

1. Purpose

This Respect Policy exists to ensure that all members, coaches, parents/guardians, and visitors enjoy a safe, supportive, and sportsmanlike environment. Fencing is a discipline built on honour, respect, and self-control. Our club upholds these principles on and off the piste.

2. Core Principles

- Sportsmanship: Treat opponents, teammates, coaches, and officials with fairness and courtesy.
- Safety and Discipline: Follow all safety rules, equipment standards, and instructions from coaches.
- Inclusivity: Welcome fencers of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- Community: Help foster a positive and encouraging atmosphere.

3. Expected Behaviour

All members are expected to:

- Address others respectfully and use appropriate language at all times.
- Show good sportsmanship in victory and defeat (shake hands, offer thanks, avoid negative gestures or remarks).
- Listen to coaches, referees, and staff and follow directions promptly.
- Keep training spaces clean, organized, and safe.
- Respect others' equipment and personal space.
- Encourage fellow fencers and contribute to a supportive environment.
- Arrive on-time, prepared, focused, and ready to train responsibly.

4. Unacceptable Behaviour

The following are not tolerated:

- Disrespectful or aggressive behaviour toward fencers, coaches, club officials, or parents/guardians.
- Harassment, bullying, mocking, or targeted exclusion.
- Unsafe fencing practices, reckless actions, or refusal to follow safety instructions.
- Damaging or misusing club equipment.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct. Taunting, yelling at officials, throwing equipment, etc.

- Discrimination based on race, gender, age, experience level, or any personal characteristic.

5. Reporting and Response

- Any member who experiences or witnesses inappropriate behaviour is encouraged to report it to the club welfare officer or any club official.
- All reports will be taken seriously and addressed promptly and confidentially.
- Consequences for violating this policy may include verbal warnings, suspension from training, parental involvement (for youth members), or removal from the club, depending on severity.

6. Commitment to the Spirit of Fencing

By joining this Ashton Fencing Club, all members agree to uphold:

- Respect for the sport
- Respect for others
- Respect for themselves

These values reflect the long-standing tradition of fencing as a discipline of honour, focus, and mutual respect.