

DEVELOPMENT OF FENCING SPORT IN UZBEKISTAN AND
NAVOI REGION

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Abstract: In recent years, fencing in Uzbekistan has received new development and attention from the state and sports organizations. Conditions for the training of professional athletes are gradually being created in the republic, the material and technical base is expanding, and specialized sections and clubs are being opened. A special place is occupied by fencing in the Navoi region, where in a short time it was possible to form its own school of fencing and train talented students who worthily represent the region at national and international competitions. An important direction is the training of qualified coaches and referees, without whom the further advancement of this sport is impossible. Today, fencing is becoming not only a sport but also an educational tool: it contributes to the formation of discipline, perseverance, and respect for opponents among young people. The development of fencing in Uzbekistan, particularly in the Navoi region, opens up wide prospects for educating a new generation of athletes and popularizing Olympic sport in the country. "Fencing is not only a sport but also an art that cultivates character and discipline. In Uzbekistan, we see how this sport inspires young people, and I am proud that our country is becoming an important center for its development" (from an interview at the FIE Congress in Tashkent, November 30, 2024, adapted for context by Alisher Usmanov).

Keywords: Fencing, Navoi region, Uzbekistan, Olympic Games, Asian Championships, Sports infrastructure, Training of coaches, Youth sport, Sports achievements, FSC 'Sogdiana', Martial Arts School, National team, Sports education

Introduction: Fencing in Uzbekistan is experiencing a period of active growth, becoming an important element of the country's sports culture and a symbol of the aspiration for high achievements. This sport, combining physical preparation, tactical thinking, and elegance, attracts more and more young people, especially in regions such as the Navoi region. In recent years, a strong fencing school has been formed in the region, training athletes who represent Uzbekistan with dignity on the international stage, including the Olympic Games, Asian and World Championships. Significant contributions to the development of fencing are made by initiatives for the modernization of sports infrastructure, the training of qualified coaches, and the involvement of children in sports. In the Navoi region, the number of children practicing fencing increased from 40 in 2022 to 120–150 in 2025, and the number of coaches grew from 2 to 5. The reconstruction of the fencing hall at FSC 'Sogdiana' and the construction of a new specialized hall at the Martial Arts School create a solid foundation for further progress.

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This article is devoted to the analysis of the achievements of Uzbek fencing, with an emphasis on the successes of the Navoi region, the role of coaching staff, and the impact of this sport on the education of a new generation of athletes capable of strengthening the international authority of the country.

History and Importance of Fencing in Uzbekistan Fencing in Uzbekistan began to actively develop in the post-Soviet period, when the country gained the opportunity to present itself on the international sports arena. This sport, which requires a combination of physical preparation, strategic thinking, and discipline, has become an important element of shaping sports culture. Since the early 2000s, with the support of the Ministry of Sports of Uzbekistan and international organizations such as the International Fencing Federation (FIE), conditions have been created in the country for the training of professional athletes. Significant contribution to the popularization of fencing was made by Alisher Usmanov, President of FIE, who supported initiatives for the construction of sports facilities and the holding of international tournaments in Uzbekistan. His words, spoken at the FIE Congress in Tashkent on November 30, 2024, emphasize the significance of this sport: "Fencing is not only a sport, but also an art that cultivates character and discipline." In Uzbekistan, fencing has become not only a competitive discipline but also a means of educating young people, contributing to the development of perseverance, respect for opponents, and strategic thinking.

Development of Fencing in the Navoi Region In recent years, the Navoi region has become one of the key centers of fencing in Uzbekistan, having formed its own school that has trained athletes of world level. Among them are Ruslan Kudaev (London 2012), Malika Khakimova (Tokyo 2020), and Anisa Petrova (Sydney 2000), who represented Uzbekistan at the Olympic Games, demonstrating a high level of skill. In 2013–2014, Albina Abdurakhmanova and Igor Knyazev, who are now also high-class coaches, won the titles of Asian junior champions, which became an important achievement for the region. Other athletes, such as Yulduz Usmanova, Emil Kagirov, Meyirkhan Timurov, Sarvar Islomov, and Madina Makhmutova, are part of the national team of Uzbekistan and successfully compete at World Championships, Asian Championships, World Cups, and Universiades. These achievements highlight the potential of the Navoi region as a forge of talents capable of defending the honor of the country on the international stage. The formation of a fencing school in the region became possible thanks to the systematic work of coaches, the improvement of infrastructure, and the involvement of young people in sports.

Infrastructure Improvements and Their Impact One of the key factors of success of fencing in the Navoi region was the modernization of sports infrastructure. In 2025, the fencing hall at the physical culture and sports complex 'Sogdiana' was reconstructed: the area was expanded, modern equipment was purchased, including épées and protective gear that meet FIE standards. These improvements made it possible to conduct training and competitions at a high level, attracting more children and parents. In 2025, the

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construction of a specialized fencing hall at the Martial Arts School began, which will be an important step for expanding training opportunities. The new infrastructure is designed for holding regional and national tournaments, which will increase the popularity of fencing among young people. Improving the material and technical base is directly related to the growth in the number of participants: from 40 children in 2022 to 120–150 in 2025, which indicates an increasing interest in this sport.

The training of highly qualified coaches and referees is the most important element of the development of fencing in the Navoi region. By 2025, the number of coaches increased from 2 to 5, which corresponds to a growth of 150%. All coaches of the region, including the author of the article, completed specialized advanced training courses organized by the Ministry of Sports of Uzbekistan and FIE. These programs included the study of modern training methods, refereeing rules, and the psychological preparation of athletes. The author of the article, Kamoliddin Akhtamov, as a highly qualified coach and referee, makes a significant contribution to the training of young fencers, developing programs adapted to regional specifics. For example, short-term training programs introduced in 2024 helped to improve the level of junior training, which was reflected in their successes at national tournaments. The training of referees also plays an important role, ensuring objective refereeing at competitions, which increases the prestige of the region in the national fencing community.

Conclusion. Fencing in Uzbekistan and the Navoi region continues to gain popularity, inspiring young people to engage in sports and strive for high results. This sport teaches discipline, respect, and the ability to overcome difficulties, becoming an important part of the life of the region. Thanks to the support of coaches and the improvement of training conditions, fencing opens up new opportunities for young athletes. In the future, this sport will continue to unite people and strengthen Uzbekistan's position on the world stage.

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