

## George Yako



As a passionate sabre fencer and dedicated member of the Australian fencing community, I am excited to nominate for the 2025-2028 Athletes' Commission. My journey in this sport has been shaped by the values of excellence, respect, and perseverance, and I am eager to contribute these principles to the betterment of all athletes under the AFF's umbrella.

In addition to my experience as a competitor, I have had the privilege of working with younger athletes, mentoring and supporting their growth. This experience has deepened my understanding of the challenges they face and reinforced my commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all athletes. I am especially passionate about increasing diversity within our sport, ensuring that fencing becomes accessible to people from all backgrounds and abilities, and creating pathways for underrepresented groups to thrive.

I believe the Athletes' Commission plays a critical role in fostering open dialogue between athletes and the AFF. As a representative, I will actively seek input from my peers to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns addressed. Through collaboration and consultation, I aim to provide informed advice and recommendations to the AFF Board that reflect the diverse needs of our athletes.

My experience as a sabre fencer and mentor has taught me the importance of teamwork, communication, and advocacy. I am committed to representing fencing athletes, enhancing their experience in the sport, and contributing to initiatives that strengthen our community. Whether it's addressing immediate challenges or undertaking long-term projects, I will work diligently to ensure the Athletes' Commission fulfills its mission.

I would be honored to represent the athletes of our fencing community and contribute to the ongoing growth, inclusivity, and success of our sport in Australia.