



Spectator and Competition Conduct

Fencing • Character • Excellence

Together we show up, give our best, support others and keep improving.

Organisation	Cambridge Sword Ltd
Policy title	Spectator and Competition Conduct
Policy number	08
Version	V3
Policy owner	Club Manager and competition/event leads
Created	Drawn from existing Cambridge Sword policies and procedures
Updated draft	July 2026
Next review	July 2027, or sooner if guidance, law, club practice or safeguarding requirements change

At a glance

- Spectators, parents/carers and fencers should help make competitions positive, fair and respectful.
- Referees, organisers, coaches and opponents must be treated with respect.
- Pressure, criticism, intimidation or abusive sideline behaviour is not acceptable.
- Photos and videos must follow event rules and club consent requirements.
- Competition concerns should be raised calmly through the right route, not through public confrontation or WhatsApp debate.

Purpose

This code applies to Cambridge Sword fencers, parents/carers, spectators, coaches and volunteers at club, county, regional, national and other fencing competitions or events.

Expected competition conduct

- support fencers positively and focus on effort, learning and resilience
- respect referees, organisers, opponents, coaches, volunteers and venue staff
- accept decisions without intimidation, arguing or public criticism
- allow coaches and referees to do their roles
- keep behaviour appropriate around children and young people
- follow venue, event and British Fencing rules
- represent Cambridge Sword positively.

Unacceptable conduct

- abusive, aggressive, discriminatory, intimidating or threatening behaviour
- shouting at or pressuring fencers in a harmful way
- criticising individual children, referees, coaches or parents/carers in public or online
- interfering with refereeing or coaching decisions
- sharing photos, videos or screenshots without permission
- using WhatsApp or social media to escalate disputes or criticise individuals.

Concerns at competitions

Immediate safety or welfare concerns should be raised with the coach, event lead, Welfare Officer, event organiser or referee as appropriate.

Non-urgent concerns should be raised after the event through the Complaints and Concerns Procedure.

Consequences

Where conduct falls below expectations, Cambridge Sword may give a reminder, ask someone to move away from the piste, limit involvement in future events, or take further action under the relevant club policy.

Related policies and guidance

This document should be read alongside:

- Fencer Code of Conduct
- Parent/Carer Code of Conduct
- Coach/Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding and Welfare Policy
- Mobile Phones, Photography and Filming Policy
- Complaints and Concerns Procedure
- British Fencing Codes of Conduct and Fair Play expectations

Review

This document will be reviewed annually, or sooner if there is a safeguarding concern, complaint, incident, near miss, change in club practice, change in guidance, or change in relevant law or governing body requirements.

Approval and review record

Prepared by	Emily Lucas, Operations Manager	Date	July 2026
Reviewed by	Sarah Paveley, Club Director / Head Coach	Date	
Reviewed by	Hannah Jones, Welfare Officer	Date	
Next review due	July 2027, or sooner if required	Date	