Rob Handelman, D.C., Maître d'Armes

In 1974**,** Maître Rob Handelman joined Halberstadt Fencers' Club in San Francisco, and was the head coach teaching all three weapons until 1982. He started a private practice as a Doctor of Chiropractic specializing in sports injuries in 1983, and retired from chiropractic in 2010.

Rob began fencing in 1968 in New York and competed in sabre. After university, Rob spent nearly three years in Paris at the Institut National des Sports (INS), earning his Fencing Master credential in all three weapons (sabre, foil, and épée). He is one of only three Americans to ever graduate from the INS.

He was an A-rated competitor in the three weapons and fenced in many European "A" World Cup competitions. His students have been national finalists, national team members, and national champions in all three weapons.

Maître Handelman was head coach for the varsity team at UC Berkeley, has taught coaches' clinics for the US Fencing Association at the Olympic training center at Squaw Valley, and training camps for our top junior fencers. He has coached US teams at the Olympic Sports Festivals, World Cup Events, and Junior World Championships.

For six years Maître Handelman was the chair of the certification and accreditation board for the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association. He revamped the testing system to certify coaches, made it more objective, and to allow one weapon masters. Now he is currently the USFCA President and is completing the development of a new National Coaching Developmental Program with his staff and USFCA members.

Maître Handelman organizes and teaches coaching clinics in San Francisco, throughout the U.S., and internationally (Canada, Australia, and China). Currently, he is the head coach for the sabre program at Halberstadt Fencers' Club in San Francisco, CA.

He is a co-author of two fencing texts that are both used to train coaches in the US, Canada, England, and Australia, and fencers all over the world - *Fencing Sabre: A Practical Training Guide for Coaches, Parents and Young Athletes* (2010) and *Fencing Foil: A Practical Training Guide for Coaches, Parents and Young Athletes (2014). The Addendum (2015)* is a *digital* companion supplement for coaches, parents and fencers that wish to more deeply understand the concepts and reasoning behind the modern training methods. Concepts from many training and physiology texts are condensed for the reader and those same concepts are adapted to fencing activities.

In 2021-2022, working with *Fencingmetrics.com he* created a series of 21 two hour epee training clinics in an online continuing education course. It is now available for epee coaches of all levels at the USFCA.