

South Texas – Erratic Growth in Fencing Activity 2008-2009 through 2015-2016

Posted January 10, 2017

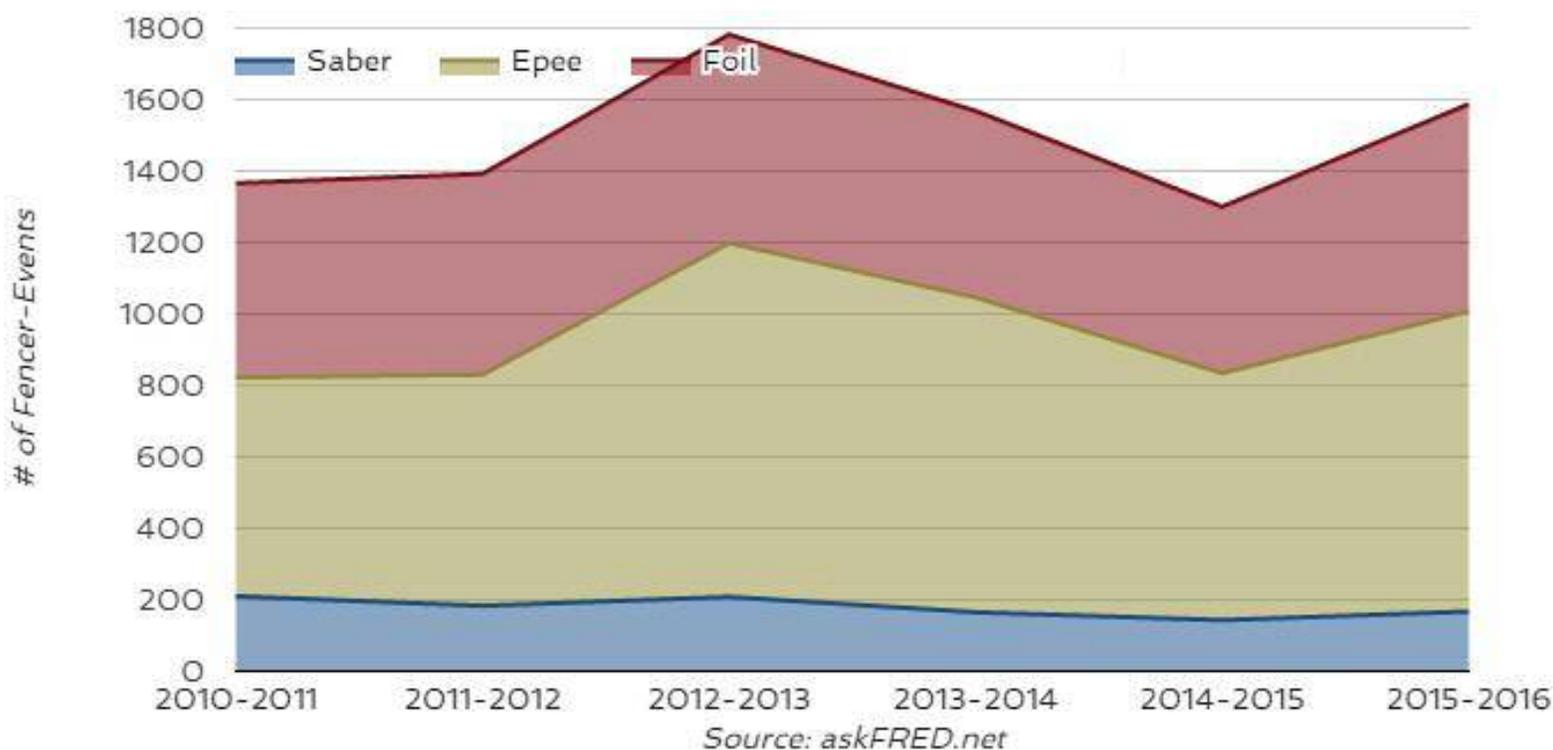


South Texas Division

Generating almost 1,600 local and regional fencer-events in 2015-2016¹, the South Texas Division of USA Fencing has experienced erratic growth in fencer-events over the past seven years. Since 2008-2009 the number of fencer-events generated by members of the Division has declined at the compound annual rate of -1.3%, which compares with a growth rate of 4.6% per year for the nation as a whole. With jurisdiction over the south Texas region extending from Round Rock south to Austin, San Marcos, San Antonio, Laredo and west to El Paso, the Division is home to two “Best Fencing Clubs” recipients in 2015-2016.

Since 2010-2011 the growth rate has improved, showing a compound annual rate of 3%. Epee has been the best-performing weapon, growing at 6.5% per year on average since 2010-2011. Foil followed at 1.3%, while epee has performed poorly declining at the compound annual rate of -4.5%. The historical growth in fencer-events is illustrated in the accompanying graph. Epee’s share of the total fencer-events generated by Division members has grown from 45% in 2010-2011 to 53% in 2015-2016, while saber’s share has fallen from 15% in 2010-2011 to 11% in 2015-2016.

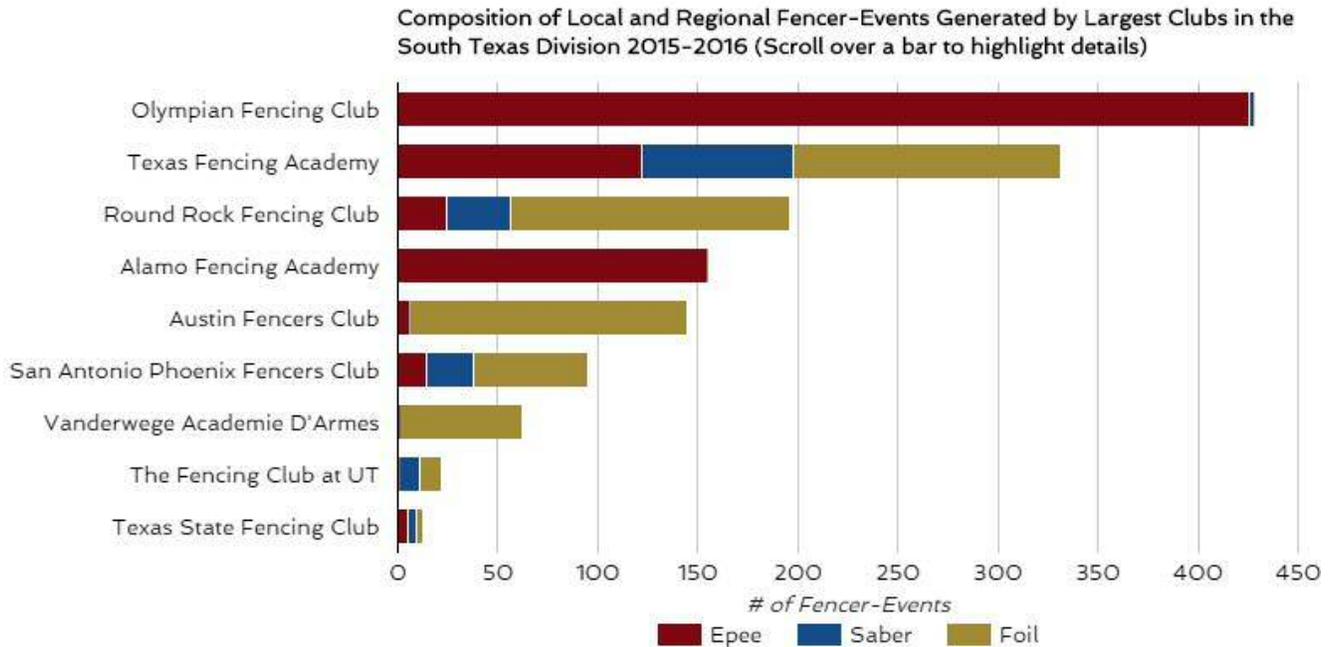
Growth in Local & Regional Fencer-Events Generated by Weapon for South Texas Division, 2010-2011 to 2015-2016 (Scroll over a line to highlight details)



Club Activity

The number of local and regional fencer-events generated by a club is related to the number and profile of competitive members in the club, the approach of the club's coaches regarding competitive tournaments and the quality and distance of nearby fencing competitions. Local tournament events include events that are organized by clubs, consortia of clubs and USFA Divisions. They do not include ROCs, RJCCs, SYCs, RYCs and Divisional Qualifiers which are all classified as regional tournaments. National tournaments include NACs, Championships, and the July Challenge.

The composition of fencer-events generated by the largest clubs in 2015-2016 is illustrated in the accompanying graph. The two largest clubs, Olympian Fencing Club, which is located in San Antonio, and the Texas Fencing Academy, located in Austin, generated about 48% of fencer-events in the Division. The Olympian Fencing Club generated 428 fencer events in 2015-2016, almost all of which were epee. The Texas Fencing Academy was the runner-up with 331 fencer-events, split 40% foil, 37% epee, and 23% saber. The Round Rock Fencing Club, one of the oldest clubs in Texas, generated 196 fencer-events in 2015-2016, 71% in foil, 16% in saber and 13% in epee.



The accompanying graph illustrates the size of the epee market generated by the clubs with the largest epee programs in the Division. Olympian Fencing Club is the juggernaut of epee fencing, generating over 400 epee fencer-events per year over the past four years. The Alamo Fencing Academy, located in San Antonio, is the runner up with 155 epee fencer-events in 2015-2016.

Growth in Local and Regional Epee Fencer-Events Generated by Largest South Texas Division Clubs with Epee Programs, 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 (Scroll over a bar to highlight details)

