

Safer sporting events

1. Statement for Events

We want our events to be excellent where people can perform to their best and take part safely. Most people will enter into the spirit of our events that are governed by the British Fencing Code of Conduct. We reserve the right to remove any person from the area of the event who contravenes this code.

2. Good Practice Guidance for Referees

When refereeing young fencers, referees should:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment
- Provide verbal feedback in a positive way after the poule or DE fight
- Appreciate the needs of the fencers
- Be a positive role model
- Recognise that safety is paramount
- Explain decisions – most young fencers are still learning
- Never tolerate verbal abuse

Officials must always:

- Report, in writing, to the appropriate person, behaviour by adults that you feel contravenes British Fencing's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy. This can include:
 - Verbal bullying by coaches/parents/spectators
 - Physical abuse by coaches/parents/spectators
 - Inappropriate or aggressive contact by an adult to a young fencer
 - Verbal abuse directed at the official by young people or adults

Officials should not:

- Change in the same area as young fencers if at all possible and ensure that they are not left alone with a child in the changing rooms
- Be alone with young fencers at any time – if a young fencers comes into the changing room ensure another adult is present
- Administer first aid if a nominated first aider is present
- Allow a young fencer to continue to fence if there are doubts about their fitness
- Tolerate bad language from young fencers
- Engage in any inappropriate contact with young fencers
- Give a lift to a fencer unless there are other young people or adults in the car and parents are aware and have given consent. Where a child is transported they should be in the back of the car
- Take a young fencer to your home

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- Overtly criticise young fencers or use language which may cause the player to lose confidence or self esteem
- Make sexually explicit remarks to young players even in fun

REMEMBER: The welfare of all young people is paramount

3. Fencing Courses

British Fencing recommends that all fencing courses should:

- Advertise the ratio of coach to pupil which should not exceed 1:12
- Employ staff that are approved by British Fencing for the role they are fulfilling and must abide by the relevant code of conduct

Course organisers must ensure that:

- venues are suitable for the purposes of training
- all staff (including volunteers) comply with British Fencing requirements and are criminal record checked
- all staff have attended a course in “Safeguarding and Protecting Children”
- a named Welfare Officer should be present at all times
- a named person qualified in Emergency First Aid should be present at all times
- all coaches should have a qualification that is recognised by British Fencing
- the course should have an advertised minimum and maximum number of hours per day tuition
- if overnight accommodation is required this should be supervised at all times
- suitable entertainment and supervision must be available during free time
- information points should display all relevant information at all times
- a minimum number of members of staff should be on duty at all times and a rota setting out this information should be displayed on all information points
- access telephone numbers for parents must appear on all information
- a code of conduct for attendees must be included in the information pack
- where possible staff include both males and females who are present at all times

Please also refer to the Away Trips Policy