

WFencing

Advancing Women in the Sport of Fencing

Welcome!

This is a quarterlyish update on everything happening in WFencing

This is a new organization determined to *be the change we want to see* in the sport we love. We are looking to make an impact by intensifying the value of **diversity** in our sport at all levels. We want to **unify** those who emphasize positive training techniques respecting individual development of athletes, fencers, coaches and officials who promote **equality** between women and men in our sport. Our group is in the beginning stages of growth and we need energy, time and resources to help create the environment we all want for our athletes and professionals within our sport.

We are developing collaboratively to make sure all voices are heard, but decisions will be made by a board. We are starting to research who will be the best candidates and interventions that will fit our mission. These will flow from the collective ideas, energy and planning of the WFencing community.

Below you can read about what is happening. Please mark your calendars and plan for the events you can participate in. Be excited to find out about how you can be a part of the change many have been seeking but may have not known where or how to invest the time, money and resources to see the true change we desire. We are culture shifters! Join us!

NAC Networking: Many have meet casually at the Oct and Nov NACs to talk about what is happening multi-dimensionally in our sport. Our next networking session will be at the DEC NAC, Friday, December 6th at 6:00pm. Cathleen Randall is coordinating -- come join us in the Radisson SLC Downtown's lobby area. We hope to see you there!

Special JAN NAC Organizing Sessions: We will facilitate three collaborative work sessions centering around our organization's first objectives during the Charlotte NAC, January 2, 4, & 5, 2020. These meetings will be open to any professional who wants help shape our mission, vision and goals. Look for a future email, information on Facebook or just go ahead and email us back letting us know you want to attend one or all of the organizational sessions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Organizational Development Update: We are in the "Filing of the Articles of Incorporation" stage. This will help WFencing grow as an organization. We also need website development people and someone to help write our by-laws after the JAN NAC organizational meetings. We have a vision the WFencing website and we need someone who loves the creation of a good

website to connect people. Are you someone willing to donate your time? If you are interested, please email Jen Oldham

Focus on NCAA: It is clear we need to invest in the youth in our sport to build our professional future. Many ideas are being generated on how to do this. Jennie Salmon is leading up the discussions.

Additional Plans: Our Jan NAC organizational meeting will include discussion on how to support our fencing youth and professionals newly entering the field. Ideas so far include creating:

- 1) Opportunities for female athletes to develop as referees and coaches.
- 2) A spotlight for and support of programs led by women coaches.
- 3) A foundation to support collegiate athletes to fence internationally while fencing in their collegiate programs; this will support the long-term development of our Olympic team.
- 4) Workshops and trainings on building a more inclusive sport.

USFCA Coaching Development:

The USFCA supports WFencing's effort to advance women as fencing coaches. This effort is being led by the Professional Development Committee (PDC) whose membership includes four women: Vinnie Bradford (chair), Kate Sierra, Kathy Vail, and Ina Harizanova. The PDC in partnership with Temple University and Salle De Long has scheduled two coaching clinics taught solely by women coaches (a first)!

USFCA Coaching Clinic @ Temple University Saturday, April 04 - Sunday, April 05, 2020

Nat Goodhartz, the first woman to be a U.S. National Head Coach and **Nikki Franke**, one of the winningest NCAA Fencing Coaches ever, team up to put on a USFCA Foil Coaching Clinic at Temple University. This clinic will take participants through a logical step by step progression of material that will help coaches understand principles of the exercise sciences and their application to teaching fencing and how to create an individual lesson for a variety of situations and levels. Coaches of all levels will benefit from the information and experiences provided at this clinic. For more information contact: Nat Goodhartz

USFCA Border Texas Foil and Epee Coaching Clinic Friday, June 05 - Sunday, June 07, 2020

This Fencing Certification Course is taught by Maestros Margaret De Long and Vinnie Bradford and will be conducted at Salle De Long in El Paso, TX. Moniteur and Prevost level coaches will focus on teaching fencing methodology, drill types and progression, techniques and tactics, fitness and exercise, safety and risk management, rules and fencing terminology as well as planning group lessons. Participants will concentrate their studies in one out of the three fencing

specialties (foil or epee). The knowledge gained through this first level of certification will allow the coach to teach group recreational fencing classes in a club, community centers, and school based programs without direct supervision. There are no previous requirements to take this certification course. For more information or to register [click here](#).

Referee Development: We are in the research phase for pushing for a ratified referee development/mentorship program in the United States. Right now, as we start thinking about what will work based on our diverse geographic region. We need to hear from other country representatives on how they do their education and training. The United States is unique and our solutions will not look like any other country. Ask around, network, get ideas, and ask yourself if you are a person willing to work to reduce the great frustration fencers, parents and coaches are experiencing. This is not a *referee issue* -- this is a growth and development issue that needs a community intervention and constant tending, revisioning and attention as we predict fast growth in our sport to continue.

Thank you for your time and attention to thinking, talking and putting your energy into our community. Below lists our group that has been meeting on Zoom, which are now the Friday after every NAC. Email Cathleen Randall if you want to be part of these discussions. For right now, the WFencing Coaches and Professionals Facebook Group this is a women-only and the zoom meetings are women only working groups guiding the organization. As we grow the organization we will connect to allies and the support they offer. Thank you for your patience as we help women heal and generate our support needed have the courage and leadership strength to evolve fencing's values of justice and equality for all.

Co-creators to date:

Jen Oldham - Visionary
Iris Zimmerman - Leader /Facilitator
Vinnie Bradford - Leader /Facilitator
Cathleen Randall - Acting Executive Director
Jennie Salmon - NCAA Facilitator
Christine Simmons - USA Fencing Facilitator
Kate Sierra
Kathy Vail
Susan Borgos
Susan Jennings
Christine Griffin
AnnaMaria Lu
Donna Murray
Vicki Miller
Ina Harizanova