

METRO TACOMA FENCING CLUB

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Dear Metro Tacoma Fencing Club Families and Friends,

Fencing Season 2021-2022 recap

The 2021-2022 fencing season has ended. It was a terrific season for our club. We had 93 individual fencers compete in 706 events representing Metro Tacoma Fencing Club. We have had 16 ratings earned in 2022 including two A2022 ratings which is similar in difficulty to earning a black belt in martial arts. Our fencers earned national points (and thus are nationally ranked) in 15 categories this season. I am thrilled and humbled to be representing the United States in the Veteran World Championships in October in the veteran 50-59 year-old men's épée category which is the first time that our club has sent any fencer to a world championship. Three of our youth fencers earned their assistant Moniteur (assistant coach) certificate.

New fencing season 2022-2023 starts now

The USA Fencing Season for 2022-2023 starts now so be sure to renew your USA Fencing membership at usafencing.org. The schedule for both the regional and national events for this season are posted at the USA Fencing website. Talk to your coach and fellow fencers if you are thinking about competing beyond our local area as they often take a bit more planning. Local events are still posted on AskFRED.net.

We offer annual Metro Tacoma Fencing Club membership for \$825 for the season. You can rent a club locker for \$125 for the entire season. Please contact Yukiko at yukiko@tacomafencing.com if you are interested in either.

Class time and fee changes

We have made some adjustments to the class times with hopes that it will make transition from one level of ability to the next one smoother for fencers and their families as well as for the coaches. With the rapid pace of inflation and increased costs associated with maintaining a robust and high-level program, we have unfortunately needed to increase some of our fees. Updated information is posted on our club website at tacomafencing.com.

Metro Tacoma Fencing Club Space and Lease

We have signed a lease extension for our current space through the end of June 2026, so we will be staying where we are for now while we continue to raise money to purchase our own space.

Volunteer opportunities

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.

I wanted to take a moment to thank Deborah Li and Ji Yon Kim again who have served on the board for years and have stepped down this season to make room for new volunteers. Please consider attending board meetings which will be posted both in the club and online. And we are always interested in filling our board with passionate and dedicated individuals to help us guide the club as we grow and thrive.

We have two volunteer youth representatives that serve at any one time for a two-year period who join in alternating years. I wanted to thank Brian Li who served for 2 years and will be attending Vassar College this fall where he will be a member of the fencing team. Sofia Guerra will continue to serve as youth representative until the end of next season. We have an open position if any high school fencer is interested. Please consider attending board meetings which will be posted both in the club and online. Or talk to a current board member if interested.

Tom Priester Memorial

We had a successful Tom Priester Memorial Team event in July. Tom was one of our volunteer coaches and fencers who passed away in 2021. He would come to the club to socialize and to fence. He gave our club a generous gift with his passing. We celebrated his memory and spirit by having our first annual fun social fencing event in his memory.

COVID-19 update

We are still requiring masking at our club at all times while indoors for the health and safety of all our members, as COVID-19 is just not going away. The variants are infecting and reinfecting individuals. At the North American Cup (NAC) events, masking is currently required except when a fencer is actively competing. 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, Jose Porras, and Lisa Wonneberg
Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) Board of Directors