

BF Whistleblowing procedure

1. Purpose of Document

Everyone at some point in their own or their child's sporting life has concerns about things they observe within their sport. These may vary from simple bad manners to the outright dangerous and everything in between.

Often these concerns are relatively minor and can be easily resolved.

If you have any concerns with regard to the behaviour of any adult towards a young person whilst connected with fencing (wherever it might be), it is important that you share your concerns with British Fencing's Equality and Safeguarding Manager. The earlier you express your concern the more likely it is that it can be resolved quickly and without potentially further harm to any young person.

Doing nothing about it may seem the easiest thing to do, but what concerns YOU may also be the concern of others: it won't go away and the situation could get worse.

All information received or discussed will be treated in confidence and only be shared with those individuals within the British Fencing who will be able to manage and resolve the situation. On occasion, it may be necessary to seek advice from or inform the statutory agencies e.g. Social Services or the Police.

All concerns will be taken seriously and be managed according to British Fencing's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.

British Fencing is very concerned about the wellbeing and safety of all members and participants in our sport. They will support anyone who in good faith, and where he/she has reasonable grounds for doing so, reports his/her concern that an adult is, or may be, abusing a child in any way, including bullying.

British Fencing will not discriminate against, victimise nor be judgmental of any official, volunteer or fencer who comes forward with genuine concerns.

Should you wish to put in writing your concerns, please address this to:

Equality and Safeguarding Manager
British Fencing

1 Baron's Court, 33-35 Rothschild Road, London W4 5HT

Or email equality@britishfencing.com.

Please ensure that all correspondence is marked "Private and Confidential" "Addressee only"

If you would rather speak in person or by telephone, please initially email the above address with your contact number stating time and date to call you.

Everyone suffers when malpractice occurs in an organisation. It is important that those who act wrongly are dealt with appropriately. Help British Fencing to stamp out bad practice and help maintain British Fencing's good standards and reputation.