

## Olympic Qualifier Championships, San José, Costa Rica 2016

From Friday April 15 2016 to Sunday 17, at the National Gymnasium, located in the Sabana in San Jose Costa Rica, were disputed the latest vacancies in fencing to attend the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil which will begin next August.

The last chance of qualifying for the Olympics, is necessarily a very special kind of competition. The life of every athlete revolves around the possibility of attending the Olympics, hence it is organized in four-year terms, with methodic work programs in every aspect, during these periods, including diet, sleep, technical training, physical training, psychological analysis of assaults, etc., meticulously performed and cared. So international competitive events are confronted to register successfully on the world ranking and also serve as checkpoints in the work program, to make adjustments to it. All this happens in a socioeconomic environment that often imposes restrictions on the work programs reducing opportunities to attend international events, competitions, or training camps. More or less this is the way of life of the athletes aspiring to be Olympic.



There are athletes who managed to qualify to the Olympics before by accumulated points with each circuit competition endorsed by the FIE, so they had the opportunity to distribute the emotional burden and qualification training throughout multiple events distributed over time. However, athletes of our continental region that failed to qualify in this way should earn in their respective countries the opportunity to attend this Championship Qualifier in Costa Rica, which is limited to one athlete per country

At this stage, we take into account everything said to have a glimpse of the difficulty for competitors handling this situation to perform at their best competitive level, and that is why we

congratulate sincerely all and each one participating in this Championship Qualifier, because far from being a cliché, really are champions just by the fact of having been present and compete.

The competition took place in a cordial atmosphere with excellent logistics, both, for transportation and for the development of the event, even though attendance also included the presidents of all national federations affiliated to the Pan American Fencing Confederation who participated at a convention held on the occasion of this Qualifier Championships for Rio 2016.



*Men's epee awards ceremony*

We were able to witness intense fencing matches ranging from the excellent to the epic in each specialty, so we must also recognize the great progress in the quality of fencing of this continental region. Our athletes and federation must assimilate the full scope of this situation, and with total confidence to compete for the best positions in the world ranking. For all of this, each

participant should be considered an example to follow in their own countries and throughout the region, in order to nourish Pan American fencing, which grows and strengthens in this way.



### *Convention of the National Federations Affiliated to the CPE*

However, in sport there must be a winner, and this time the athletes earning their qualification for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games are as follows:

Friday 15:

Men's sabre:

- 1.- Iriarte Gálvez Yeandri , de CUBA
- 2.- Ayala Julián, de MEXICO

Women's foil:

- 1.- Giménez Isis, de VENEZUELA
- 2.- Michel Nataly, de MEXICO

Saturday 16:

Men's Epee:

1.- Rodríguez John Edison, de COLOMBIA

Women's sabre:

1.- Félix Lara Rossy, de REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Sunday 17:

Men's foil:

1.- Leal Antonio J., de VENEZUELA

Women's epee:

2.- Terán Alejandra, de MEXICO

**iii Congratulations to all qualified athletes for the next Olympic Games!!!**