

USA FENCING **IMPACT** **REPORT** 23 24



USA
FENCING



USA
PARAFENCING

SOCIAL IMPACT & OUTREACH

ABOUT THE REPORT

The purpose of this Impact Report is to highlight our organization's commitment to growing the sport of fencing through our various initiatives and community involvement. The report hopes to provide transparency and accountability of our actions to enhance access and inclusion in the sport of fencing. The report also reveals areas of opportunity to inform future programming.



HIGHLIGHTS

\$45K **IN FUNDING**
disseminated via Fencing the Gap to support the growth of fencing in local communities

**OVER
1651
YOUTH**

impacted by growth initiatives that supported engagement with

600+ **YOUTH GIRLS**

400+ **BIPOC YOUTH**

80+ **YOUTH with DISABILITIES**

162 from **RURAL COMMUNITIES**

27 **NEW COACHES** • 9 POC
Introduced via programming → • 14 WOMEN
• 4 LGBTQIA+

2024 PROJECT EMPOWER PROGRAM
9 WOMEN | 1 NONBINARY

8 **NEW SCHOOLS**
STARTED FENCING PROGRAMS

2 **NEW PARK & REC**
SITES ADOPTED FENCING via PlayLA for the LA28 Olympic Games

2 **NEW SCHOOLS**
ADOPTED 2-4-1 FENCING PROGRAMS

48 **ATHLETES**
BENEFITTED from the **GRACE PROGRAM**

Launched FAA Initiative in
14 CITIES
across the U.S. in support of the
2024 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES



"As a 22-year-old coach...My youth allows me to connect with younger fencers...I aim to inspire inclusivity and empower underrepresented voices in the fencing community, fostering an environment where every athlete feels valued and supported."

"As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I didn't feel comfortable in traditional sports like football, baseball, and soccer. I tried them all, but nothing stuck until I started fencing in high school."

"I can't believe we waited this long to try fencing!"

2024 GROWTH

SOCIAL IMPACT & OUTREACH

GROWTH IN REPRESENTATION

Data is showing an incremental increase year over year (YoY) in representation since the inception of USA Fencing's outreach efforts. There is also more membership demographic data being collected, which is reported to the USOPC for the organization's annual DEI scorecard.

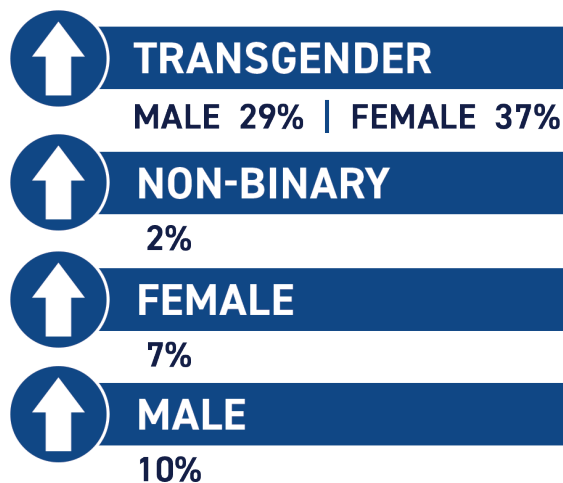
USA Fencing is currently in the process collecting demographic data from our membership. In an effort to provide the most accurate depiction of our membership, we strongly encourage members to respond to the demographic questions. The data collected are used to produce annual reports to the USOPC and steer programmatic efforts to makez fencing a more accessible and inclusive sport.

• YOY GROWTH (23/24 - 24/25)

Total number of members has shown excellent growth. USA Fencing's social impact efforts have contributed as part, but not exclusively, towards our growth.

GENDER IDENTITY - It was worth noting that while the number of women have increased, those introduced to the sport (access membership) represent a diverse group of people. It is also worth noting that there is a decrease in transgender and non-binary competitive participants, which can be attributed to a number of external factors, such as the current socio-political climate that has left many members of this community to feel unsafe or unprotected. It also shows that transgender individuals are most likely to compete at the local level. The below represent the growth in numbers in each category.

ACCESS MEMBERSHIP



COACH MEMBERSHIP

7% INCREASE FOR FEMALES

COMPETITIVE MEMBERSHIP

5% FEMALE

2024 GROWTH

SOCIAL IMPACT & OUTREACH

ETHNICITY - Current data reveals that there is an incremental upward trend in diverse representation of the membership. It should be noted that DEI transformative efforts are gradual. As perception of belonging and inclusivity increase, data will follow. This also follows census trends of America becoming a majority diverse country by 2040.



AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE

MALE 17% | FEMALE 42%



ASIAN / ASIAN AMERICAN

MALE 11% | FEMALE 11%



BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

MALE 4% | FEMALE 9%



HISPANIC / LATINO(a) / CHICANO(a)

MALE 8% | FEMALE 6%



MIDDLE EASTERN

MALE 23% | FEMALE 6%



MULTIPLE ETHNICITIES / TWO or MORE ETHNICITIES

MALE 9% | FEMALE 4%



NATIVE HAWAIIAN or OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER

MALE 5% | FEMALE 38%



WHITE

MALE 5% | FEMALE 3%

FRAMEWORK

SOCIAL IMPACT CYCLE



This cycle fosters team collaboration, which encourages allyship and prevents exclusion

USA Fencing's 2023- 2024 Social Impact initiatives were segmented into these five key categories: leadership and governance, training and education, access and representation, awards and recognition and strategic partnerships

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

- Developed Succession Plan for committees and board members
- Developed [2025 - 2028 DEI Action Plan](#)

TRAINING & EDUCATION

- **Foundational trainings for staff, board and committee members**
 - Microaggressions
 - Navigating Conflict & Resistance
- **Educational Panel discussions**
 - Celebrating w/ PRIDE: Joy & Resistance
 - The State of USA Fencing
 - Blackness in the Movement
- **Educational resources**
 - Navigating Difficult COversations
 - Equity, Equality & Justice
 - Using Inclusive Language
 - Understanding Power & Privilege
 - Understanding Implicit Bias
 - Racial Awareness Vocabulary

PROGRAMS

PROJECT EMPOWER MENTORING PROGRAM

Program dedicated to increasing the representation of women and non-binary coaches in our sport. The program invites aspiring or new women and non-binary coaches with 3 or fewer years of coaching experience to be mentored by seasoned coaches in a 6-month professional development program.

- 20 members participated in the 2024 cohort
- Can use this picture w/ perhaps just their heads



FENCING THE GAP PROGRAM

Program developed to increase access and grow the sport of fencing through various individual scholarships and mini-grants to clubs.

- **Support Fund Scholarship**
 - 22 Recipients
- **Community Impact Grant**
 - Atlanta Fencers Foundation
 - Boston Fencing Club
 - Bozeman Fencing Association **
 - Blair / Invicta
 - Nellya Fencers Club
 - PISTE
 - SwordPlay LA
 - The Fencing Center

*** Clubs approved for more than one initiative*
- **Diverse Coaches Grant**
 - Boston Fencing Club
 - Long Island Fencers Club
 - PISTE
 - Salle De Long
 - SwordPlay LA

GRACE PROGRAM

Program developed to waive registration and event fees for athletes in need of support to compete.

- **48 athletes received tournament and event fees waived**

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2nd Annual Impact Awardees were honored at the Hall of Fame Awards Banquet

Bronzeville Fencing Academy | Peter Westbrook Trailblazer Award



Northwest Fencing Center Mariel Zagunis Women's Advancement



Kern Athletic Fencing Foundation Leszek "Maestro" Stawicki Parafencing Award



Valkyrie Fencing Club | ASPIRE Award





A national Initiative developed to excite fencing membership stateside during the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games by introducing the sport of fencing to new people. The following cities hosted activations.

Cleveland, Ohio (Westlake) | Crocker Park

Cleveland, Ohio (Lyndhurst) | Legacy Village

Colorado Springs, Colo. | USOP Museum (part of Downtown Summer Fest)

Denver, Colo. | Cherry Creek Center

Denver, Colo. | Union Station (Wynkoop Plaza)

East Rutherford, N.J. | American Dream Mall

Anaheim, Calif. | OCVIBE

Mission Viejo, Calif. | Shops at Mission Viejo

Minneapolis, Minn. | Mall of America

New York City, N.Y. | Grand Central Terminal

New York City, N.Y. | Wollman Rink at Central Park

Portland, Ore. | Director Park

Salt Lake City, Utah | City Creek Center Mall

San Francisco, Calif. | San Francisco Centre Mall



PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

To broaden our impact USA Fencing continued fostering collaboration with professional and community partners to enhance our programming.

- **ALL KIDS PLAY** | Partnership Focus: Boosting the numbers of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) youth, youth girls and youth with disabilities in the sport of fencing through scholarships, grants, and waiver programs.
- **ANGEL CITY SPORTS** | Partnership Focus: Introduce the number of parafencing athletes in the city of Los Angeles through clinics and competitions for people of all ages and skill levels who have physical disability or visual impairment.
- **KELLY BUSH FOUNDATION** | Partnership Focus: Intentional growth plan for parafencing through a series of equipment grants to fund frames, chairs, and other necessary equipment to compete as a disabled fencer. KBF specifically awards funds to athletes with spinal cord injury.
- **PLAYLA** | Partnership Focus: To launch fencing programs across the city of Los Angeles in preparation for the LA28 Olympic Games. Partnership helped launch fencing at 2 parks and recreation sites in LA. We anticipate launching 8 more sites by 2028.





UNITED STATES FENCING FOUNDATION

SOCIAL IMPACT & OUTREACH

FROM THE US FENCING FOUNDATION

The fencing community has been incredibly welcoming during my first season with USA Fencing, and it has been an honor to engage in meaningful conversations about the future of the U.S. Fencing Foundation (USFF).

Because of your generosity, 2023-2024 was our most successful fundraising year. But this is just the beginning.

With continued support, we can expand access to the sport, fund more opportunities for aspiring fencers, and ensure that Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls have the resources they need to reach the world's biggest stage. Fencing is more than a sport—it's a lifelong community, a source of empowerment, and a place where athletes of all backgrounds can thrive.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BUILD THE FUTURE OF FENCING.

Your gift—whatever the size—ensures that every athlete, from a young beginner to a veteran competitor, has the opportunity to compete, excel, and contribute to the sport.

The future of fencing starts with all of us. Thank you for being part of this journey, and I look forward to meeting you soon.

All the best,
Meghan DeFord
Executive Director, U.S. Fencing Foundation

2023-2024 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS REVENUE RAISED

\$915,888+

FTG DOLLARS \$12,950 FROM 21 DONORS



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