



# Code of Conduct

April 2024

Coombe Boys School  
Sports Hall  
College Gardens (off Blakes Lane)  
New Malden  
Surrey KT3 6NU  
[kingstonfencing.co.uk](http://kingstonfencing.co.uk)

## 1. Introduction

At Kingston Fencing Club, we are committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all members. Everybody at KFC has a duty and responsibility to behave respectfully towards each other & feel safe to raise concerns should they arise.

## 2. British Fencing Code of Conduct

At Kingston Fencing Club Code of Conduct is based on the British Fencing (BF) Code of Conduct. All rules in the BF Code are reproduced here except for rules relating to Training Camps and Competitions, GBR and Affiliated Bodies.

The BF Code of Conduct can be found at:

<https://www.britishfencing.com/policy-zone/codes-of-conduct/>

Sections 4, 5 and 6 in the BF Code are the same as sections 4, 5 and 6 below. Additional KFC rules are in separate sections.

References to “organisers” in the BF Code are extended to include the KFC committee who are persons duly elected to the committee of Kingston Fencing Club at the last AGM.

## 3. Principles

1. All members, parents and coaches to adhere to this Code of Conduct and the British Fencing Code of Conduct at all times.
2. If any member is found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct then the matter is referred to the committee for adjudication.
  - 2.1. The committee reserves the right to sanction the member which includes barring the member from attending the club, financial penalties.
  - 2.2. The Club may also refer to British Fencing which may result in them bringing disciplinary and/or safeguarding proceedings under the BF Disciplinary Code or taking other action.

## 4. Code for all Persons

The following rules apply to all members:

1. Ensure that the Sport is always conducted in a disciplined and sporting manner and acknowledge that it is not sufficient to rely solely upon the organisers or committee to maintain those principles.
2. Co-operate in ensuring that the spirit of the rules of the Sport and fair play are upheld.
3. Act in accordance with the British Fencing Bye-Laws, Regulations, Rules and Policies.
4. Accept and observe the authority and decisions of referees, organisers, the committee and all other fencing disciplinary bodies including British Fencing and in cases of dispute use the appropriate mechanisms for complaints and appeal.
5. Promote the reputation of the Sport and take all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.
6. Respect and maintain the duty of care that they have towards all other participants.
7. Respect and maintain the duty of care that they have towards opponents during fencing and adapt their behaviour to that which is reasonable and appropriate to score, at all times avoiding brutality.
8. Respect and maintain the enhanced duty of care that they have towards Children and Adults at Risk.
9. Follow the principles of good safeguarding for Children and Adults at Risk.
10. Accept and act on the positive obligation to report safeguarding concerns through the appropriate British Fencing channels.
11. Cooperate with disciplinary, safeguarding and other sport integrity investigations.
12. Abuse (physically or verbally), threaten or intimidate another Person whether on or off the piste.
13. Use crude or abusive language or gestures towards another Person.
14. Do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, harass, insult or humiliate any other Person.
15. Discriminate against any other Person on the ground of their protected characteristics including religion, race, colour or national or ethnic origin.

16. Do anything which adversely affects the reputation of the Sport of Fencing, British Fencing, any Member or any commercial or funding partner of the Sport. This includes the publishing of defamatory or libelous statements.
17. Publish or cause to be published criticism of the manner in which a referee handled a fight.
18. Publish or cause to be published criticism of the committee in the running of the club.
19. Publish or cause to be published criticism of the manner in which British Fencing, or the committee or any other body is handling/handled/resolved any dispute, safeguarding case, disciplinary or other sport integrity matter resulting from a breach of this Code of Conduct.
20. Engage in any conduct or any activity on or off the piste that may impair public confidence in the honest and orderly conduct of a fight, competition, Championship or Series or in the integrity and good character of any Person;
21. Commit a Doping Offence as defined in the FIE/British Fencing/UKAD Anti doping regulations.
22. Retaliate against or victimise any Person involved in raising a complaint or concern or participating in an investigation into a complaint or concern.

## 5. Coaches, Referees, Volunteers, Committee Members, other Officials and People In Positions Of Trust

All coaches, referees, volunteers, committee members and other officials and people in positions of trust (including mentors, personal development providers), in addition to Section 4. must:

1. Respect every Person particularly Children and Adults at Risk in their care as individuals and treat them equitably and with dignity at all times.
2. Discharge their responsibilities in a manner free from any sort of harassment or abuse (emotional, physical, sexual, bullying, neglect etc).
3. Recognise their additional responsibilities and duty of care towards Children and Adults at Risk.
4. Recognise their individual and collective responsibility to create environments where all fencers can perform/compete free from harassment and abuse.
5. Work with others to deliver environments which ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants.
6. Be positive role models displaying and promoting high standards of personal behaviour.
7. Ensure that all activities they deliver (e.g training, officiating) comply with the current guidance and policies issued by British Fencing
8. Work within their own competency and qualifications, undertaking appropriate personal development and/or training to ensure standards are met.
9. Have the appropriate criminal record checks necessary for the level and/or frequency of activity they are engaging in.
10. Respect the privacy and confidentiality of the Person(s)
11. Report all incidents/concerns (including safeguarding, code of conduct breaches, accidents) to the committee

All coaches, referees, committee members, volunteers and other officials should never:

1. Abuse their position of power or trust.
2. Embarrass, humiliate, bully or undermine any individual (or encourage/allow others to do so)
3. Neglect their responsibility for any Child or Adult at Risk under their care at any time.
4. Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching, eg hitting, slapping, kicking.
5. Circumvent or attempt to circumvent procedures put in place to protect Children and Adults at Risk.
6. Use exercise as a form of punishment.
7. Engage or attempt to engage in sexual activity (contact and non-contact, including online activity) with a Child or Person for whom they are responsible, where they hold a position of trust or imbalance of authority.
8. Encourage or allow a Child or Adult at Risk to attend a non-public premises (eg a private home), hotel room or secluded place when they will be alone with that person.
9. Share a bedroom with a Child (other than their own child).
10. Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.

11. Make sexually suggestive remarks to children even in fun.
12. Do things of a personal nature for another person that they can do for themselves unless specifically requested to do so and then with the utmost discretion.
13. Allow the use of inappropriate language or behaviour to go unchallenged.
14. Allow safeguarding allegations to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
15. Purchase for or provide any Child with alcohol or facilitate the consumption of alcohol by a Child.
16. Avoid creating exploitative relationships or unhealthy dependencies with anyone involved with fencing or their families and close associates.
17. Purport to be or act as a coach, welfare officers or other registered workforce unless registered on the relevant published BF workforce register.
18. Allow any form of bribery, favouritism or pressure to influence the outcome of a decision.
19. Discharge their duties under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## 6. Parents, Carers, Guardians

In addition to the code laid out in Section 4 and in relation to the fencer that they support, parents, carers and guardians should:

1. Support their involvement, recognising and rewarding efforts as well as achievements and help them to enjoy their sport.
2. Encourage and guide them to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and development in the sport.
3. Encourage them to learn the rules and play within them, encouraging fair play and appropriate interactions with officials in accordance with the Rules of Fencing and this Code of Conduct.
4. Never force them to take part in training and competitions against their will and/or that they are not prepared (emotionally, physically, technically) for.
5. Never verbally or physically abuse them for failure.
6. Set a good example by being a good role model, recognising fair play, accepting official's judgements and applauding efforts of all.
7. Use correct and proper language at all times.
8. Respect the role of coaches, team managers committee members and other officials in relation to managing participation in competition; do not approach other Children without appropriate permissions.

### 6.1 Additional KFC Rules

In addition to the rules above parents, carers and guardians should:

1. Take responsibility for the actions of them including appropriate discipline and abiding by the rules of the club ensuring that they follow the rules laid out in section 4.
2. Not leave them unsupervised. The club is not "loco parentis" and does not take on the responsibilities of a parent, carer or guardian.

## 7. Complaints

All members have the right to complaints. See the clubs Complaints Policy on:

<https://kingstonfencing.co.uk/policies/>

## 8. Other Relevant Policy Documents

The club also has the following documents which are related to Safeguarding which are available on the club website [kingstonfencing.co.uk/policies](https://kingstonfencing.co.uk/policies/):

Health and Safety Policy

Whistleblowing Policy

Complaints Procedure

Etiquette Guide

## 9. Policy Review

Policies are reviewed annually and approved by the committee at the AGM or other committee meetings.

Written: April 2024

Recommended revision Date: April 2025