

BRITISH FENCING

MEMBERSHIP

CATEGORIES AND
BENEFITS

**HONESTY
RESPECT
EXCELLENCE**

MEMBERSHIP: CATEGORIES AND BENEFITS

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1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of all the membership categories available to become a British Fencing member.

2. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

2.1 *INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES*

There are five categories of individual membership available.

1. Introduction

A 90-day free trial membership for brand new members that are starting, or have recently started, a beginner's course at an affiliated British Fencing club.

2. Starter

For newcomers to the sport, irrespective of whether they ultimately intend to compete or simply just enjoy a recreational form of fencing.

3. Recreational

For people who want to fence in a club, participate in inter-club matches, but do not want to compete in conventional fencing competitions.

4. Compete

For people that want to compete.

5. Supporter

For volunteers, fans, supporters and parents.

2.2 *OTHER MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES*

For clubs there will be a separate club membership available. All clubs will need to affiliate to British Fencing and have a valid club membership to benefit from club public liability insurance and any discounts offered via British Fencing or the Home Countries for the registration of members. In order for members to represent a club in an event, the club must be affiliated.

3. SUMMARY BENEFITS

3.1 FENCERS

	Introduction	Starter	Recreational	Compete
<i>Purpose</i>	90-day free trial during beginner's course at Club / School (C/S)	Introductory, Entry Level for C/S.	Basic Recreational for Fencers in Clubs & Schools	For fencers competing
<i>Insurance 3rd party liability /personal accident</i>	Fence only at the C/S selected as 'primary' on the membership. Not covered to fence at any other club. Not covered to fence abroad.	Fence at any C/S session, friendly inter C/S matches held in member C/S's. Not covered to fence abroad.	Same as starter.	As for Recreational plus Regional /County /National training and competitive events Covered to fence abroad.
<i>Events Included</i>	Only fence at intra C/S competition. Upgrade membership type for inter C/S events.	BF & HC Nominated Recreational Events	Same as starter	Unlimited Category Competitions
<i>Maximum Renewal Availability</i>	Non-renewable.	Plastic – unlimited renewals Metal - U18: 2 years (one renewal), 18+: 1 year (no renewal)	Unlimited renewals	Unlimited renewals
<i>Sword</i>	Online Only.	Online Only	Online + 1 Hard Copy/year	Online + 1 Hard Copy/year
<i>'Upgrade' to</i>	Starter, Recreational, Compete.	Recreational/Compete	Compete	N/A
<i>'Downgrade' to</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Recreational
<i>Voting Rights</i>	N/A	18+ only	18+ only	18+ only
<i>Cost From</i>	£0	U18 £10.80 18+ £16.65	U18 £16.65 18+ £26.10	Full £51.75 U20 £38.25 U14 £29.70

The 'Voting Rights' above refer to voting in the BF AGM and elections – for information on the Home Country voting rights conferred on each category please visit the relevant Home Country website.

The prices shown include the maximum discounts which are available online through direct debit/auto renewal or through affiliated clubs and coaches.

3.2 NON-FENCERS/VOLUNTEERS

If you do not actually participate in fencing, there is a category of membership called 'Support' which gives you the insurance benefits of public liability and personal accident. This ensures that you are personally covered for the typical volunteer activities that are undertaken in fencing (parents, armourers, referees, club welfare officers etc.) whether you perform them on behalf of yourself, your section, your region, your club or competition.

This membership category has access to online copies of the Sword but will **not be entitled to vote at the BF AGM**. For information on the Home Country voting rights conferred on each category please visit the Home Country website. The cost of this membership is £13.50/year for adults, £10.80/year for U18s (prices shown include 10% discount for auto renewal).

The standard Membership (whether Introduction/Support/Starter/Recreational/Compete) does not include liability insurance cover if you are operating in a professional capacity – e.g. coaching or refereeing for payment. To benefit from this, you must be on the relevant BF register to be fully covered. There may be an additional charge in some cases for this registration. For more information please contact headoffice@britishfencing.com.

4. INTRODUCTION CATEGORY

	INTRODUCTION
<i>Purpose</i>	Free 90-day trial membership for new members registered on a beginner's course at a registered club.
<i>Insurance 3rd party liability /personal accident</i>	<p>Personal accident (cover ceases at 80 and is limited for U16) & civil liability insurance cover (there is no age limit in respect of the Public/Civil Liability cover for members).</p> <p>When fencing at only the Club or School session or intra Club or School matches.</p> <p>Not covered to fence at any other club or school or inter Club or School competition.</p> <p>Not covered to fence abroad.</p>
<i>Events Included</i>	<p>All plastic events including competitions</p> <p>Internal competitions at the primary selected Club or School only.</p>
<i>Maximum Renewal Availability</i>	Non-renewable.
<i>Sword</i>	Access to online copy of the Sword Magazine
<i>'Upgrade' to</i>	Starter/Recreational/Compete
<i>'Downgrade' to</i>	N/A
<i>Voting Rights</i>	N/A
<i>Cost From</i>	£0
<i>Other Notes</i>	<p>Valid for 90 days.</p> <p>New members only.</p> <p>Upgrade to starter or above to fence at inter club competitions.</p>

5. STARTER CATEGORY

	STARTER
<i>Purpose</i>	Introductory, Entry Level for Clubs & Schools. Covers all plastic fencing.
<i>Insurance 3rd party liability /personal accident</i>	Personal accident (cover ceases at 80 and is limited for U16) & civil liability insurance cover (there is no age limit in respect of the Public/Civil Liability cover for members). When fencing at any Club or School session, friendly inter Club or School matches held in Clubs or Schools, at demonstrations or public displays or similar promotional events. Not covered to fence abroad.
<i>Events Included</i>	All plastic events including competitions BF & HC Nominated Recreational Events Subject to age restrictions and any restrictions imposed by the event organiser.
<i>Maximum Renewal Availability</i>	Plastic – unlimited annual renewals Metal - U18: 2 years, 18+: 1 year
<i>Sword</i>	Access to online copy of the Sword Magazine
<i>'Upgrade' to</i>	Recreational/Compete
<i>'Downgrade' to</i>	N/A
<i>Voting Rights</i>	18 & over only: Notices of general meetings, right to vote at BF General Meetings and right to vote in ballots for election of BF directors.
<i>Cost From</i>	U18 £10.80 18+ £16.65 (Prices shown include 10% discount for auto renewal)
<i>Other Notes</i>	If applying for an Under 18 Starter memberships with BF you must be under 18 on the date of application.

6. RECREATIONAL CATEGORY

	RECREATIONAL
<i>Purpose</i>	Basic Recreational for Fencers in Clubs & Schools
<i>Insurance 3rd party liability /personal accident</i>	<p>Personal accident (cover ceases at 80 and is limited for U16) & civil liability insurance cover (there is no age limit in respect of the Public/Civil Liability cover for members).</p> <p>When fencing at any Club or School session, friendly inter Club or School matches held in Clubs or Schools, at demonstrations or public displays or similar promotional events.</p> <p>Not covered to fence abroad.</p>
<i>Events Included</i>	<p>BF & HC Nominated Recreational Events</p> <p>Subject to age restrictions and any restrictions imposed by the event organiser.</p>
<i>Sword</i>	Access to online copy of the Sword Magazine and 1 hard copy per year. Entitlement to purchase additional hard copies.
<i>'Upgrade' to</i>	Compete
<i>'Downgrade' to</i>	N/A
<i>Voting Rights</i>	18 & over only: Notices of general meetings, right to vote at BF General Meetings and right to vote in ballots for election of BF directors.
<i>Cost From</i>	<p>U18 £16.65 18+ £26.10 (Prices shown include 10% discount for auto renewal)</p>
<i>Other Notes</i>	If applying for an Under 18 Recreational membership with BF you must be under 18 on the date of application.

7. COMPETE CATEGORY

	COMPETE
<i>Purpose</i>	For fencers competing
<i>Insurance 3rd party liability /personal accident</i>	<p>Personal accident (cover ceases at 80 and is limited for U16) & civil liability insurance cover (there is no age limit in respect of the Public/Civil Liability cover for members).</p> <p>When fencing at any Club or School session, friendly inter Club or School matches held in Clubs or Schools, at demonstrations or public displays or similar promotional events, plus Regional/County/National training and competitive events</p> <p>Covered to fence abroad.</p>
<i>Events Included</i>	<p>Unlimited Category Competitions and Recreational Events</p> <p>Subject to age restrictions and any restrictions imposed by the event organiser. Please note the additional BF minimum age rules for senior, junior (U20) and cadet (U17) events.</p>
<i>Sword</i>	Access to online copy of the Sword Magazine and 1 hard copy per year. Entitlement to purchase additional hard copies.
<i>'Upgrade' to</i>	N/A
<i>'Downgrade' to</i>	Recreational
<i>Voting Rights</i>	18 & over only: Notices of general meetings, right to vote at BF General Meetings and right to vote in ballots for election of BF directors.
<i>Cost From</i>	<p>Full £51.75 U20 £38.25 U14 £29.70 (Prices shown include 10% discount for auto renewal)</p>
<i>Other Notes</i>	See age restrictions below

7.1 BF AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR UNDER 14 AND UNDER 20 MEMBERSHIP

If applying for an Under 14 or Under 20 memberships with BF, fencers must be under 14 or 20 on the date of application.

7.1.1 UNDER 13S

With effect from the 2018/19 season, fencers must have reached their 13th birthday before they may apply for an FIE licence.

From 1st January 2018, fencers must be at least 13 on the day of the event to compete in a junior or senior competition in the UK.

7.1.2 MINIMUM AGE FOR CADET (U17) EVENTS

The European Fencing Confederation requires a fencer to be 11 on 1st January in order to compete in any EFC Cadet Circuit events in that calendar year. The same rule applies to all UK cadet events.

8. CLUB MEMBERSHIP

All fencing clubs in Britain must affiliate to British Fencing. Benefits for the clubs include:

- a) Public Liability (typically a pre-condition of venue hire)
- b) Fencers may affiliate to the club and represent the club in BF/HC competitions
- c) Beginner fencers can participate in single taster sessions run by the club of up to 3 hours.
- d) Fencers participating in a registered clubs beginner courses have access to the free Introduction category. Individuals must have this membership type to receive the benefits outlined in section 3 throughout their beginner course.
- e) Bulk registration of members, with discounts of up to 10% on membership fees even if auto renewal is not used.
- f) Support for grant applications (typically NGBs are required to endorse applications for local public funding – a pre-condition to this is that the club is a member of the NGB)

Clubs are expected to encourage all fencers participating in a club to hold individual membership of BF. Individual non-members, even if they are fencing in member clubs or under the instruction of registered coaches are NOT afforded the insurance benefits of members except in specific circumstances.

8.1 COST

Registration for club membership of British Fencing costs from £40 if the club signs up to auto renewal, £45 non-auto renewal, there is an additional £5 charge for both options for clubs that affiliate to Northern Ireland).