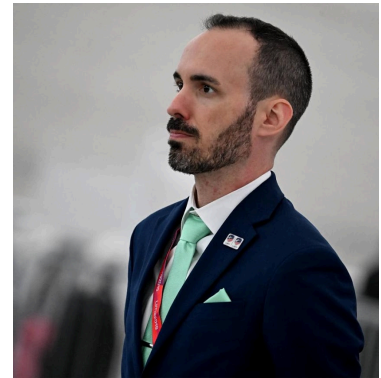


Matt Tucker for Vice Chair of Rules & Examinations

Vision: Revamping Exams to Serve the Cadre

The Rules & Examinations Vice-Chair is the cadre's custodian of both the official USA Fencing rulebook and the licensing examinations for USA Fencing referees. Right now, our national exam process is in need of an update. I am running for Vice-Chair of Rules & Examinations because I want to lead these needed changes and to serve the cadre who have helped prepare me for my own career as a national and international referee. My Vice-Chairship will work to improve examinations on three fronts: (1) a comprehensive overhaul of the domestic online written exam, (2) an accompanying revision of exam preparatory materials, and (3) collaboration with International

Assignments & Development, current US FIE cadre, and Domestic Development - National to create FIE exam video preparatory materials for international licensing candidates. With Domestic Development - Grassroots' help, we will make the materials from (1-3) available for Certified Referee Instructors to use in domestic teaching, with appropriate citations to the USA Fencing Rulebook to help learners. I will also continue the current Vice-Chair's work disseminating rules interpretations, leading discussions of complex applications during pre-NAC calls, analyzing referee usage hours, advising on domestic adoption of FIE changes, and approving custom mask designs.



Qualifications

I have been an active referee in all three weapons since 2014, first in the United Arab Emirates, then with USA Fencing starting in 2016. I have held an active FIE B in sabre since 2019 and in foil since 2022. I have served on the Rules & Examinations RC subcommittee since 2022 and was a contributor to special projects for the subcommittee for several years before that. With USA Fencing, I have been a Certified Referee Instructor since 2024 and regularly teach seminars and conduct observational exams for developing referees. Since 2019, I have maintained a rules-based

study guide for the FIE exam that candidates in the Panamerican zone reference to prepare for the FIE written exam. I have also served as a member of the RC Nominating Committee twice (2022, 2024) and helped run the Referee Assessments program at NACs in the 2024-25 season.

Professionally, I hold a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a B.A. from Cornell University. I have excellent command of fencing French and have previously published academic papers in French, important skills for maintaining a rulebook derived in part from the official FIE rules in French. I currently work as a Data Scientist at Amazon.com, where my professional duties involve managing projects involving large technical writing components and statistical analysis of complex data sets. Until 2018, I was an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Oakland University in Michigan, where I was an award-winning undergraduate instructor.