



ABINGDON FENCING CLUB

Safeguarding Policy

Abingdon Fencing Club aims to encourage younger members and vulnerable adults 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 junior members / vulnerable adults to participate in the best possible conditions. The club 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 coaches 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.

Our welfare officer may be contacted by emailing welfare@Abingdonfencing.org.uk and is identified on our [Home](#) page

Further information about British Fencing's welfare policy is available at their website: <http://www.britishfencing.com/governance/welfare/>.

Junior Member Responsibilities

- Parents and carers are ultimately responsible for the safety and behaviour of junior members during club sessions.
- Abingdon 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 organized during sessions.
- 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 school will be treated with the greatest seriousness.
- 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.
- 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.

- We require the parent / carer to be familiar with all the child's individual needs, such as medical conditions, physical limitations and emotional wellbeing, which is provided at signup to attend the junior class and should be reviewed termly on renewal of attendance at the class.

- We require parents / carers to attend promptly at the end of the session to collect the young person(s). Parents / carers do not need to stay for the session, but they are welcomed to stay if they wish.
- 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 for safety and discipline. Please raise any concerns to our welfare officer, committee member or coach.
- 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 our coach / 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. Please can parents / carers collect their young person from the hall or advise if you are happy for them to meet you outside if you feel they are old enough.

Please note that AFC does not have access to any facilities associated with the school premises other than the sports hall for access to the Gym, changing room outside of the Gym and the Toilet / Showers located on the Balcony and the 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 or sexual abuse or is being neglected, these concerns should be raised to the club welfare officer.
- 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 .
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.