

Alyson Sung



I am writing to express my interest in applying for a position on the Athletes' Commission of the Australian Fencing Federation (AFF). As a passionate and dedicated athlete with a unique perspective as an adult fencer, I am eager to advocate for athletes who, like me, began fencing later in life and have navigated the challenges of being self-funded while trying to compete at the national level. I believe I would be an asset to the Athletes' Commission, as I am deeply committed to supporting the diverse needs of athletes and ensuring their voices are heard in all decision-making processes.

I started fencing as an adult after a brief introduction to the sport in high school. Although my journey began later than most, I have competed at the national level, including my first national event in 2019.

Throughout my fencing career, I have been self-funded, which has given me a unique perspective on the financial and logistical challenges faced by many athletes—especially those who are balancing fencing with other commitments, like university or work. As one of the few female foilists in the 25-40 age group competing on the national circuit, I have witnessed firsthand how open events are often dominated by younger athletes, including cadets, which can sometimes create barriers for adult competitors. I see this as a gap in the fencing community, and I am eager to represent adult athletes who may feel overlooked or underrepresented in these events.

In addition to my competitive experience, I have a strong background in leadership and service within the fencing community. I have served as the Treasurer (2019-2020), President (2021-2023), and Vice President (2024) of the University Fencing Club in Brisbane, where I introduced strategies to improve club operations and foster an inclusive environment for all members, specifically adult fencers. I am also a state-accredited referee in foil, epee, and sabre, and I hold national referee accreditations in epee, with pending foil accreditation and plans to pursue sabre accreditation. These roles have provided me with a wellrounded understanding of the fencing community's needs and concerns, and I am eager to use this experience to advocate for all athletes within the athletes' commission.

Most recently, I made a significant career change to become a registered nurse, after having worked in computer science. I realised that I found more purpose in advocating for and connecting with people in a healthcare setting than I did in the corporate world. This career shift has deepened my passion for supporting others, and I believe it complements my commitment to the fencing community. I am driven by the desire to represent athletes—especially those who, like myself, are navigating the challenges of balancing competitive fencing with professional and personal obligations.

I am especially passionate about representing adult athletes who started fencing later in life and may face challenges in competing alongside younger cadet athletes in open events. I understand the financial and personal struggles of being a self-funded athlete and a university student while trying to remain competitive. I believe my unique perspective, combined with my leadership experience and advocacy in both sports and healthcare, will allow me to effectively represent athletes and advocate for their needs within the Athletes' Commission.

I would be honoured to contribute to the Athletes' Commission and help ensure that athletes' voices are heard, respected, and valued. I am excited about the opportunity to work alongside fellow Commission members to create a supportive environment that empowers all athletes, regardless of age or background, to thrive in the sport.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be happy to provide further information or discuss my qualifications in more detail at your convenience.