

Appendices

Appendix 1: Paralympics Development Plan

A. Coach Biographies

Fencing Coach: Maestro Les Stawicki

Maestro Les Stawicki enters his 16th season as the head coach of the Louisville Fencing Center. He is nationally recognized and respected by fencing practitioners and coaches around the world. Under his tutelage, the Louisville Fencing Center has produced numerous national and international champions.

When Maestro Stawicki arrived in Louisville, he brought vast experience and international prestige to the Louisville Fencing Center. He was head coach of the Polish National fencing team from 1973 to 1990. His students earned silver medals at the Moscow and Seoul Olympic Games. His Polish sabre team also earned bronze medals at the World Championships in Melbourne, Australia and Sofia, Bulgaria.

Maestro Stawicki is responsible for the development of the United States Paralympic (wheelchair) fencing program. Appointed Head Coach of the USA National Paralympic fencing program in 1995, Maestro Stawicki has brought great success to this program.



- In 1996, the U.S. National Team participated in the Paralympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.
- In 1998, Stawicki made U.S. history by taking the first wheelchair team from the U.S. to the World Games in Bonn, Germany. There he led his fencers to 2nd and 3rd place medals.
- In 2004, Maestro Stawicki led a strong contingent of athletes including Kentucky native, Shawn Shumate, to the Paralympic Games in Athens. Maestro holds a master's degree in Physical Education from the National Institute of Sport and Physical Education in Lvov, Russia

B. 2009 Wheelchair Fencing Performance Plan

General Statement of Purpose/Mission:

US Fencing will work to significantly improve the Wheelchair Fencing system in the US, with a goal to build a sustainable sports system that will begin to produce top international results by the 2012 Paralympic Games.

Program Summary:

US Fencing will provide the management structure to fulfill the proposed goals. In addition, it is expected that this program will produce 1 medal in the Paralympic Games in London.

National Team:

- A. Program Support: A goal of the program is to get the top athletes to attend at least 4 international World Cup events each year as well as the World Championships. The National Coach should also be running at least two national camps each year with all the top fencers and their coaches present.

Projected Expenditure for Program Support

\$10,000

Included in this amount are funds to support World Cups and National Training Camps.

- B. Athlete Support: Top Paralympic athletes, in order to be highly competitive, must make the same kind of unequivocal commitment to international excellence as that made by their Olympic-hopeful counterparts. To do so, they must avail themselves of high level training environments, top coaching and living environments that enable them to take the time to prepare for international competition. Athlete support will be a key to allowing this to happen. The goal is to provide elite athletes with more significant personal funding to make this all possible.

US Fencing defines athletes with more than 250 points in any Paralympic discipline on the IWFC International Ranking List as national team level athletes as well as those athletes with at least two (2) top-three (3) world cup finishes in a 12 month period. *(Top three (3) finishes presume a field depth of sixteen (16) or more athletes at the event in consideration. A top 25% finish will replace this criterion if fewer than sixteen (16) athletes are in the field.)* It is proposed that athletes receive a \$1000 performance award for each top three (3) World Cup or World Championship finish and \$2000 upon achieving/maintaining 250 points on the IWFC International

Ranking List as of the conclusion of the last world cup event of the season.

Projected expenditure for Athlete Support **\$10,000**

These funds are allocated for Athlete Support and Performance Awards.

Program Initiatives:

- Expand the pool of talented athletes and development athletes
- Expand the pool of trained coaches
- Provide appropriate support for the athletes currently in the system capable of credible performances in 2012 Paralympic Games in London.
- Provide appropriate support of clubs with specific wheelchair fencing resources
- Continued development of the USFA staff maintained wheelchair fencing website: <http://www.international.usfencing.org/NWP/wc.htm>

Projected expenditure for the above Program Initiatives **\$5,000**

These funds will be used to support the above initiatives as well as provide administrative support for the entire program.

Activities:

- World Cup Montreal, Canada May 2009
- World Cup Paris. France November 2009
- World Cup Warsaw, Poland July 2009

Development Program:

Priority 1:

Continue to develop or expand three centers in the US where new athletes can be recruited and trained and talented athletes can be developed into international class fencers. The goal is to have each center running a high level program by year-end with at least 10 fencers involved. The three centers would probably be:

- i. South Orange, New Jersey has replaced San Antonio, Texas as the emerging center of the development of wheelchair fencing in the US.

- ii. Atlanta, GA in conjunction with the Shepherd Center continues to be a program priority.
- iii. Louisville, KY managed by the National Coach, Lescek Stawicki continues to be a program priority

Assuming success in getting these programs going at this level, the goal will be to add one new center a year for several years to increase the geographic reach and to continue to build more fencers and more coaches into the system

Projected budget amount for Priority 1 programs \$5,000
 These funds will be used primarily for equipment purchases to enhance the development of high-level programs.

Priority 2:

- i. Develop and expand the US Fencing Coaches College program for Wheelchair Fencing. Each summer, Coaches College offers a program for Wheelchair Fencing coaching. With good planning and funding, which US Fencing will provide, the goal for 2009 is to develop and expand this program to include 10 intermediate to advanced level Fencing coaches, many of whom should be associated in some way with the three development centers.
- ii. Establish a “mentoring and sharing” program at all national camps, held in conjunction with national tournaments, where personal/club coaches associated with athletes are invited to attend, and the National Coach can lead sessions to develop the coaches as well as the athletes.

Projected budget amount for Priority 2 programs \$5,000
 These funds will be used primarily for expansion of the Coaches College program, expanded opportunities at National Tournaments and the fine-tuning of the vertical integration program that currently exists in US Fencing.

Projected expenditure for Athlete Support \$10,000

Projected expenditure for the above Program Initiatives \$25,000

TOTAL: \$35,000