

MEN'S FOIL
Ronald Berkowsky

WOMEN'S SABER
Rebecca Ward

MEN'S SABER
Teddy Levitt

UNDER-16

WOMEN'S EPEE
Francesca Bassa

MEN'S EPEE
Corwin Duncan

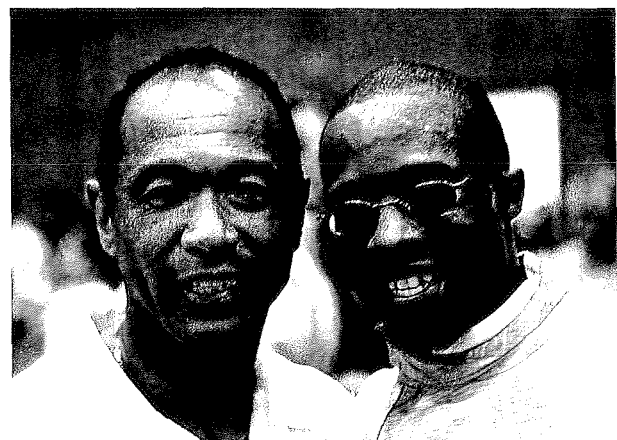
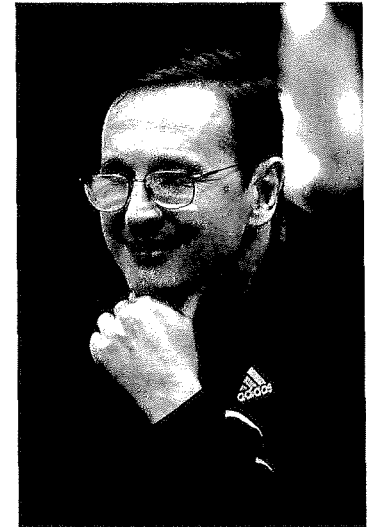
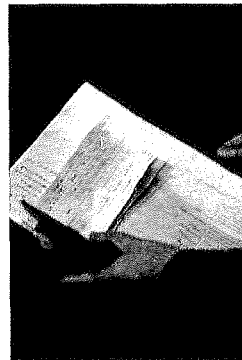
WOMEN'S FOIL
Lindsay Knauer

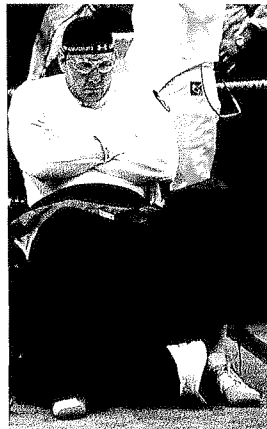
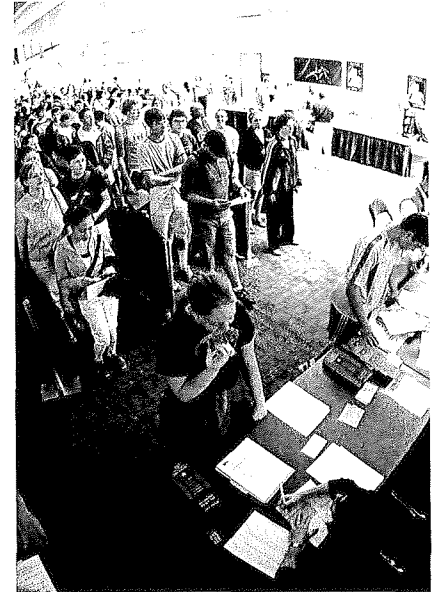
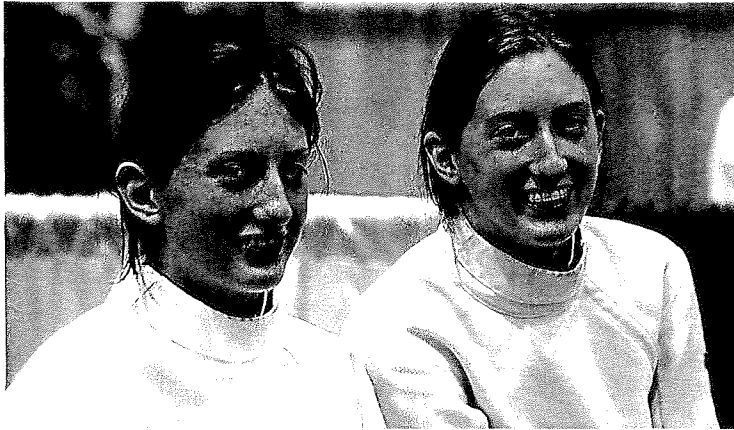
MEN'S FOIL
Gerek Meinhardt

WOMEN'S SABER
Caroline Vloka

MEN'S SABER
Raskyrie Davidson

Clockwise from top left: A referee's scorecard; Fencers Club coach Michael Petin; Ivan Lee vs Tim Morehouse in the Div I Men's Saber finals; Peter Westbrook and 2005 National Champion Ivan Lee.





Clockwise, from top left: The French sisters, epeeist twins from Texas; the long, long line to check in; stretching in preparation for a long day; epee requires great concentration; pooped out.

YOUTH-14

WOMEN'S EPEE
Neely Brandfield-Harvey

MEN'S EPEE
Joshua Dolezal

WOMEN'S FOIL
Yuh Hyun-Kyung

MEN'S FOIL
Gerek Meinhardt

WOMEN'S SABER
Dominika Franciszkowicz

MEN'S SABER
Harrison Mahaffey

YOUTH-12

WOMEN'S EPEE
Natalie Gegan

MEN'S EPEE
Daniel Richards

WOMEN'S FOIL
Kylei McGill

MEN'S FOIL
Jacob Dorn

WOMEN'S SABER
Marissa Dearing

MEN'S SABER
Alexander Ryjik

YOUTH-10

WOMEN'S EPEE
Eva Baumgardner

MEN'S EPEE
Liam Rubarth-Lay

WOMEN'S FOIL
Margaret Lu

MEN'S FOIL
Nobuo Bravo

WOMEN'S SABER
Jennifer Nelson

MEN'S SABER
Kaito Streets

VETERAN 40/49

WOMEN'S EPEE
Dayna Canada

MEN'S EPEE
Evan Ranes

WOMEN'S FOIL
Kristin Vines

MEN'S FOIL
James Loper

WOMEN'S SABER
Robin Pernice

MEN'S SABER
Joshua Runyan

VETERAN 50/59

WOMEN'S EPEE
Anna Telles

MEN'S EPEE
Charles Alexander

WOMEN'S FOIL
Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel

MEN'S FOIL
Joseph Biebel

WOMEN'S SABER
Jane Eyre

MEN'S SABER
David Jacobson



Top: Team women's epee competitors. Middle: lots of choice at vendors' stands; a hardworking armorer; FIE medical commission and trainer Peter Harmer at work. Bottom: coaching is an active occupation; spectating can be just as tiring for a kid.

VETERAN 60+

WOMEN'S EPEE
Nadine Obermiller

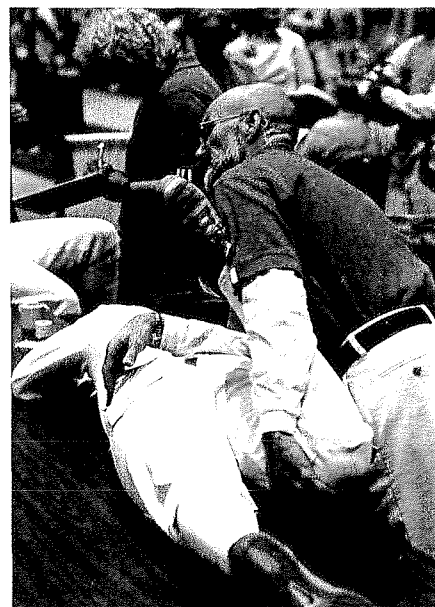
MEN'S EPEE
Arnold Messing

WOMEN'S FOIL
Terry Abrahams

MEN'S FOIL
Joseph Elliot

WOMEN'S SABER
Sherry Green

MEN'S SABER
Ray Sexton III



WHEELCHAIR

WOMEN'S EPEE
Carol Hickey

MEN'S EPEE
Gary Ven Der Wege

WOMEN'S FOIL
Carol Hickey

MEN'S FOIL
John Scott Rodgers

MEN'S SABER
Gerard Moreno

SENIOR TEAM

WOMEN'S EPEE
ILLINOIS FENCERS CLUB
(Christine Dominick, Ina Harizanova, Anna Paul)

MEN'S EPEE
NORTHERN COLORADO
FENCERS (Nicholas Chinman, Theron Haan, Andrew Seroff, Dylan Walrond)

WOMEN'S FOIL
RHODE ISLAND
FENCING ACADEMY
(Jessica Davis-Heim, Jessica Newhall, Anna Podolsky)



MEN'S FOIL
NORTHWEST FENCING
CENTER (Randy Conover,
Nick Crebs, Ariel Desmet,
Alex Salsman)

WOMEN'S SABER
COLORADO FENCING
ACADEMY (Erika Erlandson,
Kira McFadden, Megan Oller,
Sharol Pestotnik)

MEN'S SABER
NEW YORK ATHLETIC
CLUB (Erik Hansen,
George Igoe, Jonathan
Marcel, Brian Purcell)

DIVISION I TEAM

WOMEN'S EPEE
FENCERS CLUB INC.
(Lindsay Campbell, Maya
Lawrence, Lauren Willock,
Katherine Zucker)

MEN'S EPEE
NEW YORK ATHLETIC
CLUB (Alexander Abend,
Weston Kelsey, Benjamin
Solomon, Jansson Viviani)

WOMEN'S FOIL
ROCHESTER FENCING
CLUB (Artemisia Goldfeder,
Adrienne Nott, Jocelyn
Svengsouk)

MEN'S FOIL
FENCERS CLUB INC.
(Jedediah Dupree, Scott
Sugimoto, Johnathan
Tiomkin, Bagley Wright)

WOMEN'S SABER
OREGON FENCING
ALLIANCE (Sarah
Borrmann, Mera Keltner,
Valerie Providenza, Caitlin
Thompson)

MEN'S SABER
PETER WESTBROOK
FOUNDATION (Adam
Crompton, Ivan Lee, Herby
Raynaud, Ahmed Yilla)

UNDER-19 TEAM

WOMEN'S EPEE
FENCERS CLUB INC.
(Jillian Bratton, Tess Finkel,
Morgan Midgley, Alexie
Rubin)

MEN'S EPEE
NORTHERN COLORADO
FENCERS (Nicholas
Chinman, Andras Horanyi,
Jimmy Moody, Dylan
Walrond)

WOMEN'S FOIL
GOLDEN GATE FENCING
CENTER (Allison Glasser,
Elena Liroff, Jessica
Wacker, Doris Willette)

MEN'S FOIL
SONOMA FENCING
ACADEMY (Ben Anderson,
Forrest Macdougall, Samuel
Perkins, Alex Simmons)

WOMEN'S SABER
CHICAGO ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION F (Dominika
Franciszkowicz, Alison
Miller, Anne-Eliza Stone)

MEN'S SABER
FENCERS CLUB INC.
(Alexander Diacou, Scott
Digiulio, Darel Homer,
Matthew Zich)

The view from the bout committee.



Big Time Fencing

Maya Lawrence Talks about Facing Fencers Who Are Much Taller Than You

Q *What are some techniques for dealing with fencers who are much taller than you are and have a longer reach?*

A I'm only 5'6, so I often have to fence people who are taller than me. It's not an unusual occurrence, so I tend not to think about it too much.

There are a lot of people who think that taller epee fencers have an automatic advantage over those of us who are of average height. But I think there is too much weight put on things like height, arm length, and how far you can lunge. Of course, being tall, agile, and having a long and fast lunge can't hurt, but none of that will help you if someone can execute a perfect touch. In my opinion, that perfect touch can happen if you choose the right action, go at the right time, and maintain excellent technique.

So, when I'm fencing someone who is taller or

has a longer reach, I tell myself that I'll probably have to work a little harder. There are definitely going to be less "freebies" (those touches you sometimes get because you're a little bit stronger or a little bit faster) because there is a greater possibility that the person will just outreach you. BUT, if you do the right action at the right time and with perfect form, you're unstoppable and nobody, not even the tallest person in the world, can do anything about it. ✂



Maya Lawrence, 25, is the 2005 Division I Women's Epee National Champion.

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Y-10 MEN'S EPEE

- 1 Wan, Justin NSFC
- 2 VanderWeif, Zeta
- 3T Gallo, Matthew Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 3T Mamrol, Tim Zeta

Y-10 MEN'S FOIL

- 1 Massialas, Alexander Massialas Found.
- 2 Stein, Jacob Massialas Found.
- 3T Falkonski, Victor Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 3T Okuhn, Jackson UNAT

Y-10 MEN'S SABER

- 1 Shirmohammadi, Alborz VAF
- 2 Lewicki, Adam PAF
- 3T Stein, Jacob Massialas Found.
- 3T Pepe, Justin Candlewood

Y-10 WOMEN'S EPEE

- 1 Parma, Natalie ALA SOTX U
- 2 Bichette, Renee FM CTRFL U
- 3T O'Neill, Jessica Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 3T Baumgardner, Eva Fencers Club

Y-10 WOMEN'S FOIL

- 1 Lu, Margaret Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 2 McElwee, M.W. Massialas Found.
- 3T Finkel, Grace Fencers Club
- 3T Bhinder, Mandeep Candlewood

Y-10 WOMEN'S SABER

- 1 Nelson, Jennifer Sabre Outreach Network
- 2 Russo, Francesca National
- 3T McElwee, M.W. TMT
- 3T Bhinder, Mandeep Candlewood

Y-12 MEN'S EPEE

- 1 Meyers, Andrew Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 2 Culler, Mitchell Zeta
- 3T Covill, William Candlewood
- 3T Preston, Lucas RI Fenc. Acad.

Y-12 MEN'S FOIL

- 1 Goldstein, Jeremy Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 2 Kaneshige, Brian Fencers Club
- 3T Massialas, Alexander Massialas Found.
- 3T Nunziato, Robert NPFC

Y-12 MEN'S SABER

- 1 Dershwitz, Philip Zeta
- 2 Ryjik, Alexander RI Fenc. Acad.
- 3T Tom, Michael Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 3T Kiwior, Matthew Lilov

Y-12 WOMEN'S EPEE

- 1 Peterson, Emma LAIFC
- 2 Woodward, Maureen CCandlewood
- 3T Parma, Natalie Alamo
- 3T Hohensee, Dianna UNAT

Y-12 WOMEN'S FOIL

- 1 Lu, Margaret Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 2 Hawrot, Kathryn RI Fenc. Acad.
- 3T McKee, Erica Fencers Club
- 3T McElwee, M.W. Massialas Found.

Y-12 WOMEN'S SABER

- 1 Merza, Celina National
- 2 Baye-Cigna, Kodja BFC
- 3T Kozdra, Karolina National
- 3T McElwee, L.C. Massialas Found.

Y-14 MEN'S EPEE

- 1 Hawrot, James Rhode Isl.Fenc.Acad.
- 2 Mills, Alexander Morristown FC
- 3T Vomero, Nicholas FCLJ
- 3T Miller, Pearson Fencers Club

Y-14 MEN'S FOIL

- 1 Kaneshige, Brian Fencers Club
- 2 Moore, Andrew Fencers Club
- 3T Goldstein, Jeremy Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 3T Norton, Sean Fencers Club

Y-14 MEN'S SABER

- 1 Shirmohammadi, Bardya VAF
- 2 Mills, Alexander Morristown FC
- 3T Prochniak, Evan UNAT
- 3T Fields, Adam UNAT

Y-14 WOMEN'S EPEE

- 1 Foor, Gabriella UNAT
- 2 Freeman, Laura Fenc. Acad. Phila.
- 3T Wirth, Charlotte Pris de Fer
- 3T Hawrot, Kathryn RI Fenc. Acad.

Y-14 WOMEN'S FOIL

- 1 Lu, Margaret Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 2 Yuh, Hyun-Kyung UNAT
- 3T Miller, Lauren Fenc. Acad. Westchester
- 3T Homer, D'Meca PFW

Y-14 WOMEN'S SABER

- 1 Atamian, Narine Fencers Club
- 2 Nelson, Heather Sabre Outreach Network
- 3T Roberts, Samantha BEFC
- 3T Aiuto, Stephanie RI Fenc. Acad.

CompetitionCLASSIFIEDS

THE PACIFIC COAST SECTION announces its 2005-2006 Junior sectional circuit events:

- Sept. 17-18 Dawson Invitational, Las Vegas, Nevada, Youth 10, 12, 14 and Cadet (all weapons)
- Oct. 29-30 Los Angeles Invitational, North Hills, California, Cadet and Junior (all weapons)
- Nov. 19-20 Phoenix Junior Challenge, Mesa, Arizona, Youth 12 (foil), Youth 14, Cadet and Junior (all weapons)
- Jan. 7 Beverly Hills Invitational, Culver City, California, Cadet and Junior (foil)
- Jan. 14-15 South Coast Youth Invitational, Santa Ana, California, Youth 12 and 14 (all weapons)

- Feb. 12 Beverly Hills Invitational, Culver City, California, Cadet and Junior (epee)
- May 6-7 Inland Empire Junior Invitational, Upland, California, Cadet and Junior (all weapons)
- May 21 Beverly Hills Invitational, Culver City California, Cadet and Junior (sabre)

Check out www.pcsfencing.com for information and pre-registration.

USA SPORTS would like to contact athletes and their parents who are nationally or world ranked with relatives born in Mexico, up to the fourth generation, to invite them to The National

Junior Olympics in Mexico in April 2005. USA Sports will cover expenses including airfare, hotels and meals. Contact Arturo Mata, 956-778-2228 cell, 956-969-4716 home, 956-702-8358 fax, 916 East Washington, Weslaco, TX, 78596.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY announces the 28th Annual Remenyik Open, Oct. 22-23, 2005. The 2004 Remenyik Open attracted more than 300 competitors in all 6 weapons. Contact Laurence Schiller, lds307@northwestern.edu, 847-491-4654 for more information.

Coaching CLASSIFIEDS

PART-TIME SABER COACH wanted. Minimum 5 years competitive or coaching experience required, must speak English language; must be self motivated and enjoy working with kids ages 7-18. Send resume and inquiries to OregonFencing@aol.com or mail to Oregon Fencing Alliance, 4840 SW Western Ave. Suite #80, Beaverton, Or 97005

SEEKING SABER COACH. Must be energetic & personable for an up and coming program. Please send resume to include picture, education, experience as a fencer, coaching experience in which weapons, your students' achievements, marital status, contact information, telephone number and address to: The 5 Star Fencing School, 16387 Groce Lane, Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

PART-TIME FOIL COACH WANTED. Must be energetic and able to give structured lessons to kids 7-14 year olds. Candidate should have minimum 3 years competitive experience or coaching experience. Send resume or inquires to Peekskill Fencing Center at Sky Movement Studio, 925 South Street, Peekskill, NY 10566 or eekoloops@excite.com.

DRAWING HEAVILY from his "Big Book of Fencing," Dr. Rudy Volkmann is finalizing publication of a textbook for college and club foil fencing classes. Coaches actively engaged in teaching classes are invited to ask for a complimentary copy of the text, syllabus, and teachers' manual by contacting Dr. Volkmann at: rvolk1@comcast.net.

SEEKING COACH for New Jersey school's fencing team. Position pays \$1,600 a year. Please contact Eric Linger, ewalkeric@aol.com, (908) 272-3883 (H), or (908) 510-2802.

Got a big competition coming up? Looking for a coach? Looking for a job? Send free classified listings to: Cindy Bent Findlay, USFencingMedia@earthlink.net, fax 614.340.7299. Make sure to include contact information; *American Fencing* will not act as an intermediary for advertisers and does not research backgrounds or legitimacy of either coaching candidates or advertising employers or clubs.

Fall magazine deadlines for all classified ads is September 15, 2005. Fall issue will be published in mid October.



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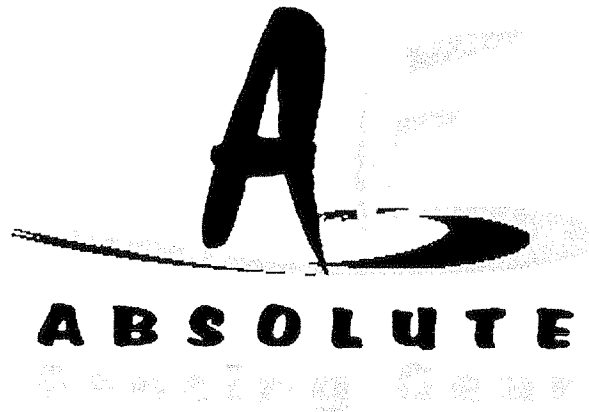
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Please contact Andy Ma if you would like detailed information.

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Readers' LETTERS, *continued from page 6*

College and our National Coaches, must promote regional opportunities for rigorous professional development. The French, Italians, Russians, Hungarians, Poles, etc., all support training programs for coaches... We must train a generation of coaches to meet the growing demand for quality instruction. ...

So where do we go from here? Our new administration has yet to put its imprimatur on any specific blueprint for the 2008 quadrennial, so the jury is still out. Perhaps the initiatives I have outlined might spark some dialogue among the powers that be and result in constructive movement. Whatever happens, that expanding group of fencers and families, clubs and private foundations—acting independently—will advance the path that was blazed over the last four years, pressing forward with this renaissance of competitive success. Maybe this is the real question: will the USFA help clear the way for this advance?

*Eric Rosenberg
New York, N.Y.*

MEN'S SABER TEAM REBUTS

In response to Mr. Ward's "Offended by Bukantz Jackal Reference" letter to the editor, as both readers and the subjects of Jeff's article, we would like to say that as we have tried to put ourselves in your shoes as a member of the media community, we would appreciate if you perhaps put yourself in ours. We do not debate that capturing the emotions of the athletes, victorious or fallen, is ultimately the quintessential duty of the media; yet, you must also realize that the Olympic Games is the culmination of any athlete's career, and to suffer defeat upon such a grand stage is nearly impossible to prepare for. As team captain of the US Olympic Fencing Team, Jeff's duty was to protect his athletes, which he did, with no doubt, unconditionally. After suffering two

incredibly heartbreaking defeats, the team and its captain were understandably crestfallen. So perhaps you might now understand why, for all of us, that moment might have left a bitter taste in our mouths. As well, in our interpretation, the use of the word "jackal" was merely a literary tool to lend some reality to the story. Jeff's intent was certainly not to be "perjorative," disparaging, or whatever else, but merely to paint a picture from his memory of events past.

*2004 Men's Saber Olympic Team—
Jason Rogers, Ivan Lee, Keeth Smart,
and Tim Morehouse*

COMMENTS ON SABER TODAY

Regarding Jeff Bukantz's excellent article on the ten greatest improvements, et. al.: The electrification of saber was, indeed, a great event. Regrettably, the subsequent changes have "morphed" the game into a completely different animal than was intended, and note thereof should be taken.

First, the removal of an "off-target" phrase interruption in a right-of-way weapon was an "iffy" move. Most foilists would object bitterly (which is the only thing which has kept M. Roche's hands off that rule so far). In electrifying saber, this concession was

made so long as the main concept of saber phrasing was maintained.

The most staggering setback to the basic nature of the game was the dismal failure of the capteur system. That a mere "grazing of the blade," once studiously ignored by judges and presidents alike (as set forth in the rules book), should cause the lights to go on is an absolute travesty. Solving this problem was the one thing that kept saber from being electrified for so many years!! The sabrists wanted to insure that it took a real hit to score (as it does in both foil and epee—you do have to hit with some measurable force).

And while the nearly barbarically simple low-tech capteur was doomed to failure from the beginning, there is no reason to keep the baby in the septic tank with the bath-water. Surely there is someone out there

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who can create a system which does what any honest jury member would have done in the "dry" days—ignore a "falling off," as the rules book used to call it.

It would bring some sense of phrasing back to the game.

*Rudy Volkmann
Augusta, Ga.
Author of Magnum Libre d'Esgrime*

ENFORCE THE RULES

I am writing in response to a letter titled "Officials, Step Back" from Dr. Joseph S. Streb in the spring 2005 issue. Such a letter, because of its incorrect assumptions and false premises, cannot go without a response.

Yes, the FIE is trying to make fencing a more spectator-friendly sport, but to assume that the FIE wants referees to be less involved is simply wrong. That there is an increase in warnings for fencers who do not follow the rules is something that the FIE is vigorously encouraging. Ask any referee who has recently been to an FIE referee seminar before a World Championships about the main topics that are covered. They will tell you that they are told over and over and over again that every time the rules require that a warning should be given, the referee must give that warning.

Where, Dr. Streb, is the rules book you would have referees follow? What is a "slight" offense? How hard must a fencer hit the opponent to receive a warning? The referee does not create the rules; the referee must apply the rules. Asking a referee to ignore the rules creates anarchy.

Dr. Streb complains about slight contact in foil and sabre causing the loss of bouts. It is probable that while the doctor may understand the reasons things are done a certain way in a hospital, he does not understand why this rule exists. When fencers know that they may not cause body contact, fencing is better; it is that simple.

When one cannot stop the bout by causing body contact because one will end up with a warning, and then touches for the opponent, there are more fencing actions.

Dr. Streb writes: "In keeping with the new approach to the sport of fencing as articulated by the FIE, fencing officials need to exercise restraint in making hyper-technical calls unrelated to the substance of fencing matches." This statement is based on incorrect assumptions. First, the FIE has not "articulated" a "new approach." In fact, the complete opposite is true. The FIE's president and technical director are at every meeting of the Refereeing Commission. This commission selects the referees for the Grand Prix World Cups, the Junior/Cadet World Championships, and the Senior World Championships. Referees who do not correctly enforce the rules concerning warnings are specifically not selected. This is unanimously approved by the commission and the FIE's president and technical director. Obviously, the FIE is mandating more and more that referees apply the rules. What is the result of this? Fencers in major competitions are not breaking the rules as much as they did, which results in better fencing.

I'll make an assumption. Someone lost a bout because she or he received a warning and this caused discontent. Let me make three suggestions:

1. Let's have referees apply the rules everywhere and at every level of competition—even while two fencers are sparring in the club with another fencer refereeing—so that fencers are not surprised that whenever they do something that deserves a warning they will receive one.
2. Let's have coaches that teach fencers to fence in a manner that will prevent their students from receiving warnings.
3. Let's have fencers that follow the

rules so that referees will not have to give warnings.

*George Kolombatovich, President,
FIE Referees Commission*


KUDOS

I have just returned from the NAC E and I just want to say what a pleasure it has been to fence in the NAC events that I have taken part in during my time in the USA. As a whole I am very impressed with the USFA and the system they have for organizing and running fencing in general. One of the many reasons I had become frustrated with the sport in the UK where I am from was the lack of an organized system for fencing events and within the regions.

As I will soon be returning to the UK I just wanted to pass this along to those of you work so hard behind scenes running events and organizing the "system", training the referees and coaches. I thank the USFA in part for helping to rediscover an interest in the sport. Please pass this message on to your colleagues as well.

*Daniel Kubler
Plains Texas Division*

SportsMEDICINE, continued from page 9

response protocol in place. Please do not use cell phones to call 911 for injuries that occur in competition. This makes clear communication and coordination with outside emergency response personnel difficult. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the bout committee or the staff at the First Aid area. In any situation in which you do need to call 911, never hang up until instructed to do so by the dispatcher. 

GerekMEINHARDT

15, San Francisco/Massiallas Foundation



TheSTATS

Event: Men's Foil
Birthdate: July 27, 1990 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Hometown: San Francisco, Calif.
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 150 pounds
School: Lick-Wilmerding High School, '08
Club: Massialas Foundation at Halberstadt
Coach: Greg Massialas

Gerek Meinhardt has been fencing for five years. His very first North American Cup gold medal actually came in Youth-12 epee. He gave up epee to concentrate on foil a couple of years ago, and it's paying off. Meinhardt won the Cadet National Championship title in foil this summer, before the age of 15. Last year Meinhardt was the alternate for the Cadet team. This time around he will begin the 2005-2006 Junior season ranked in first place in the Cadet standings—and at the same time finishes the 2005 season ranked #1 in Youth-14.

CareerHIGHLIGHTS

- 2005 Under-16 National Champion and Youth-14 National Champion
- Bronze, 2005 Under-19 Nationals
- Achieved an "A" Ranking in Foil at age 13
- 16th, Junior "A" World Cup, Madrid, Spain, November 2004
- 30th, Junior "A" World Cup, Como, Italy, February 2005
- Two-time Bay Cup Champion at Youth-14, Under-19, and Open Men

How He Started Fencing...

Gerek took piano lessons with his coach's wife. Gerek had to give up piano to commit more time to fencing.

Favorite Fencing Movie: *Scaramouche*


Best Bout So Far...

"Winning the Youth-14 National Championship while having to grip my foil between the second and third fingers after injuring my hand in the Junior semi-final the day before. I felt good because I was able to put the injury out of my mind and just fence."

Worst Bout So Far...

"In Koblenz, Germany, I lost to a lanky left-handed German fencer. I let my frustrations with the timing changes and my opponent's counter attacks get the better of me and lost my first direct elimination bout."

Who Inspires You?

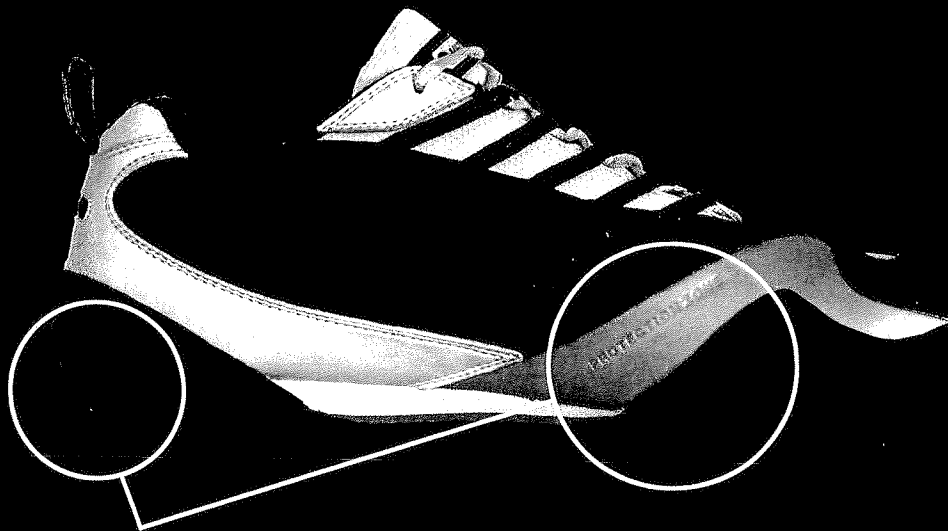
"My older sister Katie who plays Division 1 basketball at Boston University. I grew up in gyms shagging balls for her while she worked on her basketball game. During her first year at Boston, she injured her foot and had to have surgery. After 18 months off the court, she came back and set a bunch of records including scoring 43 points in a single game during the conference finals." 

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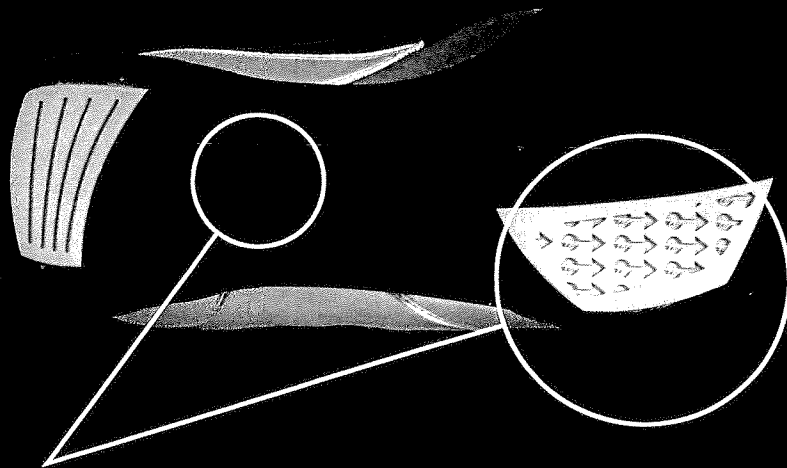
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Membership Application Information Details

The United States Fencing Association is an organization that strives to broaden the base of fencing in the U.S., both in participation and public recognition. It currently supports over 20,000 members. US Fencing is responsible for training and fielding U.S. teams to the Junior, Cadet, and Senior World Championships, Pan American Games and Olympic Games.

Determining Your Division

Your division is determined by your place of residence, or by the location of your school or competition club. Unless otherwise specified, you will be assigned to the division associated with the preferred mailing address. The division specified on the application or to which you are assigned **WILL BE THE ONLY DIVISION FROM WHICH YOU CAN QUALIFY** for the Junior Olympic Championships and Summer National Championships.

Division Names. Note state names with an asterisk (*) = state with several divisions.				
Alabama Alaska Ark-La-Miss ¹ Arizona California <i>Central CA</i> ² <i>Mountain Valley</i> ³ <i>Northern</i> ⁴ <i>Orange Coast</i> ⁵ <i>San Diego</i> <i>San Bernardino</i> <i>North Coast</i> ⁶ <i>Southern</i> ⁷ Capitol ⁸ Colorado Connecticut	Florida <i>Central FL</i> ⁹ <i>Gateway FL</i> ¹⁰ <i>Gold Coast FL</i> ¹¹ Georgia Green Mountain ¹² Hawaii Illinois Indiana Inland Empire ¹³ Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana (Southern) Maryland Michigan	Minnesota National ¹⁴ Nebraska – S. Dakota Nevada New England ¹⁵ New Jersey South Jersey New Mexico New York <i>Hudson-Berkshire NY</i> <i>Long Island NY</i> <i>Metropolitan NYC</i> <i>Westchester-Rockland</i> <i>Western NY</i> North Carolina	Northeast ¹⁶ Ohio <i>Columbus</i> <i>Northern</i> ¹⁷ <i>Southwest</i> ¹⁸ Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania * <i>Central PA</i> ¹⁹ <i>Harrisburg</i> <i>Philadelphia</i> <i>Western PA</i> ²⁰ South Carolina St. Louis, Missouri Tennessee	Texas <i>Border Texas</i> ²¹ <i>Gulf Coast TX</i> ²² <i>Plains TX</i> ²³ <i>North TX</i> ²⁴ <i>South TX</i> ²⁵ Utah- Southern Idaho Virginia Western WA Wisconsin Wyoming

1. Arkansas, Mississippi, N. Louisiana

2. San Jose & San Luis Obispo

3. Sacramento Area & Fresno

4. San Francisco & Oakland

5. Orange County & Long Beach

6. Northernmost California

7. Los Angeles & Bakersfield

8. DC, Montgomery & Prince Georges Counties

9. Orlando & Tampa

10. Northern Florida & Pan handle

11. Southern Florida

12. Vermont

13. N. Idaho, Montana, E. Washington

14. Those located outside the boundaries of the U.S. or any Division

15. Eastern Massachusetts & Rhode Island

16. Maine & New Hampshire

17. Cleveland area

* Pennsylvania boundaries will be finalized at July '05 Congress

18. Cincinnati - Dayton

19. State College

20. Pittsburgh area

21. El Paso & S. New Mexico

22. Houston area

23. Lubbock & Amarillo

24. Dallas & Ft. Worth

25. San Antonio & Austin

Special Membership Types

Family: Up to four individual memberships of which a maximum of two can be competitive members and others are associate (non competitive) members. Memberships are non-transferable among competitive and non-competitive family members. Family members must reside at the same address.

Senior: Fencer who was born between 1985-1966.

Junior: Must be under 20 as of January 1 of the membership year(s) being paid; e.g. for membership year ending July 31, 2006, a junior must be born 1986 or later. NOTE: membership type does not guarantee eligibility.

Veteran: Fencer who is 40 or older as of January 1, 2006 or later (birth year 1965 or earlier).

Supporting: Payment of 1/10 of life dues for 10 consecutive years, after which membership converts to Life Membership.

Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to American Fencing Magazine - USFA Quarterly Publication
- www.usfencing.org – access to tournament entry forms, rulebook, results, schedules, latest news and more.
- Athlete Accident Insurance: Covers USFA sanctioned activities (contact USFA National Office for policy specifics.)
- Voting Privileges: Members 18 and over, as of February 1st of the membership year, have the right to vote in USFA elections.
- Discounts on Travel and Fencing Equipment
- USFA Membership card: Recognition as a member of U.S. Fencing and passport to worldwide fencing.

Receipt of Membership

Include a self-addressed stamped postcard, or a fax return sheet with your membership application for confirmation of receipt of your membership. It may take from 2-6 weeks to receive a membership card once application is received by US Fencing office.

Duplicate or replacement cards may be requested for a fee of \$10.

How to Contact the USFA

1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774 • TEL: (719) 866-4511 • FAX: (719) 632-5737 • www.USFencing.org • info@USFencing.org