

I am applying for the position of US Fencing Board of Directors at large member. My previous board experience includes being an At Large Member from September 2017 - September 2019 and an athletes representative to the board from June 2015 - September 2016. Fencing is my lifelong passion. If you are a referee, a fencing parent, a high school or collegiate fencer, a recreational fencer, a coach, a veteran fencer, or an Olympic fencer then we have something in common. We want continued success for our athletes and for fencing in the United States. I want to be a leader on the board for all of these different roles in the fencing community.

My top three goals for US fencing include the following:

1. To make fencing a mainstream sport in the United States - this trend has already started - fencing is now on television and in commercials. Almost everyone is familiar with the sport. We need to continue the push to include fencing in the curriculum in elementary and high schools as well as increase the number of NCAA collegiate fencing programs.
2. Increase fundraising and donation for USA fencing to improve multiple aspects of our sport, both domestically and internationally. We need resources to expand our referee pool, to improve our depth at the senior level, and continue our success at the youth and veteran levels.
3. To make the United States the strongest fencing power in the world. This includes successful programs for our fencers at all levels, including a high school circuit, fun regional recreational programs, as well as continuing youth development, and world dominance for all of our international teams.

I have been involved in fencing for thirty-four years and have experience in various roles that many may not know. I was a top ranked referee and referred internationally. I served on the FIE medical committee. I have taught basic armory skills. I have obtained an A rating in all three weapons. I have taught beginner and parent classes. I run our non profit fencing club with more than 150 members. Our club has more than seventy youth fencers with a high percentage under the age of 10. I coordinate the competition schedules with the parents, organize practices for multiple clubs in our region, assist students in goal setting, mental imagery, oversee their applications for scholarships and college.

The US teams have improved dramatically since I attended my first Junior Worlds in 1988. At that competition I was unhappy to realize that we were one of the weaker teams - it has been a delight for me to watch the United States excel internationally in every event. As the US Team Captain I have traveled with our top athletes from all six weapons to World Cups and to the Olympic games. I know what we need to do to remain one of the top teams in the world.

During my thirty plus years in the sport, fencing has exploded in popularity. This is the time for our sport to shine. We have a golden opportunity to insert fencing into the curriculum in every school in the country. But our growth comes at a price - not all participants can compete at national events. Even division 2 and 3 events can be very challenging. Our competitions need more space, parents are frustrated and the increase in the number of qualified referees has been outpaced by the growth in the number of competitors. These are challenges I am happy to have - fencing can be a life changing experience for so many from all ages and backgrounds. I want to find an appropriate way for all fencers to compete and enjoy our sport.