

## **Safeguarding Policy**

Ashton Fencing Club aims to encourage all members to enjoy their sport, and to develop their skills in a supportive environment. The statement below describes the club's key expectations for behaviour and the measures it will take to ensure all members participate in the best possible conditions. For safeguarding concerns the club and British Fencing considers junior members to be those aged under 18. We aim to comply with best practice as defined by British Fencing, the sport's governing body in the United Kingdom. Our coaching staff are DBS checked and must have up-to-date safeguarding qualifications and first-aid certificates. The club also elects a Welfare officer to its committee who is the first point of contact for concerns regarding safeguarding and welfare. Further information about British Fencing's welfare policy is available at their website: <https://www.britishfencing.com/policy-zone/welfare-policies-guidelines/>

## **Junior Member Responsibilities**

- Parents and carers are ultimately responsible for the safety and behaviour of junior members during club sessions.
- Ashton Fencing Club will take all reasonable measures to ensure that fencing and organized training activities during its sessions are conducted safely.
- Participants must wear the appropriate protective clothing while fencing.
- The club expects junior members to participate in training activities organised during sessions unless they are fencing or having a lesson with a coach.
- The club reserves the right to exclude any member whose behaviour is unsafe or otherwise unacceptable from an activity, from a club session, or from the club altogether. Malicious damage to club equipment or the property of the leisure centre / school will be treated with the greatest seriousness. The club will enforce a zero tolerance policy of abusive, violence, or rude behaviour towards the club coaches and other club officials resulting in exclusion from the club.
- Children not participating in fencing or other related training may only attend the club if accompanied by an adult at all times, even if they are members.
- No junior fencer aged 13 or below may attend unaccompanied by a parent/guardian/carer.
- The club's officers and coaches will oversee fencing and training activities to ensure that safety guidelines are followed and behavioural standards are maintained.
- Concerns regarding safety and the behaviour of club members should be addressed to the coaches, the welfare officer or a member of the committee.

## **Supervision of Junior Members**

- The minimum age for a fencer is 8 years.
- Any fencer aged 8 to 13 inclusive must be accompanied by a responsible adult (over 18) within the sports hall during the club session. The responsible adult must:
  - Any changes to a members health, medication, or contact information should be reported to the club immediately.
  - Be familiar with all the child's individual needs, such as medical conditions, physical limitations and emotional wellbeing.
  - Be ready to support matters of behaviour and discipline, especially in regard to safety. The coaches and committee will regularly remind club members of our rules with the Safeguarding Policy for safety and discipline. Please raise any concerns to our welfare officer, committee member or coach.
  - Be able to assist if the child requires additional help putting on the fencing equipment.
- Any fencer aged 14 to 17 inclusive may be left on site without a responsible adult present provided that:
  - At least one committee member is made aware.
  - Contact details for a responsible adult are left with a committee member or coach. This must be done in writing and be readily available to both committee and young person.
  - The drop-off and collection arrangements are made clear to both the young person and the committee member. Do not arrange a collection time after the club has closed as we cannot provide cover of any kind.

## **Collection & Late Collection**

Many parents will accompany their child to training or events and will stay for the duration of the session. Some parents will drop their child off and collect them at the end of the session. For the younger child or vulnerable adult's safety, we expect parents / guardians / carers to come into the venue. Where a child makes their own way to or from a session or event, we ask parents to give their clear consent to this happening. If we are concerned about the safety of a child going home with a parent or carer (e.g. where it is thought that a person may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and are not fit to drive). We will seek advice from the Police or social services. We know that on the odd occasion parents/guardians or carers are delayed or unable to collect their fencer from training or an event. If this happens, we expect you to contact the club as soon as possible to let us know. We would also ask that you give us clear guidance as to what arrangements you will put in place for the child or vulnerable adult to be collected. If this involves them going home with someone else, we need clear consent. The name of person collecting and some form of ID to confirm identity upon arrival for this to

happen. It is our policy never to leave someone under the age of 16 on their own. Two adults will always be at a venue until all children have left. Where a child or vulnerable adult has not been collected, after a reasonable length of time, we will do the following:

- Attempt to contact the parent/guardian/carers –using information provided on joining or renewing membership.
- Attempt to contact the emergency contact nominated.
- If there is no reply from the emergency contact, we will ask the child if there is another family member who may be contacted.
- We will wait with the young person(s) at the club with at least one other adult such as an official/coach/teacher/volunteers or parents and inform the Club's Welfare Officer about what has happened.
- If no one can be contacted, we will contact the local police / social services to enquire about the best course of action.
- Remind parents/guardians/carers of the policy relating to late collection.

Where possible we will avoid:

- Taking the child home or to another location unless there is no alternative and this has been cleared by the Club's Welfare Officer or upon advice of the police if they have been contacted.
- Asking the child to wait in a vehicle or venue on their own.
- Sending the child home with another person without permission.
- Please note that Ashton Fencing Club does not have access to any facilities associated with the leisure centre / school premises other than the sports hall, changing rooms / toilets and car park.

## **Welfare**

The safety and wellbeing of fencers is of paramount concern.

- Anyone, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin religious beliefs and/or sexual identity has the right to protection from abuse.
- If there are concerns that a fencer is being subjected to physical, emotional, sexual abuse, online abuse or is being neglected, these concerns should be raised to the club welfare officer and if not available to the designated officer on the day / night.
- Where this is not possible, or the welfare officer may not be able to handle the concerns in an impartial way, the issues should be raised to the club chairman.
- Where this is not possible, or the welfare officer and the club chairman may not be able to handle the concerns in an impartial way, the issue should be raised

with the British Fencing Safeguarding Hotline on 07526 003030 or email [equality@britishfencing.com](mailto:equality@britishfencing.com).

- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

**Club Welfare Officer**

The current club Welfare Officer is Andrew Haresceugh. The club chair Barry Massey can also be approached. Please email [welfare@ashtonfencingclub.uk](mailto:welfare@ashtonfencingclub.uk) or talk in person at the club.

**Photographs or Video (Parents and Children)**

Ashton Fencing Club recognises the need to ensure the welfare and safety of all young people in sport. In accordance with our safeguarding policy we will not permit photographs, video or other images of young people to be taken without the consent of the parents/carers and children. The club will follow the guidance for the use of photographs a copy of which is available from British Fencing. The club will take all steps to ensure these images are used solely for the purposes they are intended. If you become aware that these images are being used inappropriately you should inform Ashton Fencing Club immediately.

**Consent Form**

I (parent/carer) consent to Ashton Fencing Club photographing or videoing my child's involvement in fencing.

Name of Child:

Name of Parent:

Date: