

MK FENCING ACADEMY SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Owner: MK Fencing Academy

Approved by: Management, MK Fencing Academy

Effective From: 1 September 2025

Jurisdiction: United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Review Cycle: Annual Review or sooner if legislation changes

1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK (UAE)

This Safeguarding Policy operates in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates, including but not limited to:

- Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 (Wadeema's Law – Child Rights Law)
- UAE Penal Code provisions relating to abuse, neglect and exploitation
- UAE Cybercrime Law
- KHDA safeguarding and child protection expectations (where applicable)
- Dubai Sports Council governance and athlete welfare expectations
- Relevant UAE safeguarding guidance and reporting requirements

MK Fencing Academy (MKFA) fully complies with UAE child protection legislation and recognises that safeguarding is both a moral and legal obligation.

2. OUR STATEMENT

MK Fencing Academy (MKFA) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk participating in fencing activities in the UAE and internationally.

MKFA Fencing Academy

Venue: Hamdan Sports Complex

Office: BAY SQUARE, Business Bay, 8th Floor, Building no. 2, office 835 ; P.O.Box 340880

Email: fence@mkfencingacademy.com

Passion for Fencing

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Every participant - regardless of age, ability, disability, gender, nationality, religion, socio-economic background, sexual orientation or performance level - has the right to train and compete in a safe, respectful and athlete-centred environment.

We recognise that fencing is both a high-performance sport and a developmental pathway. Whether athletes are beginners, intermediate, elite, Olympian, or part of talent identification programmes, their safety, dignity and wellbeing remain paramount.

No medal, ranking or performance outcome overrides athlete welfare.

3. ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH

MKFA operates a strict zero tolerance approach to:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse or intimidation
- Sexual abuse or grooming
- Neglect
- Bullying or harassment
- Discrimination
- Exploitation in high-performance environments
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Inappropriate online behaviour
- Breaches of UAE child protection law

Any suspected breach may result in immediate suspension and referral to authorities where required under UAE law.

4. SAFE RECRUITMENT & VETTING (UAE CONTEXT)

MKFA will:

- Conduct appropriate background and police clearance checks where required
- Verify qualifications and references
- Ensure coaches understand UAE safeguarding obligations
- Provide safeguarding awareness training aligned with UAE expectations
- Clearly define professional boundaries in contracts and role descriptions

International and visiting coaches, including Olympian coaches, are fully bound by this policy.

5. TRAINING ENVIRONMENT SAFEGUARDS

MKFA ensures:

- Open and observable coaching environments
- No closed-door one-to-one sessions without visibility
- Appropriate supervision ratios
- No isolated coaching of minors
- Transparent technical physical correction only when necessary and appropriate
- No humiliating, degrading or aggressive coaching methods
- Controlled venue access
- No photography or media without parental consent

High-performance standards must never compromise safeguarding standards.

6. TRAVEL, CAMPS & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

For all camps, competitions and international travel:

- Written parental consent is mandatory
- Emergency contact details are required
- Supervision ratios are maintained

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- Coaches will not share rooms with athletes (unless parent-child)
- Respect for privacy and dignity at all times
- Clear room allocation procedures
- Behavioural expectations communicated in advance

MKFA remains responsible for athlete welfare during official academy activities.

7. ONLINE SAFETY (UAE CYBER LAW COMPLIANCE)

MKFA will:

- Ensure compliance with UAE Cybercrime Law
- Prevent private direct messaging between coaches and minors
- Require parental inclusion in communications with minors
- Obtain written consent before publishing athlete images or videos
- Monitor official communication platforms

Digital safeguarding is treated with the same seriousness as in-person safeguarding.

8. REPORTING A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

It is not the responsibility of any individual to determine whether abuse has occurred. It is their responsibility to report concerns.

Immediate Risk:

In case of immediate danger, contact UAE Emergency Services: 999

Internal Reporting:

Safeguarding concerns must be reported to:

Management, MK Fencing Academy

Phone: +971 50 144 2355

Email: fence@mkfencingacademy.com

External Reporting:

Where required, concerns may be reported to relevant UAE authorities in accordance with Federal Law No. 3 of 2016.

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All reports will be handled confidentially and documented securely.

Whistleblowers will be protected.

9. ADULT SAFEGUARDING

MKFA recognises safeguarding responsibilities towards:

- Adults at risk
- Athletes with disabilities
- Individuals requiring care support
- Athletes experiencing emotional vulnerability

We apply the principles of:

Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership, and Accountability.

10. BREACHES & DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- Formal warning
- Immediate suspension
- Termination of contract
- Reporting to UAE authorities
- Permanent exclusion from MKFA

Investigations will be conducted fairly and in alignment with UAE legal procedures.

11. MONITORING & REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if:

- UAE legislation changes
- KHDA or Dubai Sports Council guidance changes
- A safeguarding incident occurs
- Governance review requires update

MKFA remains committed to continuous safeguarding improvement.

FINAL STATEMENT

At MK Fencing Academy, safeguarding is not an administrative formality.

It is a legal obligation, a moral responsibility, and a core pillar of our academy culture.

Excellence in fencing must always be built on safety, dignity, respect and athlete wellbeing.

Approved by

MK Fencing Academy Management

Date: 18.08.2024

Location: Hamdan Sports Complex, Dubai, UAE