



# Safeguarding Whistle Blowing Policy

August 2023

**Venue address:**

**Coombe Boys School**

**Sports Hall**

**College Gardens (off Blakes Lane)**

**New Malden**

**Surrey KT3 6NU**

**[kingstonfencing.co.uk](http://kingstonfencing.co.uk)**

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## 1. Introduction

Safeguarding children and adults at risk requires everyone to be committed to the highest possible standards of openness, integrity and accountability. As a club, we are committed to encouraging and maintaining a culture where people feel able to raise a genuine safeguarding concern and are confident that it will be taken seriously.

## 2. What is whistle blowing?

In the context of safeguarding, “whistleblowing” is when someone raises a concern about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk.

A whistle-blower may be:

- a member;
- a volunteer;
- a coach;
- an official;
- a parent; or
- a member of the public.

## 3. How to raise a concern about a child or an adult at risk at the club

If a child or an adult at risk is in immediate danger or risk of harm, the police should be contacted by calling 999. Where a child or an adult at risk is not in immediate danger, any concerns about their well-being should be made without delay to the Club Welfare Officer. The Club Welfare Officer will pass the details of the concern on to the British Fencing Safeguarding Team at the earliest opportunity and the relevant local authority and the police will be contacted, where appropriate.

If, however, the whistle blower does not feel comfortable raising a concern with the Club Welfare Officer, the whistle blower should contact the British Fencing Safeguarding Team directly using information on:

<https://www.britishfencing.com/welfare-zone/report-a-concern/>

or the Local Authority Designated Officer on:

<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/safeguarding-and-child-protection/quality-assurance-and-review-service/local-authority-designated-officer>

or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/nspcc-helpline/>

## 4. Information To Include When Raising a Concern

The whistle-blower should provide as much information as possible regarding the incident or circumstance which has given rise to the concern, including:

- their name and contact details (unless they wish to remain anonymous);
- names of individuals involved;
- date, time and location of incident/circumstance; and
- whether any witnesses were present.

## 5. What Happens Next?

All concerns raised by a whistle blower about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk will be taken seriously and every effort will be made to deal with each concern fairly, quickly and proportionately.

If the whistle blower does not believe that the concern has been dealt with appropriately and wishes to speak to someone outside the club the whistle blower should contact the British Fencing Safeguarding Team directly using information on:

<https://www.britishfencing.com/welfare-zone/report-a-concern/>

or the Local Authority Designated Officer:

<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/safeguarding-and-child-protection/quality-assurance-and-review-service/local-authority-designated-officer>

or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/nspcc-helpline/>

## 6. Support

The club will not tolerate any harassment, victimisation or unfair treatment of, and will take appropriate action to protect, whistle blowers when they raise a concern in good faith.

## 7. Policy Review

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

Last Review: August 2023

Recommended revision Date: August 2024