



# NSWFA MEMBER BULLETIN #7

## OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022

Passion Excellence Community

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Community,



Can't believe we now countdown to Christmas. Looking back, 2022 has been a roller coaster year.

We started when Omicron was everywhere and we coped with masks, RATs, social distancing. But we end it with so many memorable moments and so much hope.

Participation took a hit during the two Covid years but this year it bounced back to pre-Covid levels.

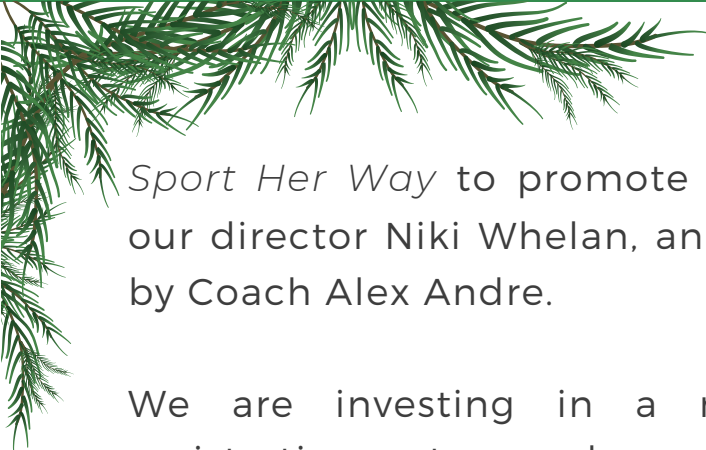
With the recovery from Covid we can now focus on growing our sport.

We have launched a new program - *Her*

# Christmas

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 2022 Australian Champion Gallery
- New registration software
- AGM date set
- Two new clubs
- Referee and DT development



*Sport Her Way* to promote female participation coordinated by our director Niki Whelan, and a Wheelchair Fencing Program led by Coach Alex Andre.

We are investing in a new, simpler member/competition registration system and a make-over of our website.

We're also working on a Future Champions Pathway to inform young athletes and their parents how they can achieve their potential in fencing and how to maximize the personal benefit they can get from engaging in our sport.

The young generation is 'spoiled' by choices in sports and we must continue to improve our offer and boost participation.

It's been a good year on the national piste with NSW fencers again winning the points trophies for U15, Cadets, Open & Veterans.

Overseas, our young sabreurs - Gaia Hardge, Veronika Vasileva, Yelin Zou and Oscar Shi came home glittering with gold from the Commonwealth Championships. Veronika made the podium at both Cadet and Junior Asian Championships. And let's also applaud Min Yi Du's gold at World Veterans.

Let's savor this moment with gratitude.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# 2022 Australian Champions Gallery



Min Yi Du - Veteran Women's Sabre

Joseph Glasson - Senior Men's Foil, Junior Men's Foil

Gaia Hardge - Senior Women's Sabre

Daniel Iliffe - U15 Boy's Sabre

Alexander Lette - Cadet Men's Sabre

Tianji Lukins - Senior Women's Foil

Genevieve Janse Van Rensburg - Junior Women's Epee

Yoongi Shim - Senior Men's Sabre

Andrey Tyshchenko - Veteran Men's Foil

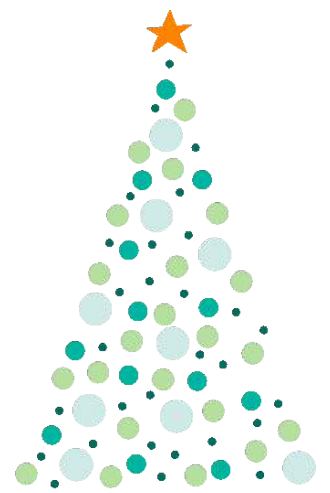
Amelia Whelan - U15 Girl's Foil

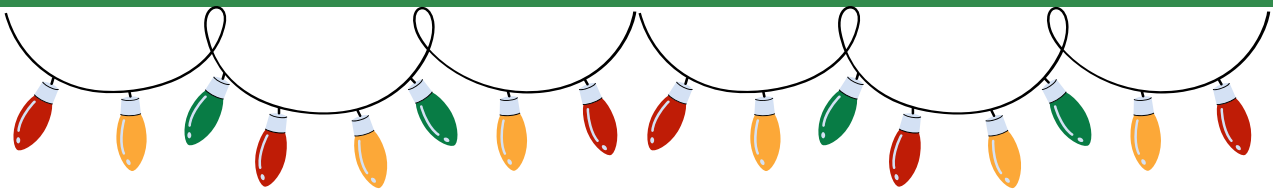
Richard Windsor - U15 Boy's Epee

Veronika Vasileva - Cadet Women's Sabre

Melissa Yeung - Veteran Women's Epee

Yelin Zou - U15 Girl's Sabre





## Our best up and comers

This year the AFF launched a new Australian Youth Circuit (AYC) for U15 fencers with 4 tournaments run in conjunction with Senior Australian Fencing Circuit (AFC) events.

The AYC Final was run in Adelaide alongside the Australian Senior Championships.

### Girl's Epee

Qixuan Sun  
(Overall AYC ranking #10)

### Boy's Epee

Richard Windsor  
(Overall ranking #1)

### Girl's Foil

Athena Feng  
(Overall ranking #3, Cheelyn Wang #1)

### Boy's Foil

Tommaso Signorello  
(Overall ranking #3)

### Girl's Sabre

Zara Djamirze  
(Overall ranking #1)  
Tiana Roberts  
(Overall ranking #5)

### Boy's Sabre

Alexander Lette  
(Overall ranking #2)  
Daniel Iliffe  
(Overall ranking #3)

Great going all.





## New registration software

When NSWFA members join up for 2023, you'll notice a couple of changes.

First, there'll be a new and better system for membership and competition entry.

We're moving to a new platform called Assemble which promises a simpler and easier process for signing up as a member, entering competitions, booking a place at fencing camps and so on.

You'll only have to enter your details once. You'll no longer have to repeat them each time you register for a competition then again for a second event.

Parents will be able to enter more than one child in more than one event.

The new system will start from 1 January 2023.

Fencing Victoria started using Assemble this year and by all accounts members have found it a much-improved system.

Second, the description of membership categories will change. Instead of 'Affiliated' and 'Registered', which can be confusing, especially for newcomers, the choice will be 'Competitive' or 'Participative', the same terms used by the AFF.

'Competitive' replaces 'Affiliated' and will cover fencers who compete seriously in State, National and International events.

Fencers over 18 will be known as Senior Competitive and those below 18 as Junior Competitive.

'Participative' replaces 'Registered' and will cover club fencers, school fencers and fencers under the age of 14. Those over 18 will be classed as Senior Participative; those under 18 will be Junior Participative.

Third, there'll be a new type of membership called Club Fencer. These members will be able to take part in regional championships and NSWFA club teams events. Senior Club Fencers (+18) will be able to vote at General Meetings of NSWFA.

Further details on the new membership structure will be posted by the end of this year.

## AGM date set

The annual general meeting for NSWFA members will be held at 4pm, Sunday 26 February 2023 at the NSW Fencing Centre.

Formal notice of the meeting will be sent to all voting members in January.

## Big Whirly Birds

Just in time for summer, ventilation at the Fencing Centre is improved with the fitting of new wall and ceiling fans. There are four new large ceiling fans - known as Big Ass fans - which rotate slowly but move a large volume of air.

The improved ventilation was installed by our landlord, Goodman Group, as part of the extension of our lease.

Thanks to Dennis Hely for his expert advice and assistance.

## No access to downstairs bathrooms

A lock has been placed on the downstairs bathrooms at the Centre following reports of vandalism. We don't know who caused the damage and note the toilets have been open to anyone off the street until now.

However, it means that fencers will now only have access to the upstairs bathrooms, including two bathrooms in the Annex when it is in use.

Bathrooms are sometimes left messy. Please help to keep them tidy.



## Lock your lockers

Fencers who keep gear in the lockers behind the finals strip should keep them securely locked to avoid others 'borrowing' their property.

## We welcome two new clubs

### At Coffs Harbour



Olympian Scott Arnold and his partner Julie Pearce have moved from Victoria to the mid North Coast to set up a new fencing club - **Duellists** - at Coffs Harbour.

The club will specialise in epee and offer tuition to kids, teenagers and adults.

Scott competed in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and has trained pentathletes Chloe Esposito (who won gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics and Ed Fernon who competed in the 2012 London and 2020 Tokyo Olympics).

For his own part Scott is a multiple Australian epee champion and competed in many international events.

Julie is also an epeeist and has competed at the Commonwealths and Australian nationals.

The club is running a camp 16-19 Dec. Contact Julie 0425884927 or [duellistsfencingclub@gmail.com](mailto:duellistsfencingclub@gmail.com)

### At Chatswood

**Sydney Beyond Fencing Club** is just starting up at 360 Eastern Valley Way.

The club will open six days weekly during school terms and there are camps for beginners, intermediate foil and epee fencers during the Christmas holiday.





Coach Taras Telnykh is from Ukraine where he was in the national fencing team.

Later he moved to Shanghai as a coach working at clubs and international schools. He also competed on the Chinese fencing circuit.

He loves teaching children to become “independent, resilient and confident” and is looking forward to introducing youngsters to fencing.

You can book camp or trial lesson online:  
[sydneybeyondfencing.com.au](https://sydneybeyondfencing.com.au)

Contact: [admin@sydneybeyondfencing.com.au](mailto:admin@sydneybeyondfencing.com.au)

## **Child Safeguarding**

The safety of children (anyone under 18) is a top priority for NSWFA. It's a legal responsibility shared by everyone.

What that means practically is discussed in a webinar by Aleksandra Kotevski, one of our Member Protection Information Officers, and Jane Thorpe, a child safety expert advising NSWFA on this important issue. Our other qualified MPIO is Arash Karpour.

View the webinar (50 mins) here: [CLICK HERE](#)

Please be familiar with the Child Safeguarding Policy and Practices on our website.

<https://nswfencing.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Doc-2-NSWFA-Child-Safeguarding-Policy-Child-Safe-Practices-formatted.pdf>

When clubs affiliate with NSWFA in the new year, we expect them to nominate a child safety/member protection officer.



You can learn how to become a qualified MPIO at Play By The Rules here.

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/online-courses/mpio-online-course>

## Let kids be kids

Sure, wanting your child to win is natural. But it's more important for young children to enjoy their fencing, learn from each bout, keep fit, mix with their friends and have a bit of fun.

Being yelled at from the sidelines by parents is NOT fun. It just makes kids feel embarrassed in front of their friends. It won't make them fence any better. They'll lose self-confidence and maybe want to give up the sport.

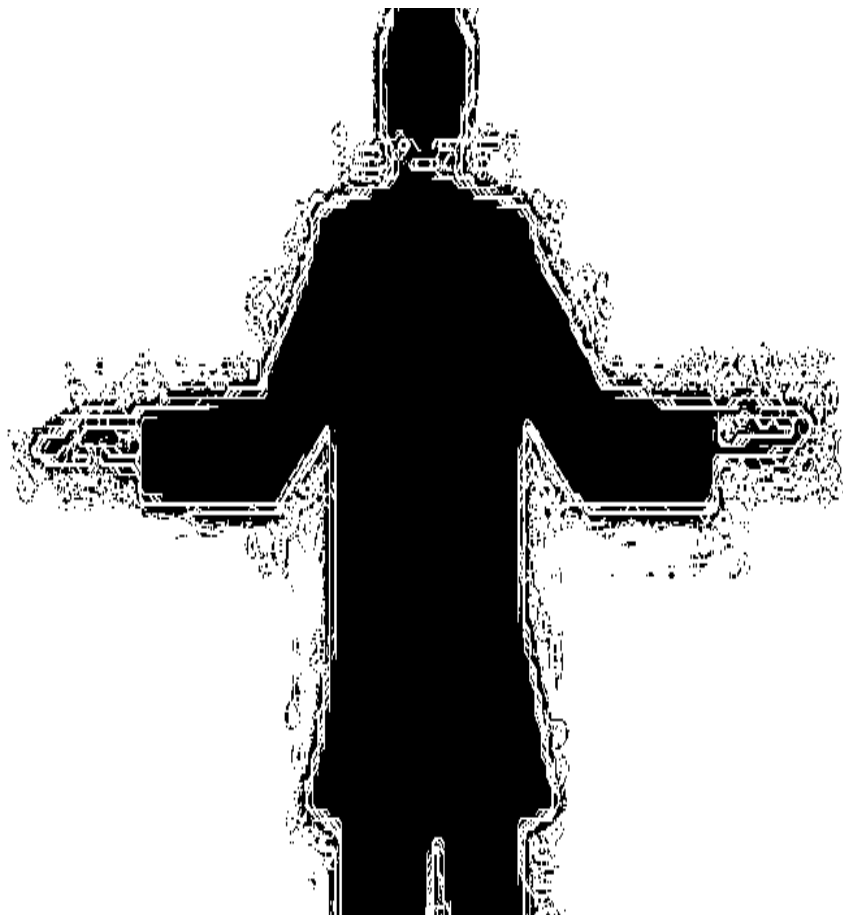
So, parents, please be positive and supportive, not critical and over-bearing. Applaud good play from both young fencers on the piste.

Please respect coaches, referees, the DT and our volunteers.

In 2023 we'll be keeping a close eye on sideline behaviour and if anyone creates a nuisance or belittles a child, we won't hesitate to take action.

So just let kids be kids. It's not the Olympics...yet.





## **NSW STATE REFEREE & COMPETITION “DIRECTOR TECHNIQUE”**

**BECOME A STATE REFEREE OR A  
COMPETITION DT**

**THESE ARE PAID POSITIONS WITH NSWFA**

Interested in becoming a State Referee or DT (Operational Or Manager / Logistics). Contact NSW Fencing Association for more information.

EMAIL: [alex.andre@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:alex.andre@nswfencing.org.au)

LOOKING FOR A  
WEEKEND JOB?

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LEARN HOW TO  
DT AT STATE &  
SCHOOL  
COMPETITIONS

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ON THE JOB  
TRAINING FOR DT

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NSW  
Fencing  
Association

## NSW Fencing Association Competition Organisation Document

This is an outline of the NSW Fencing Association roles for State Competitions

- NSWFA Director Technique– Operational role
- NSWFA Director Technique – Managerial & Logistics role
- NSWFA State Referees – Referee grading and continued development

<u>Position</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Competitions</u>	<u>Education / Assessments</u>	<u>Note</u>
<i>DT – Operational role</i>	The primary role is the operation of “FencingTime Live” at State Competitions	NSW Mini Series  NSW Aged Competitions (U15, Cadets, Junior, Senior and Veteran)  School Competitions  NSW Club Team Competitions	This role requires an induction period for education and training on how to operate “FencingTime Live”  This role requires a basic understanding of the FIE rules associated with Fencing Competitions.	This is a paid position with NSWFA.

<p><i>DT – Managerial &amp; Logistic role</i></p>	<p>The primary role is to manage State Competitions on the day.</p> <p>Organise final entries and any late registration</p> <p>Piste allocation for events</p> <p>Referee coordination</p> <p>Podium presentation - Including photos</p> <p>General announcements</p>	<p>NSW Mini Series</p> <p>NSW Aged Competitions (U15 and Cadets)</p> <p>School Competitions (modified role)</p>	<p>This role requires a comprehensive understanding of the FIE rules associated with Fencing Competitions.</p>	<p>This is a paid position with NSWFA.</p>
<p><i>NSW State Referees</i></p>	<p>NSW “Senior”</p>	<p>NSW Mini Series</p> <p>NSW Aged Competitions (U15 and Cadets)</p> <p>Junior, Senior &amp; Veterans Competitions</p>	<p>Referees are assessed for by NSWFA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level of competency suitable for ALL State Competitions</li> </ul> <p>Referees are part of continued Referee Education pathway</p> <p>National Accreditation Pathway</p>	<p>This is a paid position with NSWFA</p>

	NSW "Junior"	NSW Mini Series	<p>Referees are assessed for by NSWFA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level of competency suitable for Mini Series or equivalent State Competitions</li> </ul> <p>Referees are part of continued Referee education pathway</p> <p>State Accreditation</p>	This is a paid position with NSWFA
	NSW Referee "Trainee"	NSW Mini Series	<p>This is a referee trainee position, prior to being assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Referee education and training experience</li> </ul> <p>Aimed for those wanting to be assessed.</p>	

## **General Notes:**

### **NSW Referees**

Anyone who would like to become a member of the NSW State Referee

Please email: [entries@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:entries@nswfencing.org.au)

1. State Referees are rostered prior to each competition – according to their availability
2. State Referees are only used for Mini Series, U15 and Cadet Competitions
3. State Competitions which are self-refereed are Junior, Senior and Veteran
4. There is continued Referee education and development through NSW Seminars and “What’s app Chat” group
  - Including videos and discussions
5. Suitable age 13+
6. Referees can be multiple weapon or single weapon

The overall program for Referee development and continued education will be run by the NSW Head Coach, Antonio Signorello

### **NSW DT**

Anyone who would like become a member of the NSW State DT

Please email: [simon.capon@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:simon.capon@nswfencing.org.au)

1. State DT are rostered prior to competition – according to their availability
2. There will be a training and induction period
3. Suitable age 16+



PARALYMPIC  
SPORT

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LEARN HOW TO  
FENCE

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WHEELCHAIR  
DEVELOPMENT  
PATHWAY  
PROGRAM

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SUITABLE FROM 10+  
CATEGORIES ARE  
CADET (U17), U23 &  
SENIOR

## 2023 “INTRODUCTION TO FENCING” ACADEMY WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM

STARTING FROM 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY

### Fencing Academy of NSW – Sabre Wheelchair Program

Dreaming of the Paralympics ? The Fencing Academy of NSW is starting a Sabre Wheelchair Program in 2023, which will run 3 – 4 days per week. Come and join this exciting new Fencing program. Suitable from age of 10 +

Fencing is for Life!

Contact: [alex.andre@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:alex.andre@nswfencing.org.au)

DREAMING  
OF  
BRISBANE  
2032



## 2023 NSW JANUARY PREPARATION SABRE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CAMP

### NSW FENCING ASSOCIATION SABRE PROGRAM

In 2023 from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January, there will be a 5 full day intensive Sabre Training Camp, including Sabre training and development, plus - swimming pool recovery and yoga sessions

All Fencers must have 2023 Annual Membership with their State.  
\$105 per day  
\$450 for 5 days.  
9:00am to 5:00pm daily

Contact:

[Alex.andre@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:Alex.andre@nswfencing.org.au)

**Early 2022 Registration:**

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=48305>

Daily

9:00am to 5:00pm

23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>

&

27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

January

Sabre Training Camp

Monday – Wednesday &  
Friday – Saturday

Includes

Swimming Pool &

Yoga

recovery sessions

NSW Fencing  
Association

2023