



Club Digest

Hello Josef,

Welcome to the new Club Digest from British Fencing and England Fencing. Late October 2016, I (Josef Thomas) started my role as the Regional Liaison Officer (England), to act as a bridge between British Fencing, England Fencing and the Regions and their clubs.

Over the coming months, I will be circulating key information to support clubs with development, growth and progression to help fencing clubs thrive.

Digests will cover a range of topics including:

1. Sharing of club best practice. This will include policies and procedures clubs have adopted, as well as ways to attract new members, and improve your club's financial sustainability.
2. Case studies that celebrate club success. We will provide examples of clubs who have successfully created partnerships with their local communities. This will enable you to access the insight and knowledge other clubs have gained in creating successful partnerships with their local community.
3. How British Fencing is making our sport more accessible. British Fencing supports a range of community fencing projects. We are always looking for local clubs to partner with these projects, and provide regular fencing opportunities for new participants.
4. Top tips on applying for funding. This will cover applying for funding from a range of sources including Sport England. Other sources of funding will be explored, many of which focus on volunteer and coach development.
5. Information on upcoming British Fencing events and coaching courses. Details of British Fencing's new suite of industry recognised qualifications will be provided, to ensure your club coaches have the most up-to-date qualifications.

Club Digest will be sent to all club secretaries and presidents who have provided their contact details through the club's Sport80 account. Contact details can be amended via your club's Sport80 account.

Club Welfare

The importance of a Club Welfare Officer has emphasised by the recent disclosures in the world of sport. British Fencing would like to remind clubs of their responsibilities to ensure safeguarding measures are in place. Responsibilities are as follows:

- All affiliated clubs must have a nominated Welfare Officer. Clubs should ensure that the contact details of the Welfare Officer are communicated as appropriate to club members. This can be done by listing the Welfare Officer's contact details on the club website, and including them on club communications.
- All affiliated clubs must ensure that their coaches are registered with British Fencing. If you unsure if your club's coaches are registered with us, please [contact us](#).

- Competitions involving minors must have a designated Welfare Officer and the contact details of the Welfare Officer should be appropriately communicated to attendees. This can be done using posters at the event, on the event websites and/or via emails to participants.

British Fencing help, guidance and approved policies documents can be found on our website [here](#).

To support you with safeguarding and welfare, Sport England's dedicated safeguarding section of [Club Matters](#) portal will provide you with all the resources you need to ensure your club has the most up to date information. In addition, Sport England and the Children Protection in Sport Unit (CSPU) have produced a very detailed [booklet](#) to support sports organisations and clubs with their safeguarding standards.

British Fencing and England fencing are here to support you with all safeguarding responsibilities therefore are offering several free and chargeable courses. The courses have been arranged in parallel with competitions as this will enable your welfare officers the best chance to be involved with the event and also keep up to date with their qualifications. All courses can be found [here](#).

If anyone has any safeguarding concerns or needs any advice on their safeguarding structures, then please contact [Liz Behnke](#) (British Fencing Equality and Safeguarding Manager).



Sport England Funding Announcement

On the 16th December 2016 Sport England formally announced they have awarded £1.7m for the 2017-21 funding cycle to British Fencing to sustain and develop fencing in England. An outline of the work we will be doing within this funding cycle, comments from the Chairman, CEO and Development Director at British Fencing are available on our website.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



British School Team Championships 2017

The British School Team Championships will be held on the 25th and 26th February 2017 at Millfield School.

If you have any club members that maybe interested in entering the event, please circulate the information to them. For further information please contact [Amy Grant](#), Events Manager at British Fencing.

[EVENT INFORMATION](#)

That's all for now - keep a close eye out for the next Club Digest coming soon.

Kind regards,

Josef