

Keep Yourself Safe in Fencing

13 March 2022 Sunday 7pm

Guest speaker: Jane Thorpe

Facilitator: Jing Shang

#advancewithher



Purpose of workshop

- All sporting organisations in NSW must have child safe practices in place so we understand our responsibilities to you
- This means having a child safe culture that informs the way we interact with you
- Our child safe commitments, policy and fact sheets are on the NSWFA website at (<https://nswfencing.org.au/child-safe-sport/>)
- An important part of keeping safe is to ensure you understand the sorts of behaviour towards children and young people that is unsafe or inappropriate, and that you know what to do if you have any concerns about the behaviour of an adult towards you or another young participant
- This workshop will identify inappropriate professional conduct and grooming behaviour and give you information about how to raise a concern or complaint if such behaviour occurs

What does appropriate professional conduct look like?

- You clearly understand your coach's and other volunteers' roles. They interact with you professionally. They are not your friend or counsellor
- Adults and older fencers treat you respectfully and model respectful behaviour
- You are provided with feedback in a manner that boosts your confidence and helps develop your skills
- Young fencers are treated equitably and fairly
- Contact is made through your parents or guardian/s
- You are not left alone with your coach for extended periods of time
- Demonstration of technique should require minimal or no physical contact
- There is appropriate supervision
- Parents are encouraged to observe training

What does “inappropriate professional conduct ” look like?

A range of different behaviours that breach boundaries and/or make you feel uncomfortable – for example:

- Belittling or humiliating a young fencer
- Shaming or embarrassing a young fencer
- Bullying or intimidating a young fencer
- Behaviour that may be unacceptable to fencers from a particular culture or family background
- Giving special treatment to an individual that is different to the treatment of others. May look like favouritism
- Coming into unnecessary physical contact e.g. when demonstrating a fencing technique
- Having inappropriate conversations such as making sexual jokes, engaging in banter or making personal comments

Grooming is the process where an adult establishes a trusting relationship with a young person in order to make it easier to abuse them.

Examples may include:

- Giving personal gifts unrelated to fencing
- Coming into physical contact with you or other young people
- Contacting you directly rather than your parent
- Giving special treatment that is not offered to other fencers
- Arranging secret meetings
- Creating opportunities to meet alone i.e. coffee dates or movies
- Chatting on social media including giving advice about personal issues or sharing personal information about themselves

My fencing coach asks me out to dinner to celebrate after a tournament. What should I do?

A. Accept their kind invitation

B. Decline the invitation as I should not be socialising with my coach

C. Find out if anyone else is going and then decide

My parents are unable to transport me to a tournament. What should I do?

A. Ask my coach if they can take me

B. Arrange to drive with a friend who has just got their driver's license

C. Ask my parents to arrange a lift from another set of parents

My friend becomes very upset when her coach is correcting her fencing and tells me he is mean to her. What should I do?

A. Support her in approaching a responsible adult to discuss the behaviour

B. Approach her coach and question why they are being mean

C. Tell her to not worry about it, all coaches are mean

Case example – Part 1

You have known your fencing coach, Luke, for a very long time. He was also a fencer at your Club before he became a coach and he is a family friend.

Your family socialises with his family, having the occasional meal together and your coach drops into your home from time to time to chat about fencing and to say “hi” to your parents.

Would this amount to grooming behaviour?

Part 2

Luke is a very positive, encouraging coach and issues small rewards and incentives such as certificates and small chocolate bars to all the young fencers he coaches when they have done well.

Is this grooming?

Part 3

1. Luke starts up an email group for his fencing team to advise them about any changes to training and to give you all the opportunity to share and discuss fencing tips

Is this grooming?

2. Luke starts to contact you privately on your email and suggests you communicate on Snapchat. He tells you that you are a fantastic fencer with great potential and starts to ask you whether you have a boyfriend and tells you about his personal life

Is this grooming?

Part 4

Luke invites you to go to the movies with him, telling you that he has feelings for you and that he would like to get to know you better. He suggests you don't tell your parents as they "would not understand".

Is this grooming?

What should you do if you have any concerns?

Options are:

- Tell your parents
- Speak to a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)
- If your concerns are about a friend – support them to speak to a responsible adult such as their parent/s, an MPIO, a trusted coach, a member of the Board
- A healthy, child safe organisation is an organisation where members are confident to raise concerns and will be supported when they do so
- Make sure you understand the complaints process and how your concerns will be dealt with. This is your right

Any questions?

Child Safeguarding
Everyone is responsible

Parents
Volunteers
Fencers

Officials
Coaches
Spectators

Law
Policy
Training

Culture
Execution
Communication

See something?
Say Something!

SCAN ME

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2021
EVERY CHILD IN EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A FAIR GO

Caption

For Anyone under 18 years old

Not Ok today?

- Feel singled out, humiliated or bullied?
- Unnecessarily touched during training?
- Contacted personally via phone, text, message app, social media...?
- Given a gift not related to a fencing award?
- Invited to a social event outside of fencing context?
- Engaged in inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature?
- Asked to send any intimate image of a sexual nature?
- Touched intimately or any sort of sexual contact

TALK TO PARENTS

TALK TO MPIO

If any of things are happening to you, please let us know right away. You can talk in confidence to a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)
childprotection@nswfencing.org.au

Caption

- <https://nswfencing.org.au/child-safe-sport/>

Policies – (click on Policy name to download)

- [NSWFA Child Safeguarding Policy & Child Safe Practices](#)
- [NSWFA Child Safeguarding Policy Framework](#)
- [Advice on what to do](#)
- [FAQ's for Coaches, Staff and Volunteers](#)
- [FAQ's for Parents](#)
- [FAQ's for Children](#)
- [Guidance for Fencing Clubs](#)
- [NSWFA Code of Conduct](#)
- [NSWFA Official, Coach & Volunteer Child Safeguarding Agreement](#)

Caption

Contact numbers

- MPIO



- Aleks 0401 157 096



- Arash 0401 519 851

childprotection@nswfencing.org.au