



UNITED STATES FENCING FOUNDATION

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF FENCING

2025 IMPACT REPORT

COVERING THE 2024-25 SEASON AND THE START OF THE 2025-26 SEASON



Dear Friends of Fencing,

As a veteran fencer, I know what this sport gives you. Discipline, community, the thrill of a well-timed attack. As Chair of the U.S. Fencing Foundation, I have the privilege of seeing how philanthropy extends those gifts to athletes and communities across the country. The results from this past year speak for themselves.

For the first time in history, the Foundation funded para-fencing athletes to compete in international competition. A 2024 donation pushed the Para-fencing Weapon-Specific Endowment past the \$100,000 threshold, making it the first endowment to begin distributing funds. Nine para-fencing athletes benefited. The Foundation also funded three outreach events to grow para-fencing participation, and through the Jensen family and our trustees, we launched the Jed Jensen Fund to support para-fencing advocacy.

A generous major gift expanded personal coach funding, putting nine coaches alongside athletes at international competitions across 2025. The Foundation made it possible to fund the fifth- and sixth-ranked Senior National Team athletes across all weapons, with 27 unique athletes receiving support. A restricted donation funded seven elite women's foil camps, developing the next generation on the pathway to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.

Beyond elite competition, the Foundation awarded 31 Fencing the Gap grants to clubs in 25 states and funded 60 entries to North American Cups through the GRACE program, benefiting 40 athletes.

Our Piste to Podium '28 initiative, which we launched this year in Washington, D.C., represents the next chapter. These gatherings bring together philanthropists, athletes and community leaders in cities across the United States, building relationships and creating new pathways for giving as we approach the LA28 Games. I was proud to stand alongside our trustees, Olympians and supporters at the inaugural event, and I'm excited for the receptions and gatherings ahead.

To our donors: you are the reason any of this is possible. Every gift strengthens the pathway from a young fencer's first lesson to the Olympic and Paralympic stage.

Thank you for believing in fencing's future.



Selina Kaing
Chair, Board of Trustees, U.S. Fencing Foundation



Dear USA Fencing Family,

What a year. This Impact Report covers the 2024–25 season and the beginning of the 2025–26 season, and the progress made through your generosity during that time has been remarkable.

Since its relaunch, the U.S. Fencing Foundation has become an essential part of how we fund the future of this great sport. I see the impact every day in the athletes who compete abroad with personal coaches by their side, in the clubs receiving Fencing the Gap grants, in the para fencers who represented the United States internationally for the first time. Those stories, and many more, are in the pages that follow.

What I want to share here is why it matters so much right now. The Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place on home soil. That means the world will be watching our sport, and we have a once-in-a-generation chance to grow fencing in this country. The Foundation is how we seize that moment. Your support funds the athletes, coaches, programs and partnerships that turn Olympic attention into lasting participation.

Our Foundation secured its largest-ever gift this year, which in turn allowed us to help Nick Itkin OLY establish his Nick Itkin Foundation in Los Angeles. We also supported Eli Dershwitz OLY in launching a city-focused foundation of his own. These athlete-led initiatives are bringing fencing to individuals who could not otherwise afford to participate. That is exactly the kind of ripple effect philanthropy should create.

Across the NCAA, roughly 114 programs have been cut in the last three years. We are up three fencing programs. We are competing against sports offering 10 times the grant funding we can offer. Your support of the Foundation helps close that gap.

The numbers in this report are impressive. But what they represent matters more: a para fencer competing internationally for the first time; a young athlete attending a NAC through a GRACE grant; a club in a new community receiving a Fencing the Gap award; a college adding fencing when so many other sports are being cut. Every gift of every size makes an impact.

These contributions allow us to go beyond what our operational budgets alone can support. Together, we are one fencing community, building the future side by side.

Thank you for everything you do for this great sport, on and off the strip.

Yours in fencing,



Phil Andrews
CEO, USA Fencing



UNITED STATES FENCING FOUNDATION

The United States Fencing Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the philanthropic arm of USA Fencing, the national governing body for the Olympic and Paralympic sport of fencing in the United States. The Foundation advances the sport's mission by funding programs that expand access, strengthen the athlete pathway and build a more inclusive fencing community. Focused on three priorities, the Foundation works to transform the sport by investing in individuals and organizations that are building a stronger, more diverse future for fencing in the United States.

540

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$412K

TOTAL RAISED

\$2.48M

ENDOWMENT BALANCE



IGNITING OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC DREAMS

Supporting elite and para athletes on the pathway to the podium at the highest levels of international competition.



EXPANDING ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

Breaking down barriers so that everyone has the opportunity to discover, participate in and grow through fencing.



GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION

Investing in collegiate expansion, youth development and the pipeline from first lesson to the world stage.

IGNITING OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC DREAMS

27

UNIQUE ATHLETES FUNDED

9

PERSONAL COACHES FUNDED



5TH- AND 6TH-RANKED ATHLETES FUNDED

Through its standard distribution and a major gift, the Foundation made it possible to fund the fifth- and sixth-ranked Senior National Team athletes across all weapons. This expanded support ensures that more of the country's top fencers have the resources they need to compete internationally and chase ranking points on the world stage.

PERSONAL COACH FUNDING

A generous major gift significantly expanded personal coach funding in 2025, giving athletes access to the single most important support function available when they compete abroad. These funds were combined with additional personal coach support from the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee to extend coverage across the international season.



PARAFENCING INTERNATIONAL FUNDING

The Foundation funded parafencing athletes to compete in international competition for the first time. A 2024 donation made the Parafencing Weapon Specific Endowment the first to surpass \$100,000, reaching the threshold to begin distributing funds. Combined with USA Fencing operational support, this allowed nine parafencing athletes to receive funding for competition.



PARAFENCING OUTREACH

The Foundation funded three outreach events designed to recruit and develop parafencing athletes, including the Warrior Games Expo and the Move United Educational Conference.



WOMEN'S FOIL DEVELOPMENT CAMPS

A restricted donation to the Foundation supported the next generation of fencers on the pathway to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. Seven elite camps brought together junior and senior women's foil fencers for high-level training and development.



EXPANDING ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

31

FENCING THE GAP GRANTS

60

NAC ENTRIES FUNDED

40

GRACE ATHLETES SUPPORTED

“

Your support has made a meaningful difference, and I look forward to applying what I've learned in upcoming competitions and future training.

Fencing the Gap recipient from Virginia

”



FENCING THE GAP

Through Foundation funding and additional operational support from USA Fencing, 31 Fencing the Gap grants were awarded to clubs across 25 states in 2025. The program provides financial assistance to clubs working to make fencing more accessible in their communities, removing cost as a barrier for new participants.

GRACE PROGRAM

The Foundation's support of USA Fencing's GRACE program funded 60 entries to North American Cup (NAC) events during 2025, benefiting 40 athletes. The program helps offset the cost of competing at the national level, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent talented fencers from participating on the national stage.



ATHLETE-LED CITY FOUNDATIONS

The Foundation supported two Olympians, Nick Itkin OLY and Eli Dershwitz OLY, in launching city-focused foundations aimed at attracting individuals into fencing who could not otherwise afford to participate. The Foundation provided logistical and financial resources to help bring these athlete-driven initiatives to life.



GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION

3

NEW COLLEGE PROGRAMS ADDED

#1

MOST NEW PROGRAMS OF ANY NCAA SPORT

“

We believe in a broad-based approach to sport offerings and feel that **fencing will be an appealing sport** within our geographical footprint.

Associate Vice President of Athletics Brian Granata,
Arcadia University

”



COLLEGIATE EXPANSION

Through its standard distribution, the Foundation supported USA Fencing in adding three new college fencing programs in 2025, more than any other sport in the country. This expansion widens the number of opportunities for fencers to continue competing at the collegiate level, strengthening the pipeline between youth development and international competition.

THREE NEW NCAA PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED IN 2025



Arcadia University

Glenside, Pennsylvania

Adding Women's and Men's Fencing in 2027-28



Denison University

Granville, Ohio

Adding Men's Fencing to its existing Women's Program in 2026-27



Fairleigh Dickinson University

Teaneck, New Jersey

Adding Men's Fencing to its existing Women's Program in 2027-28

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Surgeon on the Piste

Dr. Laura Johnson knows what it takes to compete and what it takes to heal.

As the medical director of the Burn Center at Grady Memorial Hospital and associate program director of the Department of Surgery's General Surgery Residency in Atlanta, she spends her days in one of the most demanding fields in medicine. As a Vet saber fencer, she spends her evenings doing the same thing on the strip.

Johnson is a Foundation trustee, a member of USA Fencing's Sports Science and Medicine Committee, and a competitive athlete who represented Team USA at the 2025 Veteran Fencing World Championships in Bahrain.

She was also among the key donors whose generosity made the IWAS World Cup Washington possible, the first international para-fencing event hosted in the United States in 20 years.

Her giving is personal. As a surgeon who treats patients with life-altering injuries, Johnson sees the connection between sport, recovery and belonging every day.

Her support of para-fencing through the Foundation reflects that perspective: ensuring that athletes with disabilities have the resources, competition opportunities and community they deserve.

"Fencing gave me discipline, resilience and a community I carry with me everywhere," Johnson says. "Supporting para-fencing through the Foundation is a way to make sure more people get to experience that."



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A Return to Fencing

By any measure, **Jeff Weber** has lived more than one life: hedge fund heavyweight, Cornell fencer and Williams fencing coach, film actor, philanthropist, husband, father. And now, saber in hand, he finds himself back where it all began.

Growing up in New York City, Weber was introduced to fencing at the Santelli Club. He competed nationally, fenced at Cornell and later coached at Williams College for \$7.50 an hour. The real prize? A faculty parking pass. "That pass was worth more than anything they paid me."

Fencing receded as Weber built a career on Wall Street and raised a family. Until his longtime friend and fellow Foundation Board member Robin McGraw extended an invitation: join the U.S. Fencing Foundation Board and come to the Paris Olympics.

"That trip reignited everything."

Now, Weber fences two to three times a week in New York. He trained with Olympian and world champion Eli Dershwitz, OLY, an experience he likened to "playing catch with Derek Jeter once a week." He appears on CNBC's fencing series, The Fencing Show.

Together with his wife, Stacey, the Webers approach philanthropy as a team, and through his Foundation Board work, Weber sends a clear message: fencing deserves to be seen, supported and celebrated.

"With the Games being at home, we have an incredible chance to grow the sport, to make sure kids and adults alike can pick up a weapon, find community and experience the same joy fencing has given so many of us."



WEAPON-SPECIFIC ENDOWMENTS

The U.S. Fencing Foundation's Weapon Specific Endowments provide a long-term funding mechanism for each discipline. When an endowment reaches the \$100,000 threshold, it begins distributing funds to support athletes in that weapon.

WOMEN'S EPEE



MEN'S EPEE



WOMEN'S FOIL



MEN'S FOIL



WOMEN'S SABER



MEN'S SABER



PARAFENCING



In 2024, the Parafencing endowment became the first to cross the \$100,000 mark, unlocking its first-ever distribution. Other weapon endowments continue to grow toward their targets.

PISTE TO PODIUM



With the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, the U.S. Fencing Foundation launched **Piste to Podium '28**, a series of receptions and gatherings in cities across the United States designed to unite philanthropists, athletes and community leaders around the future of fencing.

The inaugural event took place on Nov. 6, 2025, in Washington, D.C., bringing together Olympians, Foundation trustees, international fencing officials and supporters for an evening of connection and celebration. The program featured a fireside chat between Jeff Bukantz and Hadley Husisian OLY, whose conversation blended humor, insight and inspiration as they reflected on Hadley's journey from national contender to Olympian and the role of community support in fencing.

The launch also underscored the Foundation's growing international partnerships. Ana Irene Delgado, FIE Plenipotentiary Ambassador and Vice President of the Pan-American Fencing Confederation, joined Foundation Chair Selina Kaing for the event, reinforcing the collaboration between U.S. fencing and the global fencing community on the road to LA28.

Trustee Yana Kravtsova led the inaugural event as Head of the Metro D.C. Local Organizing Committee.

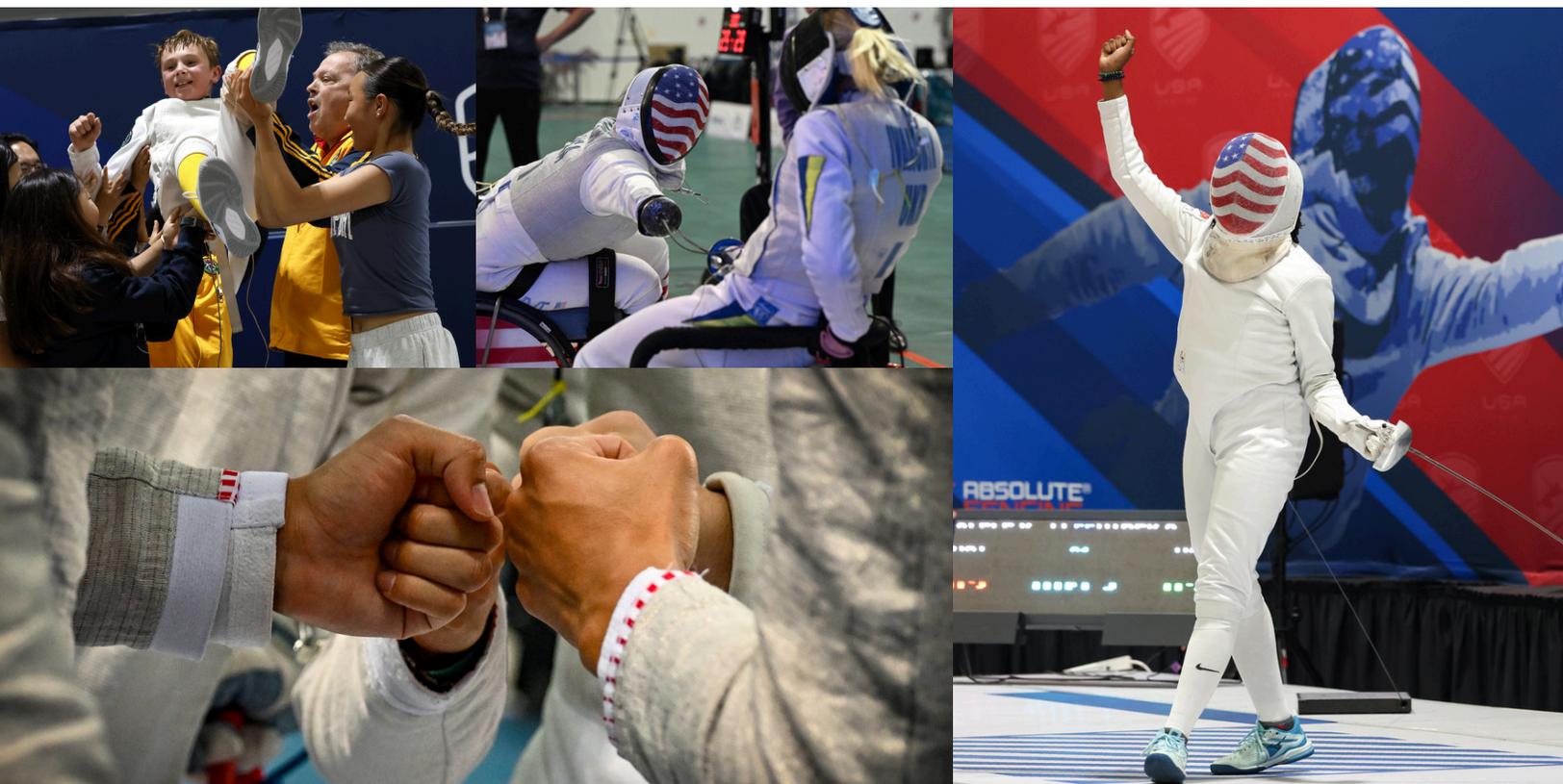
"I was thrilled to launch Piste to Podium '28 in Washington, D.C. — our philanthropic roadmap to LA28 — and to see Olympians, diplomatic leaders, and passionate supporters unite around expanding access, opportunity, and excellence in fencing," Kravtsova says. "With strong partnerships and community commitment, we can inspire the next generation of athletes and bring American fencing to new heights."

What's Next

Piste to Podium '28 will continue with events across the country in the lead-up to LA28. Each event will feature athlete appearances, fireside conversations and opportunities to connect with the Foundation's mission.



GET INVOLVED



THANK YOU, DONORS

Donor support of the United States Fencing Foundation changes lives. Thank you to the Foundation's donors who contributed in 2025. Your generosity funds the athletes, programs and initiatives that make fencing stronger, more accessible and more competitive at every level.

To longtime supporters, thank you for your continued belief in the Foundation's mission. To those who gave for the first time in 2025, welcome. Your impact is already being felt across the fencing community.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Make a lasting impact by supporting the Foundation.

Here's how:

- Donate today to help fund athlete support, grants and essential programs.
- Contribute to a Weapon Specific Endowment to build long-term support for athletes in your favorite discipline.
- Share your story of what fencing means to you to help inspire the next generation of fencers.

Learn more at usafencing.org/donate



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