

Codes of Conduct

Reading Fencing Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members. The Club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators, and parents/carers associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the Club with its committee.

Members of Reading Fencing Club, of all ages, are expected to abide by the following Member's Code of Conduct:

- All members must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs, ethnicity, or sexual identity.
- All participating members must wear full fencing kit – including 350N jacket, under-plastron, breeches and mask, as well as fencing socks and glove – at all times, as defined by British Fencing.
- Ensure that any membership fees are paid promptly.

For Parents & Carers

- Encourage your child to learn the rules of fencing and play by them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with others at the Club.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Encourage fun and never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and praising good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.

For Coaches, Officials and Volunteers

- In addition to the above rules of conduct, Coaches, Officials, and Volunteers must
- Consider the well-being and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with the participants, based on mutual trust, honesty, and respect.
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Promote good behaviour and the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play).
- Not criticise refereeing decisions to competitors or spectators.
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the BFA, England Fencing, and the Club.
- Hold appropriate valid qualifications and insurance cover.
- Never exert undue influence over participants to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play, bad language, or the use of prohibited substances.
- Work within their own competency and qualifications.
- Should strive to be positive role models, working within British Fencing guidance displaying high standards of personal behaviour.
- Coaches have a responsibility to develop, in partnership with all fencers, clear expectations both on and off the piste.
- Respect the fencer's need for confidentiality.
- Encourage participants to value their performance and not just results.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Always be alert for incidents of bullying or inappropriate behaviour.

For Coaches, Officials and Volunteers

- In addition to the above rules of conduct, Coaches, Officials, and Volunteers must not
- Vacate the venue until the supervision of the safe dispersal of all the fencers is complete.
- Spend excessive amounts of time with individual fencers away from others.
- Bully a child either physically or verbally, nor reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Make sexually suggestive remarks to a young/vulnerable fencer – even in fun.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Embarrass, humiliate or undermine any individual or cause them to lose self esteem.
- Abuse the position of power or trust in any way.
- Fail to record any incident in line with British Fencing guidelines

For Young People

- Respect the sport!
- Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance.
- Always thank your opponents, coaches, referees, and officials after every competition or training session.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, with dignity and set a positive example to others.
- Respect Others!
- Referees, officials, coaches, opponents and spectators should be valued and respected.
- Respect the decisions of umpires and officials
- Protect others involved in the sport from verbal or physical abuse and other forms of threatening or intimidating behaviour such as bullying.