

Dear Parent or Carer,

I would like to welcome you and your child to the club and provide you with some information about our activities, Safeguarding and Codes of Practice as they apply to members.

The membership form enables us to meet various safety, legal and insurance requirements. You will automatically join our email list so that we can keep you informed of term dates, competitions, events and any formal notices. You will be invited to join our Parents WhatsApp group, which is our main method of communicating day to day or urgent information to you, such as late notice of cancelled sessions.

The Club provides opportunities for young people between the ages of 10 and 15 to receive coaching in fencing, to take part in competitions or just to have fun and some exercise.

All coaches are qualified by British Fencing or the British Academy of Fencing and have been screened (DBS checked) for their suitability for working with young people and had Safeguarding and First Aid Training.

The club complies with Sport England's Clubmark, which was awarded by British Fencing to clubs who could demonstrate that they meet national criteria as to its management, playing programme, safeguarding and protecting children, commitment to the community, equitable treatment and ethical behaviour. This scheme ended in 2019 but we still apply those standards.

Clubmark is an acknowledgement that we take these issues seriously and that we are striving to provide a high quality and welcoming environment for young participants in the sport.

We have a Club Welfare Officer who is responsible for ensuring that our Safeguarding Policies are implemented and they can be contacted privately should you have any concerns. (Contact details from the Junior Coordinator or via the website).

You can find details of these policies in the Safeguarding section of the website and we request that you read them and discuss with your child the Code of Practice for Junior Members which are our 'Rules for Children'.

We welcome parents and carers to all training sessions and competitions and value your support. We are keen to involve parents in the club and would invite you to attend any of the club's sessions to meet members and find out more about us and how you can get involved.

Training sessions take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 6pm and 7.30 and on Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00 at Blackheath High School for Girls, Vanbrugh Park, SE3 7AG. Please check the website for term dates and other alterations to session times or places.

You need to arrange to drop and collect your child from the school and at any matches or competitions. We appreciate it if children can arrive promptly and be collected by someone known to them at the end of the session. If your child is unable to attend please contact the Junior Coordinator or via the WhatsApp group and let them know.

British Fencing Guidelines are that children under 14 may not go home alone in the evenings.

You need to provide your child with indoor trainers, T-shirt, loose fitting trousers and a plastic bottle of water or squash but no fizzy drinks! Water is available on site but no cups. A spare, dry T-shirt would also be a good idea for wearing home afterwards.

The training sessions are £108 per term, payable in advance through the club website payment system using the normal debit and credit cards. We no longer accept cheques or cash.

For the safety of your child it is important that the club is informed of any medical condition or allergies that may be relevant, in case your child should fall ill or be involved in an incident while at the club.

Members under 16 cannot vote at the AGM. Instead, parents and carers can elect one of themselves to the post of Junior Representative with full voting rights on the Management Committee. Please ask for the name of the present Junior Rep. You can also request a copy of the Club's Constitution although this can be found on the website on the Governance page.

If you would like to talk to someone at the club about this information or your child's involvement with the club, please contact the Junior Coordinator.

The club has, among others, the following policies and procedures that you should be aware of. These can be read and downloaded from our website

- Child Protection policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Equity Policy Statement
- Parents and Carers Code of Practice
- Junior Members Code of Practice (rules)
- Volunteer Agreement and Tasks Description (on request)

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Nisbet

Youth Development Officer/Junior Coordinator & Vice-President

07887 821443

Via secretary@blackheathfencing.org.uk