

DRAFT BRITISH FENCING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

For consultation

Sept 2021

1. BACKGROUND

Sport has an important voice, and it is now widely accepted that this should be used responsibly to protect the environment and hence the future of all living things.

In Sept 2019, the BF Board agreed the need for a new policy. Since then, the Covid19 pandemic has affected all activities but has also highlighted the urgent need for action.

Changes to implement the policy to make BF and the sport of fencing in the UK environmentally responsible are not all going to be easy so it will be essential to engage as many fencing participants as possible. We are a relatively small sport but if every member, especially those who are already passionate environmentalists, joins in and influences others around them we can have some impact.

2. OVERALL POLICY

It is the policy of British Fencing to:

- Manage its business in a manner that reduces the impact of its activities on the environment, including reducing its carbon footprint
- Raise awareness of collective and individual responsibility by setting a good example for NGBs and encouraging all fencing participants to make effective changes themselves.
- Consider the wider environmental impact of spending decisions
- Conform to and where possible exceed minimum legal requirements for reducing adverse environmental impacts
- Commit to a choice of products and suppliers, within legal and financial constraints, which do not have negative environmental impacts
- Avoid the use of environmentally damaging and hazardous materials
- Minimise waste through sensible purchasing, reduced consumption and the adoption of efficient waste management and recycling methods following the principles of **Refuse Reduce Reuse Refill Repair Recycle**
- Adopt policies to reduce the environmental impact of travel
- Ensure that this policy is communicated to all staff and all BF members

3. BF LEADERSHIP

BF believe that we should provide leadership to the fencing community around the environmentally impact of our sport. We will appoint an existing director as Sustainability Champion on the Board to lead this effort.

The Board will review this policy annually.

We will ensure BF is run in an environmentally friendly way and that the activities of our sport in this area are promoting by us.

The Board will continue to promote virtual meetings where possible.

When resources permit, we will extend this policy to other BF activities.

4. COMPETITIONS

BF believe that competitions should be run in a way that mitigates the environmental impact and will develop, in consultation with organisers a voluntary action plan / checklist that helps organisers plan and run competition in that way.

This action plan will include sections on travel /transport, venue management and participant behaviour.

5. CLUBS

BF recognise that clubs have an important role to play in reducing the environmental impact of fencing. BF will develop, in consultation with clubs, a voluntary action that could be implemented by a club.

BF will share examples of best practice and promote success initiatives by clubs.

6. PROCESS

In Sep 2021, the BF Board agreed to hold consultations with Clubs and Event Organisers to get feedback on the policy and more specifically to determine the level of interest in moving forward in these two areas