

GBR PRACTICAL SECURITY GUIDELINES - UPDATE

Last Updated: 11th November 2017

1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document is intended to provide a summary of the **additional** BF security advice issued in light of the recent global events. This document is not intended to be a replacement to all the usual personal and group safety and security measures previously communicated by BF and those that any normal person would take on travelling abroad. This document is particularly aimed at anyone travelling as part of BF GBR representational squads, but the advice is also relevant to athletes, coaches and officials travelling independently whether to competitions or training.

2. INITIAL COMMUNICATION

This document will be published on the BF website and initially sent to all athletes age 16 and over in the top 20 of the Senior Rankings. BF will conduct a series of face to face meetings with athletes 16 (or reaching 16 in the season) and over as part of the GBR Talent Programme, any pre-Euro and Pre-Worlds training camp (Cadet/Junior/Senior) and other ad-hoc opportunities as they arise.

BF will brief all Lead Performance Team Managers (LPTM) and LPTMs will in turn brief PTMs. Senior Weapon Managers will also receive a briefing.

The document will also be sent to GBR international officials (including referees, IR postholders and coaches).

Parents/Guardians of U16 athletes are responsible for communicating these guidelines appropriately to the athletes they are responsible for.

3. THREAT LEVEL

- Threat Levels in the UK and across Europe may change.
- For the latest UK threat updates refer to <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>.
- Check the FCO website before travel - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.
- In many European cities you will see armed police and military at key locations – they are there for your safety.
- There is no intelligence to suggest that fencing competitions are specifically at risk but athletes should be prepared for additional security measures that may be in place by tournament organisers. These may vary depending on local needs.

4. ADDITIONAL ADVICE

- REMAIN ANONYMOUS
- COMPLY WITH ADDITIONAL SECURITY PROCEDURES

- RUN, HIDE, TELL

4.1 REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Keeping a low profile will reduce the risk of getting caught up in situations.

Do not travel in obviously GBR branded tracksuits or clothing - only to be worn at the venue, or when using official competition transport, or when at official competition hotel.

Cover GBR/British/Military logos, flags (Union jack, Home Country flags) and BF logos on bags (except in official competition transport/venue/hotel). Consider using less obviously 'British' (fencing) bags/luggage if journeys involve public transport.

Aside from the team kit considerations continue to take sensible precautions to avoid drawing unwelcome attention including avoiding very busy, tourist areas, especially at night, not wearing clothing that is flashy, expensive or attracts attention, keeping your personal belongings close at all times and staying together in small groups.

4.2 COMPLY WITH LOCAL/SITUATIONAL SECURITY PROCEDURES

In some countries and in some locations there will be an increased security presence. You may see additional armed presence in airports and in train stations for example. Please follow the instructions of these officers at all times and act in a cooperative and helpful manner. Remember that these people have a job to do, often under stressful conditions and understandably will have limited tolerance for behaviour that makes their jobs harder.

BF Team Managers will also be given additional training where necessary, and at times will provide squad members with additional advice or instructions before or during specific competitions and events.

4.3 RUN, HIDE, TELL

In the highly unlikely situation that you are caught up in an incident follow the 'Run', 'Hide', 'Tell' protocols. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3y51Vd4kJ4>

If confronted with a situation do not panic.

Remember, an attack is extremely rare...

It is advisable to download the Citizen Aid app which contains further useful information:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/citizenaid/id1184553467?mt=8>

RUN

Run to a place of safety. Do not stay to collect personal belongings, keep low and try to stay out of sight. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go..

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HIDE

It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone off (or to silent and turn off vibrate). Barricade yourself in if you can and stay away from the doors and windows. Stay low, keep quiet and switch lights off. Then finally and only when it is safe to do so..

TELL

Call the Emergency Services. Make sure you know the number for the country you are in.

AND REMEMBER:

- Comply with all instructions from Police or Military.
- Keep low.
- Try to keep calm, focused and alert.
- Stay together.
- Remember – these attacks are extremely rare.

Finally, make sure your contact details in the membership platform at British Fencing are up-to-date. In the event of an incident we will use these details to try to contact you.

If you have any questions about this advice please contact headoffice@britishfencing.com.