

KNIGHTSBRIDGE FENCING CLUB — WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY (SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS)

Adopted: 9 July 2026 Reviewed: annually Based on the British Fencing Whistleblowing in Safeguarding Policy (approved 2 Oct 2025)

Purpose

This policy is about safeguarding and welfare concerns specifically — not general complaints (for those, please contact the club directly in the usual way). It gives everyone connected to the club — members, parents, coaches, volunteers, or members of the public — a clear, safe way to raise a concern about a risk to someone's welfare, even if they are not directly involved.

Doing nothing about a concern rarely makes it go away. We would rather hear about something that turns out to be nothing, than not hear about something serious.

Who Can Raise a Concern

Anyone — a fencer, parent, coach, volunteer, or member of the public — can raise a safeguarding concern about the club, a coach, a member, or anyone else connected to our activities.

How to Raise a Concern

You can raise a concern by:

- Speaking to a Club Welfare Officer — Jean Lelion or Judit Homola, in person, by phone, or by email
- Reporting directly to British Fencing's Lead Safeguarding Officer: britishfencing.com/welfare-zone/report-a-concern

The earlier a concern is raised, the more likely it can be resolved quickly and safely. In cases of suspected criminal conduct or abuse, statutory authorities (such as the police or local authority) will be informed without delay.

Our Commitment to You

If you raise a genuine concern in good faith, the club will:

- Not tolerate any harassment or victimisation of you as a result
- Take the concern seriously and act on it promptly
- Keep your identity confidential wherever legally possible — though please note that in some safeguarding matters, particularly involving children, we may be legally required to share information with statutory bodies

This assurance does not extend to someone who knowingly makes a false or malicious allegation.

What Happens Next

We will acknowledge receipt of your concern as soon as possible, and follow the club's safeguarding procedures, consulting British Fencing's Lead Safeguarding Officer where appropriate. Depending on the nature of the concern, we may not always be able to share details of the outcome, but you will be kept informed wherever possible.

Knightsbridge Fencing Club