



# Club Code of Conduct

Issued Date: 10 May 2026  
Issued By: Brett G  
Next Review Date: May-2028



## Introduction

Our Community Fencing Club is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for everyone who takes part—fencers, parents, coaches, volunteers, and visitors. This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected across the club and reflects the principles promoted by British Fencing, including respect, integrity, safety, and fair play.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect the wellbeing of all participants
- Promote positive behaviour and good sportsmanship
- Ensure safeguarding responsibilities are understood
- Create a welcoming community where everyone can thrive

Within this policy there is the **General Code of Conduct**, **Parent and Carer Code of Conduct**, and the **Disciplinary Process** for the club for breaches of the code of conduct.

By joining the club, all members and parents agree to follow this Code and support the club in upholding these standards.



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## General Code of Conduct

### Respect and Integrity

All members must:

- Treat others with dignity and fairness
- Respect differences in age, ability, identity, and background
- Avoid abusive, discriminatory, or intimidating behaviour

### Safety and Wellbeing

Everyone shares responsibility for safety, and as such they must:

- Follow coaches' instructions
- Follow all health and safety procedures
- Only enter a piste when it is safe to do so with appropriate protective equipment
- Report hazards or injuries promptly
- Never train under the influence of alcohol or drugs

### Safeguarding Responsibilities

The club follows British Fencing safeguarding policies:

- Coaches/volunteers must hold DBS checks and training
- No adult should be alone with a child where avoidable
- Concerns must be reported to the Club Welfare Officer

### Fair Play and Sportsmanship

Members are expected to:

- Follow the rules of fencing
- Accept officials' decisions respectfully
- Compete honestly and encourage others

### Coaching Standards

Coaches must:

- Maintain professional boundaries
- Provide constructive, age-appropriate feedback
- Prioritise athlete welfare over performance

### Use of Facilities and Equipment

Members must:

- Treat equipment with care
- Return equipment neatly after use
- Wash equipment if needed
- Keep the training area tidy and safe
- Report any faulty or broken equipment promptly and do not continue to use it.
- Respect venue rules



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## Communication and Social Media

All communication must be appropriate:

- No bullying or harmful content
- Parental consent required for photos of minors
- Coaches must use approved channels for junior communication

## Training Session Conduct

Members should:

- Arrive on time and prepared
- Listen to coaches
- Support a positive training atmosphere

## Commitment to British Fencing Values

Members agree to uphold the British Fencing values of:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Excellence
- Responsibility
- Community



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## Parent & Carer Code of Conduct

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting young fencers. By joining the club, parents agree to:

### 1. Supportive Behaviour

- Encourage your child to enjoy fencing and focus on effort, not just results
- Celebrate progress and resilience
- Avoid coaching from the sidelines

### 2. Respect for Coaches and Officials

- Trust qualified coaches to deliver safe, appropriate instruction
- Accept referees' decisions without confrontation
- Raise concerns calmly and through proper channels

### 3. Commitment to Safeguarding

- Ensure your child arrives and leaves safely
- Inform the club of medical needs or relevant conditions
- Report safeguarding concerns to the Club Welfare Officer

### 4. Positive Communication

- Use respectful language in all interactions
- Avoid negative comments about other children, parents, or coaches
- Follow club communication guidelines, including social media rules

### 5. Practical Support

- Ensure your child has appropriate kit and attends sessions regularly
- Encourage good hygiene, hydration, and rest
- Volunteer or assist when able to support club activities

### 6. Role Modelling

- Demonstrate fairness, patience, and respect
- Promote a positive sporting environment
- Help your child understand the importance of rules and safety



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## Disciplinary Process

This policy sets out how the club manages behaviour concerns, misconduct, and breaches of the Code of Conduct. Its aims are to:

- Protect the safety and wellbeing of all members
- Ensure fair, consistent handling of issues
- Promote a positive, respectful club culture
- Provide clear steps for resolving concerns

This policy applies to all members, parents/carers, coaches, volunteers, and visitors.

## Standard of Behaviour

All individuals are expected to follow:

- The Club Code of Conduct
- The Parent and Carer Code of Conduct
- British Fencing's Standards of Behaviour
- Safeguarding policies
- Venue rules and safety requirements

Breaches may include:

- Disruptive or disrespectful behaviour
- Unsafe actions or refusal to follow safety instructions
- Bullying, harassment, or discrimination
- Misuse of equipment
- Inappropriate communication or social media use
- Breaches of safeguarding expectations

## Reporting Concerns

Concerns may be raised by:

- Coaches
- Volunteers
- Members
- Parents/carers
- Officials
- Welfare Officer

Reports should be made to:

- The Coach in charge (for behaviour during sessions)
- The Club Welfare Officer (for safeguarding concerns)
- The Club Committee (for serious or repeated issues)

All reports will be handled sensitively and confidentially.



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## Initial Assessment

The coach or committee member will:

- Review the concern
- Speak to those involved
- Decide whether the issue is minor, moderate, or serious

Safeguarding concerns are immediately referred to the Welfare Officer and handled under safeguarding procedures.

## Disciplinary Stages

The club uses a stepped approach. Depending on severity, the process may begin at any stage.

### 1. Informal Warning

Used for minor issues. A coach or committee member will:

- Explain the behaviour concern
- Clarify expectations
- Record the conversation informally

If behaviour improves then no further action will be taken.

### 2. Formal Warning

Used when:

- Behaviour continues after an informal warning
- The issue is more serious

The club will:

- Issue a written warning
- Inform parents/carers (for juniors)
- Outline required improvements and a review period

If behaviour improves then the process will end. Repeated issues will trigger final warnings.

### 3. Temporary Suspension

Used for:

- Repeated misconduct
- Significant breaches of safety or respect

The club may:

- Suspend the member for a set period
- Require a meeting before return
- Set conditions for reinstatement

Failure to meet conditions may lead to Stage 4.

### 4. Removal from the Club

Used only when:

- Serious misconduct occurs
- Previous steps have not resolved the issue

The Committee will:

- Review all evidence



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- Allow the member (or parent) to provide a statement
- Make a final decision

The decision will be communicated in writing.

## 5. Immediate Action

The club reserves the right to remove a member from a session immediately if:

- Safety is at risk
- Behaviour is aggressive, abusive, or dangerous
- A safeguarding concern arises

This may be followed by a formal disciplinary process.

## 6. Right to Appeal

Members (or parents of juniors) may appeal decisions from:

- Formal warnings
- Suspensions
- Removal from the club

Appeals must be submitted in writing within 14 days. A panel of committee members **not involved** in the original decision will review the appeal. The panel's decision is final.