

# Michael Aufrichtig

## At Large Director



**Michael Aufrichtig is currently on the USA Fencing Board of Directors running for re-election.**

Head Coach of #1 Ranked NCAA Fencing Champions Columbia University Fencing Team, Chairman of NYAC Fencing, 2012 USA Olympic Fencing Coach for Modern Pentathlon, 2009 USA Women's Epee World Team Coach.

Michael graduated with a Marketing Degree from NYU Stern School of Business. Prior to entering the coaching world he was a senior sales associate at Kintera, an online fundraising platform revolutionizing the world of fundraising in the late 1990's, as well as a senior sales associate at ASI selling enterprise databases systems to association and nonprofits.



Michael Aufrichtig Ted Talk - One Touch to Glory  
Paying Attention to Details & Being Open to New Ideas  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfYxp4djCNM>

Dear Fellow USA Fencing Members:

As a current Board Member for almost two years now I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of building, branding, financing, energizing and working with the National Office and other board members to help USA Fencing be the best we can be. I want to continue to share my passion and experience in fencing for another two years!

Fencing is my life. Over the past 30 years I have been very involved in fencing as an athlete, coach and volunteer and I want to be able to share my experience, knowledge and vision to help grow our wonderful sport.

I am the head coach for the men's and women's fencing teams at Columbia University. Now completing my fifth season, I have led us to an NCAA Championship title for the second year in a row. When I started at Columbia the program was not in the best condition, unable even to field a full men's team for the 2010 Ivy League Championships. Five years later we are back on track and ranked first in the country.

I have also volunteered for the past ten years as the Chairman of the New York Athletic Club's (NYAC) fencing program. NYAC Fencing has achieved remarkable results under my leadership, including two bronze, one silver and one gold World Team medals and one bronze Olympic Team medal with our five Olympians gearing up for great results this summer in Rio!

As a board member the past two years I have seen USA Fencing becoming stronger than it has ever been, but we still have a lot more work to do. Rolling towards the 2016-2017 season there are four priorities I would like to highlight:

- 1. Financial Stability** – I feel we have made many smart financial decisions the past two years to put our organization out of debt. We need to continue to make smart decisions so that we can always have the funding to provide the resources necessary to grow our sport. I want to continue helping USA Fencing raise awareness to increase fundraising efforts to help all of our initiatives.
- 2. Coaches' Education** – It is very important to share the knowledge of all of our amazing coaches with each other. Along with the United States Fencing Coaches Association we are encouraging regional and national coaches' clinics on an ongoing basis that can be coordinated with the competition season. I believe there is so much we can do to help our coaches and club owners to grow our sport even more.
- 3. Continue to Enhance and Organize our Competitions** – The past few seasons there have been breakthroughs with raised strips, official seating for finals, online results, announcers etc., but walking into a NAC can still be hectic experience and our participants and spectators should be treated even better. We can run our competitions more smoothly and market our competitions better - promoting the finals more, inviting local personalities to watch, "meet the Olympians" events, and more exciting seating, for instance. We should run registration like they do at a World Cup, with check-in the day before and have pools set up the night before thus when we flight a tournament the fencers know this and arrive at their start time. Along with the National Coaches we have been working on a new system (starting with Épée) for a two-day event giving importance to pool bouts and allowing all fencers to get the most enjoyable experience possible. I know we can do so much more with some of these ideas being implemented as early as next season.
- 4. Importance of our Referees** – We have improved and continue to improve the way our referees are treated. Many referees have been giving seminars, using the Internet and bringing education and awareness to this profession. I would like to continue supporting our referees to help build up our referee cadre while educating and providing the resources they need to run competitions at the highest level.

I have had success as an athlete, coach and volunteer. My professional work experience outside of fencing has always been in sales/marketing, skills which have enabled me to help promote and organize USA Fencing in the best possible way. I want to be able to share my ideas and experience and continue to help implement successful programs for USA Fencing.

I believe that my knowledge and ability can add a lot of value at both the elite and development levels of USA Fencing to make sure that we continue to make progress where we have already found success and to raise the bar in the areas of fencing where the American flag has not yet flown as high.

It would be my pleasure to serve on behalf of the entire membership as the At Large Board Member.

Thank you for your support and vote.

Michael Aufrichtig