

METRO TACOMA FENCING CLUB

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Dear Metro Tacoma Fencing Club Families and Friends,

The 2021-2022 fencing season is culminating in the annual Summer National events including the last North American Cup (NAC) and championships held from July 2 through July 11 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We have a number of fencers who will be competing. So far this season we have had 76 individual fencers compete in 594 events representing Metro Tacoma Fencing Club. We have had 10 ratings earned in 2022 including two A2022 ratings which is similar in difficulty to earning a black belt in martial arts. And more impressive, our fencers earned national points (and thus are nationally ranked) in 9 categories this season.

All members are welcome to attend our open board meetings. The volunteer board of directors at Metro Tacoma Fencing Club oversees the financial stability of the club, guides the club as we fulfil our mission of providing a safe and friendly environment for individuals to learn fencing, and supports our coaches. We are a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization and appreciate all contributions of time, expertise, and donations. Our next board meeting is scheduled to be June 7 at 6 PM at our club. We usually meet outside, and while the weather is getting warmer you may want to bring something warm to wear. We are in the process of planning our schedule and fees for next season (starting in August 1), looking for a space to grow (our lease expires June 30 next year), and scheduling a summer tournament series in July while some of our fencers are away at Summer Nationals. Board members come from our membership, so if you have interest in being more involved, please try to come to our next meeting.

I wanted to take a moment to thank Brian Li who has been our youth representative from 2020 until the end of this season. He has been involved in running some tournaments, learning about youth perspective on Metro Tacoma Fencing Club policy proposals, attending board meetings, and bringing in his classmates to our club to experience fencing for the first time all while competing at a national level. He currently holds a classification of A2021 in épée and has national points in the senior (open division). Next year he will be attending college at Vassar College where he will continue to fence. As he goes off to his next adventure, we will have an open position if any high school fencer is interested. Sofia Guerra will continue to serve as youth representative until the end of next season. This weekend she is busy running both sanctioned and unsanctioned events at our club which is going well. We have two volunteer youth representatives that serve at any one time for a two-year period who join in alternating years.

On 16 July 2022 we will plan to have a friendly in-house fun team event at our club. It is the first annual Tom Priester Memorial Team event. Tom was one of our volunteer coaches and fencers who passed away in 2021. He would come to the club to socialize and fence and eat his chicken dinner. He also gave our club a generous gift with his passing. We want to celebrate his memory and spirit by having a fun social event (with some fencing). Please sign up on [AskFRED](#).

We will be hosting summer camps, so sign up and tell your friends! More information is found at our website at tacomafencing.com.

While COVID-19 numbers are certainly much lower than at the peak of the omicron wave, the infection rates in Pierce County are slowly creeping up. We are still requiring masking at our club for the health and safety of all our members. And we appreciate all our members staying home if you have any symptoms.

Thank you to you and your family for being such an important part of our community. You can reach any of us at info@tacomafencing.com with any questions, comments, or concerns.

With much appreciation,



Toby Lee, MD on behalf of Diane Bartels, MD, Scott Poehlmann, MD, Ji Yon Kim, Jose Porras, and Lisa Wonneberg
Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) Board of Directors