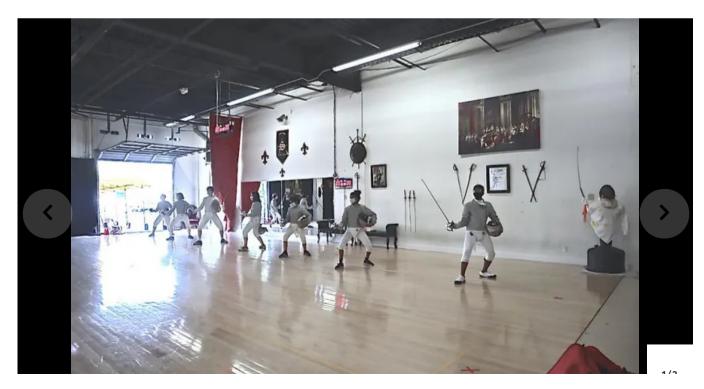


PRESS RELEASE

NJ Fencing Academy first to reopen amid COVID

Owner of a fencing school in Princeton, NJ, tells how she worked with state and local administrations to reopen during COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions.

Tuesday, July 7th 2020, 9:08 PM EDT



MOST POPULAR

STORIES VIDEOS

Son of Austintown teacher dies in fiery tanker crash

Austintown teen in critical condition after being struck on bike

Teen accused of raping a 10-yearold girl in Warren

One of Valley's top fugitives arrested

Champion police officer placed on leave, facing 16 felony charges

Earthquake recorded near Mercer County



Owner of a fencing school in Princeton, NJ, tells how she worked with state and local administrations to reopen during COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions.

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES, July 7, 2020 /<u>EINPresswire.com</u>/ -- "What's my line?" Indeed! Though sport fencing may not readily come to mind to most of us when we think of athletics, in New Jersey, it's one of the top high school sports. In fact, New Jersey is home to the two largest one-day competitions in the USA, namely the Cetrulo for young men and the Santelli for ladies in which some 58 New Jersey High Schools are represented by 9 competitors each at these two world-class events. Nevertheless, Gabrielle Roux, owner, and coach at Sebastiani Fencing Academy in Princeton had quite a bit of explaining to do upfront in attempts to gain the appropriate permits to reopen.

It's a school! It's a gym! It's a... fencing academy? "What's that??" That being no small

Coronavirus has changed the terms on which we must now practice our sport, and challenged the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship which is such a large part of many competitive and club sports." task on its own, once clarified, Gabrielle then commenced navigation through the various steps of New Jersey's process to procure a reopening permit well ahead of Governor Murphy's Green Phase. In the face of vastly restructured operations guidelines, she found herself caught between wanting to protect her students and staff, but also needing to reopen in order for the school to survive. She turned her attention to what was possible to achieve her main goal of a safe environment as she knew there must be a way to embrace the new safety guidelines and still provide adequate training levels. In short, a new normal! - Gabrielle Roux In anticipation of <u>S.F.A.'s annual summer camps</u>, she decided to submit a detailed reopening protocol in petition to her local township, as well as to the State of NJ, to get the process moving.

After many phone calls, emails, and inspections, she was finally granted her license to reopen on June 22nd. Inspections and permits included a fire safety permit, an expanded certificate of insurance, certification from the NJ Department of Health approving <u>S.F.A.'s</u> <u>proposed training guidelines</u> in accordance with current disease controls, as well as additional approvals from the landlord, township inspectors, and fire marshals regarding canopy installation in the rear parking lot for outdoor training. Finally, full disclosure and distribution to participants regarding any remaining risks and the mandatory signing of a "Post COVID-19 Waiver". Whew.

She focused on safety and the established protocols suggested by our nation's top epidemiologists along with state and local guidelines. Through its leadership, New Jersey has proven to be one of the more successful states in controlling the spread of Covid-19, and Sebastiani Fencing Academy is determined to do its part. Distancing, masks, limited attendance, hand washing, no outside visitors or spectators, temperature checks, continuous sanitation, outdoor classes, are just some of the procedures in place. Many of the students' parents are medical doctors and all have praised Gabrielle's tireless efforts to provide the safest environment for their children.

I asked Gabrielle what she was most looking forward to when she opened her doors. She responded, "Honestly, I'm just so happy to see the sport I love most living on through my wonderful students, and am equally happy for them that they are again able to practice in person, as teammates and colleagues. Especially now, these are kids who've been cooped up for months!" Given that most fencers have annual contracts and have missed out on months of training, Ms. Roux felt compelled to honor S.F.A.'s obligations by issuing

as much makeup training and flexibility as reopening will allow. Gabrielle says there's been a tremendous response from parents expressing their gratitude and support in appreciation of all her efforts. Hers is currently one of very few such businesses to resume classes and training in New Jersey, including the NY, NJ, & PA tri-state area.

"The reopening was for sure a series of hurdles, but for everyone's safety they each had to be cleared. In the end, it was worth it!", says Gabrielle. "We're compliant and we're back to work!" So even though "SFA" is a contraction for a Fencing Academy who is named for its <u>founder, Michel Sebastiani: French Olympian, US Olympic Coach</u>, and indeed mentor to so many students over some 50 years of teaching, SFA could also stand for the "Safest Fencing Academy" on the planet!

Upcoming Events:

S.F.A. Fencing Summer Camps (registration required). Five days of fun and intensive fencing instruction and bouting. Indoor/outdoor (weather permitting). All ages, levels, and weapons (Saber, epee, and foil). Half and full-day options. When: Every week in July and August, beginning July 6th Location: 741 Alexander Rd, Princeton, NJ 08540 Time: Full days- 9 am - 3:30 pm M-F Half days- 9 am - Noon M-F

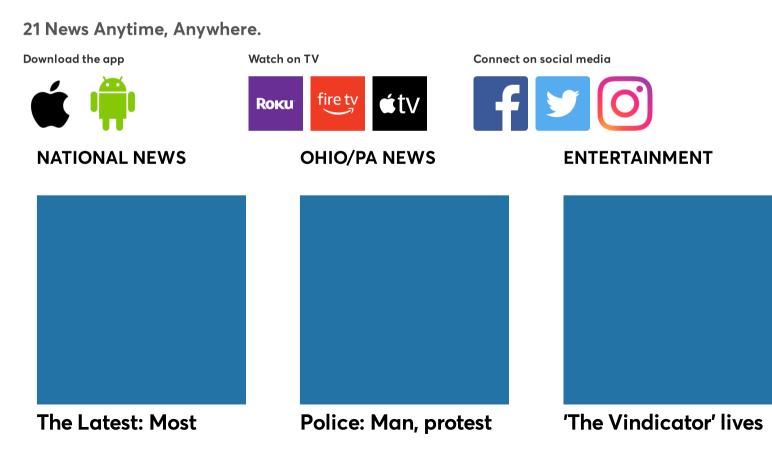
Contact Sebastiani Fencing Academy or visit their website for more details.

Andrea Weinreich 914-222-5199 agweinreich@gmail.com

Gabrielle Roux Sebastiani Fencing Academy +1 914-312-7862 <u>email us here</u>

Information contained on this page is provided by an independent third-party content provider. Frankly and this Site make no warranties or representations in connection therewith. If you are affiliated with this page and would like it removed please contact <u>pressreleases@franklymedia.com</u>

Have a news tip for 21-WFMJ?



flights to, from Houston airport canceled

Testing traps to control lovely but destructive lionfish

The Latest: College suspends students after weekend party

DOJ seeks data on care home deaths in 4 Democrat-led states

Damage from whopper hurricanes rising for many reasons

Woman's plea ends case of Vegas crash that killed 6 teens

marchers exchange gunfire; 1 hurt

TSA rescues wedding dress left at airport checkpoint

Police: Philadelphia cab driver dies after throat slashed

Infant fatally wounded when shots enter Pittsburgh home

Body of Ohio man, 18, recovered from lake in NE Indiana

Spate of Columbus shootings leave man, unborn child dead

on in new book by columnist Bertram de Souza

Concerts resume at Austintown Twp. park

Polanski's request to restore film academy membership denied

Kate McKinnon's 'Joe Exotic' series ordered by NBCUniversal

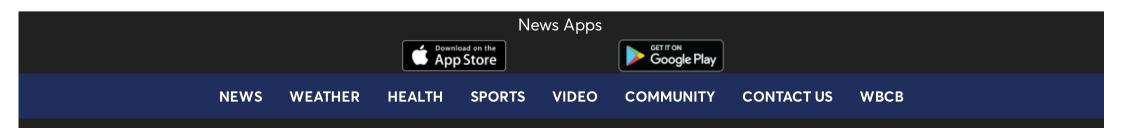
Rap at auction: Biggie's crown and Tupac Shakur letters

Writer Gail Sheehy, author of 'Passages,' dies at 83

A gifted doctor far from home.

Building a new life by saving others.





All content © copyright WFMJ.com News weather sports for Youngstown-Warren Ohio.

WFMJ | 101 W. Boardman Street | Youngstown, OH 44503

All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our Privacy Policy, Terms of Service, and Ad Choices.

Do Not Sell My Personal Information