

2025 U17 European Circuit Göteborg, Sweden* 🇸🇪

Astonishing news from Göteborg this morning: ***Rianne Leung has claimed a brilliant bronze medal 🏅** at one of the toughest U17 foil competitions in the world*.

Rianne, ranked 10th after winning all but one of her poule matches, earned a bye in the top 64 and went on to defeat opponents from Great Britain, Slovakia, Greece, and Germany before falling in the semifinal to the Latvian contender.

At just 15 years old, Rianne is likely the first Australian female foilist ever to reach the podium at this prestigious event — an incredible milestone for Australian fencing.

Congratulations to Rianne, not only for this outstanding result but for the **dedication**, **resilience**, and **spirit** she brings to training and competition. This achievement also reflects the strength of our academy team, constantly pushing each other to improve, and the invaluable support of Rianne's family, whose commitment makes such success possible.

Let's keep working. The journey continues.



Sydney Academy of Fencing are proudly sponsored by Ray White - Dulwich Hill.

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**CONGRATS
STEPH!** 🏅 🏅

Double bronze for
Stephenie
Rodriguez at the
2025 US NAC



MY WAY

**MANAGING
FEAR, THE TRUE
MARK OF
COURAGE IN
FENCING**

1

PODIUM IN SWEDEN!

RIANNE LEUNG
BRONZE MEDAL AT
U17 EUROPEAN
CIRCUIT

2

OCEANIA CHAMPS

LORRAINE, TIANA,
MAYURI AND COLIN
MEDALISTS IN
AUCKLAND

3

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL

ROBERT CICCARELLI
SEIZES BRONZE

AUCKLAND 2025, 1 GOLD and 3 SILVERS FOR OUR TEAM!



Congratulations to **Lorraine Tang** 🥇 and **Tiana Roberts** 🥈, respectively first and second in the women’s sabre event and to foilist Mayuri Muralidharan 🥈 and sabreur Colin Chen 🥈 (14-15 😬), both on the second step of the podium in New Zealand at the 2025 Oceania Championship.

Lorraine and Tiana, representing Australia, literally dominated the competition, coming out on the top 2 spots after poules and beating with good margin their opponents until the thrilling final ended 15-13 in Lorraine’s favour.

Mayuri, who was ranked first after poules, had a good pathway to the semifinal where she beat 15-10 Aussie team mate Georgie Barrett to then succumb in the “expected” final against New Zealand Ruby Chan.

Colin, had a similar run to his colleagues and after a very tight final he lost 14-15 to valid Kiwi Hamish Bulmer. Colin was also awarded with the

FairPlay trophy which makes us all double proud of him!

Well done also to *Amelie Yee* who yesterday finished 15th in the women’s epee event and to Henry Liu, “unlucky” 26th after his 14-15 match against the n.1 ranked in men’s epee

4 medals and some good performances are something that made the trip to Auckland as one of the most positive of the last few years.



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL
Bronze for Robert Ciccarelli 🏅!

An outstanding performance and a well-deserved bronze medal for Robert Ciccarelli at the 2025 Singapore Senior Satellite.

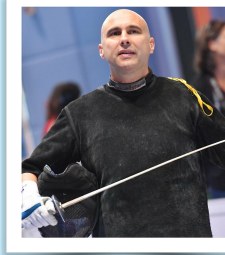
This medal carries great value – it reflects *motivation, determination, and resilience, qualities that perfectly define Robert* both on and off the piste. After recording six straight victories in his poule, Robert advanced through the tableau with wins over opponents from Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines, before falling in the semifinal to Chen of Taipei.

A special mention also goes to the rest of our team, who once again demonstrated *consistency and depth of our foil* across the board. Caleb Yong narrowly missed the top 16 by a single point, finishing 23rd, while Tommaso Signorello was just two points short, placing 26th.

Yves Fontaine (40th) and Alexandros Tsathas (62nd) also showed solid efforts throughout the day.

We're proud of every one of you – your hard work, teamwork, and spirit continue to make our Academy shine!





OCTOBER
2025

THE VALUE OF A FENCER'S PERSONALITY

I was recently listening to Julio Velasco, one of the most successful volleyball coaches in history and a World and Olympic champion with Italy's women's team, speaking about the synergy within a team. He emphasised how important it is for individual players to compromise between their own interests and the collective good of the team.

Velasco pointed out the challenge of assembling a group of athletes with strong personalities. Each player naturally displays autonomy, temperament, and authority—traits that can sometimes clash. Yet, he firmly believes these qualities are essential for success in any sport, even in team-based disciplines. ***The true skill of a great coach lies in guiding such personalities to coexist and thrive together*.**

This reflection led me to think about fencing. Unlike team sports, fencing is an individual pursuit, yet it also relies on those very same qualities: ***autonomy, temperament, and authority. Together, they define the essence of a strong, independent personality—the foundation of a good fencer*.**

Autonomy represents an athlete's ability to make independent decisions in training, during competition, and ultimately in life. In fencing, this means adapting strategies on the piste, choosing the right actions in decisive moments, and assuming responsibility for outcomes. Autonomy does not develop overnight; it is the result of a gradual process in which coaches and educators allow young fencers the space to experiment, make mistakes, and learn from them. Over time, this nurtures athletes capable of true self-direction.

Temperament refers to the emotional strength and stability a fencer brings to their performance. It is the ability to stay calm under pressure, to channel emotions constructively, and to maintain focus through the highs and lows of competition. A well-developed temperament transforms nervous energy into determination, resilience, and the capacity to rebound quickly from setbacks.

Authority, in this context, is not about imposing power over others, but about projecting confidence, presence, and credibility on the piste. A fencer with authority commands respect—both from their opponent and themselves. It is the expression of inner conviction, clarity of intention, and the courage to lead their actions without hesitation. Authority inspires trust: in one's abilities, in one's preparation, and in the values that shape their sporting journey.

***In my view, a good fencer is not defined solely by technical mastery or physical skill, but by a strong, independent personality*.** Autonomy, temperament, and authority are not optional extras—they are essential qualities that elevate performance. My role as a coach is to nurture these attributes from the earliest stages, within an environment that avoids oppression and rigidity.

By encouraging individuality, supporting resilience, and fostering confidence, we do more than form capable athletes—we help shape complete and independent people who carry these qualities with them far beyond the piste.

Maestro Antonio Signorello

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 14 to 16 - Perth, AFC3

November 16 - Sydney, Academy Fencing Festival

December 5 to 7 - Melbourne, AYC3

December 20 - Academy close for summer break

January 19 - Academy open for the new year

ACADEMY FENCING FESTIVAL

**16 November
at 10am**



- U11 foil & sabre mini comp
- epee maxi poule
- parents friendly comp
- refereeing/tactics/armourer seminars
- parents-coaches meeting

Bring your own ethnic food for a multicultural lunch together!



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- **ABSOLUTE BEGINNER**
- 9 weeks introductory course
- \$50 per week
- Equipment provided



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Invite a friend to join the Sydney Academy of Fencing, and ***you'll receive 10% off your upcoming semester fees** as a thank-you from us.

- ✓ Open to all current members
- ✓ Applies once your friend officially enrolls
- ✓ Share the sport you love—and save while you're at it!

Let's grow our fencing family together, spread the word!

