

British Fencing Child Protection Policy adopted by Bedford Fencing Club

BFC first adopted: June 2006

BFC last review date: June 2010

1.0 POLICY

1.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of British Fencing (BF) and of every adult working within British Fencing, whether as a professional or volunteer, to ensure that all young people and vulnerable adults who participate in fencing do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.

British Fencing:

- respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of all participants
- adopt good practice in recruitment, training and supervision of all employees and volunteers
- require all staff/volunteers and members and clubs to adopt and abide by the British Fencing Codes of Ethics and Conduct and the Child Protection Policy and Procedures
- respond to any allegations and concerns appropriately, following BF's complaints
- procedure and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.

1.2 GUIDANCE & LEGISLATION

The guidance given in the procedures reflect the framework outlined in the Department of Education and Skills Health document "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006", which applies to England and Wales. In Northern Ireland (NI) the guidance is based on the Department of Health Social Services & Public Safety's document "Co-operating to Safeguard Children 2003" and in Scotland, guidelines are set by SportScotland, the Executive Agency for Sports in Scotland. The following legislation is core to all procedures within the policy.

The Children's Act 1989 and The Children's Act 2004
The Children (NI) Order 1995
The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
The Police Act 1997
The Protection of Children Act 1999
The Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003

The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000
The Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995
The Human Rights Act 1998
The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
The Data Protection Act 1994 & 1998

1.3 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

The purpose of the British Fencing Child Protection Implementation Plan is to safeguard the welfare of the participants in fencing. The Implementation plan sets out how British Fencing will work towards the “Standards for Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport”, developed by the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit and endorsed by Sport England and the Sports Minister. Allowing for legislative differences in the Home Countries, this sets out a framework for British Fencing and its affiliated bodies.

1.4 ACTIONS TAKEN BY BRITISH FENCING

British Fencing has appointed a National Child Protection Officer. The Home Countries have a designated person in place with a responsibility for child protection.

British Fencing has established a management group to monitor, review and advise on all child protection issues.

British Fencing has established a semi-independent Case Management group, which has members from Social Services, Legal, Medical and Educational backgrounds, to ensure all child protection related incidents are appropriately managed.

British Fencing maintains confidential records of all complaints, concerns and sanctions against clubs, coaches, and anyone else who acts in the name of British Fencing, whether a member of BFA or not.

British Fencing have reviewed their Child Protection policy implemented in 2001 and are committed to ensure that the reviewed policy is widely publicised in 2006.

Safety, welfare and child protection issues are included within British Fencing's coach and officials education programmes.

Best practice is extensively promoted, and coaches, officials, clubs and affiliated organisations are required to adhere to British Fencing's guidelines.

British Fencing is a Registered Body with the Criminal Records Bureau and facilitates a disclosure service on behalf of clubs and employers to prevent unsuitable people from working within the sport. In Northern Ireland the Northern Ireland Fencing Association (NIFA) is registered with the Pre-Employment Consultancy Service to facilitate a similar disclosure, and in Scotland, Scottish Fencing is able to carry out disclosures through Disclosure Scotland.

1.5 MONITORING PROCEDURES

The British Fencing Child Protection policy and procedures will be regularly monitored and a full policy review will take place tri-annually in any event, the next being in 2009. The following situations may also prompt a review of the policy:

As a result of any changes in legislation.

As a result of any changes in governance of the sport.

Following a procedural review as a result of a significant case.

1.6 ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY HOME COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

There must be policies and procedures in place in the Home Countries: it is essential that these policies comply with the standards adopted by British Fencing.

The right to take part in fencing activities in a safe environment, and stay free from harm, applies to all children and vulnerable adults across the UK. Home Countries and Regions affiliated to British Fencing will be required to:

- Adopt and implement the BF policy or a policy that complies with the standards set by BF and/or the relevant national guidance.
- Designate a responsible person with a lead responsibility for Child Protection.
- Ensure that Clubs implement Child Protection policies and procedures.
- Ensure that all competitions and events organisers implement procedures for Child Protection.
- Ensure there are relevant training opportunities for staff, coaches, officials and other volunteers.
- Inform BF of any incidents or allegations of poor practice or abuse involving BF members.