

My name is Michael Aufrichtig. I had the privilege to serve on the Board from September 2014 to August of 2016. During that time, USA Fencing grew tremendously while introducing new programs and budgets, and became financially stable. I am passionate about USA Fencing and would be honored to serve on the board again and contribute to its exciting upward progression.

The following are the priorities that I valued in my past Board membership, and still believe are essential in bringing success to USA Fencing in the future:

#1 – Win the Olympic Games and World Championships.

#2 – Grow fencing on the grassroots level across all of the following areas - Youth, Junior, Senior, and Veteran. We are doing a great job in these areas and need to continue our quest to introduce fencing to American youth, while implementing more programs to help our college graduates and Veteran fencers remain involved in fencing on an elite and recreational level. Implement initiatives to support business owners of clubs and NCAA programs, such as providing more coaching clinics, financial support, publicity, and overall championing these institutions to reach their full potential as valuable opportunities to expand exposure for the sport.

#3 – Coach and referee recruitment, paired with formalized and systematic education. There is a strong interest in coaching and officiating and we need to continue recruitment, education and solidify our system in place to have the largest, most educated pool of coaches and officials in the world. Also, adding coaching and parent education on injury prevention, baseline testing, wellness, and wellbeing initiatives, to ensure optimal health of our athletes.

#4 – Adequately support and consider the needs of fencing parents and youth fencers by giving them the quality services and attention they deserve. Approximately 60% of USA Fencing's current membership is comprised of fencers under the age of 18. It is essential to listen, collect and respond to fencing parents' feedback and needs.

I would love to share my experience and knowledge to advance USA Fencing's mission for the next two years.

Sincerely,

Michael Aufrichtig



Bio:

Michael Aufrichtig completed his eighth season as the head men's and women's fencing coach for Columbia University. During his eight years, the men's team record was 136-48 (74%) and women's 185-31 (86%). Columbia's Men and Women's Team finished the 2015 and 2016 season ranked #1 winning the NCAA Championships as well as winning the Men Ivy Championships (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) and Women Ivy League Championships (2015, 2016, 2018, 2019). Columbia has remained on top finishing 3rd (2017 NCAA), 2nd (2018 NCAA) and this season winning the 2019 NCAA title. Michael Aufrichtig is the recipient of the 2016 USA Fencing Coaches Association Varsity Coach of the Year Award.

Michael volunteers as the Chairman of the New York Athletic Club Fencing Program from 2007 to present. During that time the NYAC has won 21 Individual and 25 team National Championships, fielded 51 USA World Team Members, 11 Olympians, winning two bronze four silver and eight gold world team medals and three individuals winning an Olympic bronze team medal. In 2019, the NYAC qualified six of the 24 USA World Team Members.

Michael was on the USA Fencing Board of Directors form 2014-2016, was the 2012 USA Olympic Fencing Coach for Modern Pentathlon and served as the 2009 USA Women's Epee World Team Coach.

Michael graduated with a Marketing Degree from NYU Stern School of Business. Prior to entering the coaching world, he was a senior sales associate at Kintera, an online fundraising platform revolutionizing the world of fundraising in the late 1990s, as well as a senior sales associate at ASI selling enterprise databases systems to associations and nonprofits.



Coach Aufrichtig with his son Leonardo and wife Sylwia