



Health and Safety Policy: Bristol Blades Fencing Club

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Policy Owner: Club Management / Welfare Officer

1. Statement of General Policy

We, the Club Coaches and Officials, appreciate that while coaching or running events, we are "at work" and subject to the **Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974** and the **Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999**¹. We accept our responsibility to prevent accidents and provide adequate control of health and safety risks.

Action/Arrangements

- **Risk Assessment:** A formal risk assessment has been undertaken for all coaching and event activities. Foreseeable hazards have been identified and mitigated to an acceptable level.
- **Qualified Personnel:** All sessions will have at least one coach who is a current member of **British Fencing** and on the **BF Coaching Register**
- **Mandatory Training:** All registered coaches must hold:
 - A valid **Emergency First Aid at Work** certificate (including DeFib training)
 - **British Fencing SafeGuard Core Training** (updated from SPC).
 - A current **Enhanced DBS check**
- **Consultation & Site Safety:** We will consult with venue providers regarding site-specific safety rules and emergency arrangements (fire exits, assembly points, and emergency contacts)
- **Equipment Maintenance:** All fencing equipment is regularly inspected. Equipment must conform to **CEN safety standards** and undergo a visual inspection before every session
- **Incident Reporting (RIDDOR):** All incidents resulting in injury or "near misses" will be recorded in the **Club Incident Book**.

- **Statutory Reporting:** Any incident meeting **RIDDOR** criteria (e.g., fractures, serious burns, or hospitalisation) will be reported to the Enforcing Authority and British Fencing within the required timescales.

2. Hazard Identification and Risk Mitigation

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Mitigation & Action	Responsibility
Inadequate Warm-up	Fencers (Sprains/Strains)	Mandatory warm-up and stretching. Coaches assess existing injuries before allowing participation.	Coach
Equipment Failure	Fencers & Coaches	BF 2025/26 Standards: Masks must have two safety systems. 10cm overlap between jacket/breeches. Under-10s must use Size 0 blades; Under-14s Size 3 or less.	Coach / Armourer
Physical Contact/Collisions	Fencers	Close supervision. Training areas cleared of obstructions. No physical contact during warm-ups except hand-tagging.	Coach

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Mitigation & Action	Responsibility
Safeguarding/Welfare	Children & Vulnerable Adults	Coach must hold BF SafeGuard Core . Access restricted to authorized personnel. Adherence to Club Welfare Policy.	Welfare Officer
Dehydration/Exhaustion	Children	Regular breaks for fluids. Coaches trained to spot signs of heat exhaustion. Access to drinking water mandatory.	Coach
Security & Martyn's Law	All persons on site	Security Risk Assessment: Staff trained in "Stay Safe" (Run, Hide, Tell) protocols. Emergency plan includes non-fire lockdowns.	Event Organiser / ESO
Space Management	All (Overcrowding)	Field of Play restrictions enforced. Space hired must accommodate the number of fencers safely.	Event Organiser

3. Emergency & Security Procedures

- **Evacuation:** Coaches must ensure all emergency exit routes are clear and unobstructed before every session.
- **Register:** A headcount and register of all children are maintained at all times for emergency accounting.
- **Security (Martyn's Law 2026 Compliance):** In the event of a security threat, the club will follow the venue's lockdown procedure. The **Event Safety Officer (ESO)** is the designated lead for security communication.