

# Colleen Stokes



I am a fencer, a fencing tour team manager, a state sporting organization board director, and—proudly—a fencing mum. And I would love the opportunity to support the fencing community, who we so often refer to as ‘our fencing family’ in this role.

Since following my children into the world of fencing in 2017, I have never looked back.

## **As a Fencer**

Over the past 6 ½ years, I’ve competed extensively at nearly every state and national event, as well as:

- 2 Commonwealth Veterans Championships
- 2 Asian Veterans Championships
- 3 World Veterans Championships

## **As a Team Manager**

In 2024, I served as the official team manager for both the **Asian Veterans Championships in Hong Kong** (co-manager) and the **World Veterans Championships in Dubai**. These roles have allowed me to engage with veteran athletes, providing support, information, and direction while actively seeking their feedback and perspectives.

## **As a Board Director**

In 2023, I joined the **Board of NSW Fencing** as a director. This role has deepened my understanding of:

- The complexities of governance within a sporting organisation.
- The challenges of creating fair and equitable opportunities for athletes at all levels, from community engagement to elite development.
- The significant time and dedication required of volunteers in the fencing community.

## **As a Fencing Mum and Advocate**

Over the last seven years, I’ve traveled extensively with my daughter to regional, state, national, and international competitions. These experiences have connected me deeply with the fencing community, exposing me to diverse perspectives and inspiring me to contribute more actively to the broader community.

## **Commitment to Athlete Representation**

I believe committees like the **Athletes Commission** are vital resources for any board, and I am confident that my diverse experience and passion make me well-suited for this role. My goals include:

- **Advocating for fair representation** of competitive fencers across all age groups and S
- **Promoting collaboration and balance** in addressing the diverse needs of athletes.
- **Providing informed perspectives** and ongoing support to the national federation on athlete issues.

## **Professional Background and Sports Experience**

Before fencing, I had a long history as both an athlete and official in multiple sports. Professionally, I’ve built an extensive career in highly regulated industries, including pharmaceuticals and nuclear science, and I am currently employed in the nuclear industry.

## **Values**

I highly value honesty, integrity, trust and respect and do my best to embody these attributes. I also value kindness. Taking an extra step to look after each other - doesn’t take much effort.