

GBR PARENTAL SUPERVISION ORDERS - EXPLANATORY NOTE DECEMBER 2017

Last Updated: 4th December 2017

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1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document lays out British Fencing's parental supervision orders, typically a disciplinary sanction or safeguarding measure put in place for athletes participating in events which involve travelling and staying as part of a GB squad where an official BF appointed Team Manager is in place.

For the most part these events will be nominated international competitions taking place outside the UK but PSOs may also be imposed on residential training camps (both in the UK and abroad).

2. PARENTAL SUPERVISION ORDERS

The purpose of a PSO is to ensure that the Team Manager is not responsible for the behaviour of the athlete other than between agreed entry and exit points. These points will normally be at the venue at the start and end of each day of the competition.

Other than between entry and exit points, the responsibility for the behaviour and welfare of the athlete will lie with the Parent or Legal Guardian of that athlete.

3. RESTRICTIONS

A Parental Supervision Order may include any one of the following restrictions:

- Restrictions on travelling with squad
- Restrictions on staying with the squad
- Restrictions on eating meals with the squad

It is the responsibility of the parent and athlete to ensure that they understand and confirm which restrictions apply in advance of selection for the event to which the PSO applies. Typically, the restrictions will be included as part of any disciplinary or safeguarding correspondence which should be shared as appropriate with the relevant TM.

BF reserve the right to lift any aspect of the restrictions in the event that complying with the PSO is unreasonably difficult and would lead to unnecessary hardship (eg no other suitable flights, only one available hotel).

Where a restriction is placed on travelling with the squad the parents are responsible for arranging independent travel. The parents are responsible for notifying any BF

appointed travel agent of this restriction. The same applies if an accommodation restriction is in place. Where restrictions exist, parents should not choose group travel/accommodation options on generic selection emails, but should contact the booking agents to make independent reservations.

4. APPOINTING A GUARDIAN

In some instances the PSO may allow a parent/legal guardian to appoint a guardian other than themselves. Permission should be requested for this in advance of selection for the event. In that instance, the parent/legal guardian should make sure that the individual concerned is fully aware of all the responsibilities with regards to the arrangements and all the circumstances that gave rise to the PSO so that the guardian can make an informed decision about accepting the role.

It is **not** the responsibility of BF to ensure that the guardian is a suitable individual to be given that parental responsibility for the event, nor is it the responsibility of BF to inform that individual of the PSO circumstances.

For the purposes of administering and supporting the event, BF will assume, unless otherwise notified in writing, that the guardian has been fully briefed. Parents who wish to delegate parental responsibility are advised to familiarise themselves with safeguarding and welfare best practice and consider the impact on the athlete and guardian of the arrangements.

Athletes with PSOs are still expected to contribute fully to their share of the TM, referee and any other relevant official expenses.

If any aspect of a Parental Supervision Order and its implementation is unclear it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact BF at headoffice@britishfencing.com in advance of selection and any related booking to seek further clarity.