Golden Sword Awards Official Details
University of Colorado Fencing Club

The Golden Sword Awards are a way to recognize outstanding club members. These members may have distinguished themselves through either their dedication to the sport or their commitment to the club. This award is effected via an annual decision process that includes all the members of the club. Below are the complete details of this program.

Define
CU Fencing instructs 4 classes each year: 2 in the fall and 2 in the spring. These are referred to as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th classes respectively.

Define
The nomination process and awarding takes place sometime during the 4th class (2nd half the spring semester). The nomination process takes approximately two weeks, and the decision process about another week. These three weeks shall be referred to as the Awards Period.

Define
For the purpose of these awards, the term Rookie is given to one who has begun their fencing career with us sometime during the 3rd, 4th, 1st, and 2nd classes prior to the awarding process. In other words, since the award process occurs in the spring, those fencers who started with us the previous fall or previous spring will be considered Rookies. The goal is to not penalize those new fencers who have started in the same semester as the Awards Period. They will however be eligible for the subsequent year’s awards.

There are three different awards. The award categories are designed to recognize two sub-groups of CU Fencers, as well as the membership as a whole. Here are these three awards enumerated and explained:

• Outstanding Rookie
  o This individual is a rookie who has demonstrated great enthusiasm towards the sport. They have taken the challenges of learning the sport in stride and have shown marked improvement since they began.
• Outstanding Officer
  o This individual has served as an officer between the 1st class of the previous fall and the Awards Period. This officer has not only skillfully executed the responsibilities of his or her post, but also enthusiastically has brought new ideas to the table. This individual concerns him or herself greatly with both the members of the club and the future of the club.

• Outstanding Member
  o This individual has been a member of the club between the 1st class of the previous fall and the Awards Period. This individual has shown eagerness during practice and an improvement in their fencing. He or she may or may not be active on the competition scene.

During the 4th class, the officers will activate the nomination system. For two weeks nominations will be solicited from the entirety of the CU Fencing club. Nominators are asked to describe how the nominee embodies the qualities outlined above. Other additional qualities that nominators might want to recognize about a nominee are: ability to work in a team, desire to help other team members and share acquired skills, and their assisting in administrative club operations. All specific information submitted via the nomination system will be kept confidential.

Once the nominations have concluded and the nomination system is deactivated, the officers will consider all the nominations, draw upon their own knowledge about each candidate, and seek further ways to decide upon that year’s recipients. The award recipients shall be decided in this order: Outstanding Rookie, Outstanding Officer, and Outstanding Member. A club member cannot receive two awards in the same year and cannot receive the same award two years in a row.

Once the recipients have been decided, either via a team meeting or via e-mail, the winners will be announced. Some of the reasons each was chosen may be shared with the club as a whole to further recognize the dedication of the recipients. Moreover, the officers are also encouraged to share the ways in which the runner-up candidates have dedicated themselves to the sport and to the club.

Finally, the award recipients shall be given a plaque and their names shall be added to the home page for the Golden Sword Awards program.