

# **Cambridge University Fencing Club Safety Policy 2018**

## **1. Overview**

- i. It is the policy of the Cambridge University Fencing Club (CUFC) to ensure, so far as reasonably possible, the health and safety of all fencers and coaches engaged in training and competition with the club.
- ii. CUFC is affiliated with the British Fencing Association (BFA) of 1 Baron's Gate, 33-35 Rothschild Road, London, W4 5HT.
- iii. The club committee is responsible for ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to provide a safe and healthy environment for its members to train in, including regularly reviewing risk assessments, making all relevant documentation available to club members and responding to any concerns that members may have.
- iv. It is expected that a member of the committee or a suitably appointed representative be at each club session to ensure that the required health and safety standards are maintained.
- v. The club expects that all members will take the initiative with regards to their own and others' safety as detailed in Section 2 below.

## **2. Member Responsibilities**

- i. All club members are expected to be familiar with the club's Code of Conduct.
- ii. All club members must wear suitable kit for the level of training. When fencing the equipment used must conform to the appropriate safety standards defined by British Fencing. These are listed in

## Appendix A.

- iii. It is the responsibility of the individual to bring to the attention of a coach or committee member running a particular session any illness, injury, or other factor that may affect their health and safety, or that of others, during a session.
- iv. It is considered the duty of all club members to bring to the attention of a committee member any situation which they believe to be unsafe or any shortcomings they perceive in the club safety arrangements.
- v. No club member must start fencing until they are sure that their opponent is ready and any member must cease fencing immediately should a referee call halt or should their opponent raise their non-weapon hand in the recognised halt signal.
- vi. It is the responsibility of all club members to avoid, where possible, crossing or intruding onto any piste currently in use. If this is unavoidable the member must wait until both fencers have stopped between hits and ensure that both fencers are aware of their intention to cross the piste.
- vii. It is the responsibility of all club members to ensure that their personal kit or any kit they are responsible for is kept out of the way of the pistes and training area and does not present a trip hazard.

### **3. Committee Responsibilities**

- i. It is the responsibility of the President to ensure that all committee members are aware of their Health and Safety responsibilities and able to fulfil these responsibilities.
- ii. It is the responsibility of the President to ensure that all necessary club documents, including the club's Safety Policy and Risk Assessment, are available on the club website.

- iii. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to update the club's Risk Assessment yearly, prior to its submission to the University Sports Department as part of the grant application process.
- iv. It is the responsibility of the Armourer to ensure that all club equipment adheres to required safety standards as defined by British Fencing and is maintained and stored in an adequate manner.
- v. It is the responsibility of all committee members present at a session to ensure that pistes are laid out in such a way that trip hazards are minimised.

#### **4. Accident Procedure**

- i. All club training takes place at the University Sports Centre, where staff will be on hand to provide first aid cover.
- ii. Accidents must be reported to staff at the University Sports Centre reception, and will be managed appropriately from there.
- iii. Accidents at away venues (e.g. BUCs venues) must be reported to the appropriate first aid staff at that location.

#### **5. Insurance**

- i. Affiliation with the BFA provides the club and its committee with Public Liability Insurance.
- ii. Affiliation with the BFA provides club members attending the club's beginner courses with Public Liability Insurance for the first 6 sessions attended, subject to the requirements specified by the BFA.
- iii. All club members are advised to become members of the BFA to ensure they are covered by the BFA's Sports Accident Policy and

## Liability Policy.

- iv. The club contracts coaches on a self-employed basis and requires them to ensure they have adequate Public Liability Insurance and Coaches Liability Insurance for the services they provide. The club does not therefore require Employers' Liability Insurance.
- v. All club equipment is stored at the University Sports Centre and is covered by the Sports Centre's insurance.
- vi. Neither the club nor the University Sports Centre can accept responsibility for loss of or damage to any personal kit that is stored on the Sports Centre's premises.

## **Appendix A: BFA clothing rules**

When fencing with *non-electric* weapons all fencers are required to wear (as a minimum);

1. A 350N jacket plus a 350N plastron OR A 350N jacket with integrated 350N plastron.
2. Full length trousers with openings/pockets zipped/sewn/taped closed OR fencing breeches.
3. An appropriately sized mask with 350N bib. All masks must have a safety strap at the back.
4. A fencing glove on the weapon hand.

5. All women must wear chest protectors.

When fencing with *electric weapons* all fencers are required to wear (as a minimum);

1. A 350N jacket plus 800N plastron.
2. 350N breeches with long socks.
3. An appropriately sized mask with 350N bib. All masks must have a safety strap at the back.
4. A fencing glove on the weapon hand.
5. All women must wear chest protectors.

The full BFA safety guidelines may be found on the club website or on the BFA website.

Signed by current President: .....



JACK DAWSON

Date: ...10/01/2018.....