

South Forsyth High School Fencing Club Code of Conduct

The South Forsyth High School Fencing Club is open to any SFHS student interested in participating in the sport of fencing. However, participation at SFHS Fencing Club is a privilege, NOT a right. Along with this privilege come expectations of behavior by fencers, guests, parents, volunteers, and coaches in accordance with the following published Code of Conduct.

Revocation of Privileges: SFHS Fencing Club reserves the right to suspend or revoke the club membership of any person whom the coach or staff finds has violated this Code of Conduct.

1. **No Discrimination.** Fencers, guests and volunteers of SFHS Fencing Club are expected to treat other fencers, guests, coaches and volunteers at all times and in all respects in a manner free from discrimination or harassment on the basis of color, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We have zero tolerance for hazing or similar dangerous behavior.
2. **Academics.** Fencers must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA to participate in the fencing club.
3. **Physical Safety.** Fencers are expected to exercise control of their actions and demeanor at all times and to exercise good judgment by fencing appropriately for the age, size, and experience level of their opponents. Fencers are expected to wear all safety equipment and appropriate clothing, including socks, full length pants (practice) or fencing knickers (tournaments). Fencers shall not, under any circumstances, raise a weapon in anger or retaliation, or toward any unmasked person or take weapons outside of the designated fencing area. Fencers may not remove mask or protective gear until they hear "Halt" at end of a bout. Fencers must check masks, gloves, and weapons before Tournaments. Fencers must "Halt" when a person without a mask is within or walking beside his/her fencing strip.
4. **Sportsmanship.** Fencers need to arrive and be "ready to fence" on-time for events. Good sportsmanship is expected from all fencers at all times. Fencers are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner. Fencers are to exercise good judgment by fencing appropriately for the age, size and experience level of their opponents. Fencers are expected to salute their opponent and the director before and after each bout and to shake hands with their opponent after each bout in a sportsmanlike manner.
5. **Equipment.** Fencers are expected to keep all equipment owned by them in safe working order and are responsible for the suitability and condition of that equipment at all times.
6. **Club Activities.** All club activities must be treated with respect by fencers and guests. Families, friends, and visitors must not interrupt or disrupt any ongoing activity or any coach or instructor. Good-spirited cheering for our fencers during tournaments is allowed. Any disruptively loud, negative comments or mean-spirited jeering will not be tolerated.
7. **Club Dues & Fee Payments.** Fencers are expected to promptly pay all club membership fees, equipment costs and all other amounts when due, or risk losing club membership.

Fencer's initials _____ Parent's initials _____/_____

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8. **Tournament Conduct.** Club members attending tournaments represent SFHS Fencing Club. Members are bound by the rules of fencing and the USFA code of conduct regardless of whether they are participating in a local, regional, national, or international competition. Any fencer representing SFHS Fencing Club who breaches these rules and/or code of conduct is subject to dismissal from the club. (www.usfencing.org Click on: Athletes and Coaches, Athlete Handbook – Section 8.3)
9. **Ejection.** If during any SFHS Fencing Club event, such as practices, tournaments or club events, a fencer, parent or guest threatens the safety of other fencers, guests or coach, the team parent may immediately escort the threatening individual from the applicable premises. No children under age 12 are permitted on the fencing floor.
10. **Practice Conduct.** Parent volunteers assigned to the practice and coaches have the authority to ask a fencer to be removed from the fencing area for reasons of misconduct, disrespect and/or safety violations.
11. **Pick-up/Departure Time after Fencing Events.** PER LAW AND SCHOOL POLICY, and for the safety of our children, all students must be picked up promptly at the end of practices and each event.
12. **Parent Meetings** – We will occasionally have Parent Meetings, as we need to address the Club's needs, safety issues and any new policies or requirements. At least one parent or legal guardian for each fencer needs to attend these meetings. We will send emails in advance to announce these meetings. Fencers may attend most of these meetings, unless otherwise requested by the team parent.
13. **FORMS REQUIRED TO FENCE – PARENT'S SIGNATURES NEEDED!** In order to participate in any SFHS Fencing Club event (including practices) ALL SFHS Fencing Club members must have their parents/legal guardians complete and sign the Code of Conduct, Permission/Risk/Liability/Waiver Release, and Emergency Contact Information Forms. There will be two waivers, one for SFHS Fencing Club and one for the Georgia High School Fencing League.
14. **Practice Policies.** Fencers are expected to be at practices promptly and ready to fence. Fencers are expected to be dressed in their gear and with their equipment. Warm-ups are mandatory. If arriving late-attendance will be noted. To prevent injuries, a late fencer must perform warm-ups before being included in the instruction. If a fencer must leave early, please notify the team parent and/or coach in advance.
15. **Electronic Devices** Cell phones and music devices are not allowed to be used during practice.

VIOLATION OF THE SFHSFC CODE OF CONDUCT WILL BE NOTED. A FENCER WHO RECIEVES EXCESSIVE VIOLATIONS WILL BE ASKED TO MEET WITH A REVIEW BOARD AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL AND/OR MAY BE PREVENTED FROM LETTERING.

Fencer's Signature _____ Name printed _____

Parent's Signature _____ Name printed _____

Date: _____