**Bristol Fencing Club**

Child Protection Policy Statement

**Bristol Fencing Club** (BFC) is committed to ensuring that all young people who play sport have a safe and positive experience. The club is committed to developing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure that everyone knows and accepts their responsibility in relation to a duty of care for young people.

**Bristol Fencing Club** recognises that it is not the responsibility of those individuals working within the club to determine if abuse has taken place, but it is their responsibility to act upon and report any concerns.

If any person within the club has a doubt as to this policy's relevance to their role and duties then please contact the club’s Welfare Officer, Ann Dawkins.

The Club and those involved with the club will abide by the following principles and statements:

* All young people within **Bristol Fencing Club** regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability, have the right to be protected.
* All young people participating in sport have a right to do so in a safe environment.
* All adults involved with the club will provide a safe, positive and fun sporting experience for young people.
* All volunteers, coaches and officials will understand and be supported in their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care for young people.
* All suspicions and allegations will be taken seriously, managed and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
* The club will assist coaches, volunteers and officials to remain up-to-date with the latest safeguarding and child protection issues.
* The club will appoint a Child Welfare Officer whose role is to be responsible for issues concerning child welfare at the club.
* The club will carry out regular risk assessments to ensure the safety of young people and all members of the club.

For any questions regarding our child protection policy please contact our Welfare Officer, Ann Dawkins.

Equity Policy Statement

**Bristol Fencing Club** is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so, it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

*"Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society."*

* The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
* The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
* All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
* The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.
* Members demonstrating discriminatory behaviour of any kind may be subject to disciplinary action.

Coaches, Officials and Volunteers Code of Conduct

The essence of good ethical conduct and practice is summarised below. All coaches, officials and volunteers at the club must:

* Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance.
* Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
* Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and the experience of those taking part.
* Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play).
* Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
* Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the club.
* Hold appropriate qualifications and insurance cover.
* Never exert undue influence over participants to gain personal benefit or reward.
* Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.
* Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results.
* Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
* Never use foul or inappropriate language.
* Never engage in any form of sexual relations with anyone under the age of 18, or vulnerable adults.
* Read, understand and put into practise all club policies and procedures.

Bristol Fencing Club/ 2020

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