



Bristol Blades Fencing Club Code of Conduct

British Fencing Membership

All fencers must:

Be current members of British Fencing for insurance cover and agree to abide by the British Fencing Code of Conduct (BF-Code-of-Conduct-General-v2.0-Approved-12.12.23).

All coaches must:

Be current members of British Fencing, be on the British Fencing Coaches Register and agree to abide by the British Fencing Code of Conduct.

Who This Code Applies To

This Code applies to:

- All fencers
- Coaches and referees
- Club officials and volunteers
- Parents, carers and spectators

Whether at training, competitions, travel, online or at any club-related activity.

All members, parents, carers and staff must:

1. Ensure that fencing is always conducted in a disciplined, sporting and respectful manner.
2. Uphold the spirit of fair play and respect for others.
3. Act in accordance with British Fencing Bye-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Policies.
4. Accept and respect the authority and decisions of referees, organisers and disciplinary bodies.
5. Use appropriate complaints and appeals processes rather than confrontation.
6. Respect and maintain a duty of care to all participants.
7. Fence safely, with control and without brutality.
8. Follow safeguarding principles for Children and Adults at Risk.

9. Report any safeguarding or welfare concerns to the Club Welfare Officer or British Fencing.
10. Cooperate with disciplinary, safeguarding or integrity investigations.

All members, parents, carers and staff must never:

1. Abuse, threaten or intimidate any person.
2. Use crude, aggressive or abusive language or gestures.
3. Harass, bully, insult or humiliate others.
4. Make anyone feel uncomfortable through verbal, physical or online behaviour.
5. Discriminate against anyone based on protected characteristics including race, sex, disability, religion or sexual orientation.
6. Act in a way that damages the reputation of fencing or Bristol Blades, including through social media.
7. Publicly publish or share on social media criticism of referees, disciplinary decisions, safeguarding matters or club investigations.
8. Commit any doping offence under FIE, British Fencing or UKAD rules.
9. Victimise or retaliate against anyone raising a concern or complaint.
10. Publish images or video of others without their consent, especially children.

Safeguarding & Welfare

Bristol Blades is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and positive environment for all participants.

The club has a **Club Welfare Officer (CWO)** who is the first point of contact for any safeguarding or welfare concern. Their contact details will be made available to all members.

All concerns about:

- Children
- Adults at risk
- Bullying
- Harassment
- Inappropriate behaviour

must be reported immediately to the CWO or British Fencing.

Children and Adults at Risk

All children and adults at risk have the right to:

- Feel safe, respected and supported
- Be free from abuse, bullying and exploitation
- Be listened to and believed

No one should ever be left alone with a child or adult at risk without appropriate safeguards.

Additional Rules for Coaches and Staff

All Bristol Blades coaches and staff must:

- Hold current BF membership and safeguarding training
- Maintain professional boundaries
- Never communicate privately with under-18s without parental knowledge
- Never transport a child alone without written parental approval
- Never show favouritism or engage in grooming behaviour
- Act as role models at all times

Any breach will be treated as a safeguarding issue.

Supervision, Travel & Photography

- Parents remain responsible for their children at competitions unless otherwise agreed.
- Coaches supervise fencing activity only.
- No child may travel alone with a coach unless approved in writing.

Photography:

- No photos or videos of children may be taken or shared without parental consent.
- Images must never be used in a way that embarrasses, identifies or puts a child at risk.

Breaches & Sanctions

Breaches of this Code may result in:

- Warnings
- Suspension
- Removal from competitions
- Referral to British Fencing
- Termination of membership

Safeguarding concerns will always be referred to British Fencing and statutory authorities if required.

