

METRO TACOMA FENCING CLUB

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Dear Metro Tacoma Fencing Club Families and Friends,

Fencing season 2023-2024 update

The 2023-2024 fencing season started August first. Welcome to our new fencers and their families! We are excited having you join a wonderful sport. Metro Tacoma Fencing Club has already had 32 fencers compete in 80 events locally, regionally, and internationally. We are off to a great start! There are a number of local, regional, and national events coming up and scheduled throughout the season. The October North American Cup (NAC) is the next national-level event which will be held 10/26 - 10/29 in Orlando, Florida. A number of our fencers are training hard for this competition.



Coach Chung at the World Fencing Championships 2023.

Coach Chung competed this weekend at the World Veteran (50 years old and older) Fencing Championships held this year at Daytona Beach, Florida representing Team South Korea. He went against the very best male foil fencers ages 50-59 years-old and finished 22nd place.

Cristian, who is a member of our elite foil group, had an amazing season in 2023-2024 having even competed at the Cadet and Junior World Championships. He is currently ranked 140th in the world for Junior (Under 20 years old) men's foil so will be competing at the upcoming World Cup in Peru next month. Best of luck!

Metro Tacoma Fencing Club end of season 2022-2023 achievements

We held our annual social gathering on August 19 where we got to hang out and enjoy each other's company. We were honoring the memory of our late friend, Tom Priester, who was part of our club for years, a fencer, a volunteer coach, and a generous benefactor. If you are interested in reviving the social scene at Metro Tacoma Fencing Club, please let us know! COVID-19 put a damper on a lot of the things we used to do.

Last season we had 68 fencers represent Metro Tacoma Fencing Club competing in 485 individual events! We had three fencers compete internationally (Cristian, Benjamin, and Toby). We had 15 fencers compete nationally in 84 individual events and bring home 5 national medals. We had a division 2 men's foil national champion (Christopher). We had 7 fencers who earned national points and are thus nationally ranked (Gabey junior men's foil, cadet men's foil, Y14 men's foil; Christopher cadet men's foil, Y14 men's foil; Jackson junior men's foil, cadet men's foil; Cristian junior men's foil; Harrison Y14 men's foil; Toby veteran 50 men's épée, veteran 50 men's foil; and Teo Y14 men's épée). We had about 20 fencers earn or renew their ratings so far this year including an A2023 which is the highest classification (Andrew).

The president's award for the 2022-2023 season goes to Gabey who for the first time in Metro Tacoma Fencing Club history finished the season with over 3000 points. These in-house points calculated for our own fencers are calculated based on the number of opponents a fencer finished ahead of plus 1 for each event.

Top Metro Tacoma Fencing Club point

Fencer	Points	Total Events	Year
Gabey	3003	29	2022-2023
Christopher	2918	39	2022-2023
Benjamin	2529	34	2017-2018
Benjamin	2192	36	2016-2017
Ketki	2161	24	2018-2019
Gracie	2038	47	2017-2018
Malika	1925	27	2018-2019
Jackson	1876	23	2022-2023

Upcoming events

If you want to look into local or regional events, scan the QR codes below. Talk to your coach or a fellow fencer to see how you can jump in!



AskFRED local tournaments



USA Fencing regional tournaments

Coach Chris will be leaving Metro Tacoma Fencing Club

Coach Chris will be returning to coach at Rain City Fencing Center in Bellevue on November 1. He joined Metro Tacoma Fencing Club in 2020 and helped grow the club to what it is today. He stuck with us through the COVID-19 pandemic including pivots to online fencing! He developed our beginner and intermediate programs. Outreach with Metro Parks and private schools including Charles Wright Academy brought in new fencers. While we will miss seeing him at Metro Tacoma Fencing Club, he won't be going far so we can see him whenever we travel to Bellevue (or other local events) for tournaments. Stop by the club on Halloween which is his last day for some celebratory donuts (if they are not all eaten). His classes will be consolidated with fencers shifting to Coach Kim and Coach Chung so keep an eye out for changes that might impact you.

Changes to the board of directors

Scott Poehlmann will be transitioning his treasurer role to Coach Andy Glynn who will be rejoining the board. Scott's son is a fencer who is incredibly busy with high school senior activities. Scott's work has gotten busier as well. We hope he finds some time to join us at open fencing.

Diane Bartels will be stepping down from her role as vice president. Her son Marc continues to fence épée but with our friends at Kaizen. She led us through the COVID-19 pandemic and helped lay out our safety protocols as well as coordinated outreach programs. We hope she enjoys her horses and keeps in mind that modern pentathlon includes a fencing component so she should definitely sign up for our beginner épée classes.

Andy Glynn will be joining the board again as treasurer. He has been a volunteer coach at our club for over 20 years. He runs the open fencing sessions and is a fierce left-handed épée fencer. We welcome him back to the board!

Young Guerra will be joining the board as an at-large member. She has taken beginning lessons and understands how hard all our fencers work. Her daughter Sofia fenced with Metro Tacoma Fencing Club for years and will be joining the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) fencing team after her year off. Her son Gabey was the President's award recipient for the 2022-2023 season. She is very familiar with local, regional, and national fencing.

President's thoughts



As I follow Team USA as they competed at the World Veteran Fencing Championships this last weekend, I am reminded how wonderful of a sport we have that will allow fencers who are kids under 10 years old through kids over 80 years old to participate, stay fit, stay active, and compete. Fencing is something that is a long-term gift that can last decades with lessons learned staying with an individual for life. I have learned the importance of practice, patience, self-awareness, dedication, sportsmanship, teamwork, and hard work through fencing. I am glad you are a part of our community.

Coaches and board members are terrific resources for you. We are enthusiastic and passionate about this sport. If you would like additional information, please look at our website www.tacomafencing.com and check out the *Resources* section which includes a beginner fencers' guide, fencing information, tips, and videos.

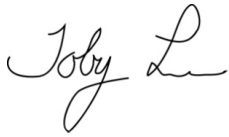
Conclusion

We are a not-for-profit organization and rely on volunteers to support our fencers, club, and coaches. We are always excited for people to volunteer their time with us or to contribute financially so we can continue to serve

our community and grow fencing as a sport. During Giving Tuesday this year our plan right now is to raise money to continue advertising to local public schools via the Peach Jar platform. Generosity is not limited to certain times of the year, and we always welcome contributions of any size.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Toby Lee". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "T" and "L".

Toby Lee on behalf of Diane Bartels, Scott Poehlmann, Jose Porras, Lisa Wonneberg, Andy Glynn, and Young Guerra
Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) Board of Directors