

OCTOBER 2020



W F C

WESTERN FENCING
CONFERENCE

INVESTED IN OUR FUTURE

Declaration of Intent

We love the sport of Fencing and we believe in access to Higher Education . As people invested in this beautiful sport it is time to refocus on Collegiate Fencing to ensure future generations continue to have the opportunities they deserve.

Tradition in motion...

Collegiate athletics is one of the most exciting competition formats in the world of sports. There is no greater feeling (save representing your country) than donning the uniform of your school and giving your all, knowing you are competing not only for yourself and your team but for the pride of the thousands of fellow students, staff and alumni who have forever linked themselves to your institution and you.

Today, there is more competition than ever for admission to American colleges and universities; therefore, it is more important than ever that each applicant differentiates her or himself as much as possible. Sports, in general, are profound differentiators and fencing, specifically, raises one's profile even further amongst the schools that have NCAA programs. The prospect of gaining acceptance to a college or university is what has been driving the recent growth of USFencing; however, the number of NCAA programs has only decreased over that same period of time, making competition for those limited admissions openings that much more intense.

We, the Western Fencing Conference Foundation, are committed to building new, robust, and viable fencing programs in the NCAA Western Region by proposing, funding, mentoring, and establishing 10 new teams at partner athletic programs by the year 2030. With the active involvement and the financial commitment of the entire US Fencing community we can realize this goal and forge a path to higher education for all of our student athletes.

Sincerely,

Daniel Melgrams

WFC President

In the US, the Olympic movement always benefited from collegiate sports. It is a unique model that offers Collegiate athletes access to high-level education while continuing their passion for the sport that defines who they are. Fencing and the Olympics have a long tradition together. In fact, the modern Olympics was started by a fencer with world vision. Fencing has matured to a modern sport with incredible growth domestically and internationally. Fencing is a sport that continues to reinvent itself, stay relevant, and push innovation.

Collegiate Fencing needs innovation and growth. Despite the rapid growth in our sport, Collegiate Fencing is not growing. We are determined to correct that the concrete actions that we are introducing in this document. Our focus is on the NCAA West Fencing Region but we are open to collaborate with other similar initiatives that share our vision. Come join us on our journey.

Sincerely,

Juan Ignacio Calderón

WFC Commissioner

Contents

Fencing in the US.....	4
Collegiate Fencing.....	5
Why, What & How	6
The process of partnership	7
Opportunities to collaborate... ..	8



A GROWING TRADITION



**USA FENCING
GROWTH 2012-2020**

1/3

**LIVE IN THE WESTERN
CONFERENCE REGION**

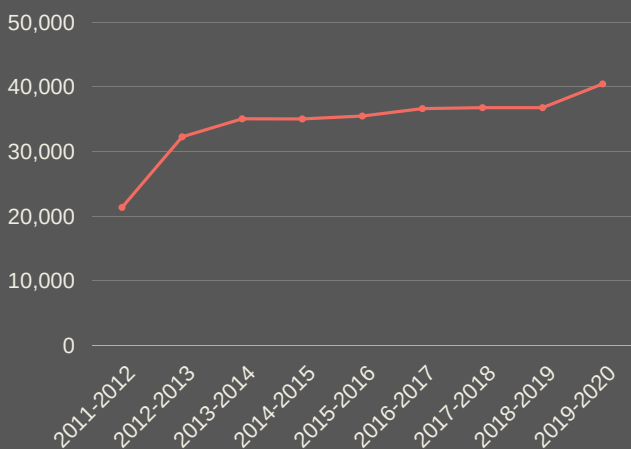


**SIX OLYMPIC MEDALS
IN RIO'16.**

**USA TEAM HAS
BECOME A
POWERHOUSE IN THE
FENCING WORLD**



**USA FENCING MEMBERSHIP
EVOLUTION**



Fencing is a traditional sport deeply rooted in the history of the modern Olympic movement. It is one of the only four sports that have been in the program of all Summer Olympic Games.

Sword fighting is universal and that has helped the sport spread all over the world with not only rapid growth here in the US but also in the rest of the Americas, all over Asia and parts of northern Africa.

Countries like France, Italy, Hungary, Russia or Germany used to dominate the sport. Over the last two decades China, Korea, Japan, and especially the US have challenged the European dominance.

The US west coast is a big part of the growth. California has the largest number of fencers. In fact, it takes the combination of the second and third largest states (New York and New Jersey) to barely surpass the number of California fencers.

90%

US Olympic Fencers fenced in an NCAA program since 2012

38%

USA Fencing High School All Americans come from the west.

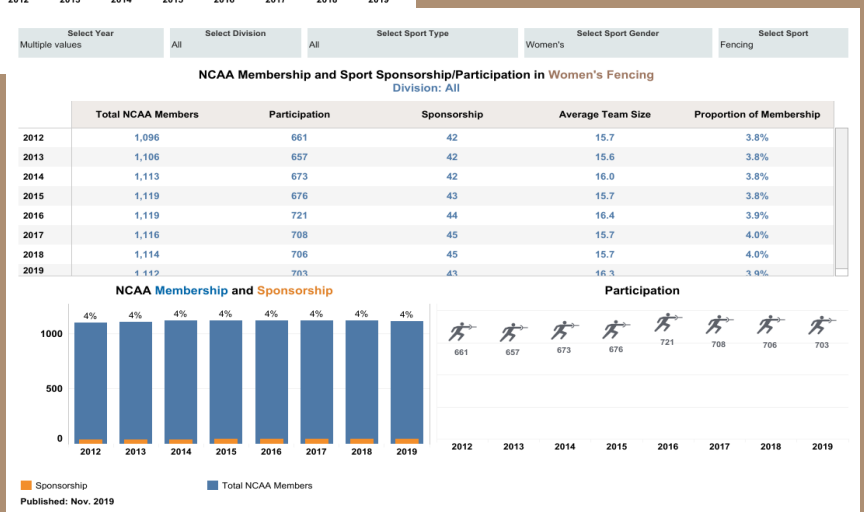
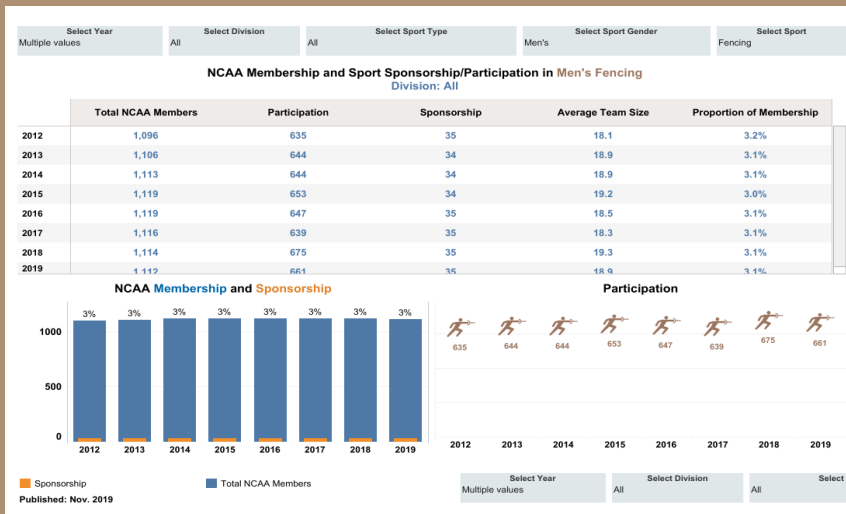
9%

NCAA Fencing programs are on the west.

Despite favorable trends Collegiate Fencing is not growing

Number of programs and participation levels have been flat since 2012.

Geographical distribution of existing programs does not match where fencing has been growing the most with the West being the biggest mismatch.



Why

We believe in transforming people's lives through access to higher education and an inspiring athletic experience.

What

- 1) Deliver a unique experience with the best competitive and recognition opportunities.
- 2) Expand our reach to 10 programs by 2030 in the West Region.
- 3) Engage with the community we operate in, contributing to the growth of fencing by making it more accessible and inclusive.

How

- 1) Strengthening our Conference Operations.
- 2) Create a Foundation to support the development of new programs.



Partnership for Success



WFC
WESTERN FENCING
CONFERENCE

LONG TERM

Five phases of partnership:

- 1) Pre-Launch
- 2) Launch
- 3) Consolidation
- 4) Independence
- 5) Evaluation



VIABILITY

Desired outcome:

- Strong Coaching Staff
- Equipped for the sport
- Solid roster that can qualify and compete in post season
- Manageable and affordable schedule

10^{by}30

The Western Fencing Conference is committed for a long term partnership with any school that recognizes the unique value of fencing.

Contributions to the Foundation

Donations will be critical to support new programs with the initial start up cost. They will help us shorten the time to launch a new program. The goal will be for all of them to be financially independent.

SUPPORTING LEVELS*	\$	WHO	BENEFIT
MEMBER	ANY	ONE TIME CONTRIBUTIONS	TAX DEDUCTABLE
BRONZE	\$1,000 YEAR	ONGOING SUPPORT	TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECOGNITION BAGDE
SILVER	\$2,000 YEAR	IDEAL FOR CLUBS	TAX, DEDUCTABLE RECOGNITION BADGE ONLINE PROFILE
GOLD	\$5,000 YEAR	IDEAL FOR HIGHLY ENGAGED INDIVIDUALS	TAX DEDUCTABLE RECOGNITION BADGE ONLINE PROFILE

*(Preliminary)

westernfencing.org

"Nobody made a greater mistake than those who did nothing because they could do only a little"

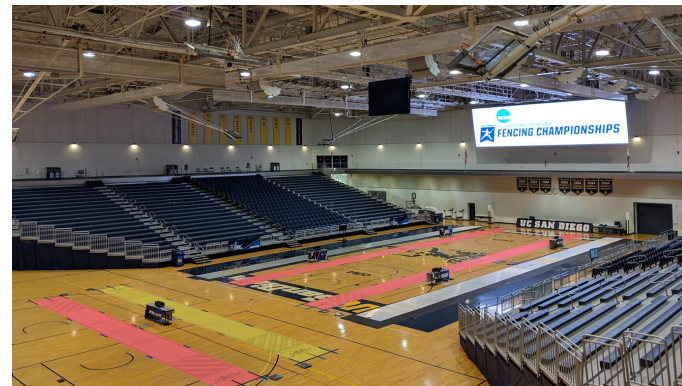
-Edmund Burke

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

INDEPENDENT OF ANY FINANCIAL DONATION YOU CAN HELP WESTERN FENCING CONFERENCE WITH YOUR TIME AND IDEAS. HERE ARE SOME INITIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1) We are building the best data base of collegiate athletics in the country. We are looking for volunteers to gather basic information from athletic programs. Each volunteer inputs information from 30 schools from online sources.
- 2) We are looking for leads into opportunities that you can identify based on your connections or knowledge.
- 3) We are looking for communication experts in social media, online marketing, and graphic design.
- 4) We are looking for volunteers with fundraising expertise.
- 5) We are looking for tournaments volunteers.

The most demanding opportunities will require an average of 5 hrs a week.





W F C

WESTERN FENCING
CONFERENCE

10by30