



FENCERS CLUB
EST. 1883

Coaching Advancement Session March 2015

To broaden the base and elevate the level of fencing worldwide.



COMMUNITY OLYMPIC
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
FENCERS CLUB

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With gratitude to Mr. Alisher Usmanov, President of the FIE,
for his vision for fencing worldwide
and the support for the FIE CMI programs.



Thank you to the International Charity Fund for the Future of Fencing
for its generous support of Fencers Club and the FIE CMI programs.



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Special thank you to James Melcher, active Fencers Club member,
former Chairman of the Board, 1972 Olympian,
for his vision, leadership, support, and mentorship.

Participating Countries – Coaching Development Session March 2015



Canada



Chile



Dominican
Republic



El Salvador



Jamaica



Panama



Paraguay



Venezuela





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Fencers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the pursuit of excellence through the sport of fencing. We actively support a culture of sharing by performing community services that extend beyond fencing.

Fencers Club, Our Perspective

Fencers Club is a vibrant and diverse community of members and friends united by a passion for fencing, guided by core values of respect, community service and outreach, maximizing opportunities, and inclusion. In keeping with our long tradition of pursuing excellence through fencing, we work with a broad cross-section of the population: training thousands of individuals in the sport of fencing, instilling in each of them the importance of focus, determination, and strategic thinking that are integral to the sport, while actively supporting strong academic and character development.



Our members include Olympic Medalists, World Champions, National Champions, and NCAA Champions. Our graduating members have earned prestigious scholarships and attend some of the finest universities and professional schools across the nation. Our programs serve students in schools and community centers across New York City, active duty military personnel and military Veterans, as well as the general public.

As a member of the USOC Community Olympic Development Program, in partnership with the USOC, we work to cultivate scholar-athletes to encourage them to maximize their potential through fencing.

In recognition for our effective and sustainable infrastructure and a diverse and supportive community, Fencers Club was selected by the FIE to represent the United States in the FIE Clubs Movement Initiative, CMI. The mission of the FIE CMI is to broaden the base and raise the level of fencing worldwide. Working closely with the FIE, FIE CMI Directors, and the Pan-American Fencing Federations, we aim to make a significant contribution to the FIE CMI goals. The Pan-American goals are more extensive since many of the regions in the Pan-American countries are starting or developing their fencing programs. As such, we must do more than teach coaching skills to the participating Pan-American coaches.

Our goals and approach are to:

- Provide a state-of-the-art and comprehensive coaching program in which international coaches will further their technical and tactical knowledge for organizing classes and giving lessons to students
- Promote active learning and adaptation to each country and region's coaching needs
- Provide strip coaching tools and skills to raise competitive athlete results
- Implement a comprehensive physical and psychological training program to optimize performance and prevent injury
- Impart strategies on how to build a strong student base for a long-term sustainable fencing program

Liz Cross, Executive Director



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Fencers Club Lead Coaches

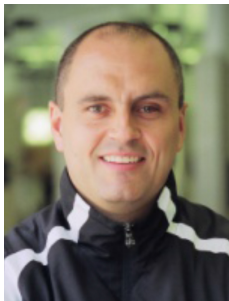
Buckie Leach, Foil



Buckie Leach is considered one of the most successful foil coaches in U.S. fencing history. His students have won more international medals in women's foil than any American coach or club combined. In addition to coaching at Fencers Club, Leach was also a U.S. Olympic Coach in 1996, 2000 and 2004. He has placed six athletes on U.S. Olympic Teams, including 2012 Olympian Nzingha Prescod. In 2012, Buckie was elected to the US Fencing Hall of Fame. He is currently the US National Women's Foil Coach.

As the Head Foil Coach for the FIE CMI Coaching Advancement Program, Leach brings his extensive knowledge and experience to the sessions. Leach's goal for the program is to teach integrated skills. He feels that if he can get the participating coaches to take the initiative for their own learning, using the skills being taught in the class, he would have made a meaningful contribution to the FIE CMI goals. He would like to see the coaches working with their own students to become active learners and take on personal responsibility for their own progress. It is essential for everyone, both coaching and learning, to make the game his/her own.

Kornel Udvarhelyi, Epee



Kornel Udvarhelyi graduated with high honors from the Masters program at the Hungarian Institute of Physical Education. As the Hungarian National Junior Epee Coach, his top student won a Cadet World Championship, a Junior World Cup, and a silver medal at the Junior World Championships. His American students have had similar success at the Cadet and Junior World Championships, as well as US National and NCAA Championships. He is a former US Women's Epee National Team coach. In addition to coaching at Fencers Club, he helped develop the curriculum for our Schools Partnership Program while also coaching at New York University.

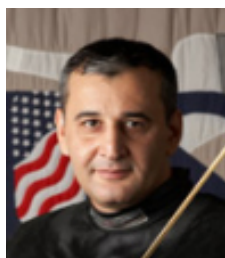
Kornel started his fencing career at the age of 9 in Hungary. He was taught by his uncle, the famous Hungarian Coach Gabor Udvarhelyi, who is now the Hungarian National Fencing Program Director. Kornel's goal for the FIE CMI Coaching Advancement Program is to help the Pan-American Coaches develop their own fencing programs, suited to their own communities, to make them more competitive globally. He believes that through training all levels of coaches, impactful fencing programs can take root and grow to produce internationally competitive athletes.

Kornel focuses on communication as a key to being an effective coach. If effective communication skills are not natural to a coach, s/he must develop his/her techniques to effectively convey the ideas and methods behind fencing actions. One action Kornel would like for the participating coaches to master is to teach their students (in épée) how to maintain an active defense while setting up for an attack.

Kornel really enjoys working with the Pan-American coaches of all levels and is committed to helping them improve their programs in the future.

Fencers Club Lead Coaches, Continued

Archil Lortkipanidze, Sabre



Archil "Achiko" Lortkipanidze is a talented sabre coach from the Republic of Georgia. He received his degree from the Tbilisi State University and had a successful athletic career, including being an Olympian (1996 Atlanta Games), Soviet Union Champion and World Cup finalist. His students have also achieved significant results at both the national and international level, including a silver medal at the 2012 Cadet World Cup, and multiple medals at North American Cups (NACs) and Junior Olympics.

Having two sons of his own who fence competitively, Achiko is very focused on developing young fencers into competitive athletes. His goal for the program is to prepare and equip the participating coaches with the knowledge and skills necessary to take high achieving young athletes to the next level.

Akhnaten Spencer-El, Sabre



Akhnaten Spencer-El is a 2009 graduate of Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary where he completed his Maestro's degree. A native of Harlem, Akhnaten started fencing at the Peter Westbrook Foundation at the age of 13. Akhnaten is a three-time U.S. Junior Sabre National Champion, a two-time Senior National Sabre Champion (1999, 2000), and in 1998 was ranked as the No. 1 Junior Sabre fencer in the world. He was also a member of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team. In addition to coaching for Fencers Club, Akhnaten is involved with helping Peter Westbrook Foundation athletes achieve their

highest potential in fencing.

As someone who was an elite athlete and became a coach of elite athletes, Akhnaten is keenly aware of the challenges of both fencing and coaching at the highest level. He can relate to the participating coaches and, using his unique experience, Akhnaten tailors his sessions to fit their needs so that each coach is engaged and developing his/her skills.

Alexey Cheremsky, Epee and Video Analysis



Alexey Cheremsky was born in Ukraine and received his degree from the Ukrainian State University of Physical Education and Sport. After coaching in Kiev, Coach Cheremsky moved to Israel where he worked as the National Team coach from 2000 to 2005, developing some of the top epee fencers for Israel. After Israel, Coach Cheremsky moved to the United States and developed a number of top students. In 2011 he was named the US Cadet and Junior National Team coach. His students have achieved exceptional results nationally and internationally. Some of his students reached top-4 junior world

ranking, made the US National Cadet and Junior teams, and won numerous individual NCAA medals. Coach Cheremsky is a committed and strategic coach who inspires his students to think on and off the fencing strip.

Fencers Club Coaches

Eduard Elterman (Foil)

Eduard Elterman was born in Minsk, Belarus, and fenced on both the Cadet and Junior National Teams. Elterman came to the United States in 1989. From 1989 to 1991 he was a foil coach at Blade Fencing Club in New York. The following year Elterman became the foil and epee coach for New York University, where he developed 12 NCAA All-Americans. Elterman joined the Fencers Club as a foil and epee coach in 1991.



Irene Gershon, Foil

Irene Gershon is a former Regional and Collegiate Coach in Ukraine and assistant coach at St. John's University. She received her degree in fencing with high honors from the Kiev Institute of Physical Education. Working closely with her husband Coach Simon Gershon, she focuses on building a strong developmental program. Many of her students have gone on to win national and international events at various categories. In addition to training many top foilists at Fencers Club, she coaches the 2013 World Champion and 2012 Olympian Miles Chamley-Watson, and 2012 Olympian Nicole Ross.



Simon Gershon, Foil – US Olympic Coach, Atlanta 1996, Athens 2004, and London 2012

Simon Gershon earned a Masters degree in fencing from the Kiev Institute of Physical Education. He was a coach of the Ukrainian Men and Women Foil Teams and the Soviet Union Women's Foil Team (1986 World Champions). Working closely with his wife, Coach Irene Gershon, he continues to develop fencers who achieve at the highest levels, including winning the 2013 Senior World Championship. In 2012, two of his students, Miles Chamley-Watson and Nicole Ross represented the US at the London Olympics. Every four years, at least one of Coach Simon Gershon's students has gone to the Olympics to represent the United States. In 2004, all of the US Men's foil team members were Coach Simon Gershon's students. In 2015, Coach Simon Gershon will be inducted to the US Fencing Hall of Fame for his accomplishments and contributions he has made to USA fencing.



Mikhail Petin, Foil – US Olympic Coach, Beijing 2008

Mikhail earned his Masters degree in both Physical Education and fencing at the Institute of Physical Education, Lvov/Ukraine. Since arriving in the United States, his top students have won a Silver Medal in Olympic Games (Beijing, 2008), 4 Gold and 4 Bronze Medals at the Junior and Cadet World Championships, as well as numerous international, national and NCAA Titles. Mikhail is a former US National Women's Foil Coach, and he was also awarded 2003 Fencing Developmental Coach of the Year by the United States Olympic Committee.



Boris Vaksman, Epee

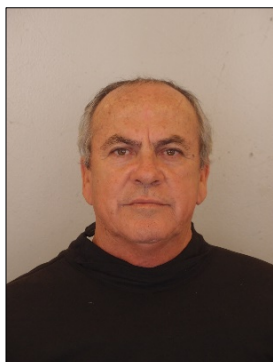
Boris Vaksman began his fencing career in Odessa, Ukraine at the age of 14. At 17 he was awarded the title Master of Sport, and by 18 he had won both his first Ukrainian National Championship and his first Soviet Union Championship. In total, Vaksman earned an impressive 56 medals in International and Soviet competitions between 1978 and 1983. Vaksman moved to the U.S. in 1989 and began coaching in New York. For the past 3 years Vaksman has been an Assistant Coach at St. John's University. In 2007, the Red Storm placed 2nd in the NCAA Championships. Coach Vaksman's students are some of the most competitive women's epee fencers in the country.



Participating Coaches

Marcos Andrade

Chile



Initially exposed to fencing while serving in the Chilean Army, Marcos now runs the only fencing club in his region of Arica in northern Chile. There he partners with two schools to train young fencers, the top 10% of which are eligible to train at the regional training center free of charge.



Even with his many years of experience, Marcos enjoys bringing new aspects to his coaching such as the agility games and warm-ups that are related to fencing and that also cultivate the athleticism needed for the sport. Especially in an area where obtaining quality equipment is difficult, such coaching tips will be invaluable when he returns to his home club.

Marcos looks forward to returning to Chile with new ideas and a new focus on growing the sport of fencing.

Carlos Ceceña

El Salvador



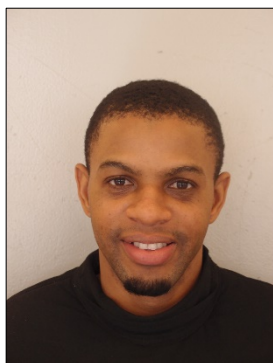
Though Carlos has carved out an excellent private school program in his native country that is supported by the El Salvador Fencing Federation, even he has struggled to get decent equipment for students and coaches. That's why he was particularly grateful to receive the new coaching gear from the FIE CMI coaching program. This professional equipment will be very important when he transitions from being an elite athlete to a full-time coach.



Carlos's long-term goal is to open his own independent fencing school on the outskirts of San Salvador, helping to further expand the popularity of the sport throughout the country. If that weren't enough of a working goal, in his spare time Carlos also studies law at the local university.

Zeniffe Fowler

Jamaica



In an effort to start a program from the ground up, the Jamaican Olympic Committee has scoured their country for elite athletes who might be willing to transition into what for them is a relatively new sport. In that search, the committee found a professional cricket player who was ready to accept the challenge.



Zeniffe will be returning to Jamaica with his countryman, Robert, in the hopes of spreading the sport of fencing. He hopes not only to inspire young athletes to achieve great results but also to utilize fencing as a means to teach kids discipline, focus and determination. He was particularly interested in the kid-friendly layout at Fencers Club, making sure to have homework areas and computers available to encourage young fencers to be great athletes and responsible scholars.

Cristopher Grandon

Chile



Cristopher comes from a fencing family—his father earned his coaching degree along with Marcos Andrade, another FIE-CMI participant. Cristopher began fencing epee when he was just nine years old and is now following in his father's footsteps to become an excellent coach. He started coaching fencing in 2007 and now specializes in epee to develop emerging athletes at the regional training center in Rancagua, a city in central Chile.



For Cristopher, the FIE-Fencers Club CMI Coach Advancement Course was a great gift that will keep on giving as he continues his coaching career. One of the challenges the sport faces in Chile is geography; since the country is so long and narrow, many regions don't have the same opportunities to fence. He is most impressed by the openness and expertise of the Fencers Club coaches, and he takes notes and video via his iPad while observing how they interact with their students in both group and private lessons. Using the knowledge he's gained in the FIE-Fencers Club CMI Coach Advancement Course and his professional network as both an athlete and coach, Cristopher is dedicated and energized to broaden the base and increase the level of fencing in all regions of Chile.

Kevin Krieger-Montenegro

Chile



Kevin works as mining engineer by day and coaches fencing in the evenings at Musketeers Fencing Club in Santiago. There are two coaches with 23 students who range from beginners to elite-level fencers. Kevin himself was a member of the 2006 Chilean Cadet and Junior National Teams but was drawn to coaching and took the Chilean coaching course in 2011. He has been coaching ever since.



As a coach, Kevin not only helps students become great fencers but also strives to help them become great people. As such, the

FIE CMI Coaching Advancement Program at Fencers Club has offered him not only the opportunity to learn from some of the best coaches in the world but he has also learned how a first-rate, highly efficient organization operates from the inside. He would like his club to be like Fencers Club in being inclusive and offering positive opportunities to a wide range of students and athletes.

Osel Martínez

Panama



Osel comes from a family of educators: his mother is a mathematics teacher and his father is a physical education instructor. Osel and his younger brother began fencing after hearing about the sport from one of their high school teachers. He developed his skills in college and is now an assistant women's epee coach for the

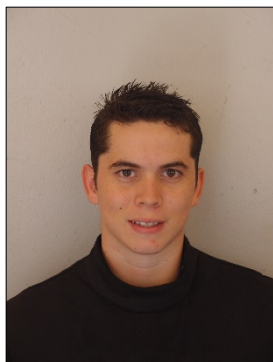


Technological University of Panama. Participating in the FIE-CMI Coaching Advancement Course at Fencers Club was the

experience of a lifetime for Osel who traveled for the first time to New York City to learn from the best. He particularly enjoyed observing the group class dynamics at Fencers Club and how students train and mentor each other in a highly organized system of athletes, coaches and administrators all dedicated to pursuing excellence through fencing. His goal is to take back all the knowledge and techniques he has gained to start a community-oriented fencing club that is self-sufficient, starting with the new coaching equipment he received from the FIE-CMI program. This gift has enabled him to internalize the feeling of being a coach who can transfer his knowledge of the sport effectively to his students.

Arturo Paiva

Paraguay



Though fencing isn't a common sport in Paraguay, Arturo was raised in a military family and was exposed to the sport through his father's military connections. Arturo aspires to represent Paraguay in the 2016 Olympic Games.



He currently coaches the youth fencing program at his club where he enjoys juggling the different approaches of both a coach and a competitive athlete. Though his club grapples with a lack of equipment, Arturo hopes to spread the popularity of the sport throughout the schools and community in which he lives. Through recruiting and demonstrations, he is eager to promote the discipline and determination of fencing as part of a larger successful life for young athletes.

Arturo would like to express his gratitude to the FIE, Fencers Club coaches and administrators, and the Paraguayan Fencing Federation for this opportunity to learn and network with other Pan-American fencing coaches.

Alejandro Patiño

Venezuela



Alejandro currently coaches sabre at the Venezuelan Olympic Fencing Center in Valencia while also running his own fencing club and working at a third club. He works with beginning through elite sabre fencers, pursuing a similar methodology to that of Fencers Club.



Alejandro started fencing at age 9 and fenced until he tore his ACL at the age of 24. While injured, he began watching lessons and decided to try working with youth. Thus began his coaching career and he continues to sharpen his skills through clinics in Italy, Spain and now the USA.

Alejandro is eager to bring the coaching concepts he has learned during the FIE-CMI Coaching Advancement program back to his home clubs. Every day of the program, he sent messages to his students and colleagues to recap what he learned and to pass along useful suggestions. Alejandro hopes to continue being a part of the rapid development of fencing in Venezuela by utilizing what he has learned through the FIE-CMI program.

Werner Reyes

El Salvador



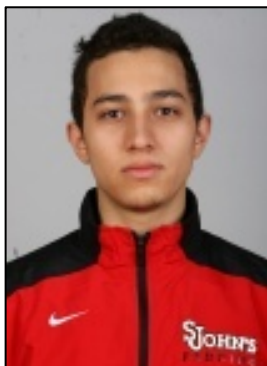
Werner started fencing at the age of 11 and was drawn to the foil for its precision, fast actions, and the need to think quickly and act decisively. As the foil coach for the El Salvador National Team, he works with about 20 fencers but has to contend with a lack of funding and difficulty in spreading the popularity of fencing. His long term goal is to grow the sport in his home country by keeping parents and families involved with young fencers' development.



Werner is very grateful to the FIE and its president Mr. Usmanov for the gesture of getting new coaching equipment. It has helped give validation from the FIE that these coaching program attendees are professional coaches worthy of respect and recognition. He looks forward to bringing what he has learned back to his home club and his supportive family, wife, and 10-year-old son. His son, of course, fences foil.

Eli Schenkel

Canada



It was purely by chance that Eli discovered fencing during a trip to, of all places, his local mall. There he stumbled upon an excellent fencing club and never looked back. He has gone on to be an elite fencer for both the Canadian National Fencing Team and St. John's University.



Eli has worked as a coach for young fencers while also being involved in his athletic apparel start-up company, True Athelite.

He hopes to eventually craft his own approach to coaching that will help the sport evolve to the same popularity and competitive level as found in other regions of the world.

Eli is grateful for this opportunity and looks forward to helping to change the sport of fencing, bringing in a bright new future for the sport.

Robert Shaw

Jamaica



Robert is a trained boxer from the Caribbean Maritime Institute in Kingston. However, the relatively new Jamaican Fencing Federation is very eager to increase the popularity of fencing in their home country so, as a high-level athlete, he volunteered to attend the FIE-CMI Coaching Advancement Program. For Robert, this was not just an opportunity to learn a new sport but also to make a contribution to Jamaican sports culture.



Robert had never fenced prior to arriving at Fencers Club. Though a trained athlete, there was new footwork to perfect, equipment to learn, and tactics to study. When Robert received his brand new set of coaching equipment, it was more than just a jacket and mask. It was confirmation to him that the International Fencing Federation deemed him a professional coach. The responsibilities of work and conduct that came with that jacket and mask have only spurred Robert to work harder in his new role as a fencing coach.

When the course is over, Robert will be working at Kingston Fencing Club where he plans to work with local schools, beginning programs to spread the popularity of our great sport. Ultimately, he would like to build a strong community like he observed at Fencers Club.

Rafael Western

Dominican Republic



Rafael is a member of the Dominican Republic sabre team. When he was 12 years old, he began his athletic career as a competitive platform diver. He started to fence to improve his physical fitness. Once he began fencing, there was no turning back; he found the sport electrifying. During the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, he volunteered to keep fencing scores and saw many great sabre matches. The winner of the sabre competition was Ivan Lee, Fencers Club and Peter Westbrook Foundation member. Seeing Ivan win the gold inspired Rafael to train harder and become an internationally competitive fencer. After moving to the United States in 2014, Rafael trained at Fencers Club for only a month before winning the bronze medal from the 2005 Dominican Republic Senior National Championships.



Before devoting himself fully to fencing, Rafael was a modern pentathlon coach in his home country. His passion for coaching fencing grew out of this experience, and he is determined to be an outstanding coach and mentor. Currently he works as a coach in the Fencers Club Schools Partnership Program. He teaches more than 100 children in different schools and community programs throughout New York City. Through fencing, he would like to serve as a role model and to inspire kids to stay focused in their schoolwork and to achieve their goals.





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A grayscale photograph of two fencers in a dynamic pose, wearing masks with an American flag design and holding epees. The image is slightly blurred to convey motion.

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