



Welcome Back for the 2020-2021 Fencing Season!

Dear Parents and Fencers,

Thank you everyone for being part of the Medeo Fencing Club community during this incredibly challenging time. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to test the resilience of our society, and Medeo Fencing Club has not escaped its effects. With careful re-opening and health safety protocols we held limited-capacity camps throughout the summer and look forward to starting the new season with new group classes. Medeo Fencing Club recognizes the prime importance of keeping our athletes and staff safe. We will continue strict mask requirements and social distancing requirements, as well as following local and state government and public health guidelines. We ask everyone to match our dedication to safe opening by continuing to monitor your own health and follow our COVID-19 Return to Fencing Protocols that can be found on our website. In the following letter we will be discussing the Return to School Questionnaire, membership tuition and late fees, new epee group classes and the weekly schedule, and wisdom for fencing parents. Please read this document in its entirety to be completely informed.

Return to School Questionnaire

Every September marks not only the start of the new fencing season, but also the new school year. Given the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, Medeo requires full transparency about how your student-athlete will return to school. Please fill out our [Return to School Questionnaire](#), in order to participate in any Medeo activities in the 2020 season. The [questionnaire](#) can also be found on our website.

Membership Tuition:

Medeo's fiscal year and fencing season runs from September 1st through August 31st. Therefore, the prices and policies are effective this September 1st, 2020. All monthly member rates (except for College Membership) are based on any calendar month. Annual memberships can start at the beginning of any month. We are pleased to accept credit card payments but keep in mind that memberships and non-member classes have discounted cash or check rates. For your card-paying convenience, you are invited to enroll in the Automatic Credit Card Payment program by simply filling out an authorization form available in the office. You will receive a detailed paid invoice via email each time your services have been charged.

Individual Membership (Fencers born 2007 or before that represents Medeo as their Primary Club): \$95/calendar month or \$875 year if paying by cash or check. If paying by credit card: \$100/month or \$900/year.

Family Membership (for 2 or more family members that represent Medeo as their Primary Club): \$80/calendar month per family member* or 700/year per family member* if paying by



cash or check. If paying by credit card: \$84/calendar month per family member* or \$725/year per family member*.

*If any family member is in the Youth category (born 2008 or later) that fencer may pay the Youth Membership rates.

Youth Membership (Fencers born 2008 or later): \$70/calendar month or \$625/year if paying by cash or check. If paying by credit card: \$74/month or \$650/year.

Current College Students: \$45/month or \$375/year

NCAA Fencers (Medeo-trained): Complimentary membership for all Medeo-trained fencers that are currently fencing for their NCAA team (or fenced in the current season).

Private Lessons (25 minutes): \$45 each (not including Coach Yakov)

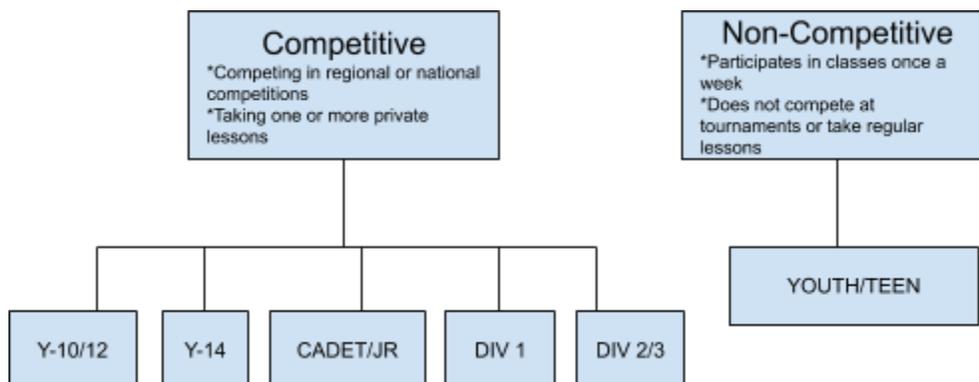
Private Lessons with Coach Yakov (25 minutes): \$55 each

For specific and complete membership, private lesson and group fees, please see our rate sheet at our website.

The impact of COVID-19 for Medeo Fencing Club has also been a financial one. We ask that payments be made on time or during the grace period of the first 10 days of each month. After the 10th of each month, if no payment is received, members will incur a **\$50 late fee**.

New Weekly Epee Group Classes:

Medeo Fencing Club is pleased to announce changes in Medeo Fencing Club's group classes. Starting Sept 7th, we will organize classes based on "Competitive" and "Non-Competitive" status and further by age group and division:



Medeo began organizing classes based on ratings due to the magnitude of attendance for bout classes. While this approach solves issues of overcrowding, it neglects the importance



of peer support/camaraderie and fencing people of different levels within the same age group. After collectively recognizing the issues in the rating-based group class system, Medeo will begin age-group and division based classes in the fall and will halt so-called "ABC/ELITE" and "DEU" classes.

3 Goals for the Age Group and Division Classes:

- 1) **Classes that reflect competitions** - Most of our fencers train in order to perform well in their age group or division at regional and national competitions. It's of utmost importance for fencers to consistently train with other fencers of all levels within their age group, because they will encounter a range of levels at regional and national competitions. To illustrate what this means, consider how ABC or DEU classes do not reflect all the different styles, skills, and experience levels of a Y-14 regional or national competition. In order to adequately prepare for these competitions, fencers must regularly fence with all fencers within their age group.
- 2) **Practice with purpose** - We want fencers to come to training sessions with clear intentions of excelling and improving in their age group category or division. It is imperative that training sessions are geared towards specific competitive goals. For example, a Cadet fencer will attend Cadet/Jr classes to train specifically for Cadet/Jr events, while participating in Division 2/3 classes on the weekend to prepare for Division 2/3.
- 3) **Specialized Classes** - Separate footwork and bouting classes will be held for Y-14/Cadet/Jr and Y-10/Y-12 in order to tailor footwork and bouting classes to the specific needs of the age group-groupings. Y-10/12 fencers may **not** participate in Cadet/Jr bouting classes.

Competitive fencers are expected to prioritize their age group classes by attending both classes for their age group each week. Far too often parents believe that the best and/or fastest way to master fencing is by inserting their fencer in group classes that are above their fencer's level. We assure you this is not true. Instead, we ask that parents support their fencers by encouraging them to fully engage and shine in their age group and division classes. Experienced and high-ranking athletes must continue to build skills and confidence, while less experienced athletes must be reasonably challenged by their peers. For the first three weeks, all competitive fencers, no matter their experience level, are only allowed to participate in their designated age group. After three weeks of adjusting to the new group classes, we will begin allowing eligible elite fencers within each age group to fence in one age group above their own. In the meantime, we encourage fencers to use open bouting nights to find fencers outside of their age group to fence with.

Wisdom for Parents Concerning the Development of Your Fencer(s):



Regarding fencers' parents who are looking for lessons with Coach Yakov, we emphasize that all athletes must meet certain requirements. These requirements include high levels of experience, technical skill, tactical knowledge, agility and physical conditioning. At Medeo Fencing Club, all coaches are in communication with each other about the specific developmental needs of each fencer and work together to bring your athlete to their higher potential. Before seeking out lessons with Coach Yakov for your fencer, consider if your fencer has established basic skills of fencing, proper physical conditioning, a dedicated training schedule, and sufficient experience. Fencing develops from individual and physiological maturity and natural talent. The coach's goal is to discover and emphasize your fencer's unique qualities. We would like to remind parents that just as it is unwise to try to send their student to college from elementary school, without going through middle and high school, it is unwise to skip building a strong foundation with your fencer's current coach. In other words, there is no crash course in fencing. If your athlete is doing well and progressing, we advise you to be patient and not immediately look to change coaches. In the event that your fencer is not improving or is losing interest in fencing, change might be necessary. Elevating your fencer to high levels is only possible by trusting their coach, as well as systemic training for harmonic athletic development.

Medeo Fencing Club coaches and staff thank you for all your understanding and participation during this exciting transition.

Sincerely,
Medeo Staff

