

RETURN TO FENCING - ADVICE TO MEMBERS AS CLUBS RE-OPEN - ENGLAND

Last Updated: 20th August 2020

Club Guidelines

Your fencing club will have a variety of guidelines under which to operate - from local government, public health authorities, British Fencing, Home Nation Fencing bodies, and venues.

These guidelines directly affect individual fencers but the list is not exhaustive and is subject to change.

Your club will have a COVID-19 Officer in place for the club and for each session, responsible for ensuring that the COVID-19 mitigation strategies are being followed. They will be your primary point of contact for any COVID-19 related concerns and questions.

Please listen to and follow any COVID-19 measures as required by those in charge of the club. You will probably need to attend club briefings (possibly online) to become familiar with specific risk mitigation measures for your club. Your patience and cooperation at all times is appreciated. Please work with your club officials and coaches to keep our sport safe.

Your club will be required to keep a record of attendance at all sessions for the purposes of contact tracing should that be necessary. There will be some form of (ideally electronic) pre-attendance survey - we ask for your cooperation and diligence in completing this for every session you attend.

Your club will provide GDPR information about this data.

The Activity

Club activity will feel very different as your usual activities will either be adapted or limited in line with all relevant guidance. As more fencing specific activities are approved over time, there will probably be additional time limits, rule adaptations and equipment requirements. It is the responsibility of the BF registered coach and the COVID-19 Officer to ensure that the session activities are in line with Government/Venue/BF/Home Nation guidance. We would ask all members (and parents) to follow their instructions carefully.

For the foreseeable future there will be:

- Restrictions on the numbers in a session/venue

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- Restrictions on the activities – limitations on types of fencing moves, length of time, number of bouts, intensity levels.
- Strict protocols for moving around the space to ensure social distancing where at all possible
- Limitations on spectators and in many cases parents/spectators will not be able to attend sessions
- Alterations to timetables to avoid congestion on arrival/departure.

Welfare Officers and protocols will be in place to ensure all safeguarding obligations are met.

The Equipment

It is extremely important that you keep your clothing and equipment clean, avoid sharing during sessions where possible and follow sanitising procedures before and after touching shared surfaces.

- Familiarise yourself with the equipment cleaning protocols published by BF
- Use your own equipment whenever possible and bring only what you need for the session
- Wash your clothes and clean your equipment between each session
- Do not share items of personal clothing and equipment including fencing masks, face coverings, jackets, plastrons, breeches, or gloves during a session
- If sharing body-wires or weapons, the person who used them last should disinfect them thoroughly before passing them to the next user
- If you use club equipment, your club will have protocols in place for this. We ask for your cooperation and patience in these matters
- Fencers using club equipment are expected to follow all instructions regarding maintaining and cleaning it
- If at all possible, arrive in clean sports clothing ready to train to avoid using changing facilities. Changing facilities may not always be available

Health and hygiene

It is important that all our members are conscientious and honest about their own health and hygiene at all times. To that end, please ensure that you:

- Do not attend a session if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or if you have experienced any in the last 14 days, and follow NHS guidance
- Do not attend a session if in the past 14 days you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19
- Inform the club if, having attended a session in the past 14 days, you subsequently develop any COVID-19 symptoms or receive a positive COVID-19 test.
- Disinfect your hands when you enter the club. Please bring your own hand sanitiser to be used frequently, and importantly before and after touching shared surfaces. Your club/venue will also be providing hand sanitisers
- Avoid physical contact with others (the requirement for shaking hands after a match has been suspended at all levels of fencing for the foreseeable future)

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- Observe latest social distancing advice when not fencing, and when fencing follow the
- Avoid congregating – for example please do not arrive early and leave promptly at the end. No queues at the end of pistes (once sparring is permitted)
- Please leave enough spacing between all the bags allowing for social distancing when accessing them
- Do not bring unnecessary levels of equipment/personal belongings
- Good respiratory hygiene is essential, covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and immediately disposing of tissues
- No sharing of food or drinks. Please bring your own filled water bottle. Note that venues may not have operating refill stations
- Face coverings should be worn where practically possible (low intensity activity, walking around the salle). When higher intensity fencing activity is permitted and face coverings are not practically possible, fencing mask liners should be used.

Membership

You will be expected to join British Fencing – for new fencers/members there is a free 90-day introduction membership available.

There are many reasons for joining BF, but one important one is insurance. Affiliated clubs are only insured to deliver to members. Joining BF also provides you personally with a level of personal accident and public liability cover which is not typically included in standalone club or business insurance. For this reason it is also important that anyone operating in a club official capacity is also a member (there is a specific Supporter category membership designed for this).

A second important reason is that BF & the Home Nation Fencing Associations may need to contact you – for example to help with contact tracing and/or dissemination of COVID-19 information.

Finally, by being a member you are helping to keep the future of our sport safe. BF and the Home Nation Associations are working to ensure that our clubs and coaches have the information and resources they need to open safely and operate within government guidance, and your membership enables this to happen. We are a small sport with limited funds so your support makes a real difference.