



Competition Policy and Procedure / Code of Conduct

Fencers – Competition Code of Conduct

Respect the Sport

- Thank opposition, coaches, referees, and officials after every event.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, with dignity; set a positive example.
- Be ambassadors for the club.
- Accept and observe the authority and decisions of referees, organizers, and all fencing disciplinary bodies, including British Fencing.
- Use appropriate mechanisms for complaints and appeals.

Respect Others

- Value referees, officials, coaches, opponents, and spectators.
- Respect the decisions of referees and officials.
- Respect the facilities and equipment used at competitions.

Respect Yourself

- Take responsibility for your actions on and off the piste.
- Never use inappropriate language or gestures.
- Wear suitable clothing for the competition.
- Tell the Welfare Officer if the behaviour of others makes you feel uncomfortable.



Parents / Guardians – Code of Conduct

Respect the Sport and All Participants

- Encourage your child to enjoy fencing and do their best, rather than focusing only on results.
- Support fair play, good sportsmanship, and respect for opponents.
- Applaud good performance by all competitors, not just your own child.

Respect Officials and Coaches

- Accept the decisions of referees, organizers, and British Fencing officials.
- Do not challenge, abuse, or attempt to influence referees or event staff.
- Allow coaches to coach; do not give conflicting advice during competitions.

Support a Positive Environment

- Never use inappropriate, aggressive, or abusive language or behaviour.
- Do not place undue pressure on your child to win or perform.
- Set a positive example through your behaviour and communication.

Safeguarding and Welfare

- Respect safeguarding policies and boundaries between adults and young people.
- Report any concerns about a child's welfare, inappropriate behaviour, or poor practice to the Club Welfare Officer.
- Do not take responsibility for supervising or transporting children who are not your own unless formally agreed by the club and parents.



Club Coaches and Staff – Code of Conduct

Duty of Care

- The welfare of the fencer must always come before performance or results.
- Treat all fencers with dignity, respect, and fairness.
- Avoid favouritism, discrimination, or inappropriate behaviour of any kind.

Professional Boundaries

- Maintain appropriate physical, emotional, and social boundaries with all fencers.
- Never engage in behaviour that could be interpreted as grooming, exploitation, or abuse.
- Avoid being alone with a child or young person where possible; ensure interactions are open and observable.

Communication

- Communication with under-18s should be appropriate, professional, and, where possible, include parents/guardians.
- No private or secretive messaging with young fencers.
- Social media and messaging must be used responsibly and transparently.

Behavior at Competitions

- Act as a positive role model at all times.
- Treat referees, organizers, and other clubs with respect.
- Never argue aggressively with officials or undermine their authority.

Safeguarding Responsibility

- Any concern about a child's welfare, inappropriate behaviour, or safeguarding issue must be reported to the Club Welfare Officer immediately.
- Follow British Fencing reporting procedures at all times.



Welfare & Safeguarding at Competitions

- The club is committed to providing a safe, positive, and inclusive environment for all fencers.
- A Club Welfare Officer will be appointed, and their contact details will be available to all members and parents.
- All fencers have the right to feel safe, respected, and supported.
- Any fencer who feels uncomfortable, unsafe, or upset by the behaviour of another person should tell a coach, staff member, or the Welfare Officer as soon as possible.

Concerns may include:

- Bullying or harassment
- Inappropriate language or behaviour
- Physical contact that makes someone uncomfortable
- Discrimination or unfair treatment

All concerns will be taken seriously and handled in line with British Fencing safeguarding procedures.



Bristol Blades Fencer vs Fencer and Support Policy

- When two fencers from the club fence each other in competition:
 - Neither fencer will be coached against the other.
 - Coaches must remain neutral and must not favour one fencer over another.

Coach/Referee Support at Competitions

Coaching

- The club will support and fully fund the coach cost for both the Age Group SW Regional Championships and the BYCs (British Youth Championships).
- The club will nominate three other events per year where coaching support is supplied; each fencer will be asked for a £25 donation toward daily wage and petrol/hotel costs (e.g., EYCs – England Youth Championships, Leon Paul Series/BRC – British Ranking Event).
- For competitions outside the club's nominated events (extra BRCs, Leon Paul events, or international events), arrangements are private between the fencer and club coaches.

Referees

- If an event requires contributions for referees due to the number of entries, the club will contribute £100 toward the referee cost; the remaining cost will be split among the entered fencers.
- For example, if the day rate, travel, and accommodation total £200 and there are six competitors, the club pays £100, and the remaining £100 is split (£17 each).