

AUFC Coach Charter

1. Entering into the Coach Charter arrangement

By agreeing to be added to the AUFC official coaching register (kept by the Aberdeen University Sports Union), an individual is agreeing to enter into the rules of the Coach Charter. They may be removed from the AUFC official coaching register upon request at any time, but they will not be allowed to give lessons during AUFC club time and lose the privileges outlined in **2**.

2. Privileges of being an AUFC Coach

AUFC distinguishes between two types of coach: Student and Non-student.

Non-student Coaches are granted free membership to AUFC. In addition they may charge members for lessons*.

Student Coaches do not get free membership nor the ability to charge for lessons. Their work is for the benefit of the club.

Being on the official coaching register also gives the right to hire out areas of the ASV for private lessons outside AUFC club time.

*If the reported fee is found to be unreasonably high, the committee has the right to revoke the coach's ability to charge students.

3. Duties as an AUFC coach

Each coach should inform the Club Captain or Secretary before the start of each week (to the best of their knowledge) when they will be attending.

At the start of each session, all attending coaches must declare how many lessons they will give. That is the minimum amount of lessons they can give from that point on (that is to say that if a coach has committed to 3 lessons, they cannot then decide later in the session that they do not want to give the 3rd lesson).

Non-student coaches are obliged to offer a minimum of one lesson per session they attend. If a non-student coach has a legitimate reason for not giving lessons at a particular training session (eg. last training session before a competition), they must let the Club Captain or Secretary know at least a week in advance.

Student Coaches may decline from giving lessons at any session they attend.

4. Competitive Coach Status

A coach may apply to the club committee to be made a designated Competitive Coach. Competitive Coaches will only be responsible for coaching advanced fencers who are regularly competing at a high level or a member of the Women's or Men's 1st Teams.

5. Coach Conduct

Coaches must abide by the BFA Coaching Guidelines (see Appendix).

Coaches may not refuse a lesson to anyone that requests one**. If there is an issue between a coach and member, it is for the relevant individuals to resolve privately. If the issue cannot be resolved privately, the coach or student may come to the Club Captain (but only as a final course of action).

**Competitive Coaches reserve the right to decline non-advanced fencers lessons

Appendix

- All fencing coaches must ensure that every individual particularly all young/vulnerable people in their care are respected as individuals and treated equitably and with dignity at all times. They should ensure that all training complies with the current guidance issued by British Fencing and does not form any sort of abuse (emotional, physical, sexual, bullying, neglect etc.)
- All relationships should be based on respect, honesty and openness.
- All fencing coaches should recognise the personal development of young fencers takes priority even over the development of their performance.
- All fencing coaches should encourage young/vulnerable fencers to be responsible for their own behaviour and performance.
- All fencing coaches should have an ongoing commitment to their own training and work with others (i.e. referees, medical advisors, sports scientists, parents and other coaches) to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all fencers in order that they can develop both within fencing as well as outside.
- All fencing coaches should respect a fencer's need for confidentiality.
- All fencing coaches should work within their own competency and qualifications.
- All fencing coaches should strive to be positive role models, working within British Fencing guidance displaying high standards of personal behaviour.
- All fencing coaches have a responsibility to develop in partnership with all fencers particularly parents and young/vulnerable fencers clear expectations both on and off the piste and what the young/vulnerable fencer is entitled in return to expect of the coach.
- All fencing coaches should promote good behaviour within the rules of Fencing.

British Fencing coaches should never:

- Invite a child to your home or secluded place when they will be alone with you.
- Share a bedroom with a child
- Neglect their responsibility for any child under their care at any time
- Bully a child either physically or verbally, nor reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Make sexually suggestive remarks to a young/vulnerable fencer – even in fun.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow the use of inappropriate language to go unchallenged
- Do things of a personal nature for a fencer that they can do for themselves unless specifically requested to do so and then with the utmost discretion
- Vacate the venue until the supervision of the safe dispersal of all the fencers is complete (NB delegation of this duty may be allocated to another official)
- Spend excessive amounts of time with individual fencers away from others
- Abuse the coaches position of power or trust in any way
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Embarrass, humiliate or undermine any individual or cause them to lose self-esteem
- Make remarks about another individual that are in any way offensive or in any way can be construed as such.
- Fail to record any incident in line with British Fencing guidelines