

International GBR Squad Coaches Policy

1. Purpose of Document

This document outlines the BF policy for coaches of British athletes selected to compete at nominated Cadet EFCs, Junior World Cups, Senior World Cups, and all European and World Championships (Cadet, Junior, Senior, U23s).

2. Application

This policy applies to all international events where coaches are permitted to travel as part of the GBR squad, either in the capacity of a squad, team or accredited personal coach role. Not all events are permitted to have personal coaches present and for more information please see the relevant section of the BF Website.

All coaches who have permission from BF to travel and/or coach an athlete who is part of the GBR Squad must read and accept the following Terms & Conditions, which will be applied and enforced at all times.

All personal coaches travelling to FIE World Cup, Grand Prix and major championships competitions must have, in advance, authorisation from British Fencing to travel with and/or coach an athlete selected as part of the GBR Squad.

Any coach not prepared to accept and sign and accept these T's & C's (which includes the BF Code of Conduct and BF Code of Conduct for Coaches) will not be allowed to travel with and/or coach an athlete that has been selected as part of the GBR Squad.

3. Terms and Conditions

All coaches

- MUST be on the BF Coaching Register or in the case of coaches based abroad, the equivalent National Federation Register.
- MUST follow the BF Code of Conduct and the BF Coaches Code of Conduct and are expected to be ambassadors for the sport and for BF, setting a positive example to the athletes.
- MUST be a member of British Fencing (supporter member is sufficient).

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- MUST NOT coach against a GBR fencer (whether the GBR fencer is fencing another GBR fencer, or a fencer from another nation).
- Are expected to cooperate in a positive, productive and supportive manner with any GBR Team Manager or Leader and any official GBR Squad/Team/Accredited (including personal) coaches.
- Are considered to be a part of the GBR Squad, and as such are subject to the authority of any appointed Team Manager/Leader and/or National Coach of the GBR Squad during the relevant event.
- All coaches who intend to provide individual warmup lessons as part of their activities MUST be qualified to a Level 2 standard or equivalent.

Personal Coaches

- If personal coaches wish to attend and be treated as part of the GBR Squad (e.g. stay in the squad hotel, included in squad meals/meetings etc.), written consent MUST be obtained from BF via the GBR Team Manager in advance of the competition. BF retains the right to refuse approval for personal coaches to join the squad on the basis of disciplinary record, safeguarding and ability to work constructively with appointed officials (including any appointed Squad Coach and other personal coaches) within the BF Codes of Conduct.
- Must ensure that they have appropriate travel insurance which covers them for acting in a professional capacity even if they receive no re-numeration. (NB past claims have been refused where coaches have bought 'holiday' cover).
- BF will not be liable for any costs incurred by a personal coach, including costs committed to on the assumption that approval to accompany a squad or athlete will be granted.

4. Expectations, Roles and Responsibilities

All coaches (National, Squad and Accredited personal coaches):

- Are expected to display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Should always uphold the core values of British Fencing – Honesty, Excellence and Respect
- Will attend briefings, debriefings and other meetings as reasonably requested by the National Coach/Team Leader/Team Manager
- Will attend team activities (eg team meals, training sessions at championships etc.) as reasonably requested by the National Coach/Team Leader/Team Manager

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- Should support and coach their fencers in an appropriate manner and should not act in any way detrimental or distracting to any other member of the GBR Squad
- Should wear appropriate GBR kit:
 - a. **Major Championship** - coaches will be expected to wear designated squad GBR tracksuits which should be worn whilst acting as part of the GBR Squad.
 - b. **Other Events** - if they own one, wear a GBR tracksuit, otherwise wear appropriately neutral kit (ie no other nationality or sponsors logos). Coaches are welcome to purchase the appropriate Squad GBR tracksuits/kit from the [British Fencing Shop](#).
- Should remain neutral in the event that two GBR fencers are drawn against each-other at any stage of any representative event (World Cup, Grand Prix or Major Championship). Specifically no team coaches or personal coaches will give advice or support to either party, and all coaches will maintain neutrality.

Personal Coaches

- Are welcome to stay in the team hotel and join in any group activities as may be arranged e.g. squad meals (at own personal cost) etc.
- May choose to travel on the same flights as other officials and athletes, taking advantage of any organised group transport where that exists, based on availability.

In addition:

- If there is no officially appointed BF Squad/Team Coach, an accredited personal coach may volunteer to act as the team coach for the team competition. This offer should be made in advance via the TM/TL who will liaise with BF and the athletes.
- In the event that a **funded Talent Programme athlete** invites their personal coach to attend a **nominated event** with them in the role as a personal coach, then the personal coach will, if required, accede jurisdiction over the performance and participation of the athlete to any BF appointed Talent Pathway Coach (if present) for the duration of that event. (NB It is expected that in practice the Talent Pathway Coach and personal coach will collaborate on the performance of an athlete, but as the Talent Programme is a funded programme with performance targets, the Talent Pathway Coach will have accountability for achieving these targets).
- If an accredited personal coach is coaching in support of another athlete from another country, no GBR kit should be visible (GBR Squad/Team coaches are not permitted to coach athletes from other countries).

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Approved by: Georgina Usher, CEO

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