

**Bence Szabo (HUN)**

Medals as an athlete of Hungary :

Olympic Games : Gold 1988, Seoul Sabre team

 Gold 1992, Barcelona Sabre individual

 Silver 1992, Barcelona Sabre team

 Silver 1996, Atlanta Sabre team

World Championships : Silver 1990, Lyon Sabre team

 Gold 1991, Budapest Sabre team

 Silver 1993, Essen Sabre individual

 Gold 1993, Essen Sabre team

 Bronze 1994, Athens Sabre individual

 Silver 1994, Athens Sabre team

 Bronze 1995, The Hague Sabre team

European Championships : Gold 1991, Vienna Sabre individual

 Gold 1991, Vienna Sabre team

Victory and service :

In our minds, Bence Szabo’s name is joined with the concept of victory and service. During his sport career, he reached triumph after triumph. At 26, he was already an Olympic champion and won numerous trophies. After he retired, from active fencing he immediately became the president of his beloved club UTE, and ever since continuously supports, strenghtens and serves sports and fencing in particular.

He started fencing in 1974. He got in Csaba Zarandi’s group at a young age and worked with the legendary master for more than 20 years. 1988 was the year of his debut in the national team, in the Olympics in Seoul where he was gold medallist in sabre team amongst Imre Bujdoso, Laszlo Csongradi, Imre Gevodari and Gyorgi Nebald. He won the Club Team European Cup with his club.

In 1989, he won the World Cup series in individual. During the next year in the World Championship, he became 2nd in team and 5th in individual.

Bence Szabo won the Team World Championship in 1991 and both individual and team at the European Championship. At the Olympics 1992 in Barcelona, he was champion in individual and his team won the silver medal.

He was the flag-bearer of the Hungarian team in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and won the silver medal again with the team.

Altogether, he is a 2 times Olympic, World and European Championships champion, 9 times senior Hungarian national champion, 5 times Club Team European Cup winner, and gold medallist of numerous international competitions.

Bence Szabo finished College of Commerce and Catering when he was still an active fencer in 1987. In 1992, he became a member of the Athlete’s Committee of the European Fencing Confederation.

After his retreat as a fencer, he was elected as managing president of his club UTE, and between 1998 and 2001 was the president of the club. He worked as a member of the Executive Board of the Hungarian Fencing Federation between 1992 and 2005. He was also elected as a member of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.

In March 2001, upon request of the Hungarian Fencing Federation, he became the manager of the national sabre team, and from December, he worked as the national head coach of the Hungarian fencing team.

In June 2007, he was appointed as the head coach of the Venezuelan fencing team.

After returning home, he worked as a fencing coach in the club VASAS : Nicolas Iliasz became junior World Champion as his fencer. His other apprentice Andras Szatmari is an individual national champion, multiple times World Cup finalist, and as member of the sabre team he is silver and bronze medallist in World Championships and bronze medallist in European Championships.

In March 2011, Bence Szabo became the sports director of the Hungarian Olympic Committee and in October 2012, he was nominated as Secretary general. As Secretary general of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, he led the Hungarian to the 2016 Rio Olympics.

He is as well a main figure of the 2024 Budapest Olympic candidature.

As Secretary general of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, he has a close relationship to fencing. As a coach and sport leader, he visits competitions of national and international levels. This year, he was elected member of the FIE Hall of Fame.

Main prizes, awards :

* Star order of the People’s Republic of Hungary (1988)
* Golden ring of the Minister of Interior Affairs (1988)
* Official Cross Order of the Republic of Hungary (1992)
* Middle Cross Order of the Republic of Hungary (1996)
* Member of the Hall of Fame of the International Fencing Federation (FIE) (2016)