



## **Safeguarding Policy**

Portsmouth & Southsea Fencing Club (PSFC) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The club is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with British Fencing requirements.

The coaching staff are DBS checked and have up-to-date safeguarding qualifications and first-aid certificates. The club also elects a Welfare officer to its committee who is the first point of contact for concerns regarding safeguarding and welfare. The Welfare Officer will also be DBS checked and have completed the relevant training.

This policy acknowledges that the welfare and interests of children are a priority. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion or belief, or socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of fencing at PSFC in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in fencing

As part of the Safeguarding Policy PSFC will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure the Committee and Club Coach understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals

The policy and procedures are promoted in the club and are mandatory for those involved in PSFC. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures may result in dismissal/exclusion from the club.

## **Responsibilities and Supervision**

PSFC accepts junior fencers from 8 years old

- Parents/Carers are ultimately responsible for the safety and conduct of their children during the fencing sessions
- Children accompanying parents/carers who are not fencing should be kept under close supervision at all times.
- Junior fencers aged from 8 years upwards may remain unaccompanied at the venue for the duration of the session providing the club holds accurate contact details and any relevant medical information. Parents/carers must ensure they collect the fencer at the appropriate time as PSFC cannot make any cover provisions beyond the end of the fencing session
- Fencers must wear appropriate protective clothing during the sessions. Parents/Carers can assist in the putting on of equipment for their children
- PSFC will take all reasonable steps to ensure fencing sessions are conducted safely
- PSFC will regularly remind fencers of the rules for safety and discipline
- PSFC reserves the right to exclude any fencer whose behaviour is deemed unsafe or who causes deliberate damage to club equipment or the property belonging to the venue

## **Reporting a concern**

In the event that there are concerns a fencer may be subject to physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect the club Welfare Officer should be contacted. The contact details are below.

**The clubs Welfare Officer can be contacted by emailing:**

[welfareportsmouth@southhampshirefencing.co.uk](mailto:welfareportsmouth@southhampshirefencing.co.uk)

**Further information about British Fencing's welfare policy is available at their website:**

<https://www.britishfencing.com/welfare-zone/welfare-club-resources/>

**British Fencing Welfare policies and other information**

<https://www.britishfencing.com/policy-zone/welfare-policies-guidelines/>

**Portsmouth & Southsea Fencing Club**

**Policy date: 01 Feb 2019**

**Review date: 01 Feb 2021**