

ASTON FENCING ACADEMY

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Version: 1.01

Date: 12/03/2026

Review Date: Annually



1. POLICY STATEMENT

Aston Fencing Academy is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people participating in our activities.

We believe every child has the right to take part in sport and physical activity in a safe, supportive and positive environment. The safety and wellbeing of children is our highest priority.

All staff, volunteers, parents and participants share responsibility for safeguarding children and ensuring that any concerns are taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

Our safeguarding approach is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children have the right to protection from abuse and harm
- All safeguarding concerns must be taken seriously
- Safeguarding responsibilities are shared by everyone involved in the academy
- Clear procedures must be in place to report concerns

2. PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

This policy outlines how Aston Fencing Academy will:

- Protect children participating in academy activities
- Provide a safe and inclusive environment
- Ensure safeguarding concerns are reported and handled appropriately
- Ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities

3. WHO THIS POLICY APPLIES TO

This policy applies to:

- Coaches
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Parents and guardians
- Children participating in academy sessions
- Anyone attending or involved in Aston Fencing Academy activities

4. SAFEGUARDING STRUCTURE

Head Coach
Aston Bowring

Responsible for delivering sessions safely and creating a positive environment for all participants.

Safeguarding Officer
Mark Bowring

Responsible for safeguarding oversight, receiving safeguarding concerns and ensuring appropriate escalation if required.

5. SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENTS

Aston Fencing Academy is committed to maintaining high safeguarding standards by ensuring:

- Coaches working with children hold appropriate DBS checks where required
- Safeguarding training is completed and kept up to date
- Paediatric first aid qualifications are maintained
- Clear behavioural expectations are set for children and adults
- Small group sizes are used to allow appropriate supervision and support
- Safe equipment designed specifically for children is used
- Parents are encouraged to communicate openly with staff

6. SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Sessions are delivered in a safe and structured environment where children can enjoy learning fencing through fun activities and games.

To ensure safety:

- Equipment used is designed for children and appropriate for the activity
- Activities are supervised at all times
- Behaviour expectations are clearly communicated
- Sessions are structured to ensure children remain engaged and supported

Dedicated SEN sessions are offered with smaller group sizes to ensure children who benefit from additional support can participate comfortably.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

All staff, volunteers and participants are expected to behave in a respectful and responsible manner.

Staff and coaches will:

- Treat all children with respect and fairness
- Provide clear instructions and positive encouragement
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries

- Never engage in behaviour that could be interpreted as abusive or inappropriate
- Immediately report any safeguarding concerns

Children participating in sessions are expected to:

- Respect coaches and other participants
 - Follow session rules and safety instructions
 - Treat others kindly and inclusively
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8. RECOGNISING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Safeguarding concerns may include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Bullying or harassment
- Behaviour that makes a child feel unsafe

Any safeguarding concern must be taken seriously.

9. REPORTING A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

If a safeguarding concern arises during an Aston Fencing Academy activity, it must be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding Officer
Mark Bowring

Email: [Insert Email]
Phone: [Insert Phone Number]

The safeguarding officer will assess the concern and determine whether escalation to relevant safeguarding authorities is required.

Where necessary, concerns may be referred to:

- Local safeguarding authorities
 - Social services
 - Police
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10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Safeguarding concerns will be handled with appropriate confidentiality.

Information will only be shared with those who need to know in order to protect the child involved.

11. PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Parents and guardians are encouraged to:

- Raise any concerns regarding the safety or wellbeing of their child
 - Inform the academy of any medical or support needs
 - Communicate openly with coaches and safeguarding staff
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12. POLICY REVIEW

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or whenever safeguarding guidance or academy practices change.

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT

Safeguarding Officer
Mark Bowring

Email: Safeguarding@astonfencingacademy.co.uk

Phone: +447920 221137

Parents or participants with safeguarding concerns should contact the safeguarding officer directly.