



## BRITISH FENCING

# BRITISH FENCING CODE OF CONDUCT: ATHLETES YOUTH EVENTS

### 1. SCOPE

All athletes attending any session of or event managed by British Fencing (BF), such as the National Academy (NA) or Great Britain (GBR) Squads and Teams, must read and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. A summary of this Code is available under Appendix 1. The acknowledgement sheet must be signed and returned to British Fencing Head Office **prior to the first event you attend.** This makes clear that they the athlete, and for those under 18 at the date of signature, their parent or legal guardian, understand it and agree to abide by it. All athletes (and parents/guardians where required) must sign this code of conduct before the athlete will be permitted to attend any event.

This Code covers all GBR or NA events or activities or events carried out under the auspices of BF. This Code is to be read in conjunction with: Penalties: Youth Events, and, British Fencing's Child Protection Policy. These documents may be revised from time to time and current, dated versions are available on the BF website. **This code of Conduct is in addition to any other code of Conduct that British Fencing has in place.**

### 2. GENERAL

Staff/officials will be in place to guide and supervise athletes, and athletes are required to abide by and respect their authority at all times.

For the avoidance of any doubt:

- The event starts when the athlete joins the activity at the specified time at the specified place (EP = Entry Point), and likewise ends when the athlete leaves the activity at the specified time and/or place (DP=Departure Point).
- Staff/officials are persons appointed by the National Academy/BF for the purpose of the session/event in particular and for the National Academy generally, and will be responsible for the welfare of the athletes, who will be made aware of who is responsible for their care at every change.

### 3. CONDUCT

All athletes are expected to act in a responsible and respectful manner appropriate to membership of a NA or GBR Squad/Team – be it to each other, Team Officials or any other people. Athletes are reminded that selection for NA or GBR carries with it a responsibility to the sport: athletes are expected to be positive ambassadors for the sport at all times. Your conduct reflects not only on yourself but also on fencing as a whole.

Whilst taking part in National Academy/GBR activities, all athletes are expected to support each other, unless in direct competition.

### 4. CURFEW – Residential Sessions/events

All athletes must be in their rooms at the specified curfew time unless instructed or permitted otherwise by the relevant official.

### 5. ATTENDANCE

Attendance at sessions throughout the event as defined by the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe, is compulsory except when there are exceptional circumstances such as illness, which must be reported to the relevant official as soon as possible. The decision of the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe as to whether or not such circumstances are accepted is final.

## **6. PUNCTUALITY**

Every athlete must be punctual. Lateness will not be tolerated as it disrupts the smooth and efficient running of the activity, and is unfair on those members of the Academy/squad/team who make the effort to be on time. Exceptional circumstances must be reported to the relevant member of staff, and the decision of the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe on such circumstances is final.

## **7. BULLYING**

This will not be tolerated in any form, whether physical, psychological or verbal, or by anybody. Any athlete who believes s/he has been subjected to or has seen anyone else being subjected to bullying must inform a member of the staff as soon as possible, whether the bullying is by a fellow athlete or member of staff. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected.

## **8. EQUITY and DISCRIMINATION**

All athletes and officials are required to respect the rights of every person, regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, cultural background or political affiliation. Discrimination will not be tolerated in any form or by anybody. Any athlete who believes s/he or any other athlete or member of staff has suffered from discrimination is required to inform a BF official as soon as possible. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected.

## **9. ALCOHOL**

Neither athletes nor members of staff are permitted to drink or be in possession of alcohol at any point during the event, whether on or off campus, under any circumstances during the period of the event. Any athlete who believes that another athlete or Official is in breach of this term of the Code is required to inform the Chef de Mission/Chef d'Equipe as soon as possible. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected.

## **10. SMOKING**

Athletes are not permitted to smoke or be in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or similar substances at any point during the training camp/event under any circumstances. Any athlete who believes that another athlete or member of staff is in breach of this term of the Code is required to inform a BF official as soon as possible. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected.

## **11. DRUG USE/MEDICATION**

Athletes are permitted to take prescribed drugs during the course of the event, but this must be declared on the Statement of Fitness to participate handed in at the beginning of the activity. Self medication with analgesics/paracetamol etc is to be declared to the Chef de Mission/Chef d'Equipe. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS THE TAKING OF ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE OF ANY CATEGORY PERMISSIBLE AT ANY POINT OF TIME AT ANY TRAINING ACTIVITY OR EVENT.** Any athlete who recognises or has reasonable cause to consider that any fellow athlete or staff member may be or is in possession of any illegal substance, is required to inform a BF official as soon as possible. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected.

**Athletes are reminded on the requirements of WADA and their responsibilities under UKAD.** For further information view: [www.100%ME.org.uk](http://www.100%ME.org.uk).

## **12. GAMBLING**

Under no circumstances is gambling allowed during the course of the training activity/event. Any athlete who recognises or has reasonable cause to believe that any fellow athlete or staff member may be or has breached this section of the code is required to inform a BF official as soon as possible. Wherever possible, confidentiality will be respected.

## **13. MOBILE PHONES**

Mobile phones are allowed at the training activity/event, however, athletes are expected to behave appropriately and turn off mobile phones as directed by an official or when circumstances dictate (e.g.

in any meetings, during any training session, during competition). Phones will be confiscated if they are used in an intrusive or inconsiderate way at any time during the event.

#### **14. ACCOMMODATION/VENUE –Residential Sessions/events**

Accommodation will be allocated by the Lead Team Manager and must be used accordingly. Athletes must not cause any damage; it is the responsibility of the athlete to pay for any damage caused by him/her to facilities or possessions.

Athletes will not be allowed off campus unless accompanied by an official for a specific purpose

#### **15. PERSONAL APPEARANCE**

All athletes are expected to wear appropriate kit at all times. The wearing of British Fencing Great Britain tracksuits is NOT ALLOWED at any time on BF squad trips or National Academy training activities, and relevant kit is to be worn at all designated times at designated events. Requests by any BF official to change inappropriate clothing must be complied with.

#### **16. ANTI DOPING**

Athletes must comply with the World Anti- Doping Code. Anti-doping remains the responsibility of the individual and all athletes are expected to make themselves aware of current anti-doping regulations. Further information can be found at <http://www.100percentme.co.uk>.

#### **17. BRINGING PEOPLE/BRITISH FENCING INTO DISREPUTE**

All athletes are expected to use all forms of communication including social networking sites and texting, in a sensible and respectful manner at all times, and in particular regarding their fellow athletes, appointed staff, British Fencing generally and the National Academy particularly, especially during any training sessions or events.

#### **18. DUTY REGARDING BREACHES OR POTENTIAL BREACHES OF CODES**

All athletes and BF officials are required to report any actual or suspected breach of this or any other BF code or guidance to the Chef d'equipe, or the most appropriate BF official on site, which will then be reported to BF HQ.

If it subsequently comes to light that an actual or suspected breach of the relevant codes has not been reported, or that an athlete or member of staff declines to co operate with any inquiry or investigation, this will in itself be considered a breach of the code(s) and will be subject to any disciplinary action as considered appropriate.

#### **19. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Anyone wishing to make a complaint about any person acting in the capacity of Official within the context of this code must follow the following procedure:

- Report the matter to the Chef d' Equipe (or the most appropriate BF official on site if the Chef is the focus of the concern).
- Report the matter to British Fencing Head Office if the matter is a general grievance or disciplinary matter. Disciplinary Rules and General Grievance Rules are available on [www.britishfencing.com](http://www.britishfencing.com).
- If the matter concerns a minor you must contact the British Fencing HQ or Welfare Officer.

#### **20. ITEMS NOT COVERED**

British Fencing and/ or its nominated lead officials have the right to make additions to this code of conduct and to take decisions on any matters not covered. Athletes will be kept informed of any changes.

#### **21. DISCIPLINARY CODE AND SANCTIONS**

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in the application of the British Fencing Youth Events Penalties.

## APPENDIX 1: Summary of British Fencing's Code of Conduct Athlete Youth Events

- **GENERAL:** Athletes agree to accept the authority of the Chef de Mission/Equipe for the duration of the session/trip.
- **CONDUCT:** All athletes are expected to act in a responsible and respectful manner appropriate to membership of a NA or GBR Squad/Team be it to each other, Team Officials or any other people
- **CURFEW:** All athletes must be in their rooms at the specified curfew time.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Attendance at sessions throughout the event as defined by the Chef de Mission/d'Equipe, is compulsory
- **PUNCTUALITY:** Every athlete must be punctual.
- **BULLYING:** This will not be tolerated in any form, whether physical, psychological or verbal, or by anybody.
- **EQUITY and DISCRIMINATION:** All athletes and officials are required to respect the rights of every person, regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, cultural background or political affiliation.
- **ALCOHOL:** Neither athletes nor members of staff are permitted to drink or be in possession of alcohol at any point during the event.
- **SMOKING:** Athletes are not permitted to smoke or be in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or similar substances at any point during the training camp/event under any circumstances.
- **DRUG USE/MEDICATION**  
Athletes are permitted to take prescribed drugs during the course of the event, but this must be declared on the Statement of Fitness to participate handed in at the beginning of the activity.
- **GAMBLING**  
Under no circumstances is gambling allowed during the course of the training activity/event.
- **MOBILE PHONES**  
Mobile phones are allowed at the training activity/event; however, athletes are expected to behave appropriately.
- **ACCOMMODATION/VENUE –Residential Sessions/events**  
Accommodation will be allocated by the Lead Team Manager and must be used accordingly.
- **PERSONAL APPEARANCE**  
All athletes are required to wear appropriate kit at all times.
- **ANTI DOPING**  
Athletes must comply with the World Anti- Doping Code.
- **BRINGING PEOPLE/BRITISH FENCING INTO DISREPUTE**  
All athletes are expected to use all forms of communication including social networking sites and texting, in a sensible and respectful manner at all times.
- **DUTY REGARDING BREACHES OR POTENTIAL BREACHES OF CODES**  
All athletes and BF officials are required to report any actual or suspected breach of this or any other BF code or guidance to the Chef d'Equipe, or the most appropriate BF official on site.

- **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Anyone wishing to make a complaint about any person acting in the capacity of Official within the context of this code must follow the procedure.