

# BF CODE OF CONDUCT - ATHLETES YOUTH EVENTS

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Last Updated: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## 1. SCOPE

This Code covers all youth events carried out under the auspices of BF, and all athletes competing for GBR in Junior, Cadet or any Age Group (U20 and below) events. This Code is to be read in conjunction with: Penalties: Youth Events, and, British Fencing's Child Protection Policy. These documents may be revised from time to time and current, dated versions are available on the BF website. **This code of Conduct is in addition to (i) any other Codes of Conduct that British Fencing has in place and (ii) BF's Disciplinary, Grievance, Welfare and other rules.**

All athletes attending any of the above must read and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct before the athlete will be permitted to

- a) attend any event.
- b) represent GBR in any EFC or FIE tournaments

This Code of Conduct also applies to

- Athletes participating in BF-led squad activities including group travel, Talent programme activities, AASE activities,
- Athletes travelling to join BF-led squads
- Athletes representing GBR in non-BF-led groups and squads – eg EFC U17 tournaments, non-nominated Junior World Cups.

The term *event* in this document includes any GBR representational event (whether BF-led or not) and any type of BF-led youth activity (including group travel, Talent and AASE activities).

The term *BF-led* means any activity where BF have appointed an official person responsible for the welfare of the athletes.

Agreement can be confirmed online or by signature on a hard copy. Notwithstanding the method of agreement, any athlete agreeing to participate in an event as defined above is agreeing to abide by this code.

Appendix 1 has a summary of this code for convenience; the full text prevails however.

## 2. DUTY OF CARE

Staff/officials are persons appointed by BF for the purpose of the particular event who will be responsible for the welfare of the athletes.

Where appointed, staff/officials will be in place to guide and supervise athletes, and athletes are required to abide by and respect their authority at all times.

For events with Team Managers the duty of care of the Team Manager starts when the athlete joins at the specified time at the specified place (Entry Point - EP), and likewise ends when the athlete leaves at the specified time and/or place (Departure Point -DP).

For competitions where no BF officials have been designated Team Manager, the responsibility of the welfare of the athlete lies with:

- The Athlete if 18 or over
- The Parent/Guardian for athletes U18.

All athletes are expected to act responsibly in the event of anything that might pose a significant risk to themselves or others. This includes informing a member of staff or a responsible adult if the risk is due to the behaviour of any other person/athlete. If in any doubt, advice from an official should be obtained.

## 3. GENERAL BEHAVIOUR

All athletes are expected to act in a responsible and respectful manner appropriate to membership of British Fencing and as a representative member of a National GBR Squad/Team – be it to each other, Team Officials or any other people. Athletes are reminded that selection for GBR carries with it a responsibility to the sport: athletes are expected to be positive ambassadors for the sport at all times.

## 4. CURFEW - RESIDENTIAL SESSIONS/EVENTS

Where curfews are specified, all athletes must be in their rooms from the specified curfew time unless instructed or permitted otherwise by the relevant official.

Where curfews are not specified and/or athletes are not travelling with an official, athletes (or their guardians) are expected to make sensible decisions led by performance, personal safety and impact on other group members.

## 5. ATTENDANCE

Where requested, attendance at sessions throughout the event as defined by the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe, is compulsory except when there are exceptional circumstances such as illness, which must be reported to the relevant official as soon as possible. The decision of the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe as to whether or not such circumstances are accepted is final.

## 6. PUNCTUALITY

For BF organised events, athletes must be punctual. Lateness will not be tolerated as it disrupts the smooth and efficient running of the event, and is unfair on those members of the squad/team who make the effort to be on time. Exceptional circumstances must be reported to the relevant member of staff, and the decision of the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe on such circumstances is final.

## 7. BULLYING

This will not be tolerated at any time, in any form, whether physical, psychological or verbal. Any athlete who believes s/he has been subjected to or has seen anyone else being subjected to bullying must inform a member of the staff as soon as possible, whether the bullying is by a fellow athlete or member of staff. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected. At any time athletes can contact the British Fencing emergency safeguarding line on: 07526 003030

## 8. EQUITY AND DISCRIMINATION

All athletes and officials are required to respect the rights of every person, regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, cultural background or political affiliation. Discrimination will not be tolerated in any form or by anybody. Any athlete who believes s/he or any other athlete or member of staff has suffered from discrimination is required to inform a BF official as soon as possible. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected.

## 9. ALCOHOL

Athletes are not permitted to drink or be in possession of alcohol at any point during the event, whether on or off campus, under any circumstances during the period of the event. Members of BF who supply alcohol to athletes during events will also face disciplinary action.

Athletes are not permitted to consume alcohol whilst travelling to and from events or whilst staying overnight in hotels as part of the event.

Athletes representing GBR should be mindful of the fact that they are expected to act as role models both within the sport and to those external of the sport.

## 10. SMOKING

Athletes are not permitted to smoke or be in possession of e-cigarettes, vaping devices, cigarettes, tobacco or similar substances at any point during the event under any circumstances.

## 11. ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS THE TAKING OF ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE OF ANY CATEGORY PERMISSIBLE AT ANY TIME.**

## 12. GAMBLING

Under no circumstances is gambling allowed.

### 13. ACCOMMODATION/VENUE-RESIDENTIAL SESSIONS/EVENTS

Athletes must not cause any damage; it is the responsibility of the athlete to pay for any damage caused by him/her to facilities or possessions (but payment will not excuse the damage).

For BF-led events accommodation will be allocated by the BF officials and must be used accordingly.

Athletes will not be allowed off campus, without prior permission, unless accompanied by an official

### 14. PERSONAL APPEARANCE

All athletes are expected to wear appropriate kit at all times. The relevant kit, as specified by BF officials, is to be worn at all designated times at designated events. Requests by any BF official to change inappropriate clothing must be complied with.

### 15. MEDICATION

Athletes are permitted to take prescribed drugs during the course of the event, but these must be declared prior to the activity. Self medication with analgesics/paracetamol etc must also be declared to the Chef de Mission/Chef d'Equipe where one is present.

### 16. ANTI DOPING

Athletes must comply with the World Anti- Doping Code, and the UKAD regulations. Anti-doping remains the responsibility of the individual and all athletes are expected to make themselves aware of current anti-doping regulations including the need for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) for certain medications. Athletes must comply with any Anti-Doping tests organised by British Fencing, UKAD or international competition organisers.

Further information can be found at [www.100percentme.com](http://www.100percentme.com)

### 17. COMMUNICATION

All athletes are expected to use all forms of communication, including social networking sites and texting, in a sensible and respectful manner at all times, regarding British Fencing generally and, in particular, their fellow athletes and appointed staff.

### 18. MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are allowed at the event, however, athletes are expected to behave appropriately and turn off mobile phones as directed by an official or when circumstances dictate (e.g. in any meetings, during any training session, during competition). BF officials may confiscate phones if they are used at any time during the event in a way which is intrusive or inconsiderate, likely to distract the athlete from the event, or otherwise contrary to directions given by an official.

### 19. ITEMS NOT COVERED

British Fencing and/ or its nominated lead officials have the right to make additions to this code of conduct and to take decisions on any matters not covered. Athletes will be kept informed of any

changes. If these are additions affecting the Code permanently, they will only take effect from publication of the amended Code on the BF website.

### 20. BRITISH FENCING YOUTH EVENTS PENALTIES

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in the application of the British Fencing Youth Events Penalties (published on the BF website under Youth Trips)

[http://www.britishfencing.com/uploads/files/youth\\_penalties\\_05.10.11.pdf](http://www.britishfencing.com/uploads/files/youth_penalties_05.10.11.pdf)

The Board of BF has delegated authority to the CEO to administer such matters which have not expressly been reserved to be dealt with under the Disciplinary Code by this Code of Conduct. Notwithstanding such authority, the CEO may, in his or her absolute discretion, determine that an allegation of a breach of Code of Conduct is of a nature that it should properly be dealt with under the Disciplinary Code. In such circumstances, the CEO may refer such a matter to be dealt with under the Disciplinary Code

### APPENDIX 1: Summary of British Fencing's Code of Conduct Athlete Youth Events

- **DUTY OF CARE:** Athletes agree to accept the authority of the BF officials where appointed for the duration of the session/trip.
- **GENERAL BEHAVIOUR:** All athletes are expected to act in a responsible and respectful manner appropriate to membership of a NA or GBR Squad/Team be it to each other, Team Officials or any other people
- **CURFEW:** All athletes must be in their rooms at the specified curfew time.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Attendance at sessions throughout the event as defined by the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe, is compulsory
- **PUNCTUALITY:** Every athlete must be punctual.
- **BULLYING:** This will not be tolerated in any form, whether physical, psychological or verbal, or by anybody.
- **EQUITY and DISCRIMINATION:** All athletes and officials are required to respect the rights of every person, regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, cultural background or political affiliation.
- **ALCOHOL:** Athletes are not permitted to drink or be in possession of alcohol at any point during the event.
- **SMOKING:** Athletes are not permitted to smoke or be in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or similar substances at any point during the training camp/event under any circumstances.
- **ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:** not permitted at any time
- **GAMBLING:** Under no circumstances is gambling allowed during the course of the training activity/event.
- **MOBILE PHONES:** Mobile phones are allowed at the training activity/event; however, athletes are expected to behave appropriately.
- **ACCOMMODATION/VENUE - Residential Sessions/events:** Accommodation will be allocated by the BF officials and must be used accordingly.
- **PERSONAL APPEARANCE:** All athletes are required to wear appropriate kit at all times.
- **MEDICATION:** Athletes are permitted to take prescribed drugs during the course of the event but this must be declared prior to the beginning of the activity.
- **ANTI DOPING:** Athletes must comply with the World Anti-Doping Code.
- **COMMUNICATION:** All athletes are expected to use all forms of communication including social networking sites and texting, in a sensible and respectful manner at all times.

### Appendix 2 Additional information on curfew breaches

#### BF Policy Update – for implementation on BF run residential events – including residential training camps and foreign competitions

If a situation arises where an U18 is missing from their room after curfew the contact number provided by the parent (or named emergency contact) will be called immediately by the Team Manager (or the official who discovers the situation) irrespective of the time of night.

The parent will be informed that their child is missing and then the officials will follow the usual procedure of waking the other officials and starting a room check.

Once the child has been located the parent will again be contacted by the Team Manager irrespective of the time of night.

At that point the parent will be informed that any future breach will result in an immediate supervision request.

Parents are strongly recommended to support and help their child by explaining to them the safety and performance consequences of disappearing after curfew - not just on them, but also the officials and other athletes who then get woken up as part of the room searches.

Foreign competitions and residential training for many athletes are serious events, which they and their families have invested significant time and money in attending. British Fencing and its officials prefer to invest time and effort supporting the performance goals of athletes, rather than wasting valuable time on athletes that are unable to adhere to rules.

*Reviewed by Youth Panel January 2018*

*Approved by Board 22 February 2018*